From the Principal

1ST IMPRESSIONS

People both in and outside of this community have asked me, "So, you've been here a few weeks now, what's it like so far?" "How are you finding things?" "What are your first impressions of St Peters?"

They say first impressions are lasting ones. If that is true, then I am hopeful of a very positive time here at St Peters.

I would briefly like to share what I have experienced in this community in the short time I have been here. I'm not trying to paint a perfect picture, but simply tell you what stands out to a 'new guy' looking to see how things tick.

I'm happy to say I have made quite a long list of things that have made a positive impression on me. I don't have enough space to include all the points, but here are my top 5:

1. A caring Christian community
I have seen this in the emphasis staff give to the spiritual health of themselves and the culture they create in their classrooms. I see a commitment to regular worship, as staff, with students and in the wider church community. I see Christian love in action particularly in the way people in this school communicate with one another and how they act toward each other.

2. A school with a passion for learning
I see staff who work extremely hard to provide genuine and authentic learning opportunities. I see it in their programming and I hear it in their dialogue with one another. I see a staff who challenge themselves to keep learning and provide wonderful role models to our young people. I see a parent body who showed up in great numbers to the Orientation Evening to learn how to best work together with staff to enhance our children's learning.

3. A staff passionate about children
I have yet to hear one negative comment from staff about any child in this school. I have heard them discuss certain behaviors exhibited by some but I only hear professional, thoughtful and caring options being shared about how to best help a child.

4. A place that looks for purpose
"What is the purpose?" I couldn’t tell you how many times I have already heard that question asked around the staffroom and in the classrooms of our school. What a great question. Staff challenge each other and their students to see relevance and authenticity in the policies and practices of the school. How great to see regular class and whole school meetings where students can participate in the decision making process!

5. An inclusive community
It is wonderful to see how people are included and accepted at St Peters. I see this most clearly with our special needs programme. It is tempting for schools to value just the high academic, the most gifted and well behaved. I believe St Peters is a place where all are welcomed and loved.

That’s 5. I could have written about many other things too (eg a great sense of ownership, common teaching practice etc). It has been enjoyable coming in and joining into the culture that makes up St Peters and I look forward to what is ahead. We have much for which to be grateful here and I pray that, as we start a new year, we continue to learn and grow together with Jesus as the cornerstone in all we do.

Mark Rathjen, Principal

Special points of interest:

- Friday 10/2
  Toolbox Parenting Group—9.30am

- Sunday 12/2
  School Staff Installation and Rededication Service—10am

- Wednesday 15/2
  Chess ‘Come and Try’—1pm
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 or Felicity Evans. 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 (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 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!

Donations for Bingo Night Prizes
You should have already received a flyer about the Bingo Night which also has detailed information about the themed hampers. The P&F are hoping to make up one from each class as prizes for the Bingo Night. If each family could kindly donate an item for the hamper in your children’s classes, it would be GREATLY appreciated. In your child’s classroom, you will find a box in which you can place your donation along with the ‘theme’ and some suggestions. Thank you!!

Uniform News
Concordia College has kindly offered to forward our ‘old’ sports uniforms to people in need in other countries around the world.

If you still have any of these superseded uniforms (includes the parachute jackets and pants and the white sports polo tops), please feel free to place them in the labelled boxes in the Hall from Monday 13 February 2012.

Working Bee
The first working bee for this year will be held on Saturday 25 February beginning at 8.30am. Families rostered on for this working bee come mostly from Miss Geue’s and Mr Eldridge’s classes and include the following: Bird, Caruso, Charlton, Cheney, Compton, Di Iorio, Dimou, Dorotich, Duval, Emery, Evans (Maggie-Rose), Graetz, Green, Gregory, Harper, Higgins, Jones, Knight, Maluszczak, Mann, Masongele, Newman, Oljinyk, Oliver, Parsons, Rogers, Smith (Caleb), Smith (Chloe), Sparre, Thomas, Thomson, Tiekstra, Tighe, Varga, Watson, Williams, Zeitz.

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 community.

Sausage sizzle forms are coming home shortly.

School Newsletter
Thursday is school newsletter day so you can expect to receive the newsletter via email every Thursday afternoon.

If you have not already advised your preferred email address, please do so by emailing admin@stpeterslutheran.sa.edu.au — and remember to let us know if you are planning on changing your email address.

