From the Principal

Carrying our Cross

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. (Mark 8:34 NIV)

Andrea and I recently went to see the movie "Wild" (starring Reece Witherspoon or is it Witherknife...?). We loved it so much we went and bought and read the book. I loved the movie and more so the book (warning: not a book for younger readers). It is a true story about a woman (Cheryl Strayed) in her mid-twenties who back-packs on her own some 400 miles up the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) in western USA (akin to our Heysen Trail). She takes on this incredible journey at a critical time in her life after her mother dies and her marriage falls apart. It is a disturbing, confronting, enlightening and inspiring story which has had me thinking for weeks. On reading this week’s verse of the week (see above), I was reminded of a particularly significant part of Cheryl's story. On her walk she carries an enormously overweight rucksack which is eventually named "Monster". As a novice walker she packs way too much unnecessary stuff. The pack hurts her body severely and rubs her skin raw and bloody. It slows her down and it is so painful that at times it is unbearable. And yet carry it she does, over 400 miles of mountains, snow and desert terrain. ‘Monster’ is in many ways a metaphor of the burdens she carries in her life; the death of her mother, her more recent divorce, an abusive father, her own drug abuse and promiscuity (to name but a few).

I must admit, I have in the past seen this call on me to ‘carry my cross’ as taking all my junk on myself and stoically soldiering on. But I reckon that’s not Jesus’ style. In ‘Wild’ Cheryl meets a fellow traveller who teaches her to walk lighter and to carry only what she really needs, to deny herself of the things she might need ‘just in case’ etc. While her pack remains heavy-ish, she learns to do without and in so doing grows and matures in her understanding of herself and what is important to ‘carry’ in her own heart.

I think Jesus makes a similar call on us. To be thoughtful, prayerful and disciplined about not carrying the things that can hurt and harm us. To be honest with ourselves and God about; the bad habits we hold on to, our selfish attitudes and our sense of control, all of which can over time weigh us down and mislead us and harm us. Following Jesus is not always easy and straight forward and it can be confusing, but listen to the very next verse: ‘For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? (Mark 8:35-36 NIV)

Cheryl learns this at least in a human sense, that her life is lost unless she is restored and made whole again. The physical journey she makes, the guilt she confronts, the people she engages with and the fears she faces all work towards her coming to honestly facing the hurts and wounds in her life. It is not written as a Christian allegory and she doesn’t come to faith (as far as I can tell) but she does find a certain peace because she is honest with herself and is willing to cut herself loose from the harmful influences and choices she has made. She denies herself the many comforts and crutches of her life to seek what she calls redemption.

This is Jesus’ call to us too, that in an attitude of obedience we can follow him. In following Jesus’ leading and guiding he promises to take us places where he (The Good Shepherd) wants us to go. He has carried THE cross and taken our ‘Monsters’ on himself so we can follow Jesus in confidence and peace despite the challenges and hurts we encounter in our lives. In so doing we are promised that our lives, being of great worth, will be saved, not just in this life but for all time.

Mark Rathjen, Principal
There are those mornings where you struggle to get out of bed. And I suspect it will only get worse in winter! Where you get to work and wonder if you brushed your teeth or turned off your car lights. And then the children begin to arrive full of beans and energy.

So down to the hard court you go, with a basketball. And as you watch, you see the children playing in such a respectful way, encouraging each other and taking turns. With, maybe, just a hint of competitiveness.

As you stand there chatting with a 7 year old, like best friends, about how cool it would be to be a monkey, you realise, it’s not so bad getting out of bed after all.

Perfect mornings like this remind us why we do this job.

Thank you
SPLOSHC Team

Make the most of the School Year

I really liked this article by Michael Grosse in his most recent Parenting Ideas Insights newsletter. He reminds us that positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning and their school in particular. Children copy many of their parent’s views so your positive attitude to school and learning is catching. Good reminders at the beginning of a new school year. MR

Parent withdrawal from children’s education is a big problem these days as increasingly parents are worn out from working too hard or being involved in a variety of activities. But the message for parents is clear - become involved in as many aspects as practical in your child’s education.

Their chances of success are better when kids see school as an extension of home rather than merely an institution for learning. Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning and their school in particular. Children copy many of their parent’s views so your positive attitude to school and learning is catching. Make the most of the opportunities that schools offer to assist in the classroom including, hearing kids read, taking in small groups in elective activities and assisting children when writing stories. Parent participation is much broader than helping out in the classroom. Hearing young learners read, helping with homework and making sure they go off to school happy, healthy and with plenty of sleep are important aids to learning.

