FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Welcome back to the 2014 school year. This year our organising theme is “The Journey.” I would like to extend a very special welcome to our new families, students and staff who are joining us on this journey ... or dare I say ... wonderful adventure! This year will a significant year for us we add the destination – Year 12 graduation - for the first time and the VCAL as an alternative pathway.

Our opening services and installation of new staff and school leaders frame this journey. Ours is a journey with God, dedicated to His work and developing the gifts we have been given. Thankyou to our parents who joined us for these services.

We started this year with 381 students (PS - 191, MS - 132, SS - 58) including four Japanese exchange students from Meisei High School and 11 new staff. I am delighted with the way our new students and staff are settling into our school community. Please contact your child’s class or homegroup teacher if you have any concerns and attend our information evenings/profile meetings. I have included, later in this newsletter, some tips for parents so they may support their children in their learning. Our students will achieve their very best when we (students, college and parents) all share the same high but realistic expectations.

Finally, all the very best for the new school year.
May God guide and protect us in all that we do.

Barry Krueger
Head of School
DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS: Matthew 2.1-12
It’s the beginning of the journey, this week - new teachers, new students, a new year level, a new school for many. As Term 1 begins, we can’t help but anticipate the journey ahead of us, and perhaps reflect on the journey of the holidays behind us.

This year in chapel we’re going to thinking about journeys – about our own journey, but also about God’s journey with us, and for us. The Bible is full of journeys, including the one we’ve heard this week, the journey of the wise men.

Interestingly for us, their journey begins with study. They are students of creation, of mathematics, of astronomy, and their learning draws them nearer to God. They perceive the direction of God in a star, which they then follow – not taking the lead themselves, but being led by God. Their study doesn’t only involve their mind, but also their hearts, and indeed their whole lives as they set off to follow God’s call.

Their journey doesn’t take them immediately to Jesus Christ, though. They are led to Herod’s palace, but initially no one can answer their queries as to the whereabouts of the new king. The scribes have to consult the Scriptures, God’s revelation to us, in order to find the deepest truth – that God has become man in the person of Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, to redeem us, and to make us holy.

So our journey, too, is like the wise men. We are not leading, but God the Father is calling us to the adventure of Christian faith. Our journey will have hard times, and great times. But God is finally seeking to lead all of us to His Son – when we pray, when we go to church, when we receive God’s saving grace in the sacraments, God is leading us to Jesus Christ.

God bless you this year as you continue your journey towards the source of all grace, Jesus our Lord.
Pastor Thomas Pietsch

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
Happy birthday to the following students who will be celebrating a birthday in the coming week:

February 2014
6th Myah (1/2L)  7th Ethan (1/2L)
8th Nathan (9A)  9th Mason (1/2W)
9th Will (9A)

A pair of black framed glasses found earlier in the week, has been handed into the office.

REMINDER: Personal Family Information
A reminder to please advise the College office if any of the below information for your family has changed:

- Address
- Telephone number
- Mobile number
- Email Address

With thanks for keeping us informed.
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February
- Monday 10th: Excursion - Cyber Cats Program (Year 7A)
- Tuesday 11th: Year 11 Parent Information Night 7.00 – G Block
- Wednesday 12th: Year 10 Parent Information Night 7.00 - Hall
- Thursday 13th: Primary School Profile Meetings 3.30pm onwards
- Thursday 13th: Year 7 Parent Information Night 7:00pm
- Monday 17th: Year 10 Careers Intensive Day
- Mon 17th - Wed 19th: Year 7 Camp
- Monday 17th: Valuing Safe Communities Parent Training 2.00 - 3.00pm - Hall
- Thursday 20th: Valuing Safe Communities Parent Training 9.30 - 10.30am - Hall
- Thurs 20th - Fri 21st: Year 12 Tertiary Destinations Tour
- Thursday 27th: GORCC Excursion (Year 9A)
- Friday 28th: GORCC Excursion (Year 9B)

March
- Tuesday 4th: Shrove Tuesday, Pancakes for Primary School students
- Wednesday 5th: Ash Wednesday
- Wednesday 5th: MS and SS Athletics Day – Landy Field

April
- Friday 4th: Last day of term 1

Immunisation Cards - Secondary students
Immunisation Cards for Year 7 (all students), Year 9 (male students) and Year 10 (all students) were issued on Tuesday 4th February.
Please ensure the card is returned to the office by Wednesday 12th February 2014.
All cards need to be returned regardless of whether your child is participating. Thank you for your cooperation.