Alternatively, you may view the newsletter at www.stpeterslutheran.sa.edu.au (on the School News & Events page) or collect a copy from the office.

We strongly encourage you to make time to read the newsletter because often it will contain important information that may only come to you through the newsletter.

Principal’s Tour
Our first Principal’s Tour for 2012 is scheduled for 9am-11am on Tuesday 21 February. If you know of any friends, family, neighbours, colleagues etc who may be looking for an Early Learning Centre and school in this area, please encourage them to telephone the school to book a place for this tour.

Found
Please see Pastor Ben if you have lost a key as one has been found in the car park.
Primary Years Programme (PYP)

As an IB world school, we have access to current methodology, best classroom practice and internationally accredited professional development. It is exciting to know that we here at St Peters are part of an International community that recognises life long learning and “develops inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through cultural understanding and respect.” (IB Mission Statement).

At the beginning of each year, the IBO PYP General Regulations are made available to students and caregivers. The PYP General Regulations outline the role and responsibility of the schools, content and implementation of the programme, use of materials produced by the students, governing law and Arbitration.

If you would like a copy of the IB PYP General Regulations, please ask at the St Peters Front Office or simply google “IB PYP General Regulations”.

Page 4 of this week’s newsletter is a summary of the units that are underway in all classes for the first part of the term. Please remember to ask your child about their central idea and encourage them to take action beyond the classroom with regards to their learning.

Bronwyn Wilson  
PYP Coordinator

Classroom Orientation Evening

It was wonderful to see so many parents at school last Monday evening, to hear about what the classroom teachers are planning for your children this year, and some of the classroom routines that help us all to be organised and orderly.

We thank our Mathematics Key Teacher, Rebecca Geue, for her informative and thought-provoking presentation on the teaching of mathematics.

Please remember that teaching staff members are more than happy to answer any queries you may have related to their classrooms or area of specialisation. Please feel very confident to make an appointment if there is something you would like to discuss.

Mathematics Information Session

On Monday night, we presented information illustrating how the current teaching of mathematics has changed from the transmission model (where teachers transmitted their knowledge and required students to repeatedly practise procedures) to the inquiry model, where students build upon their thinking and then, through carefully constructed tasks, problem solving, discussion, questioning and justification, come to a common understanding that is profound and enduring.

Thank you for the overwhelmingly positive feedback received. Please find attached ideas for helping your child in numeracy at home (a resource from Rebecca Clements, MLATS presenter, working from Discovery College, IB International School, Hong Kong).

Rebecca Geue  
Mathematics Key Teacher
The specialists (Resource Centre, Art, PE and Indonesian) this year are doing a combination of their own units of inquiry to develop the children’s skills and knowledge of the discreet subject area they teach and also integrating with the classroom Units of Inquiry, where there is a genuine link. Should be some really exciting and engaging units across the school this term!

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**Year 2/3:**
**Who we are**

Central Idea: To protect rights, we have responsibilities.

An inquiry into my rights and responsibilities, how the exercise of rights and responsibilities affects others and community roles and responsibilities.

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**Year 4/5:**
**Who we are**

Central Idea: Groups and individuals make decisions that affect our well-being and the well being of others.

An inquiry into group and individual health, physical, mental, spiritual and social health and decision making regarding health.

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**Year 6/7:**
**Who we are**

Central Idea: Beliefs and ideas shape people’s thinking and actions.

An inquiry into the characteristics of religion, how beliefs determine values that are carried out in everyday life and how theology answers some of life’s questions.

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**Reception/Year 1:**
**Who we are**

Central Idea: Communities are connected and shaped by the choices and actions of its members.

An inquiry into how people in communities are connected, the purpose of rules in different communities and the responsibilities of community members.

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**Early Learning Centre:**
**Who we are**

Central Idea: Living things go through cycles of change.

An inquiry into what is a life cycle, what do all living things need to live, how can life cycles be affected and how do living things change.

