From the Principal

**BEING THE NEW GUY**

I haven’t been the ‘new guy’ for a very long time. It really feels weird.

In my last school*, I knew where everything was, I knew who did what, I knew who was who. I knew policies and procedures inside and out.

When I started at my last school* 15 years ago as a founding staff member, there were just a handful of us and we didn’t have to fit in to an existing culture or way of doing things, we had to make it up as we went along. I am not used to being the new guy. It feels strange and different.

I have watched my wife and three children the past days and weeks be the ‘new guys’ in Adelaide and in their new schools. They miss their friends and their familiar surroundings - things are not the same. They feel weird too.

At my last school* I saw thousands of ‘new guys’ come into the community as the school grew, grew and grew. I wonder how many of them felt weird and strange and a bit ‘fish out of waterish’ as I have been feeling the past month or so?!

At the heart of feeling part of things in a new place is the making of relationships. How good is it when you feel like you’ve made a friend or you get to know someone a little. It is good to know where the coffee is stored but much better to have someone with whom you can drink it!

The first days of a new school year we all feel a bit like new guys, whether we are new to the school, little receptions or just in a new class. It takes everyone a few days to find their feet and settle in. Thankfully being new doesn’t last forever. When someone introduces themselves, tells you where to find something, takes a little time to share something of themselves, the weirdness starts to wear off. I have experienced first hand feeling welcomed and have so much appreciated the large and small kindnesses to myself and my family these past days. I have seen our staff do such a wonderful job of making all our students feel welcome to a new school year.

So, welcome to St Peters for 2012. I hope that we can all get to know each other well and continue to build on the wonderful culture that clearly exists in this school. It is a culture which values highly the building of relationships between the people of this community – students, families and staff. Come along to the events being prepared for the first weeks; The Orientation Evening, Installation Service, the Twilight Tea, class support events and Friday chapel. These are times where you can catch up with people you know and get to know some others. Remember there are ‘new guys’ out there!

I look forward to living, working and learning with you and being part of this special community.

**Jesus said, “Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me” - Matthew 18:5**

Mark Rathjen, Principal

(*I owe the staff a dollar every time I say, “at my last school…”*)
Parents and Friends

Twilight Tea
The annual Twilight Tea will be held across the road at the playground from 5pm on Friday 24 February. BBQ and drinks will be available for purchase. Please bring along chairs and picnic blanket to make yourself comfortable for the evening... This is a great opportunity to get to know other families nice and early in the year. If you can help set up or cook please speak to Blake Watson (0409 720 655) or Felicity Evans (0439 847 334). See you there!

Bingo Night
Saturday 31 March is the date for our BINGO NIGHT! Come along at 7.30pm to the Blackwood Football Club with your table of 10, dressed as the cast from your favourite TV show or movie. Tickets are available from the front office for $20 per head and include 10 games of bingo (great prizes for each) plus door prizes and a prize for the best decorated table! We ask that tickets are paid for before putting your names on the table list (available at the front office). Look out for flyers posted around the school for more information! So, get your table together, pick your theme and we’ll see you there for what will be a HUGE night of fun and games!

Communication Bags
All new students have received a navy blue communication bag (reader folder) on their first day at school. If you would like to replace your child’s existing communication bag, however, they are available for sale for $8 from the office.

2011 Year Book
If you haven’t already purchased your copy of the 2011 St Peters Year Book—please remember to do so as soon as possible. These are available for purchase at $10 per copy at the front office.

New Staff
This year we welcome our new staff:

• Mark Rathjen (Principal);
• Matt Eldridge and Andrea Rathjen (Classroom Teachers); and
• Sarah Midson (ELC Teacher).

We are also delighted to welcome back Nicolle Jakube (Classroom Teacher) and Samantha Smith (Receptionist).

Opening Service
And Welcome
Our special beginning of the school year service was held on Tuesday morning. We thank Pastor Ben for leading us in our service and welcoming our new school year.

The following new students and their families (new or existing) have joined our school community this year. We welcome them all and trust that they will soon feel very much at home at St Peters.

Reception

Other Year Levels

Good News
We congratulate Teja Nalluri (Miss Schutz’ class) and her parents Rao and Srilatha on the recent arrival of a new baby sister and daughter Aasini.
Primary Years Programme (PYP)

The beginning of the year is a great chance to start a new. I have felt this more than ever this year as I begin the school year with my health very much improved than this time last year. God’s blessing and timing for the provision of a new kidney in the Christmas holiday has been a wonderful blessing which has brought much joy. Let me use this opportunity to thank the whole St Peters community for your prayers and support in recent times.

