Recently I came across a missive a friend had sent to me some time ago. I thought I would share it with you.

I am thankful…

For the partner who complains when dinner is not on time, because he/she is home with me, not with someone else.

For the teenager who is complaining about unloading the dishwasher, because it means that he/she is at home and not on the streets.

For having to spend time helping children with their homework, because it means that I am employed.

For the mess to clean up after a party, because it means I have been surrounded by friends.

For the clothes that fit a little too snug because it means I have enough to eat.

For the shadow that watches me work, because it means I am out in the sunshine.

For the lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home.

For all the complaining I hear about governments because it means we have freedom of speech.

For the parking spot I find at the far end of the parking lot because it means I am able to walk and have transportation.

For the huge heating bill because it means that I am warm.

For the lady behind me in church who always sings off key because I can hear.

For weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means I am capable of hard work.

For the alarm that wakes me in the morning because it means that I am alive.

(We can’t acknowledge the author because we don’t know who wrote it.)

This little piece reminded me of how easily I can fall into the trap of complaining and feeling sorry for myself and forgetting to thank God for the many, many blessings he continues to shower on each and every one of us.

In a global sense we live in difficult times when countless people live in war zones, where others live in constant fear of war, of famine and disease, and of course recently of natural disasters like floods, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. In Australia we do have to deal with natural disasters, but we also have infrastructure to support us, and think how blessed we are, to be free from the fear of war, famine and disease.

God has provided enough of everything for all of his children on earth, and in Australia collectively we have more than we need. He wants us to be thankful for that, and to make sure that those of us who have more than we need willingly share what he has given us so that everyone not only in Australia but in countries beyond has access to what God has so graciously provided.

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all bless his holy name for ever and ever. Ps145:12
Parents and Friends
Saint Peters Ball—
7pm Friday 5 November

Tomorrow night is the big event! It’s going to be a night of great food, great company and great music! There will of course be the usual silent auction of the class art, a huge raffle ($5 each or 3 for $10) and the Mystery Wine Sale (all great value at $10 a bottle). So bring along some money for those if you wish. And don’t forget your money for the bar!
Entry into the car park is off Morphett Road and then proceed through the black iron gates, up the stairs to the white marquee that is the beautiful Tapestry Pavilion.
And just a reminder...sharing a cab is a safe and cheap option for getting there and back. If you do drive however, see if someone else might like to share the ride. And sometimes changing your mind and leaving your car there overnight is the smartest option, and you could always catch a lift or share a cab home with others instead.
The committee are really excited and hope that you too. Thank you to all of those who are attending. We’re all in for a night to remember!

Chocolates

Boxes of Cadbury chocolates are still available for sale. Each box contains 48 various chocolates with each unit selling for $1.20 which, in turn, raises $28 for our school.
This is a very easy way for some people in our school community (ie those who work in offices) to be able to help out with our fundraising without much effort—as these chocolates invariably sell themselves!
If you are able to help out by selling a box or two, please see the front office to collect some.
Thank you.

Kytons Fundraiser

Thank you to those that have already returned their Christmas Kytons Bakery order form.
A reminder that the closing date for orders is Friday 19 November. Spare order forms are available at the front office.

GOOD NEWS

Rachel Harper did us proud on radio ABC 891 with Peter Goers recently giving her school a plug in the midst of her very impressive responses to the quiz questions.
Go Rachel!

Working Bee

What a great job everyone did last Saturday. A lot was achieved including sifting the contents of the sandpit, and removing some soil from under the bars which was replaced with more bark chips. All the regular jobs were also done, so that pathways and mat-wells and hard surfaces looked very spick and span. Thank you all for your ongoing commitment to your school.

Uniforms

Due to the changes to our current sports uniform, from January 2011 we will no longer be selling any track pants, track jackets (parachute material) or white sports polos in the second hand uniform shop.
PLEASE NOTE: Students who have these at home and still fit them will, however, be able to wear these for the duration of 2011. For anyone who has consigned any of these items in the second hand shop, they are more than welcome to collect them. To do so, please contact Ali Harper on 82781142 / 0407189226 or Natasha Caruso on 82789393 / 0412252947 before the end of week 7 (Friday 26 November). After this date, all old parachute track pants and jackets as well as white polos will be removed from the second hand shop and either donated or binned.