GLC FEE INVOICES FOR TERM 1
Due to our Administration implementing a new finance system, we will be sending the Term 1 Fee Statements a little later than our normal procedure. These statements will be mailed to you in the coming weeks. Our apologies to you for any inconvenience caused.

STARTING THE NEW YEAR FOR PARENTS
The back to school season is a good time to consider what you expect of your children. Having expectations that are high—yet also realistic—is essential for school success. Think of a balloon. If there’s no air (like no expectations), it’s flat. If you put in too much air (expectations that are too high and impossible to meet) the balloon bursts. Finding the right balance of expectations will stretch children to grow without frustrating them.

TIPS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN
- Help children develop predictable routines around waking up, getting ready for the day, eating nutritious meals, taking care of their bodies, going to bed at a regular time, and getting enough sleep. Children are more likely to be successful when their routines help them thrive.
- Talk with your children about the goals you’ve set and achieved in your life. Explain how you overcame obstacles to meet your goals.
- Expect bumps along the way. Achieving high expectations is not like climbing a ladder where each step is a step up. Expect setbacks and doubts. They’re all part of the process. The key is to work through the difficulties along the way. Be encouraging and don’t expect perfection.
- Encourage children to grow and develop at their own pace. Don’t compare your child to other children.
- Have high expectations for homework and schoolwork. Make it easier for your children to do their homework every day by sitting next to them. You can do your own project or work and be available for questions.
- Help children break large, difficult tasks into smaller, more manageable tasks. This is called ‘chunking’ and can build confidence as they achieve each part.
- Get to know your child’s teacher and communicate with them.
TIPS FOR TEENAGERS

- Don’t let puberty lower your expectations. Just because your children may become moody or resistant doesn’t mean you should let them pull back on their schoolwork.
- Work out reasonable routines for the year. Allow for schoolwork, chores, sports, clubs, regular bedtimes and leisure. Agree on technology use.
- Don’t be surprised if your child focuses more on friendships. This is common but friendships aren’t the only aspect of your child’s life and they must not crowd out other important activities and responsibilities.
- Encourage your teen to think about opportunities after graduation that are exciting and stimulating. Some get excited about university. Others get excited about a trade. Others want to try to be independent and work and live on their own.
- Listen closely to your children and talk through your expectations together. Try to bring your expectations and your teenager’s expectations closer together so you can offer support and encouragement and they feel respected.
- Accept you may have to take more of a back seat. But back seat drivers can also be effective in making sure the course is steady and safe! And teenagers are still hearing what you say even when they seem not to be listening. Sometimes we only realise this years later!

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA) & Conveyance Allowance

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs. If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as: uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:
- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account;
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses;
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:
- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6.
- $300 for year 7 students
- $250 for students in year 8 – until age 16*.

* A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by 28 February 2014.


To be eligible for Conveyance Allowance a student must:
- Attend their closest government or non-government school/campus, appropriate to their year level, at which admission is permissible, and is located outside the Melbourne metropolitan conveyance boundary;
- Reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from that school/campus attended (government and non-government students) and;
- Reside within the Designated Transport Area (DTA) for the government specialist school attended (government students only);
- Attend their nearest appropriate non-government specialist school (non-government students only).

More information will be sent out to the families we believe are eligible for Conveyance Allowance. If you have any questions before that time, please contact Marian Wilson in the school office.
School Car Parking Routines

Please heed the following routines to ensure safety in the carparking area.

- Use the carpark whenever possible for dropping off and collecting students. Burville’s Road is not paved for carparking.
- If you have to park on Burville’s Road, enter the College grounds through the pedestrian gate. (Buses and cars enter and leave the College grounds through the other gates).
- Enter the carpark via the second gate and exit using the gate closest to the Surfcoast Hwy.
- The bus zone (the third and fourth gates) is reserved for buses.
- Proceed to the end bay when using the “kiss and drop” zone.
- Park your vehicle in the carparking area if you need to go to the office or your child requires additional organisational time.

Consider arranging your pickup times between 3:05pm and 3:30pm – not every student needs to be picked up at 3:05pm.

