



**ST PAUL  
LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

*Living and Learning Together in Christ*

# *inspire*

**VOL 45 ISSUE 33 1 NOVEMBER 2017**

## **Upcoming Events**

### **WEEK 3**

#### **FRI 3 NOVEMBER**

- Shed Men

### **WEEK 4**

#### **TUE 7 NOVEMBER**

- 2018 Reception Transition Day 1

#### **SAT 11 NOVEMBER**

- Remembrance Day

### **WEEK 5 PE WEEK**

#### **MON 13 NOVEMBER**

- Rec and Yr6 Excursion- Morialta

#### **TUE 14 NOVEMBER**

- Little Athletics Clinic (R-2)

#### **WED 15 NOVEMBER**

- Year 2 Excursion- Morialta
- Connected Schools Athletics Carnival
- School Council Meeting

#### **THU 16 NOVEMBER**

- 2018 Reception Transition Day 2

#### **FRI 17 NOVEMBER**

- Volunteers/Parent Morning Tea

### **WEEK 6**

#### **MON 20-24 NOVEMBER**

- Swimming (Year's 3-5)

#### **WED 22 NOVEMBER**

- School Tour 6:00pm

## **Water Tanks, Grace, and Reformation**

As a child, I was fortunate to grow up in a household where love and grace were plentiful. My brothers may have disagreed at the time, because we did some pretty crazy things and had quite strict consequences as a result. But our parents gave us a lot of freedom to be ourselves, to try things and make (many) mistakes. We had consequences, but we also knew that we were loved, even if we had just accidentally, say, destroyed a full 20,000L water tank when we missed the cans in target practice. (Disclaimer: example for illustrative purposes only.)

Yesterday the Lutheran Church celebrated Reformation Day, which was particularly notable as the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Five centuries ago, Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk, nailed 95 theses to a church door, sparking a movement for change in the church. Luther's study of the Bible led him to realise that we are not saved by our efforts to do good or by paying money to the church; rather, we are saved by God's grace and through faith in Jesus.

I know that I was very blessed to have the childhood that I did, full of love and grace. I also know that I am blessed every day to have a loving Father God who gives me freedom to make choices about my life, big and small, and then continues to love me unconditionally, regardless of how many mistakes I make. His love is free, and it's for everybody. We can't earn it, it's just there for us to receive. This is what Martin Luther came to learn through his study of the Bible, and the Reformation followed as this news spread. In the early days of the Christian church, Paul wrote to the believers in Ephesus, describing this love and grace to them. I like *The Message* Bible version of this:

*Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all his idea, and*



*all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving.*

*Ephesians 2:7-10 The Message*

**Submitted by** Leila Mattner

**INSPIRE photos featured this week:**

• Year 6 Murray Bridge Camp

## From the Principal

### 2018 RECEPTION TRANSITION DAY, Tuesday 7 November

Next Tuesday morning will be an exciting time for our incoming Reception students, as they get to visit the classrooms at St Paul in preparation for 2018. Please take note that, with many additional visitors to the school, traffic will be busy. We ask that on Tuesday morning next week, as many families as possible avoid using the car park and instead use the kiss and drop zone or park in nearby streets. Thanks for helping to make this day just a little bit easier for our new families and students!

### LUTHERAN MEDIA MESSAGES OF HOPE

Recently, Lutheran Media held a Short Movie Competition. A number of our Year Four students created and entered movies for this competition, and these were also shown at last week's Year Four Assembly. You can view all entries by visiting [www.lutheranmedia.org.au/competition](http://www.lutheranmedia.org.au/competition) or click on the following to access our Year Four students' entries.

[Finding Hope:](#)

[The Friendship Bench:](#)

[Hope Even When We Fail:](#)

[Hope in the Fire:](#)

[The Lonely Child:](#)

[There's Always Hope:](#)

Congratulations to the Year 4 students and teachers!

### STUDENT ABSENCES

Last term I sent home 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 an '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.

### CLASS ALLOCATIONS 2018

In Term Four, we begin to plan class lists for 2018. If you have any particular requests for class allocations for your child/ren next year, please email me at [lmattner@stpaulba.sa.edu.au](mailto:lmattner@stpaulba.sa.edu.au). Please be aware that this is a complicated process which will take into account educationally, medically or socially relevant information. Therefore, we cannot take parent or student requests simply based on personal preference for teachers. As always, we take seriously the trust you place in us as educators to make the best decisions we possibly can for all students.

