From the Principal

GOD IN smALL THINGS

In the big scheme of things we are pretty small. If you check out where we fit in the cosmos we are pretty much dust, microbes and specks at best. Even Shane Warne’s ego doesn’t rate in the enormity of the universe.

And yet small is beautiful. Small is special. Small requires attention. Small plays an important part in the make up of the large—consider the newborn baby, the lady-beetle, the pinky toe or the millions of atoms that combine together to form a body.

God does seem to go for things that don’t grab the limelight and appear small and insignificant. Think on the many instances throughout the Bible where he does the amazing with the small (think David v Goliath, a few scraps of food feeding 1000s, a baby born in a stable). The God of the unmeasurable Universe chooses to love this small world and the small people on it. He thinks us beautiful, special and worthy of his undivided attention. A people he collectively and lovingly brings into himself—the church. Indeed he even died for it!

Last week the school staff pondered on the theme "GOD IN smALL THINGS" (see what we did there!). We were reminded firstly how God works through the small, everyday and seemingly insignificant to do his BIG work. We were reminded that in the small tasks we perform each and every day we can bring God’s big love into every situation. How true is it that the smallest acts of love can sometimes have the biggest impact? Mother Teresa once said, “Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love”.

As staff and parents we are charged with the hearts, minds and bodies of our beautiful small people. What a privilege and special responsibility to have these children in our care as we commence a new school year. I pray that we all see our role in this community as people willing to do the small things with great love for our children and for one another and in so doing, bring glory to God who has (sm)ALL things in his hands.

"God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption” 1 Cor 1:28-30

Mark Rathjen, Principal

Special points of interest:

• Tomorrow 5/2
  Second Hand Uniform
  Shop Open
  2.45pm to 3.15pm

• Tuesday 9/2
  Classroom Orientation
  Evening (see page 4 for details)
Welcome

Welcome back to St Peters for a new school year. Welcome new students and families joining us for the first time and welcome back our ‘old’ ones too! 2016 is new and fresh and full of hope and anticipation. We welcome two new staff to the community—Petria Low in Year 3 and Lauran Clayton in Creative Arts. We are thrilled to have them on board. Say hi to them and make them very welcome.

We also welcome many new students and families to our ELC and School. Again please make yourselves known to anyone new and help them to quickly feel part of our friendly community.

ELC

School
Year 1—Amber B, Olivia M
Year 2—Thomas N
Year 3—Annie B

From the School Council Chair

During 2015 school council were saddened to have lost one of our devoted council members and brilliant educators Dr Meryl Jennings. Meryl served for many years as an incorporated body member (church member) of the council, injecting her special wisdom and guidance to council especially when discussing curriculum and education matters.

With this vacancy I am delighted to share that we have appointed two new council members to School Council for 2016. The first being Sue Pfeiffer (no relation to Ps Ben). Sue, as a member of the St Peters Lutheran Church, brings many years of experience in education as a primary school teacher for over 35 years and a mathematics consultant for independent schools sector for over 10 years. The second appointment is Jo Simpson, a mother of two students at the school. Jo brings a very different perspective to school, council, that of education management, strategic planning, marketing and business development. She is currently employed at the University of Adelaide as the Director, Professional & Continuing Education. We are truly blessed to have two passionate and focused members of School Council, adding to the already diverse backgrounds of other members. Please keep us all in your prayers during 2016 as we oversee the governance of St Peters Lutheran School, Blackwood.

I formally wish to invited you all to the installation service on Sunday 14 February at St Peters Lutheran Church (10am) to not only see the dedication and installation of the school staff but all of the School Council Members for 2016.

Darren Gray
School Council Chair 2015

Principal’s Tour

Our first Principal’s Tour for 2016 will be held at 9am on Wednesday 17 February. If you know of anyone looking for a school or Early Learning Centre in this area, please encourage them to contact the school to book a place on this tour.

Second Hand Uniform Shop
The second hand uniform shop, located in the MFP, will be open this Friday 2.45-3.15pm.
Welcome back to the new school year! There are so many blank pages that we will fill as we journey together to create a learning community that is vibrant, enthusiastic and innovative. The poem above encapsulates what a 21st Century education looks like! As you can imagine, that makes for very busy classrooms and learning spaces. We are encouraging the students at St Peters to be inquirers. To search, find, think, learn, create, share, collaborate, connect and GROW. Not only grow in an academic sense, but as a whole. We feel privileged to be able to partner with you in this and look forward to all the celebrations we will encounter as a result of this.