We have some new teachers to St Peters this year, but who are very experienced PYP operators. Nicolle Jakube and Matt Eldridge will bring a wealth of expertise to our already extremely knowledgeable staff. Your children are in very good hands!!! Andrea Rathjen and Sarah Midson, both excellent educators, start their PYP journey with us this year and are already bringing new ideas and fresh eyes to St Peters.

During the holidays, many of our staff took part in the IB Regional workshops here in Adelaide at PAC. The 3 day conference gave staff an opportunity to meet other staff from IB schools worldwide, gather new information and build their understanding of the programme. We had staff members attend the IT, Role of the Coordinator, Concepts, Assessment, Making the PYP Happen, the written curriculum and the Exhibition. During staff meetings throughout the term, we will share with each other all our new ideas and ensure that we have an action plan to consolidate what we have learnt.

If you have any questions regarding the Primary Year Programme which is the curriculum here at St Peters, please feel free to make a time to see me. I am available Monday, Wednesday and Thursday before or after school. Or feel free to email me with any queries on bronwyn.wilson@stpeterslutheran.sa.edu.au.

Bronwyn Wilson
PYP Coordinator

Classroom Orientation Evening

Our Classroom Orientation Evening for parents of students in Reception to Year 7 will be held on Monday 7 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. This will be a general information session and will not provide a forum for parents to ask questions that relate to their particular child. To assist parents who have children in more than one classroom, each classroom teacher will repeat their presentation:

6.15pm – 7.00pm  Reading with your Child (for Reception Parents only)
7.00pm – 7.30pm  First presentation by all classroom teachers
7.30pm – 8.30pm  Mathematics – What parents need to know (for all parents)
8.30pm – 9.00pm  Presentation repeated by all classroom teachers

A separate orientation evening will be held for parents of students in the Early Learning Centre on Thursday 16 February. Families with students attending the Early Learning Centre will be separately advised of the details regarding their orientation evening.
School Staff 2012

Mark Rathjen (Principal)
Rebecca Geue (Year 6/7 teacher)
Matt Eldridge (Year 6 teacher)
Cassie Williams (Year 4/5 teacher)
Trevor Burmeister (Year 4/5 teacher)
Heidi Schutz (Year 2/3 teacher)
Nicolle Jakube (Year 2/3 teacher)
Kathryn Davies (Year 1 teacher)
Claire England (Reception/Year 1 teacher)
Belinda Fox (Reception teacher)
Andrea Rathjen (Year 6/7 teacher – Term 1 Fridays only) (Reception teacher – from Term 2)
Penny Rawinski (Physical Education teacher/ The Arts teacher)
Bronwyn Wilson (PYP Coordinator/Teacher-Librarian)
Alix Newbury (Teacher-Librarian)
Sarah Smith (Learning Support Coordinator)
Anjali Grierson (Indonesian Language Teacher ELC-7)
Celina Read (Numeracy Support Teacher)
Ros Green (SPLOSHC Director)
Helen Radford (Business Manager)
Deb Bahnisch (Enrolments Officer/School Secretary)
Jackie Grear (Receptionist/Admin Assistant)
Samantha Smith (Receptionist/Admin Assistant)
Liz Bird (Lutheran School Officer)
Angela Graetz (Lutheran School Officer)
Mary-Ann Mickan (Lutheran School Officer)
Sharon Smith (Lutheran School Officer)
Tracey Tessitore (Lutheran School Officer)
Barbara Rohde (ELC & SPLOSHC Accounts)
Chris Smith (Maintenance)
James Ziersch (School Chaplain)
Early Learning Centre
Diana Gaskell (Director)
Sarah Midson (Teacher)
Emma Sturges (Teacher Assistant)

Uniforms

Second Hand Uniform Shop
The Second Hand Uniform Shop (which is located in the MFP, under the verandah) will be open this Friday 3 February from 8.45am and next Tuesday 7 February from 8.45am. The Second Hand Uniform Shop will also open on the last Friday of each month during the school term, immediately after chapel. Enquiries regarding uniforms, at any time, may be directed to:
Ali Harper (0407 189 226)
Natasha Caruso (0412 252 947)
Melissa Sharrad (0417 747 926)

Stock Required
Please note – the second hand uniform shop is in desperate need of summer stock, in particular girls’ dresses and boys’ summer shorts and shirts. If you have any items your child has out-grown, please hand them in to be consigned/sold as soon as possible.

Hats
Please note that the Second Hand Uniform Shop sell both styles of hats required as part of the uniform (new stock) – the legionnaires hats (required for everyday wear at school) and the broad-brimmed hat (required for school excursions). The broad-brimmed hat is no longer available for purchase from Totally Schoolwear and must be purchased through the school.

