



**ST PAUL
LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

Living and Learning Together in Christ

inspire

VOL 20, ISSUE 04 | 21 FEBRUARY 2018

Upcoming Events

WEEK 4

WED 21 FEBRUARY

- School Tour 6:00pm

THU 22 FEBRUARY

- School Tour 9:15am

WEEK 5

THU 1 MARCH

- District Swimming

FRI 2 MARCH

- Shed Men

WEEK 6

THU 8 MARCH

- Parent Information Evening (Reception)

WEEK 7

MON 12 MARCH

- Adelaide Cup Day (Public Holiday)

TUE 13 - 14 MARCH

- Year 3 Camp - Woodhouse

THU 15 MARCH

- School Tour 6:00pm

SUN 18 MARCH

- Endeavour College Open Day 1:30pm

In God's Good Hands

If you visit the Hallett Cove Conversation Park, you will see a striking rock formation called "The Sugarloaf". It's called that because it resembles a mass of hard, refined sugar. Unlike anything around it, The Sugarloaf is the product of rain and wind erosion over thousands of years, and its different layers and colours reveal much about the geological history over the area. What we enjoy today as a striking physical landmark is an outcome of nature's patient workings, day after day. The wind and rain events on any one of those days may not have seemed to be much in and of themselves, but their sum product is striking. For me, The Sugarloaf is a good metaphor for God's workings in our lives. Our days come and go, and any given day may not seem to be particularly remarkable or positive or noteworthy. But in the "bigger picture" of God's creative and loving care, we can know and trust that God is up to something. God is active in each day of our lives – whether or not we can feel or see His presence – to bring His good and gracious purposes into being. Even the more severe wind and rain events of our lives, which may not seem very pleasant at the time, can later be seen as tools God has used to shape or refine or prepare us for better things. We are now in the church season of Lent, during which we intentionally journey with Jesus towards the cross. His journey reminds us that the life in this world is not always easy, and that a life of faith has particular challenges. There are those dark, stormy days which will seem like our personal "Good Fridays". But in God's "bigger picture" plans, Easter Sunday is coming! Our refining and renewing and reshaping God is surely at work, and in time we will see and know the fullness of His blessings.



Yours in Christ, Pastor Greg



INSPIRE photos featured this week:

• TriSkills

From the Principal

STUDENT ABSENCES

In this edition of Inspire is an article titled: *It's not okay to be away... nor to be late to school*. This article was penned by parenting educator, Michael Grose. By popular request, I have once again included this article with Inspire.

Our school day runs from 8:45am to 3:15pm. Being late to school or leaving early can disrupt school routines for your child which in turn can affect their optimal learning times. The occasional dentist appointments or specialist appointments are obviously unavoidable, however I ask that, wherever possible, you schedule appointments outside of school hours or during holiday periods.

We also now use a 'Application for Exemption' form for all planned student absences one week or longer. This form must be completed and signed several weeks prior to the absence to gain approval for students to be absent from school. This includes family holidays, both locally or overseas. This is in line with DECD procedures for parents to obtain an exemption from school for their children. A discussion with the classroom teacher is then important to ensure that you can be prepared for the missed school time. The teacher will often suggest some simple activities that can be done whilst you are away.

Thank you for assisting us to create the best learning environment for your child.

STAFFING NEWS

It is with pleasure that we congratulate Claire Kelly with the news that she and Tom are expecting a baby brother or sister for Bowie. Claire will be taking leave from the beginning of Term Three.

DISABLED PARKING

Thank you to all for taking heed of our need to keep the disabled parking space for those who require it. To all families, who use that space, please ensure that you

display your sticker. For those of you who do not have a disabled parking permit, we ask that you do not use this space, even for those 'quick visits'.

Leila Mattner | Principal

From the Deputy Principal

A big thank you to everyone who has donated books to classroom libraries over the last few weeks. There are some very impressive collections and the reading spaces in classrooms are looking fantastic.

Ivy and Bean Performance

Unfortunately due to a funeral in the Church we have had to postpone this week's incursion, 'Ivy + Bean the Musical' in the hall. We are hoping to have a new date finalised soon and will advertise this in next week's INSPIRE.

Produced by our very own Performing Arts teacher, Miss Sarah Williams, 'Ivy + Bean the Musical' is part of the Adelaide Fringe Festival. Congratulations to Sarah for the outstanding review in The Advertiser this week. A full 5 out of 5 stars!

"The musical ticks all the boxes on expectations, songs, performances and some fantastic dancing in an easy friendly manner, making it easy for young audiences to relate to the situations and characters." Valerina Changarathil, The Advertiser, February 17 2018

Igniting the future

Last week I wrote about the need for a greater focus on 'soft skills' in education over curriculum if our children are to be prepared for the economies of the future. An example of this is Google. After analysing its own employment data it realised it was searching for skills over knowledge. Even STEM knowledge.

This week it's Australia's own NAB, who have not only come to the conclusion, but are letting potential employees in on the information.

"The National Australia Bank is the latest to dismiss academic performance in its graduate intake. PwC Australia last year said it would no longer assess job graduates on



their university grade point average (GPA). Expect more companies to do the same in the next few years." Are university marks still relevant? Tony Featherstone, The Sydney Morning Herald, February 16 2018.

[Read more here.](#)

Ironically, the NAB also let Six-thousand workers go this week "as software takes over increasingly complex tasks."