I wish you and your family the very best for a great start and if you have any questions regarding curriculum, please make an appointment to see me.

Bronwyn Wilson
PYP Coordinator

Indonesian 2016

This term we will not be running Indonesian at St Peters. Mrs Megan Thomas is unable to return to school this term as she is taking some extended maternity leave. We have in the past found it increasingly difficult to find Indonesian teachers for short term contracts and we feel it might be better to wait until Mrs Thomas returns in Term 2. Teachers will be using the additional lesson this term for numeracy, literacy and UOIs.

New Art / Indonesian Room

Room 2 will become a dedicated room for teaching Art and Indonesian this year. Ms Clayton (Monday and Tuesday) and Mrs Thomas (Wednesday and Thursday from Term 2) will share the room. This will be fantastic having a ‘home’ for these specialist lessons and it will be terrific having them more central in our school.
Classroom Orientation Evening

Our Classroom Orientation Evening for parents of students in Reception to Year 7 will be held on **Tuesday 9 February**.

The purpose of this evening is to provide an opportunity for parents to hear about each classroom teacher’s plans for the year and to find out about some of the school and classroom routines. To assist parents who have children in more than one classroom, classroom teachers will repeat their presentation (except Room 8 who is only offering the first classroom session, because of the Reading session)

6.00pm – 6.30pm
Reading with your Child (for Reception—Room 8 Parents only)

6.30pm – 7.00pm
First presentation by all classroom teachers

7.00pm – 7.45pm
Information session in the Chapel (for all parents):
- Welcome from the Principal
- Introduction of new staff
- Curriculum focus

7.45pm – 8.15pm
Presentation repeated by classroom teachers (not Reception class)

We look forward to seeing you there.

Installation Service Feb 14

Our new staff and school council members will be officially installed at our St Peters Community service on Sunday 14 February @ 10.00am.

At the service all staff and council members are recommissioned also. Everyone is very welcome to come along and support and encourage our staff and school council at this special service. A shared morning tea (provided by the church) will follow the service.

BYOD Agreement

The updated version of the BYOD student/parent agreement has been sent home today to all students in Year 4 - 7 classes (Year 3s will be given out later in the term). Please read, discuss with your child, sign and return to class teacher as soon as possible. This is a requirement for all families at the beginning of a new year.

Fees 2016

2016 fees accounts have been mailed to families today. School fees are now issued on an annual basis. Due dates and payment options are detailed in the fees pack.

LLL Banking (Wednesday)

School banking is operated through the Lutheran Laypeople’s League (LLL). Students can make deposits with the LLL through the school.

Banking day will be **WEDNESDAY** in 2016, where you send your child/ren’s passbook and money to school via the class communication box and it is returned the same day.

Please enquire at the school office if you need any further information about this.

New Website

The new School Website has been launched and has gone live. We are very thankful to Mrs Felicity Evans for all the work she has done to put this together. The website is intended to be for St Peters parents to use and be informed as well as a great place for prospective parents to find out about our school. There are still a number of areas where content is missing and we intend to add to it as we go. Please check it out and see what you think. http://www.stpeterslutheran.sa.edu.au/

Any feedback would be greatly appreciated.

OSH Sport

The link to nominate online for Term 1 Out of School Hours Sport activities was emailed to all school families on Tuesday and uploaded to the Skoolbag app. Please note that although some team nominations are required by tonight, to allow some more time for families, the link will remain open until Monday.

Please email sharon.smith@stpeterslutheran.sa.edu.au with any queries regarding OSH Sport.
It's back by popular demand……

On Thursday 18th February from 6pm – 8pm there will be an exclusive St Peters Lutheran “lock in” for St Peters students past and present, families and their friends at “The Beachouse”, 4 Colley Tce, Glenelg. Tickets are only $25.50 per person and are available NOW online only at www.stickytickets.com.au/32421

Price includes unlimited use of the heated waterslides, dodgem cars, bumper boats, mini golf, arcade games, carousel, train and play castle rides (excludes prize and ticket games). Part proceeds will go to the St Peters Lutheran Parents & Friends Association. A ticket must be purchased in order to enter the venue during the lock in.

For those that don’t want to play, there is now a $10 spectator ticket available which includes a free small coffee. Spectator tickets do not include access to any rides or games.