Construction vehicles use the same entry and exit points as do the general public. However, movement of construction vehicles is scheduled outside of the starting and finishing times for school. The cooperation and patience of our parents and visitors will be very much appreciated.

Extend OSHC at Geelong Lutheran College

Welcome back to another exciting year at After Care! We have lots of big plans in store and we hope you can join us for some of the fun! We will continue to bake delicious treats and healthy snacks, play new games as well as some old favourites, learn and explore through cool science experiments plus a whole heap more! We are also very excited to welcome Kara to the Extend team! We look forward to many fun-filled afternoons at OSHC - Megan

Next week’s activities

Monday 10 February: Sock Puppets & Parachutes
Tuesday 11 February: Mac and Cheese Muffins & River Ball
Wednesday 12 February: Chromatography Butterflies & Badminton
Thursday 13 February: Fossil Making & Hula Hoop Basketball
Friday 14 February: Cupid’s Bow and Arrow & Polar Play

From The Music Desk ...

All students who like to sing - Our 2014 choral rehearsals will be commencing at the following times:

- Primary School Choir (Yr 3-6)
  Thursdays 12:10pm - 12:55pm
  Multi-Purpose Hall
  Directed by Mrs Cecilia Bell and Ms Anna Helmer

- Performance Choir (Yr 7 –12)
  Mondays 3:20pm - 4:20pm
  G1 (Music Room)
  Director: Ms Anna Helmer

- Junior Primary Choir (Yr P –2)
  Wednesdays 1.00pm  1.30pm
  Multi-Purpose Hall
VOLUNTEERING AT LUTHERAN SCHOOLS:
This is information is for all parents wishing to volunteer at our school or help with our students this year. In order to volunteer, parents must meet two requirements:
1) have a current Working with Children Check and
2) have completed a one-hour Valuing Safe Community training session within the past three years.

As schools of the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA), school staff and volunteers are obliged to meet the requirements of the LCA Safe Place Policy. Valuing Safe Communities (VSC) is a school specific program to comply with this expectation. This training is valid for three years. If your three years has expired or you are new to the school and kindergarten, you will be required to complete this session to enable you to assist in events organised by the school.

St Johns and GLC are running the following sessions in the coming weeks. You only need to complete ONE of these sessions; if you are unable to make a session corresponding to the school your child is enrolled in, you are welcome to attend a session at the other school.

Valuing Safe communities Volunteer Sessions
- **Venue: Geelong Lutheran College**, Multi-purpose Hall, Monday February 17 from 2pm-3pm OR Thursday, February 20 9.30am-10.30am. RSVP office@glc.vic.edu.au
- **Venue: St John’s Lutheran School** Wednesday, February 26 from 2.30pm-3.30pm OR Friday February 28 9am-10am. RSVP pisarskisd@stjohns.edu.au

If you want to help but are unable to make any of these sessions, please register and we will organise an evening session.

Middle and Senior School Student Laptop Program
This year we commence the rollout of the 1:1 laptop program with our Middle and Senior School classes at years 7 and 10. Further information about this program will be given to parents at the Year 7 and 10 Parent Information Evenings. Laptop computers will be distributed at school after these information evenings, once the relevant paperwork has been completed and instruction given to students regarding the use of these laptop computers.

For this year, students in years 8, 9, 11 and 12 will continue under the existing arrangements whereby they will share college laptops when they are at school. Our current year 9 students will join the laptop rollout in 2015 when they are in year 10.

Our existing year 11 and 12 students will be invited to join this year’s laptop scheme once the rollout to year 7 and 10 has been completed. Participation at these year levels is voluntary and the arrangements will be necessarily different.
From the Senior School
The year 2014 is a very exciting one for GLC as it marks the first year of a full cohort of students from Prep through to Year 12. After starting in 2009 as fresh-faced Year 7s, we have 12 incredible young men and women flying the flag as our first Year 12 group. As a staff and school, we are very excited to be sharing in this journey with them.

2014 also sees the introduction of the VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) to our Year 11 & 12 students. We have a total of 5 students across both year levels undertaking this program. Our Senior Pathways program now consists of both VCE and VCAL. VET (Vocational Education and Training) courses that are conducted off-campus on a Wednesday afternoon can also be undertaken by students in either of these two pathways.