"Now it's up to individuals, business and government to manage the transition to a very new economy, but the answer might not necessarily lie in the so-called STEM disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Dr Claire Mason, senior social scientist at CSIRO's Data61, said the occupations showing the fastest growth used old-fashioned "people skills"." NAB workers latest to fall as automation transforms the economy, Daniel Ziffer, abc.net.au, February 21 2018

The focus on creativity, collaboration engagement and relevance at St Paul is not an advertising ploy or a gimmick. It is a concerted, coordinated effort from the first day of school of Reception to the last day of school in Year 6. The need for un-programmable 'human' skills in students is higher than ever before. If you'd like to learn more about how the happens in our classrooms, you can download a copy of the St Paul Pedagogical Framework on the school website, under the curriculum tab.

Jason Fay | Deputy Principal

General News

ACCESSING THE SCHOOL AFTER 9:00AM

Any visitors/parents entering the school after 9:00am, need to sign in at the office. Please see one of the friendly reception staff for more information.

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE 2018

This week during library time students will be issued with a form to complete the PRC 2018.

What is it?

It is a literacy engagement program that was introduced by the Premier in 2004 to encourage students to read more books, enjoy reading and improve literacy levels.

How does it work?

Students have until 7 September 2018 to read a total of twelve books. At least eight of the twelve books need to be chosen from the Premier's Reading Challenge booklist at the appropriate year level or at an appropriate literacy level for each student. A maximum of 4 books can be the student's own choice and should be of a similar standard to books on the list. Students record the books read and a parent/carer/teacher or librarian initials to acknowledge the book has been read. Students return completed sheets to the Library.

The Premier's Reading Challenge awards are:

- First year - Certificate signed by the Premier,
- Second year - Bronze medal,
- Third year - Silver medal,
- Fourth year - Gold medal,
- Fifth year - Champion medal,
- Sixth year - Legend medal,
- Seventh year - Hall of Fame medal,
- Eighth year - Hall of Fame Reader for Life award,
- Ninth year - Reader for Life bronze award,
- Tenth year - Reader for Life silver award,
- Eleventh year – Reader for Life gold award,
- Twelfth year – Reader for Life champion and
- Thirteenth year – Reader for Life legend.

For more information, check out the Premier's Reading Challenge website at: www.premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au

Wendy McLeod | Library Resource Manager

Church News

ST PAUL COMMUNITY SUNDAY SERVICE AND EXPERIENCE EVENT

The first St Paul Community Sunday of the year is coming up on Sunday 25 March - Experience Holy Week. Our St Paul Community Sundays are a relaxed and informal worship service at St Paul Church at 9:30am, involving children from our School, followed straight afterwards at 10:30am by a fun, hands-on Experience Event in the hall.

OUR VISION:

Connected.
Innovative.
Grounded
in Christ.

OUR VALUES:

God's Word

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Acceptance

Romans 15:7

Excellence

1 Corinthians 10:31

Respect

Luke 6:31

Compassion

1 John 3:18

Hope

Titus 3:7

Community

2 Corinthians 13:13

Love

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

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7 PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN WORSHIP
INNER NORTHERN LUTHERAN CHURCHES
Blair Athol—Hampstead—North Adelaide

Journey to Golgotha *Five Stations on the Way to the Cross*

21 February—North Adelaide (139 Archer St.)
28 February—Blair Athol (44 Audrey Avenue)
7 March—Hampstead (28 Muller Rd., Greenacres)
14 March—Blair Athol
21 March—Hampstead



I am looking for a few of our St Paul students to be involved in our service time. If your child is keen, please let me know. It is a fantastic way for our young people to be involved in this special community service.

For more information or if you have any questions about St Paul Church, please feel free to contact me. Louise Venning, St Paul School Ministry Worker, email LVenning@stpaulba.sa.edu.au

SAVE THE DATE – ST PAUL QUIZ NIGHT!

Put this date into your diary – St Paul Lutheran Church Quiz Night, Saturday 26 May 2018. More information to follow soon!

BACKPACKS 4 SA KIDS

This year, the Hearts and Hands Women's Fellowship at St Paul Lutheran Church are supporting Backpacks 4 SA Kids and we welcome members of our school community to take part if interested. This organisation helps children and teens who are suddenly displaced from family or who find themselves in traumatic situations. It offers them real hope.



If you would like to find out more, there will be an information session at their warehouse, 5/1421 Main North Road (access road) Para Hills West on Friday 2 March, 7.00-9.00pm. Anyone keen to come along would be very welcome. Please let me know and I can add your name on the list in the Church foyer. Flyers and directions will be available too.

If you are interested in donating any items, we are collecting small battery operated torches during February and March. Donations can be left at the Front Reception. For further details check out the website: <http://backpacks4sakids.org/#> Thank you, Louise Venning

PLAYGROUP @ST PAUL

Playgroup @St Paul is held on Tuesdays during school term from 9-10:30 in the Church Hall. Children 0-5 years and their parent or carer are invited to join us for a time of play, craft, stories and singing. Come along and join the fun – Cost is \$2.00 per family – bring a small snack for your child at snack time. For more information please contact Nicole Hall our Child, Youth and Household Ministry Worker by email cyhm@stpaul-church.org.au

INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose – No. 1 parenting educator



It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it's true.

The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That's not a reason to be away!

It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

As a Parent:

- ☒ Commit to sending kids to school every day.
- ☒ Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
- ☒ Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- ☒ Consider catching-up on missed work.
- ☒ Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!"

Nice try. But the answer should be "No!"

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

parentingideas.com.au parentingideas.co.uk parentingideas.co.nz

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