**Leila Mattner** | Principal





## From the Director of Learning

At this week's Assembly, students who have won UNSW Mathematics awards will be presented with their certificates. Congratulations to all students who participated in the tests this year. Early next year we will advertise how Years 3-6 students can sign up for these tests.

### DOCUMENTING LEARNING

Last week I wrote about Reggio Emilia, an increasing influence on the way learning spaces are designed at St Paul. Another significant influence of Reggio Emilia is the way learning is documented. That is, how the progress and work of students is recorded and displayed. This is also an influence on how a learning space is set up and feels when you walk into the room. But like many developments at St Paul, teachers are always looking for innovative ways to build on these practices. A walk through the Year 5 corridor clearly documents the depth and breadth of learning taking place in the Year 5 Project Based Learning Unit, Mission to Mars. Keep walking and you'll see the documentation for the design thinking unit in Year 4. These students are designing educational toys for a Year 1 target audience. This is followed by the documentation for the Museum Inquiry taking place in Year 3. This documentation, which uses the inquiry process from the Pedagogical Framework, is incomplete as the unit is still in progress. This allows you to see the learning evolve in real time as opposed to waiting for the unit to be completed; fantastic!

Learning is also being documented in digital forms on Weebly pages and through other forms of communication such as Seesaw. The use of videos though is also becoming important as a way of sharing and documenting learning. The school Facebook page is filled with these and these are also regularly shared at assemblies. Well and truly gone are the days where teachers close their doors to the outside world. No matter what technologies and resources are brought into schools, the learning of students is still the core of any school. Things like agile learning spaces, robots and

iPads are important characteristics of a good school but if they are not improving learning (measurable, engaging, relevant learning) they have no impact. The next time you walk through the school, stop and have a look at some of the ways teachers are documenting learning. You'll be amazed at the questions and problems students are grappling with but the best bit is that you'll be able to see exactly how they are doing it and what they are learning along the way.

**Jason Fay** | Director of Learning

## General News

### BOOK FAIR 2017

WOW! Thank you to all the wonderful St Paul parents and students who made the 2017 Book Fair such a mighty success. Congratulations to Lachlan Phung and Keeley Langmead for winning our Book Fair lucky prize draw. Book Fairs are a great opportunity to have a conversation with your child about what they like to read and to purchase good quality books. Thank you also to my fabulous helpers – Edda Paton, Lyn Ratsch, Liann Tape, Lorraine Griffin, Caroline Beven, Renate Burls, Sue Helps, Joyleen Mead, Amelie Pfeiffer, Hannah Ratsch and Gracie Oborn. Money raised through the Book Fair benefits the whole St Paul community as it goes directly back into purchasing books for our school. This year we raised over \$2000 for the school. Once again, thank you for your incredible support of the 2017 Book Fair.

**Wendy McLeod** | Library Resource Manager

### CONNECTED SCHOOLS ATHLETICS

Congratulations and best wishes to the following students who have earned selection in the St Paul team to participate in the annual Connected Schools Endeavour Cup Carnival on Wednesday 15 November at the Enfield Little Athletics Club:

Rory Hamilton, Liam Kelsey-Smith, Ethan Christian, Piper Hopkins, Ryder Ward, Robyn Hanel, Milika Hussaini, Xenia Salupalu, Vesna Stankovic, Abbey Jones,



Brendan Leong, Hayden Grieger, Harry Singh, Tristan Hitch, Ruby Hartwig, Samuel Clark, Archie Kretschmer, Jayden Martin, Mason Klenner, Aaron Theodorsen, Heidi Paton, Imogen Healy, Lyla Muir, Tiannah Jones, Fergus Venning, Mehak Kaur, Poppy Fountain, Callie Weiss, Tahlia Mundy, Ethan Hughes, Fenella Healy, Indyana Case, Chelsea Tape McGlashan, Hayley Fechner, Ebony Schache, Gracie Oborn, Rylan Hopkins, Eli Nguyen, Aleksa Novakovic, Austin Gillard, Blake Schembri, Liz Bolo, Srishti Panth, Hayley Macdonald, Jake Smith, James Oliver, Sara Wilson, Kloe Trotter, Evelyn Fay, Jenny Hlawn Ching, Baneet Kaur, Isabella Parker, Vaness Wu, Kane Jones, Noah Rus, Levi Heath, Jaxon Barr, Jordan Jenkin, Angus Irving.

