CULTIVATING GREAT RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Over a week one can receive many pieces of correspondence. Most of it, after a cursory glance, gets placed in the proverbial round file. This week however a few gems landed on my desk. I read some interesting literature from Michael Grose who does a lot of work in assisting good working relationships with parents and staff in school communities. There was a little freebie bookmark attached headed “Working with your child’s teacher”. After our recent Orientation Evenings, I thought it was very topical and well worth reproducing for you. I have added a few thoughts after each one of his points.

Working With Your Child’s Teacher:

1. **Know what your teacher is trying to achieve**
   At our school we aim to keep you informed as much as possible about what is happening in our classrooms (eg; Orientation Evenings, regular newsletters). Keep a positive and on going dialogue with your child’s teacher.

2. **Keep your expectations reasonable and positive**
   You may question some things that happen from time to time. This year’s teacher might work quite differently from last year’s. If you have queries or something seems unusual or unreasonable, come and have a chat about it.

3. **Support your teacher’s expectations and activities at home**
   Follow through with homework routines, uniform expectations etc. This is especially important at the beginning of the year. Always speak positively of the teacher in front of your child.

4. **Send kids to school ready to learn and on time each day**
   We all live busy lives, so aim to have good routines in place; diary signed, homework completed, a good brekkie in their tummies, well organized the night before etc.

5. **Inform the school early of your child’s challenges and changes**
   Even if you have had children at St Peters for some time, let the new teacher know. We have a thorough transition practice at the end of each year to help teachers prepare well for the year ahead, but it is always good to discuss any issues with the new teacher as they are still getting to know your child.

6. **Skill your child to work with others**
   This is a really important part of school life at St Peters. Group and partner work are integral to our teaching and learning philosophy. Help them to learn to listen, cooperate, share, compromise…

7. **Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties**
   There are lots of ways to do this; notes in dairy, organise a mutually convenient time to speak (first thing in morning not always ideal). We might see things differently but, in the end, we all want what is best for our young people.

8. **Participate fully in class and school activities**
   Come along to events as often as possible. This will enable you to build good working relationships with staff and other families. It sends a powerful message to children that you are committed to the community and their learning.

9. **Trust the teacher’s knowledge, professionalism and experience**
   We are blessed to have very experienced and well trained staff at St Peters. They are deeply committed to doing the best they can for each one of our children. They are not perfect and will make some errors occasionally, as we all do, so please be gracious if we get something wrong.

10. **Talk up what happens at school**
    Perhaps you have heard something negative about a teacher or student. Will you perpetuate that in your discussions with others and pass that on or will you refuse and take a more positive stance? I remember fondly when I, as a young teacher, gained massive confidence from parents who gave me words of encouragement and kindly and gently pointed out my short-comings in love. Speak up for all our people, pray for them and support them.

Check out Michael Grose’s website (parenting ideas.com.au)

Mark Rathjen, Principal

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Special points of interest:

- **Tonight 16/2**
  ELC Orientation Evening—6.30pm to 7pm

- **Friday 17/2**
  Toolbox Parenting Group—9.30am

- **Monday 20/2**
  Year 4/5 Camp (to Wed 22/2)

- **Tuesday 21/2**
  Principal’s Tour—9am to 11am
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 (including the usual sausages in bread as well as yummy yiros!) 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, or return the reply slip attached to this week’s newsletter. 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). Please feel free to approach your Class Support Coordinator regarding class tables too. There are flyers around the school with more information about the night! 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!!

Working Bee
Useful tools to bring along to help with the general maintenance jobs to be done during the working bee next Saturday 25 February include gardening gloves, hats and sunscreen, wheelbarrows, yard brooms, cobweb brooms, shovels, spades, rakes, pruning shears, secateurs and any other like tools you think might be helpful.
Generally, parents on this term’s list have students in the Year 6/7 (Room 1) and Year 6 (Room 2) classes. Those of you who are in that group will need to sign in on the day which serves two purposes. The first is for insurance and the second is so your name does not reappear on the roster later in the year.
Please return your sausage sizzle order form by Wednesday 22 February.
We look forward to seeing you there.

A Valentine for you.... From God!

For God so loved the world, That he gave His only Son That Whosoever Believes in him Should not perish, But have everlasting life
John 3:16 (KJV)

From the Lutheran Tract Mission
Artists: Emily Evans (10) & Elia Shulz (8)
Loxton Lutheran School, Loxton, SA
Primary Years Programme (PYP)

In a recent edition of IB World, the magazine of the International Baccalaureate, an article summarised the results of a student survey conducted by the IB. More than 1,100 students from all over the world were surveyed about everything from the Learner Profile to their hopes for the future.

One of the questions that was open to IB students from all 3 programmes was “Which trait in the Learner Profile do you consider the most relevant to your own life?” The results were as follows:

- Inquirers 9%
- Knowledgeable 15%
- Thinkers 12%
- Communicators 11%
- Principled 4%
- Open-minded 17%
- Caring 6%
- Balanced 7%
- Risk-takers 13%
- Reflective 6%

After reading the article, some interesting conversations were had about the importance of the different Learner Profile attributes.

Which attribute do you place most importance on?
Would/should these results be different in a Christian school?
What traits do your children value most? Why?
What LP traits did Jesus exhibit most?

The Learner Profile is a list of attributes that we would hope the students at St Peters will display during their time here and as they leave Primary school. We encourage and integrate these traits into the classroom learning – in Units of Inquiry, devotions, Maths, whole school meetings and in everyday interactions. I encourage you to do the same at home with your children.