Boys’ shorts
Our uniform supplier (Totally Schoolwear) is currently unable to supply size 4 boys shorts (summer uniform) and have indicated that these may not be available for several weeks. In the interim, the Principal has given permission for students wear their sports shorts. Parents are requested to purchase the required shorts as soon as they are available and to let teachers know if this concerns their son.

Lost Property

Indi Zammit (Miss Schutz’ class in 2011) and Laila Zammit (Mrs Fox’s class in 2011) have lost their winter school jumpers. Both jumpers are labeled. Please check at home as they may have inadvertently been sent to the wrong homes at the end of last year. If found, please return to the office. Thank you.
Daily Timetable/ Absences

The staff begin each day with a devotion and short meeting from 8.10—8.30am. School commences at 8.45am. Students who arrive at school before 8.30am will go into Before School Care and the regular fee will be applied.

The teachers will be in their classrooms from 8.30am.

The best time to phone the school for any student absences is between 8.30—9.00am. Alternatively, you may send an email to admin@stpeterslutheran.sa.edu.au (also indicating the reason for the absence).

If your child/ren arrives late for any reason, please report to the office and “sign in”. As part of increased awareness of where each student is at any time, and to comply with government accountability requirements regarding student attendance, students who arrive at school after 8.45am or leave prior to 3.15pm are required to be “signed in or out”.

This register is kept at the school office and we request that parents/caregivers fill this in when they bring or remove a student from any classroom. Together with the reason for the absence.

Your cooperation will support us with our duty of care and help us to comply with government accountability requirements.

Recess is from 10.45—11.00am
Lunch is from 1.00—1.40pm
School finishes from 3.00—3.20pm

Classroom teachers are on duty until 3.30pm every afternoon. Any students who have for some extraordinary reason not been collected by that time will be sent to Out of School Hours Care (SPLOSHC) from where they will be collected by their parent or caregiver. SPLOSHC fees will apply.

We would ask that if there is a reason why your child cannot be picked up on time, please notify the school.

Medical Information

Thank you to those families who have already provided us with their completed medical forms.

If your child suffers from asthma, anaphylaxis or requires emergency or regular medications during school hours, we require the appropriate medical information and medical authority to administer prescribed or over-the-counter medication.

Older students who self-administer asthma medication still require an asthma plan supplied to the front office.

If you do not have the appropriate forms, or are unsure of our requirements, please contact the front office.

Walking Home From School

Each year, any children walking home from school must have a written agreement in place which states the students and parents responsibilities when giving children permission to walk home.

This year the process will be slightly different as there will not be an official meeting with the PYP Coordinator. If your child is going to be walking home this year, please ensure that you and your child complete the form (sent home with Year 4 – 7 students yesterday) and return it to the school office by Friday 10 February (end of Week 2) so that your child is able to walk home. Parents are asked to have a conversation with their child about the strategies that can be used if they are feeling unsafe and to document these on the form provided. Once a child’s form has been returned, their name will be included on the walking list that will be checked each day.

Please make this a priority as all of our students need to be informed about their responsibilities or they will be unable to walk home.
St Peters Lutheran
Out of School Hours
Care (SPLOSHC)

We hope you have all had a great break. It is wonderful to see all the children back again and a huge welcome to all the new families in the school.

It is that time of year again when all the SPLOSHC registration forms are due. These forms need to be updated each year so that the information we have is current. This information is important as it provides emergency contacts, pick up authorities and medical details. All children who attend SPLOSHC must have a current registration form.

Forms are available through SPLOSHC or the front office.

The SPLOSHC Team
Ros, Siobhan, Craig, James and Jane

From the Business Manager

School Fees
A reminder that Term 1 school fees are due by Friday 4 February. Thank you to those people who have already paid their fees.

School Card
Families experiencing hardship or unusual circumstances can be supported by the Government funding known as School Card. Information about the scheme and application forms are available on the Procedures and Forms pages on www.decs.sa.gov.au/goldbook/>

Please note that applications from those people wishing to be considered for School Card assistance must be received by next Thursday 9 February.

LLL Banking (Tuesdays)

All new families have been provided with an LLL banking pack, which included a calico bag (for library use) and banking information. Students can make deposits with The Lutheran Laypeople’s League (LLL) through the school.

Banking days are Tuesdays 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.