Here are some more ideas to help you participate in your child’s education in positive ways:

1. Make sure your children start the day well. That means they should get a good night’s sleep, have a healthy breakfast and arrive at school on time with all their learning requirements as well as a healthy lunch.

2. Attend School Activities such as Open Days, concerts, parent evenings, sports events and celebrations. Read the school newsletter and other forms of communication so you can stay in the loop with what’s happening at your child’s school.

3. Consult with your child’s teacher about homework expectations and practical ways you can assist both at home and at school. Each teacher will have his or her own expectations about how you can help so make sure you work within their guidelines.

4. Find out what your school is trying to achieve for your child and show support for its aims. Support a broad, balanced curriculum that offers children a variety of educational experiences rather than a program that focuses narrowly on the traditional 3 Rs. School discipline is always more effective when it’s supported by parents so be supportive of their attempts to promote good behaviour in your child.

5. Become an advocate for your child’s school and promote its positive features throughout the wider community. Encourage your child to take pride in their school through your example. Positive parent participation in school and learning is a proven criterion for student success. One practical way to assist your child as a learner is to become actively involved in his or her school life.

by Michael Grosse (parentingideas.com.au)
Primary Years Programme (PYP)

St Peters Mission Statement

In last week’s newsletter, we began a series on the mission statements of the school and the IB.

Over the next few weeks in the school newsletter, I will ‘unpack’ the St Peters and the IB mission statements and show how we are embracing them both in our school. Today’s focus will be the first part of our school’s mission statement.

As you enter the school, the St Peters Lutheran mission is on show. Immediately, we can see the aims and values of our school.

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.

The message of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone on which everything else is built and reflects our belief that...

⇒ Every person is created in the image of God
⇒ Each of God’s creatures is unique, with both gifts and needs in the following aspects of their being – spiritual, academic, social, emotional, moral and physical
⇒ God loves and cares for us and so he saved us through the death and resurrection of Jesus
⇒ We all need to care for each other
⇒ We are called, gathered, enlightened and sanctified by the Holy Spirit
⇒ We are called to serve God and each other as brothers and sisters in Christ

(St Peters School Culture Document)

In all things we aim to communicate and celebrate this! This is shown in our community in many and varied ways including chapel services, caring for others in our community by word and action, classroom environments, daily devotions for staff and students and loving relationships built upon Jesus’ love and care for us!

What a privilege to learn and work in a place where we can communicate and celebrate all that Jesus has done, and continues to do, for us and in us.

Bronwyn Wilson
PYP Coordinator

Exciting baby news...

It is with great joy that we announce another pregnancy on staff! Our new Indonesian teacher Megan Thomas will be having her second child later in term 2. We wish Megan and Tudor every blessing as they prepare for their second child. We will keep you posted as to how we cover things in Indonesian for the second part of the year.

World’s Greatest Shave

This year our school will again be fundraising for the Leukaemia Foundation.

On Friday 13th March we will be holding a cake / merchandise stall from 8:30-8:45am and then after chapel we will be offering to ‘funk’ up students hair for a gold coin donation for Funky Hair Day.

Please also note we have a web page on the World’s Greatest Shave website where you can make a team donation or sponsor any individual shavers / colourers.

Thanking you in advance for all your support.

Julia Barry 0417 883 308 & Kelly Kroeger 0423 841 080

IB Learners strive to be

Inquirers
Knowledgeable
Thinkers
Communicators
Principled
Open-minded
Caring
Risk-takers
Balanced
Reflective

IB Learner Profile
The St Peters Lutheran whole school directory will be available NEXT WEEK! Details of how you can receive your copy will be available then. If you haven’t included your details and you would still like to, it’s not too late! Email any details you wish to be included in the directory to stpeterslutheranpandf@gmail.com.

Twilight Tea

Thank you to all St Peters Lutheran school and church families who braved the heat last Friday night for our annual Twilight Tea. The evening was enjoyed by all with excellent food and fantastic company. Special thanks must go to Anna and Reinhardt van den Berg (parents of Annika, Rm 5) who cooked and coordinated the entire event. Many thanks also to their willing group of helpers, of which there were so many, who cooked, chopped, sliced and served for the masses to enjoy.

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Tickets are still available for our fundraiser at ‘The Beachouse’ on Thursday 5th March from 6pm – 8pm. Tickets will be available online until Tuesday 3rd March. Don’t delay, get yours today!

Don’t miss this fantastic opportunity at this exclusive “lock in” which 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).