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**Curriculum News**

February 2012

Focus On Inquiry...
Prayer Team

Next week, Week 3, St Peters’ Prayer Team will be praying for—

School staff: Penny Rawinski (Physical Education Teacher/The Arts Teacher), and Celina Read (Numeracy Support Teacher)

Students and their families in Room B and their Year 1 teacher—Miss Kathryn Davies:
  • Chelsea Adams and Keira (ELC) (parents: Narelle & Michael)
  • Elliot Brown (parents: Nicki & Andrew)
  • Kai Gruberlind (parents: Kathryn & Simon)
  • Darcy Hill and Charlie (ELC) (parents: Sally & Matthew)
  • Sarah Weymouth (parents: Kylie & Paul)

St Peters’ Prayer Team (James Ziersch, Cathy Tighe, Angela Graetz, Sam Smith, Liz Bird, & Pastor Ben Pfeiffer.)

Out of School Hours Sport

Medical/Consent Forms

All forms relating to your child’s sport/s for Term 1 were sent home via the classroom message box on Wednesday. Please ensure all consent forms are returned to school by Friday 17 February. (Any forms returned after this date must be given directly to your team coordinator).

Basketball (Term 1 Start / Tops)

Basketball Starts in Week 3.
The first games for 2012 will start next Tuesday. Times will be advised.
All basketball tops will be handed out Friday.
This year all students will have their name recorded against a particular numbered top. If the top is not returned by the end of the year, a replacement cost of $45 will be charged.
This initiative has come about due to the loss of several school sport tops.
Washing instructions will be handed out with every top.

OSH Sport continued...

Cricket
(2012 Season / Coaching Courses)

For all your match information, please use the following website: spsc.sa.cricket.com.au. Click on MyCricket/Matches/Fixture; and from the drop down menu choose the competition your child is playing in.
Level 1 cricket coaching courses are being held on:
Monday 20 February and 27 February at the Favell Dansie Training & Ed Centre from 6.00pm—9.30pm (both nights) or
Sunday 13 May, venue to be determined, 9.00am—5.00pm
The cost is $90 for either course. However, if you are coaching a St Peters cricket team, we will cover this cost.

Come & Try Lacrosse

Come and join for our annual Lacrosse Competition
When: Mondays after school starting 20 February—26 March
At: Aberfoyle Park Campus School – Budapest Road
Time: 3.30pm – 5.00pm.

Come and Try Lacrosse—play the game and get ready for our SAPSASA Carnival on 29 March.
Teams consist of year 4/5 & 6/7 boys and girls.
The competition is modified Lacrosse; 5 aside no goalies.
For further information please contact Marilyn Fuss on 0433 544 661 or email marilyn.fuss@lacrossesa.com.au

MILO in2CRICKET

MILO in2CRICKET is a fun introduction to the game of cricket for boys and girls in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. It provides children with an enjoyable and safe environment where they can learn skills and play games. Your nearest Centre will be run at Coromandel CC, Hewett Sports Reserve (Corner of Coromandel Parade and Garnet Avenue, Blackwood), starting on Thursday 26 January from 4-5pm (runs until 8 March, so you can still sign up), cost $60
Every registered child receives an in2CRICKET Pack including bat, ball, t-shirt, bucket hat, backpack and some other goodies.
To find out more details about your nearest Centre and to register for this season log on to www.in2cricket.com.au and type in your post code.
**St Peters Lutheran Church**

Services each Sunday at 10.00am

ALL WELCOME

**Coming up...**

**Installation and Rededication Service.** Join us for worship this Sunday at 10am as Mark Rathjen is officially installed as our new principal. Our other new staff, continuing staff and school council will also be part of this special service.

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

“Athletes exercise self-control… they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one” (1 Cor 9:25)

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**Diary Dates Term 1**

(for your calendar!)

**Week 2 (Monday 6/2)**
- Thu 9/2 Playgroup—9.00am
- Fri 10/2 After Chapel Coffee—Room 7 (Miss England)
- Sun 12/2 School Staff Installation & Rededication Service 10am—All welcome

**Week 3 (Monday 13/2)**
- Wed 15/2 Class Support Coordinators Meeting (time to be confirmed)
- Thu 16/2 Playgroup—9.00am
- Fri 17/2 After Chapel Coffee—Room B (Miss Davies)
- Sun 19/2 Toolbox Parenting Group—9.30am

**Week 4 (Monday 20/2)**
- Mon 20/2 Year 4/5 Camp (until Wed 22/2)
- Tue 21/2 Principal’s Tour—9.00am to 11.00am
- Thu 23/2 Playgroup—9.00am
- Fri 24/2 After Chapel Coffee—Room 10 (Miss Schutz)
- 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

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