Working Bees

Working bees provide a number of benefits to the school and to school families. For your school it means that a lot of the grounds development and regular maintenance tasks are completed at very little cost. This means we can keep our buildings and grounds in good order and condition and our facilities remain an attractive place in which your children work and play. Working Bees also provide a great opportunity for people to socialise and get to know each other better.

On the recommendation of the P&F Association and, as was the case in previous years, a levy of $25 per family will apply for those families who do not attend. However, many parents are involved in special projects in and around the school and this volunteer labour will certainly preclude those people from incurring the levy.

If there are other special circumstances that should be taken into consideration, please inform the Principal.

Each year every family is allocated to a Working Bee Group. There are four groups and each group is allocated one working bee for the year. If no-one from your family is able to attend on your allocated day, you can nominate to attend one of the others.

A list of students whose families have been allocated to the first working bee on Saturday 25 February will be advised shortly.

We thank you very much for your support with this. Your school has benefitted enormously from the incredible voluntary efforts of parents in the past which has been a great blessing to the entire school community. It certainly does make a difference.
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. This is clearly outlined in the Parent Information Handbook 2012, which every family has received.

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.

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.

Afternoon Pick-Up
We are emphasizing to all those picking up children at the end of the day the importance of abiding by the procedures, to minimize cars reversing and pedestrians in the car park at this busy time. It is very important for the smooth and expedient managing of the pick-up for parents to display the family name on the left hand side sun visor so that teachers can have children ready to get into the car when you come along. It is also imperative that you are on time. Please do not come early or late.
Please respect the instructions of teachers who are managing the pick-up and abide by the guidelines we have developed for the safety and welfare of all of our students.

Term Dates 2012

Term 1
Tuesday 31 January—Wednesday 4 April

Term 2
Thursday 26 April—Friday 29 June

Term 3
Tuesday 17 July—Thursday 20 September

Term 4
Tuesday 9 October—Tuesday 11 December
**Chess at St Peters**

Chess Coaching and Interschool chess competitions in Term 1.

**Chess coaching** by Matt Mato Jelic (Chess School SA)

**Come and try** 1 session only: lunch time 1 – 1.45pm on Wednesday 15 February (Cost $5 to be paid on the day) or complete registration form for **6 week course $45** (a minimum of 10 students required).

**Chess for beginners** by James Ziersch (15 sessions over terms 1 & 2 cost of $13 for chess learner’s board) on Friday during lunch.

Registration forms are available at the school office.

**Interschool competitions**

**SA Junior Chess League:** Wednesday 21 March at Chess Centre, 10 Ranelagh Street, Adelaide. Cost $12

**Chess School SA Championship:** Wednesday 28 March at Burnside PS, 11 High St, Burnside. Cost $17

Collect registration forms from school office.

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**Class Support Coordinators**

The Class Support Coordinators are a small group of people from the school community including the Principal, Mark Rathjen, the School Chaplain, James Ziersch, and parents/caregivers from each classroom whose primary responsibility is to provide support and physical care for families of the school.

A list of Class Support Coordinators for 2012, together with further information about this group, will be sent home soon.

*James Ziersch*

Chaplain

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**Prayer Team**

This past week St Peters’ Prayer Team have been praying for—

**School staff:** Bronwyn Wilson (PYP Coordinator), Alix Newbury (Library Teacher) and Sharon Smith (Library LSO).

**Students and their families in Room 7 and their teacher**—Miss Claire England

- **Joshua Liddicoat** (parents: Samantha & Luke)
- **Campbell McCue** and **Flynn** (ELC) (parents: Dyanna & Paul)
- **Ohmeah Palmer** and **Argon** (ELC) (parents: Jayne & Matthew)
- **Eden Russell** and **Savannah** (ELC) (parents: Melanie & Glyn)
- **Jessie Shiell** (parent: Kimberley)

St Peters’ Prayer Team

(James Ziersch, Cathy Tighe and Pastor Ben Pfeiffer)

If you would like to join our prayer team in 2012, we will be meeting together on Wednesdays at 9am or you can request to join our e-mail prayer chain from:

[james.ziersch@stpeterslutheran.sa.edu.au](mailto:james.ziersch@stpeterslutheran.sa.edu.au)

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**Unclaimed Containers**

There are a number of unclaimed plastic containers in the Church kitchen. Please check these and take any that belong to you.

*Thanks.*
**St Peters Playgroup**
The St Peters Playgroup will be up and running again from Thursday 9 February. Bring your babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers along for an hour or two of play in the hall and enjoy a coffee or two at the same time.

**When:** Thursday mornings, 9am – 11am

**Where:** St Peters Hall

**Please bring:**
- Shared fruit
- Gold coin toward supplies (funds permitting)

Any queries, please give us a ring, otherwise we hope to see you there from next week.