## FUND MY NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT

We need your support to vote for the success of our Fund My Neighbourhood project. Please also ask your friends to vote and spread the word! There are significant projects to be funded for the benefit of the school.



The first project is to fence Barton Reserve, improving the safety of our students and of all users of the park. The second project is to create stairs and ramp access to the school gate from Barton Reserve.

To vote, you need must be 18 years or over and have a YourSay account. You can do this by visiting <https://fundmyneighbourhood.yoursay.sa.gov.au/fmn-guidelines>. If you're reading online, just click on the link to access the website. We will also be promoting this through our website and Facebook page so that you can direct your friends and family there to find the link.

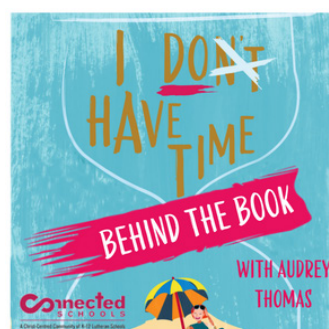
## SRC NEWS

Recently the SRC received a letter from Indy and Casey in Year 3 with some possible ideas of how we could help to keep our school clean and encourage others to do so

as well. After reading over their ideas, the SRC are excited to announce that this term will see the introduction of the St Paul Rubbish Rangers! Each class will have a turn to become the Rubbish Rangers and students can volunteer to serve our school and community by collecting rubbish during their play time in their special, sparkly, silver hats! We are so grateful to the large number of students who volunteer their own time to do this and to keep our school clean.

In other SRC news, we would like to inform the school community that this term there will be lunch time activities, run by the SRC Senior members, for all students in Rec-Year 2. Each classroom teacher will be able to share what these activities are as they come up. For the Years 3-6 students there will be a 5-a-side soccer tournament held on Fridays at lunch time and it is great to see so many students sign up for this competition already.

**Stacey Baldock** | SRC Coordinator



JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF STORIES, FUN, DRINKS AND NIBBLES WITH THE CO-AUTHOR OF AWARD-WINNING BOOK, **I DON'T HAVE TIME**  
WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER, 7PM  
GOOD SHEPHERD IN TIRKANTHI



## AN EVENING WITH AN AUTHOR.

Have you gathered your friends? Have you booked your free ticket through Eventbrite?

You are invited to a Connected Schools initiative hosted by Good Shephard: a night with co-author Audrey Thomas of "I don't have time" – 'behind the book' event. Please ensure you have registered for catering purposes.

Looking forward to seeing you there!



## 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

## PROUD MEMBER OF:



A Christ-Centred Community of K-12 Lutheran Schools

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## Church News

### FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

St Paul Lutheran Church will be offering preparation for First Communion during the first school term of 2018 for young people in school Grades 4 and above. If you would like more information please contact Pastor Greg – email [pastorgreg@stpaul-church.org.au](mailto:pastorgreg@stpaul-church.org.au) or phone 0423 151 367.

### SPY

St Paul Youth for Grade 6-8 runs on the first and third Friday of the month during the school term. Cost \$2.00. Our Term 4 theme is 'Light'. Our next meeting date is this Friday 3 November 7:00pm-9:00pm. Boys bring supper. For more details please contact Nicole Hall, CYHM Coordinator on 0412 686 342.

### ST PAUL COMMUNITY SUNDAY – 26 NOVEMBER

Sunday 26 November is the date of our next St Paul Community Sunday – Experience Advent. On this Sunday our worship service is at 9:30am, followed at 10:30am by a fun, hands-on Experience Event in the hall.

I am looking for students to be involved in a short drama for the worship time. If your child is interested, please let me know. Thank you and blessings, Louise Venning, School Ministry Worker, [lvenning@stpaulba.sa.edu.au](mailto:lvenning@stpaulba.sa.edu.au) or mobile 0416 008 129.

### SPIN CAMP

SPIN Camp is on 9-12 January 2018 at Camp Kedron Barmera for young people in Years 4-6 currently. \$180.00 early bird price. Registration is open NOW. This very popular camp sells out quickly.

New for 2018! A SPIN Family Camp is on from 12-14 January 2018 at Camp Kedron. Stay on afterwards with the children for a couple of days, in community with other Christian families. Cost is \$185.00 for a family of 4. For more details go to [www.blueprintministries.org.au/camps/spin](http://www.blueprintministries.org.au/camps/spin)

# 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.

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