SPLOSHC

This morning the Principal and the new Director of SPLOSHC from 2011, Mrs Ros Green, attended a meeting of Heads of independent primary schools and their OSHC Directors. During the meeting we were provided with an update on the new National Quality draft framework, and the implications this will have for all OSHC facilities.
IB Learners strive to be

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

Student’s Books and Stationery for 2011

In last week’s newsletter we explained that following careful consideration it has been decided that supply of books and stationery will be outsourced to Lighthouse Books. This means that Booklist ordering will be done by parents on-line mid-December 2010, following which the books will be delivered directly to homes mid-January 2011. It will be important for families to retain their receipts so that they can claim the cost as a tax deduction.

Explicit information regarding the process for ordering books and stationery on-line for 2011 is attached to this newsletter. Information about naming, labeling and covering books and other items will be sent home closer to the end of the year.

Early Learning Centre Information Morning

On Saturday 13 November, the Early Learning Centre will be holding an Open Morning from 10am-12noon. If you have friends, family or neighbours you think might be interested in learning more about early learning at St Peters, please tell them about it. A brochure went home last week, and we would encourage you to hand it on to someone you know who is blessed with pre-schoolers.

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 $30 application fee, even if the ELC 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.

Room 7 & 8 Excursion

On Wednesday the students from the Reception and Reception/Year One classes spent the day out and about. They went to Urrbrae Education Centre where, in small groups led by senior secondary students, they enjoyed visiting all the animals and seeing how they are cared for in the Urrbrae farm.

This was followed by a visit to Wittunga Botanic Gardens just down the road. They all arrived back at school very pleased with what they experienced and learned.

PE Week

Physical Education Week will be celebrated next week, from 8-12 November. During this week, all students should wear their PE uniform every day. A brochure was sent home yesterday and is also attached to this week’s newsletter explaining what will be happening and inviting you to be part of it too.

Special thanks for Penny Rawinski, our PE Key Teacher, who has designed this exciting schedule of events for us.

We are looking forward to participating in the fun and games designed to help our children develop skills, knowledge and understanding about the importance of being active!

Novar Music Concert

This lovely event was held in the Chapel last Monday evening when all the music students had an opportunity to show the audience what they have been learning over the past year. Well done to all the students who took on the challenge and participated. By all reports they did themselves proud.
It’s function, not form that matters most in families
by Michael Grose

Families look very different these days to the traditional married couple with kids. The recently published “Families: Then and Now” report from the Australian Institute of Family Studies revealed that one in four families are now classified as ‘non-intact’, which is up from just one in 10 families in 1980. The most common type of ‘non-intact’ family is a single parent household, most often a separated mother and her children. The next most common type in this category are step-families where all children are stepchildren and then blended families where at least one child is the product of the current parent relationship. Yep, it can get complicated! We used to ask kids how many brothers and sisters they had. Now an equally valid question is: “How many mums and dads do you have?” A sign of the changing times!

Australian Institute of Family Studies director, Professor Alan Hayes, maintains that the make-up of the family matters less than what goes on within it. He told the Melbourne Herald Sun: “The form of a family has changed quite a bit, but what’s more important than form is how a family functions – whether they’re places in which people are safe and children are protected, well-nurtured and developed well.”

Each family form presents its own unique challenges for parents, but as Hayes pointed out, there are some child-rearing fundamentals that parents need to adhere to.

Regardless of family form I believe parents should strive to make sure their families have these essential functions:

1. **Rich in love, with adults who have time for and are supportive of kid’s goals:** Kids need to feel loved. They need adults who make time for them and adults who will help them achieve their goals.
2. **Stable, predictable and chaos-free:** A stable, chaos-free family environment provides the necessary background for kids to develop, grow and take risks. Kids crave a sense of predictability in their lives.
3. **Rich in supportive, social interactions:** Kids need to be exposed to a variety of social experiences with adults and peers so they can hone their social skills. Similarly, they need plenty of opportunities to do things for themselves at home, at school and in their neighbourhoods.
4. **Psychologically safe – mistakes are not thrown in their face:** Kids need to grow up in an encouraging environment that allows them to make mistakes without fear of being constantly reminded of them, which creates a fear of failing. When kids fear failure, they act in safe ways and are less likely to stretch themselves.
5. **Places of spontaneity, curiosity and fun:** Healthy families enjoy each other’s company, or at least pull together when the chips are down. This seems to happen more in families where parents can lighten the tension, inject some humour and inspire kids to be interested in things and people other than themselves.
Library News Reminder

From now on there will be continuous reminders coming home about overdue books. Any items missing from earlier in the year will be invoiced out to borrowers this week. This is all in preparation for our end of year Stocktake starting on Friday 26 November. The last week for borrowing will be Week 5. This is to ensure all items are returned in time for Stocktake. All library books must be returned by the student’s last library lesson in Week 7—on Wednesday 24 or Thursday 25 November. All readers must be returned by the end of school on Tuesday 30 November. Stocktake in the classrooms starts on Wednesday 1 December. **Please note:** at the end of our Stocktake, any items missing will be automatically invoiced out to borrowers.