Samantha Smith (T: 8370 3657); and Tanya Bingham (T: 8370 5204)

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**Welcome back from the Out of School Hours Sports Committee**

Thank you to all parents who took the time to fill out the Out of School Hours Sport survey last year. We have sorted and examined your feedback and where possible have taken your suggestions on board.

One of the elements we would like to improve is supporting coaches in their development. We have done some research and are pleased to offer two different beginning coaching courses.

The first course is an online course run by the Australian Sports Commission. The course takes a few hours however it can be done at your own pace. You are able to log out at any point and log back in again later. If you are interested in undertaking the course you will find it by copying and pasting the following address into your web browser:


I completed the course in the holidays and I am confident anyone interested in coaching will find this course both interesting and beneficial to them.

The second option is an onsite coaching course 'Essentials for Coaching Children'. The course is run at the Office of Recreation and Sport, 27 Valetta Road, Kidman Park on Feb 21st from 6:30pm - 9:30pm.

This course is aimed at beginner coaches but would equally assist those approaching their second year of coaching. The course covers why children play sport, making the most of your time together and getting the most out of your players. There is a $10 cost per person which will be covered by the out of school sports committee. Register individually online at:


We strongly encourage anyone who is interested in helping coach a team to invest a small amount of time into one of these courses. You will walk away with some good ideas to manage behaviour, drills and an understanding of the philosophy behind coaching children’s sport.

**Also, please remember to return all out of school hours sports forms before Friday. We need to know the correct numbers so we can ensure we register enough teams.**

Thanks for your help. If you have any issues or questions please feel free to come and see Sharon or Penny in the library office.

Penny Rawinski and Sharon Smith (Out of School Hours Sports Committee)
St Peters Lutheran
Church
Services each Sunday at 10.00am
ALL WELCOME

Coming up...
2/2 Confirmation resumes @ 5:30pm
9/2 Playgroup resumes @ 9am
12/2 Installation and Rededication Service. Join us for worship as Mark Rathjen and our other new staff members are officially installed @ 10am

Any enquiries please contact Pastor Ben:
82782322 or pfeiffer241@gmail.com

Paul writes, “The gospel is free of charge” (1 Cor 9:18)

Diary Dates Term 1
(for your calendar!)

Week 1 (Tuesday 1/2)
Tue 30/1 School commences for students
Fri 3/2 Second Hand Uniform Shop Open
8.45am—9.30am

Week 2 (Monday 6/2)
Mon 6/2 Classroom Orientation Evening
Tue 7/2 Second Hand Uniform Shop Open
8.45am—9.30am
Thu 9/2 Playgroup—9.00am
Fri 10/2 Toolbox Parenting Group—9.30am
Sun 12/2 School Staff Installation/Commissioning Service 10am—All welcome

Week 3 (Monday 13/2)
Wed 15/2 Class Support Coordinators Meeting
Chess (Come and Try)—1.00pm
Thu 16/2 Playgroup—9.00am
Fri 17/2 Toolbox Parenting Group—9.30am

Week 4 (Monday 20/2)
Mon 20/2 Year 4/5 Camp (until Wed 22/2)
Thu 23/2 Playgroup—9.00am
Fri 24/2 Toolbox Parenting Group—9.30am
Twilight Tea—5.00pm
Sat 25/2 Working Bee—8.30am (Room 1 & 2)

Week 5 (Monday 27/2)
Thu 1/3 Playgroup—9.00am
Fri 2/3 Toolbox Parenting Group—9.30am
Sports Day

Week 6 (Monday 5/3)
Thu 8/3 Playgroup—9.00am
Fri 9/3 Toolbox Parenting Group—9.30am

Week 7 (Tuesday 13/3)
Mon 12/3 Adelaide Cup Day Holiday
Thu 15/3 Playgroup—9.00am

Week 8 (Monday 19/3)
Wed 21/3 SA Junior Chess League
Interschool competition
Thu 22/3 Playgroup—9.00am
Sun 25/3 Family Service (Room 5 & 6)

Week 9 (Monday 26/3)
Wed 28/3 Chess School SA Championship
Thu 29/3 Playgroup—9.00am
Fri 30/3 Reports go home
Sat 31/3 P&F Bingo Night

Week 10 (Monday 2/4)
Mon 2/4 Parent/Teacher Interviews
Tue 3/4 Parent/Teacher Interviews
Wed 4/4 Closing Chapel—8.45am
Last day of term
Thu 5/4 Pupil Free Day
Fri 6/4 Good Friday

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