We will also need 10 volunteers to help with supervision of the children on the night. We ask that all supervisors take an active role in assisting with the participants. Supervisor tickets are complimentary. If you are willing and able to assist in this role, please contact Nicky Hart on 0402 422 832 or email stpeterslutheranpandf@gmail.com (first in will be selected).

So don’t delay……get your tickets today!

SPLOSHC News

Welcome back to SPLOSHC for a new year! We look forward to an exciting new term with you!

We had a very exciting couple of weeks with our vacation care program. We did a variety of incursions and excursions throughout the two weeks, including a trip to the Beachhouse and the Bay Discovery Centre, as well as going to watch Alvin and the Chipmunks and visiting Intencity (which seems to have been a huge hit with the children). Our incursions consisted of the plaster fun house, wheelie-kids and water slides. Overall our vacation care was a huge success—we are already asking the children for ideas to make the next holidays even better.

From Natalie & Tawny
Student Drop Off / Pick Up Procedures

School Car Parks can be very dangerous places and, to keep all of our students as safe as we possibly can, we have drop-off and pick-up procedures in place for parents to follow.

**Morning Drop-Off**
The Trevor Terrace car park is the only area allowed by the Council for dropping off students. Cars need to enter and exit from Trevor Terrace. This same car park will be used as a Pick-Up zone in the afternoons.

**Afternoon Pick-Up**
The drive-through Pick-Up zone will be in the Trevor Terrace car park, parallel to the school’s pathway between the garden and the car park. Ideally:

- Pick-ups will be in batches of about six cars. The first six will line up nose to tail, parallel to the school path. Signs designate the six car zone.
- Once the cars have stopped, students will move quickly into their car, preferably using the left hand side doors and without the driver getting out if possible. Obviously this will not always be possible, common sense will need to prevail.
- Once all six cars have moved on, the next six need to drive into the drive-through zone with the lead car ensuring they move all the way to the front, and the procedure repeats.

To help move things on as smoothly and safely as possible, it is vital that students are ready to leave and are in their family groups. Please encourage your children to realize the importance of this.

We need to minimize cars reversing and pedestrians in the car park at this busy time, therefore we have:

**Rules**

- The drive-through zone is not to be used for waiting for students. If your child has not arrived you can either – move on (without your children) with your batch of six cars and line up again at the end of the line OR park in the parking bays facing Trevor Terrace.
- Students are not permitted to walk unaccompanied to or from a parked car. Drivers will need to leave their car and walk over to get their children.
- Cars will not be able to pass each other if they are using the drive-through zone. Each car must wait for the car in front to move forward (unless a staff member indicates this is safe to do so).

**Pick-Up times** are 3.00pm, 3.10pm and 3.20pm.
- **At 3.00pm:** Students in the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes (Mrs Rathjen, Mrs Derrington and Miss Schutz) without older siblings will be collected.
- **At 3.10pm:** Students in the Year 3 and Year 4/5W classes (Mrs Low/Mrs Fox and and Mrs Watkins) without older siblings will be collected with their younger siblings.
- **At 3.20pm:** Students in the Year 4/5B, Year 6 and Year 7 classes (Mr Burmeister, Mr Eldridge and Miss Geue) and their younger siblings will be collected.

Adhering strictly to these times will help to make things run smoothly and quickly.

**Students who have not been collected by 3.30pm** will go to the school office. Should they not be collected by 3.45pm they will go to SPLOSHC from where they will be collected by their parent or caregiver. The standard fee per student will apply for students collected before 4.30pm.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be no separate fee for students collected before 4pm.

**Walkers and Bike Riders** – The school regards the safety of students as paramount. Therefore students will not be permitted to leave the school grounds at the end of the school day without a parent or other responsible adult, to walk or ride directly home, unless a written agreement is in place. The written agreement will be between the school, parent/caregiver and the child and will take account of the child’s age (see page 7 of today’s newsletter, together with the attached agreement). This does not carry over from year to year but needs to be renewed at the beginning of each year.

**Walking Parents** – Parents who walk to collect their children will need to meet them at the Trevor Terrace car park at the appropriate dismissal time.

**Teachers** will not be available to meet with parents until after 3.30pm. If parents wish to see teachers after school, they should make an appointment.
Parking

Parents are reminded not to park in the staff and visitors car park on the Eastern side of the front door while dropping children off in the morning. Parents are also reminded that Cumming Street has been identified by the Country Fire Service (CFS) as one of high risk if, in the event of a fire or emergency, vehicles are parked inappropriately. There is a legal requirement under the Australian Road Rules that at least 3 metres of road is left clear alongside parked vehicles to enable other vehicles to pass (ie it is an offence to park within three metres of a centre white line). This rule is enforceable and will be monitored by the Mitcham Council, so please do not park in the wrong place, or you may incur a fine.

