When We Pray

Earlier this term Pastor Greg spoke in Chapel about the significance of some of the words and phrases in the Lord’s Prayer, ‘the Our Father’. It was a great reminder to consider the words and petitions individually as well as collectively. Prayer needs to be more than just the recitation of familiar lines that have been memorised.

I must admit that I reflected on Pastor Greg’s message and realised that I might be taking the nature and message of ‘the Our Father’ for granted. What’s more, it reminded me that when I was a child, a teacher had actually predicted that this would happen!

A teacher of mine from primary school suggested to us one day in class that when we spoke the words in the Lord’s Prayer ‘...forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us,’ that we should quickly look to the heavens and say ‘but don’t hold me to that’. His point was that over and over again, people all around the world were uttering these words without giving a second thought to the meaning. If God’s forgiveness to us only extended as far as our forgiveness of others, how many of us would be comfortable with that standard?

Maybe we are not always mindful of the way we pray due to the exposure of our weaknesses, faults and sins. But in our most prayerful, meaningful and authentic appeals and petitions to God there is also more room for His Grace.

So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. 1 Corinthians 14:15 (NIV)

Submitted by Jason Fay
From the Principal

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN LEARNING
Last week I began by thanking families for their encouragement and support of student learning, and this week I’d like to once again thank those of you who were able to visit our Year 4 presentations on Friday. Congratulations to our Year 4 students and teachers for your work. You can see some photos from the day on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/stpaullutheranschoolba/.

If you’d like to know more about your child’s learning, the best place to start is with your child. If the regular response is, “I don’t know”, try using some discussion starters from your classroom weebly. Photos and student work samples are regularly uploaded onto classroom weeblies and on the St Paul Parent Weebly. Visit http://www.stpaulba.sa.edu.au/class-weeblies/ for the links. Your classroom teachers are also more than happy to give you some hints via email if you have trouble finding time to visit the classroom.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
Next week, I am once again offering a Community Conversation. This will be an opportunity for parents and caregivers to meet with me to discuss various aspects of the school. Next week’s session, on Wednesday 31 August, will focus on our expectations of school and what we really want our children to learn. To enable valuable discussion time, I’d like to limit the group to approximately 20 people. If you are interested in joining me for our Community Conversation, please contact Ann Belcher in the office or at admin@stpaulba.sa.edu.au.

These structured conversations will be held in the Creative Space after Chapel fortnightly on Wednesdays (approximately 9:30am). After-hours sessions will be offered from time to time, however these sessions work best whilst the school is bustling with activity. So if you work on Wednesdays, please consider fitting a future Community Conversation into your schedule or during a leave day.

LSA CONFERENCE 2 SEPTEMBER (STUDENT FREE DAY)
Next Friday 2 September is a student free day for all Lutheran Schools in South Australia. The Lutheran Schools Association (SA) conference is an important opportunity for our schools to come together to share our collective knowledge and vision. The theme for this year’s conference is ‘Share, Serve and Lead’. For those of you who were planning a visit to the Adelaide show on a weekday, this could be a great opportunity to beat the weekend crowds without your children missing class time. SPLASH will also be available for students needing care on the day. Please see booking form attached to this week’s email.

Leila Mattner | Principal

From the Director of Learning

WAKAKIRRI
All the best to the Year 5 and 6 students competing in Wakakirri at the Entertainment Centre tonight. Wakakirri is a performing arts and storytelling festival for primary schools all around Australia and under the guidance of Mrs Von, both the Year 5 and 6 classes are taking to the stage in front of a large, live audience. Earlier this week the rest of the students of the school enjoyed the dress rehearsal performance and were blown away by the talent and dedication of the students and teachers.

A number of staff have been involved in the coordination of the school’s entry with Mrs Von, including Miss Mattner, Miss Burgan, Miss Baldock, Mrs Grant, Miss Mueller and Miss Aquino. Parents, families and friends have also been involved with set and costume design in a great display of community spirit. When St Paul talks about creativity, engagement, collaboration and relevance, it is events and activities such as Wakakirri that put these values on display. Have a great time representing the school on the big stage everybody!
YEAR 4 INQUIRY EXPO

Last week the Year 4s hosted a Student Learning Expo in their classrooms and the Creative Space. This was the culmination of a unit of inquiry on the continents of Africa and South America. Students displayed their work in regards to questions they had set themselves. It was great to see so many members of the community interact with students over the course of the afternoon, providing feedback and also data to the students so that they could better understand their own questions. The buzz in the rooms demonstrated the benefits of community involvement in the learning process and providing students with a large audience for their work.