START OF THE YEAR
The first day of the school year was an alternative program for our Senior School students. After getting their lockers sorted, students spent the first two lessons with their classes discussing how they felt about the year, what they expected of the year and opportunities were provided to reconnect with their peers after the holidays. The student leader installation service was also conducted in the morning, which was a very important opportunity to acknowledge our leaders and their roles for 2014.

The last two periods were spend in Homeroom classes. In Senior School, we have a vertical homeroom system based on houses. This allows students from across year levels to develop connections and appreciate the skills each has to offer. During this time, students unpacked the three key words determined last year from our school leadership team that we seek to develop in our students and be identified by as a College: Wisdom, Honour and Respect. Students looked at how these qualities can be demonstrated at school and in the wider community. Time was spent in personal reflection of dreams for the future and transferring these to the development of measurable goals. This process will continue in some of the Homeroom time in the first few weeks. Throughout Term 1, students will have an opportunity to sit down with one of their Homeroom teachers to discuss their progress. Later in the year, time will be spent evaluating their achievements based on these set goals.

As a staff team, we are all looking forward to what 2014 has in store for all of our students and the College as a whole!

YEAR 12 MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE – OVERNIGHT
On February 20th and 21st, the Year 12s will head off to Melbourne. This overnight stay aims to provide students with experiences related to attendance at universities and living outside their local area.

Students will visit Victoria University and University of Melbourne, as well as one of the residential colleges in the university area. They will gain important insights on how institutions differ in their structure and culture. Navigating their way around the city using the train, tram and buses and engaging in social activities and conversation will be a great opportunity to relax and enjoy the company of their fellow Year 12 travellers.

cont overleaf
From The Senior School cont.

INFORMATION EVENINGS:
Tuesday 11th February: 7.00-8.00pm
Starting Year 11 for both VCE and VCAL students – G Block
Year 11 serves as a significant jump in academic requirements from Year 10 and it is important that students attend this with at least one of their parents.

Wednesday 12th February: 7.00-8.30pm
Starting School Information Evening (Year 10 students): Multipurpose Hall
A great deal of information is provided on this evening and it is imperative that students attend with at least one of their parents. The evening covers:
- Senior School policies and procedures, which differ somewhat from Middle School.
- Work Experience program
- Laptop program – Student Laptop Program – The 1:1 laptop program will be explained on that night with the opportunity for parents to ask questions. Laptop computers will be given out to students at school following this information night.

SCHOOL LEADERS INSTALLATION:

Sharlene Tattersall
Senior School Coordinator

From the Middle School

YEAR 7
The Year 7 students arrived early to school on Monday morning eager to start their secondary schooling journey. They spent quality time getting to know their Homeroom Teachers and their new classmates. The students were excited to be allocated their lockers and some students relieved to empty their bags! As part of the Peer Support Program the Year 7 students were visited by the Year 10’s where the experienced students helped the younger ones practise locking and unlocking their new combination locks.

Transition from Primary to Secondary school is certainly underway and we are very excited by the positive start the Year 7’s have had in their first few days of this higher education experience.
Parents are invited to the Year 7 Parent Information Evening next Thursday 13th February from 7-8pm in the Multipurpose Hall. Students are most welcome too. The 1:1 laptop program will be explained on that night with the opportunity for parents to ask questions. Laptop computers will be given out to students at school following this information night.

YEAR 8 & 9
The Year 8 & 9 students spent their first day of term getting to know their new classmates and Homeroom Teachers. They reflected on their 2013 schooling in order to set Term 1 academic goals. The students brainstormed how these goals will be measured and will collect evidence from their teachers throughout Term 1. Towards the end of the term, students will spend time evaluating their achievement and how successfully they met their goals.

Furthermore, the Year 9 students have experienced their first taste of elective subjects. They enjoyed undertaking this subject of choice and look forward to meeting the challenges of this new subject.
It has been wonderful to observe the hype of enthusiasm that has characterised the start of Term 1 2014. We are looking forward to walking the journey with our Middle School students!

Georgia Quirk, MS Coordinator
HEAD OF ST JOHNS
Welcome to the 2014 school year at St John’s Lutheran School and Kindergarten. It is great to see so many happy smiling faces, both students and parents. We are all refreshed and ready to start our new school year.

We began with our whole School Chapel Service highlighting our theme for the year ‘Journeys’, followed by our Parents and Friends Welcome Morning Tea. It was wonderful to see many parents and relatives supporting these opportunities. We hope to see as many of our School and Kindergarten families at the Parents and Friends Family Picnic on Friday February 21. I hope everyone has settled in well and enjoying rekindling old friendships and developing new ones.