Please also note—we have an arrangement with one of our neighbors that we have agreed not to park in front of the house immediately opposite the school administration building (Cumming Street). Although this is not a designated ‘no parking’ zone, we would very much appreciate parents/caregivers complying with this arrangement.

Thank you for your understanding.

Walking Home

If your child/ren are going to walk home from school this year, please discuss the responsibilities associated with walking home with your children and complete the attached agreement. This not only helps to educate your child about appropriate behaviour when walking without an adult, but also gives the school a list of walkers to help us track the students at pick up time. Please hand in to the Front Office by the end of week 2.

Healthy Lunch Boxes

Healthy lunch boxes are an easy way to ensure our kids are reaching their full potential. In all the hustle of the week it might feel a bit daunting trying to ensure you are putting healthy nutritious food into your child’s lunch box. Before you reach for some processed packaged food have a think about the lack of nutritional value and the added sugars and preservatives you will be putting into your child’s body. Research shows these food have a significant effect on our children’s mood, alertness levels, concentration and behaviour.

Tips for packing a healthy lunchbox

1. Pack to a Formula
   Pack at least one fruit, one vegetable, a protein source (good quality meat, chicken, egg, fish, chickpeas), a wholegrain source, and a dairy source.

2. Plan and Prepare with your kids on the weekend
   Talk to your kids about their lunchbox, the importance of the food you pack, and give them 2-3 options of each (fruit, vegetable, etc) and get them to choose at least one of each. This gives them a level of ownership in what’s going into their lunchbox.

3. Step back
   After packing it, take a step back and ask yourself whether you’d eat this and if it would sustain you for a few hours until you next eat. If not, you need to rework what you’ve packed.

Tips for packing a healthy lunchbox from www.therootcause.com.au

St Peters Lutheran School
ENROL FOR TERM 1 NOW!

Piano, Guitar, Singing, Violin & Theory Lessons!
Lessons available after-school and on-campus!
Lessons are for beginners through to advanced students and are available to both students of St Peters and members of the St Peters community.
On-campus, convenient, individual music tuition.
To enquire contact Carly McDonald at enquiries@novarmusic.com
Visit us at www.novarmusic.com
St Peters Lutheran School, where the message of Jesus Christ is communicated and celebrated, is a caring, supportive learning community that encourages global consciousness, responsible action and life-long learning.

Diary Dates Term 1 (for your calendar!)

**Week 1 (Monday 1/2)**
- Fri 5/2 Second Hand Uniform Shop Open—2.45pm to 3.15pm

**Week 2 (Monday 8/2)**
- Tue 9/2 Classroom Orientation Evening
- Sun 14/2 Installation Service

**Week 3 (Monday 15/2)**
- Wed 17/2 Principal’s Tour—9am
- Thu 18/2 P&F Event at the Beachouse

**Week 4 (Monday 22/2)**
- Fri 26/2 Twilight Tea

**Week 5 (Monday 29/2)**
- Fri 4/3 SAPSASA Swimming
- Sat 5/3 Working Bee (Rooms 9 and 10)
- Sun 6/3 Community Worship (Rooms 1 and B)

These dates are subject to change so please make sure you check them each week.

**Week 6 (Monday 7/3)**

**Week 7 (Monday 14/3)**
- Mon 14/3 Public Holiday

**Week 8 (Monday 21/3)**
- Thu 24/3 Sports Day
- Fri 25/3 Good Friday

**Week 9 (Monday 28/3)**
- Mon 28/3 Easter Monday
- Wed 30/3 Principal’s Tour

**Week 10 (Monday 4/4)**
- Wed 6/4 Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Thu 7/4 Parent/Teacher Interviews

**Week 11 (Monday 11/4)**
- Fri 15/4 Last Day of Term 1

Find us on Facebook and Twitter and now, Instagram— for all the latest on what’s happening around St Peters Lutheran School Blackwood

St Peters Lutheran School Blackwood
@StPBlackwood stpetersblackwood

If you’re sharing something about us, please remember to use the hashtag #stpetersblackwood or tag us @stpetersblackwood with your photos.