Bronwyn Wilson
PYP Coordinator

SA PYPC Network Meeting

Next Thursday at 1pm, the SA Coordinator’s of the PYP programme are meeting at St Peters Lutheran School. The meeting should be finished in time for school pick up, but please be aware that there may be more cars at the school during this time and to use the kiss and drop if possible to ensure flow of cars through the school.

Thanks,
Bronwyn Wilson
PYP Coordinator
Installation Service

On Sunday, our new staff members were installed and existing staff members were re-dedicated during the service at St Peters Lutheran Church. It was a great way to welcome our new Principal, Mark Rathjen, our new teaching staff, Matt Eldridge, Sarah Midson and Andrea Rathjen, and introduce everyone to the members of the congregation, to remind us all of why we were called to work in this school.

Prayer Team

Next week, Week 4, St Peters’ Prayer Team will be praying for—

School staff: Jackie Grear and Samantha Smith (Receptionists), Deb Bahnisch (Enrolments Officer/School Secretary), and Helen Radford (Business Manager)

Students and their families in Room 10 and their Year 2/3 teacher: Heidi Schutz

- Caitlin Gluyas
  (parents: Leanne & David)
- Sebastian Zappia & Amelie (ELC)
  (parents: Averil & Daniel)
- Rhys Bassett
  (parents: Sonya & James)
- Nicholas Evans
  (parents: Jelena & Leigh)

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

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.

School Uniform News

Sport Uniform
Please be reminded that the navy blue sport polo top with white piping is only to be worn for 2012.

From 2013 all students in Years R-7 (if not already) will need to be wearing the new sports polo top – featuring horizontal blue and white stripes.

We do have some navy blue sport tops with white piping for sale in the Second Hand Uniform shop that are NEW for $24. Again, if purchased they are to be worn for 2012 only.

Uniform Fittings
Our uniform supplier, Totally Schoolwear at Cumberland Park, has set aside two dates for fittings for the Winter uniform for Term 2 if required by families of our school (outside of normal business hours). These dates are Thursday 1 March and Thursday 8 March, from 5pm-7.30pm.

Bookings are encouraged—please phone 8373 1766.

Second Hand Uniform Shop
Just a reminder that the Second Hand Uniform Shop will be open on the last Friday of the month, straight after the Chapel service. Any additional opening times will also be listed in the newsletter.

Sibling Enrolments

A reminder to parents of siblings to please ensure you have completed and submitted to the office an Application for Enrolment form for your child, along with the $50 application fee, even if the ELC or school enrolment relates to future years. This is an important part of our enrolment process for siblings and greatly assists us in our future planning. We want to do the best we can to ensure that there are places for siblings.

Thank you.
AFL Math Quiz

The AFL math quiz now has a pre-season quiz
The 2012 AFL Math Quiz, is a free, innovative and engaging online competition aimed at developing literacy and numeracy skills of students using the theme of Australian Football. The AFL Quiz is open to students from years 3 to 6 with each team consisting of 3 students.
The AFL Quiz Pre-Season is a practice competition, getting teams ready for the AFL Quiz Qualifying rounds. It consists of two rounds each with 10 questions. These can be completed at any time between 27 February and 17 March.
Parents can now help their child look at the website www.aflquiz.com.au, try the pre-season quiz as a guest, and then let Mr Ziersch know if you’d like to enter as a team of 3 in the competition, which will be done during lunch time on the Fridays listed below:
1. May 25
2. June 1
3. June 8
4. Final quiz if qualifying on Aug 3
If you want help doing the AFL Quiz Pre-Season, then please see Mr Ziersch on Wed or Fri.
James Ziersch
Chaplain

Missing...
Alice McGinn (Miss Schutz’ class) has lost some pink jiffies, a red dress and possibly a “Belle” dress-up costume (in a blue St Peters shopping bag).
If you have seen these missing items, please return them to the front office.
Thank you.

OSH Sport

Cricket (2012 Season)
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.

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

St Peters Playgroup
The St Peters Playgroup is up and running again on Thursdays. 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.
Samantha Smith (T: 8370 3657); and Tanya Bingham (T: 8370 5204)
St Peters Lutheran Church

Services each Sunday at 10.00am

ALL WELCOME

Coming up...

18/2 Invigorate Conference

22/2 Ash Wednesday Service 7:30pm. Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent — the forty days of preparation in the lead up to Easter.

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

From the cloud came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him” (Mark 9:7)

Diary Dates Term 1
(for your calendar!)

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

Week 3 (Monday 13/2)
Thu 16/2 Playgroup—9.00am
Fri 17/2 After Chapel Coffee—Room B
(Teachers: Miss Davies)
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
(Teachers: Miss Schutz)
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 Sports Day

Week 6 (Monday 5/3)
Thu 8/3 Playgroup—9.00am
Fri 9/3 After Chapel Coffee—Room 9
(Teachers: Mrs Jakube)
Toolbox Parenting Group—9.30am

Week 7 (Tuesday 13/3)
Mon 12/3 Adelaide Cup Day Holiday
Thu 15/3 Playgroup—9.00am
Fri 16/3 After Chapel Coffee—Room 8
(Teachers: Mrs Fox)

Week 8 (Monday 19/3)
Wed 21/3 SA Junior Chess League Interschool competition
Thu 22/3 Playgroup—9.00am
Fri 23/3 After Chapel Coffee—Room 1 (Miss Geue)
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 After Chapel Coffee—Room 2 (Mr Eldridge)
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
After Chapel Coffee—ELC (Mrs Gaskell)
Special Food Day—Hot Cross Buns
Last day of term
Thu 5/4 Pupil Free Day
Fri 6/4 Good Friday