Our Kindergarten numbers are full and we have a waiting list, however our School has vacancies at all levels and we would love to have these positions filled. Word of mouth in our School Community is our best advertising so we are so pleased when we hear of an enrolment coming from a current parent recommendation, as in a recent enrolment.

We will be holding our Open Mornings each Friday from 9.30 am until 11 am and our Open Day will be held on Saturday March 22.

Please refer to the School Newsletter for important dates to note in your diaries. I wish you all a very happy and enriching 2014 at St John’s.

‘God will be with you wherever you go.’ Joshua 1:9

With God’s Blessings
Brian Schultz
Head of School

Self-harm Seminar
Headspace Barwon and GPAC are running an information session for parents of secondary students to provide advice and support in “how to talk about?” self-harm and “how to provide help?” Participants will be supported to know what they can do to guide the majority of students towards better coping choices and the more severely affected young people on to the road to recovery.

The session runs on Monday 24th February from 7pm - 8pm at the Drama Theatre in Geelong Performing Arts Centre. Cost $5. The session will be led by registered psychologist Marianne Weddell, who has 15 years’ experience working in public mental health in primary mental health programs and community mental health teams. She currently works as a senior psychologist at Barwon Health Deakin Psychology Clinic. To book contact GPAC Youth and Education Program Coordinator Kelly Clifford on 5225 1207 or email kelly@gpac.org.au

Children and Hot Cars. No Exceptions. No Excuses.
On hot days, it is important to remember that children should never be left alone in a car. The temperature inside a car on hot days begins to rise as soon as the door closes and within minutes the temperature inside can be double the temperature outside.

Leaving children in hot cars – even for a moment – can result in injury or death. Young children’s smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks.

Victorian legislation makes leaving a child unattended in a car a criminal offence, with penalties ranging from fines of $2165 or three months in prison.

If you are travelling with a child in a car and you need to get out, make sure you take your child with you. No exceptions. No excuses. For more information, see: Kidsafe Victoria
CHURCH INFORMATION

St John’s Lutheran Church, 165 Yarra Street, Geelong. Rev Mark Blackwell. Sunday worship with Holy Communion 9am. Sunday school every week during school term. Office: 5221 5121. Playgroup meets 9am-11am every Tuesday of school term at Tyne Cottage adjacent to church. All welcome.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Mollers Lane, Leopold. Rev Mark Blackwell. Sunday worship 11am.

St Paul’s Lutheran Church, 307 Torquay Rd, Grovedale. Rev Thomas Pietzsch. Sunday worship with Holy Communion 9.30am. Sunday School 10.00am during term time. Office: 5241 5141. Youth Group: St Paul’s Youth Group meets for laser tag and unlimited arcade games at 6.20pm this Friday, February 7 at Geelong Timezone, 89 Malop St. Cost is $15. All 10-16 year olds welcome. Parents sign-in from 6.20pm. Pickup at 8.30pm. Must RSVP by Thursday, September 12 to Lee Smith 52417182 or text 0425870136 or email Mr Hedt at hedtj@stjohns.edu.au.


Luther College 50th Anniversary Weekend 8th & 9th February 2014

All past students, staff, families and friends are invited to visit Luther College on Saturday 8 February, from 3pm-7pm, for the 50th anniversary celebrations—including the launch of the 50th anniversary book “The Spirit of Luther—50 Years 1964-2013”, tours of the College, art show, the interment of the 50th anniversary time-capsule and the opportunity to sit and relax, reconnect and reminisce with past scholars and teachers.

A service of celebration and thanksgiving will be held on Sunday 9 February, beginning at 9am in the Luther College Chapel.

For more information about the weekend, please email 50years@luther.vic.edu.au, visit www.luther.vic.edu.au, or telephone (03) 9724 2000.

Respiratory experts talk to parents about asthma

Ever wondered what the experts would say about a cure for asthma? Or how to get your teenager to take their medication? If you want to find out the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about children and asthma, watch The Asthma Foundation’s new video series – available from http://forum.asthma.org.au/

For more information, please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or www.asthma.org.au

Community Activities

Checkout the notice board in the school office for information on:

• Grovedale Tigers Football and Netball Club