Out of School Hours Sport

**Overdue Sport Fees**
All overdue sport fees will be invoiced to parents this week. These include any outstanding sport top, cricket, netball and football fees from term 1, 2 or 3. **Term 4 fees are now overdue.** When paying, please make sure your child’s name and sport is recorded on the receipt. **All money must go through the front office.**

**Sport Top fees are $12.00 for Terms 2 and 3, and $6.00 per term for Terms 1 and 4.**
**Sport fees are Netball $50, Football $55 and Cricket $20 per term for Terms 1 and 4.**

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**Essential for Coaching Children**

**Monday 15 November**
6.30pm—9.30pm
$10 or $9 by booking online

**The course covers the following topics:**
What makes a good coach
Making the most of your training time
Getting the best from your players
Working with parents

**Register at**

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**For more information on Out of School Sport items and/or other school events, PLEASE see the noticeboard outside Room 2.**

Absences/ Signing In...Signing Out

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

If your child/ren arrives late for any reason, please remember to report to the office and “sign in”.

Students who arrive at school after 8.45am or leave prior to 3.15pm are required to be signed in or signed out. The 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.

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Blackwood Christmas Parade

This year the Blackwood Christmas Parade has been scheduled for **Friday 3 December** commencing at **6.30pm.**

Information regarding our involvement in the Parade will be provided shortly.
St Peters Lutheran School Blackwood

71 Cumming Street
BLACKWOOD SA 5051

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We're on the web...
www.stpeterslutheran.sa.edu.au

St Peters Lutheran, 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.

St Peters Lutheran Church NEWS

St Peters worship services are held each week at 10.00am

ALL WELCOME

ADVENT EVENING at St Peters
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 28th 6.30pm

All staff, parents and students of St Peters are warmly welcome to our advent evening of singing, candlelight and readings in order to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season. You are also invited to participate in a shared supper at the conclusion of the service.

Diary Dates Term 4 (for your calendar!)

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

Week 4 (Monday 1/11)
Thurs 4/11 St Peters Playgroup—9.15am
Toolbox Parenting Group—2pm
Fri 5/11 After Chapel Coffee (Room 3—Mr Burmeister)
St Peters Ball—7pm

Week 5 (Monday 8/11)
Mon 8/11—PE Week
Fri 12/11
Thurs 11/11 Toolbox Parenting Group—2pm
Fri 12/11 After Chapel Coffee (ELC)
Sat 13/11 ELC Information Morning—10am
Sun 14/11 Family Service (Rooms 7 & 8)

Week 6 (Monday 15/11)
Tues 16/11 Uniform Shop Open—3pm
Thurs 18/11 St Peters Playgroup—9.15am
Toolbox Parenting Group—2pm
New Parents Info Evening—7.30pm
Fri 19/11 After Chapel Coffee (Room 8—Mrs Fox)

Week 7 (Monday 22/11)
Mon 22/11 Kindy Transition Visit—9.30 to 11.30am
Wed 24/11 Year 4/5 Camp (to Fri 26/11)
Thurs 25/11 Toolbox Parenting Group—2pm
School Council Meeting—7pm
Fri 26/11 After Chapel Coffee (Room B—Miss Davies)
Uniform Shop Open—after Chapel

Week 8 (Monday 29/11)
Mon 29/11 New Students Orientation Day—9.30am to 1.40pm
Tues 30/11 Uniform Shop Open—3pm
Thurs 2/12 Opening Ceremony of new facilities—9.30am
St Peters Playgroup
Toolbox Parenting Group—2pm
Fri 3/12 After Chapel Coffee (Room 7—Mrs Mibus)
Sat 4/12 Year 7 Dinner

Week 9 (Monday 6/12)
Mon 6/12 Year 7 Exhibition
Tues 7/12 Last day of term for Students
End of Year Service—7pm

Australian Lutheran World Service
Gifts of Grace

This Christmas you can give people close to you gifts that also bless those far away…with Australian Lutheran World Service Gifts of Grace.
For further details, and to order, go to Gifts of Grace online, at www.alws.org.au/grace or telephone 1300 763 407.

Further details also available at the front office.