IGNITING THE FUTURE

A lily pad doubles its size every day. If it takes 30 days to cover the pond, how long to cover half the pond? This is a famous riddle to explain the notion of exponential change. We live in a world where technology is developing exponentially. The doubling of computer processing speed every 18 months, known as Moore's Law, is just one expression of this larger trend. The way our lives change due to this growth is evident on a daily basis. Where was the Pokémon Go app six months ago and how has it affected your life since its release? 10 years ago there was no iPhone or iPad and 20 years ago only very few people owned a mobile phone at all. In December 2014, 29% of Australians no longer owned a landline phone. How many would that be today? Penguin, the world famous publishers, average about 5000 published books a year. A website called Wattpad, a forum for anyone to upload their own stories that is becoming increasingly popular with children and teenagers (adults too) publishes about 10,000 stories a day. On this website there are over 29,000 stories about Pokémon, 50,000 stories about Minecraft and 324,000 stories about One Direction.

This is the world that our children are learning in. This is why we at St Paul keep talking about preparing students for a world and life after school that we cannot predict. I am proud to work with a group of teachers, and in a community, where students are prepared for the future. What’s more, this is based on values, beliefs and principles that have and will continue to stand the test of time.

Life is divided into three terms - that which was, which is, and which will be. Let us learn from the past to profit by the present, and from the present, to live better in the future. William Wordsworth

Jason Fay | Director of Learning

General News

SAPSASA STATE CARNIVALS

Last week three of our senior students participated in the 2016 SAPSASA State sports carnivals, as representatives of Adelaide North East teams.

Laura Duncan and Leticia Scholz reflected on their netball experiences:

‘We won six of our nine games at the carnival. Our coach, Sarah, was always very positive and encouraging. She was a good teaching coach and we definitely learnt more about the game as the week progressed. We really enjoyed the carnival, even playing in the wet and wind and in some games against pretty rough opponents.’

Jaden Tape McGlashan spoke about his AFL football adventures:

‘Our team played ten games altogether including three on Wednesday. We won five of our matches and definitely improved as the week went on, probably because we were getting used to playing together. There were five Endeavour College boys in the team also.’

Jaden played at centre-half forward and as a key defender and one of his coaches said that he was a very constructive player.

Well played Laura, Leticia and Jaden!

JUMP ROPE LAUNCH

Jump Rope for Heart is a fundraising and physical activity program based around skipping. It teaches school aged children how to keep fit and healthy, all
while having fun and raising vital funds for heart disease research and education.

Children learn physical activities like rope-jumping to help improve their strength, gain confidence, build stamina and extend their physical abilities in other activities. The fundraising aspect also teaches them to be community-minded and compassionate.

Tomorrow Paul Deverell, our Jump Rope coordinator and Heart Foundation representative, will officially launch our Jump Rope Campaign.

The official ‘Jump-off’ day has been scheduled for Thursday 20 October (Term 4 Week 1). Jump Rope sponsorship forms and money, both on-line and paper form, are due by Thursday 20 October.

SAPSASA ATHLETICS 2016
Congratulations to the following students who have earned a place in the St Paul team to participate in the 2016 Adelaide North East District Athletics Carnival on Thursday 8 September.


PARTY THROUGH THE AGES
St Paul Parents and Friends invites you to the best party EVER ...
Saturday 5 November from 7pm to 11pm at St Paul Church Hall. Cost is $40 per person which includes entry to Party through the Ages; Cocktail food throughout the evening; Entertainment and games and a prize for the best dressed (dress to the era of your choice ... 60's to the 90's).
Tickets will be on sale from Monday 5 September and they are available individually or secure your own table of 10. To pre-book a table prior to ticket release email Brooke: brookieh@adam.com.au. This is an adult only event.

BASKETBALL REGISTRATION FORMS
Basketball registration forms for Term 4 2016/Term 1 2017 season have been sent out to existing players. If you have a child in Year 2 to Year 6 who is interested in playing basketball, please contact the school office for a registration form.