Tickets are only $24.50 per person (normally $30). Please note – due to a recent change in policy by ‘The Beachouse’ all persons entering the venue need to have a ticket. Tickets are available via the internet on ‘sticky tickets’ via VISA, Mastercard or American Express (2.5% surcharge for AMEX). Please visit https://www.stickytickets.com.au/23901 to purchase your tickets. Please purchase your tickets online, print them out and bring them with you on the night.

Please invite all your families and friends to come and join in the fun!

Also check out our event Facebook page at St Peters Lutheran Beachouse Lock-in
Term 2 & 3 OSH Sport

On-line nominations for Term 2/3 (Winter) sport open next Friday 6 March and will close on Friday 13 March.

Look for the link in next week’s newsletter.

Please ensure you have nominated during this time as we may not be able to accept a late nomination for your child’s sport of choice.

(Closing dates for some team nominations are due in the days immediately following our closing date).

Lacrosse Training

St Peters has been able to enter a Year 4/5 girls & Year 6/7 boys team in this year’s Metro South – East Lightning Lacrosse Carnival, which will be held on Wednesday 25th March at Sturt Lacrosse Club, Women’s Memorial Playing Fields, Gate 2 Shepherds Hill Road, St Marys.

Students who have been nominated in these teams will be required to attend a compulsory training session on a Friday lunch time leading up to the carnival. This training will be undertaken at the big oval with Stacey Appleton, under teacher supervision.

Students are asked to meet me at the front office at 1:05pm with their lunch, water bottle & hat. I also ask that your child wears their PE uniform on a Friday, whilst these trainings are being undertaken. Information regarding the carnival will be sent out closer to the playing date.

If you have any questions regarding the carnival please feel free to email me on abby.zimmermann@stpeterslutheran.sa.edu.au

Abby Zimmermann

Knock-Out Cricket Competition

St Peters has been able to enter a Year 6/7 boys team in this year’s Knock – Out Cricket Competition. A date, time and location are still to be confirmed, but at this stage the competition is planning to be held at St Peters on Monday 16th March.

Students nominated in this team will be required to attend compulsory trainings on a Tuesday lunch time, starting next week. Students are asked to meet me at the front office at 1:05pm with their hats, water bottles and lunch. I ask that students please wear their PE uniform to school on a Tuesday, whilst these trainings are being held. Information regarding the carnival will be sent out to those students participating by the end of next week.

If you have any questions regarding the carnival, please feel free to email me on abby.zimmermann@stpeterslutheran.sa.edu.au

Abby Zimmermann

PURPLE BOWS FOR LENT

The colour purple has a significant meaning within the Christian church and is used as a symbol of mourning and penitence during Lent, as well as being the traditional colour for royalty.

The worship committee of St Peters has packaged up purple material for making a bow and invite members of the church and school community to use it to decorate outside their home during the season of Lent (a similar idea to the red bows in Blackwood at Christmas time).

The packages which include material for one bow, instructions on how to tie it and an Easter tract, will be available for several weeks at a cost of $2 from the front office reception of St Peters school.

We would encourage you to purchase as many as you would like and give to other people if you wish. Our aim is to eventually offer these bow packages to other Christian denominations in Blackwood.
St Peters Lutheran School Blackwood

Diary Dates Term 1 (for your calendar!)

Week 5 (Monday 23/2)
- Wed 25/2 Year 5/6 Camp
- Fri 27/2 Second Hand Uniform Shop Open—after Chapel

Week 6 (Monday 2/3)
- Mon 9/3 Adelaide Cup Public Holiday
- Sat 14/3 Working Bee (ELC)
- Sun 15/3 Family Service (Room B—Year 7)

Week 7 (Monday 9/3)
- Fri 20/3 R/I Stay Up Late

Week 8 (Monday 16/3)
- Thu 26/3 SAPSASA State Swimming Carnival

Week 9 (Monday 23/3)
- Fri 27/3 Sports Day

Week 10 (Monday 30/3)
- Wed 1/4 Year 3/4 Camp
- Thu 2/4 Report Folders go home
- Fri 3/4 Good Friday

Week 11 (Monday 6/4)
- Mon 6/4 Easter Monday
- Tue 7/4 Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Wed 8/4 Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Thu 9/4 Last Day of term
- Fri 10/4 Staff PD

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

St Peters Lutheran Church

Services each Sunday at 10.00am

ALL WELCOME!

Coming up...
- 4/3 Mid week Lent service 7:30pm led by Pastor Detlev Vosgerau (meditations on Psalm 22)
- 15/3 School Family Service 10am

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

Jesus said, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me” (Mark 8:34)