



Geelong Lutheran College & St John's Lutheran School

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Issue **THREE**

A Quarterly Update from the Principal —Term 3 2011

principal update



current topics >>>

Satisfaction Survey— Insight SRC

All Lutheran Schools across Australia participate in a biennial satisfaction survey that considers staff, parent and student opinion.

Insight SRC is a reputable and experienced company in Melbourne headed by a renowned psychologist, Dr Peter Hart. Dr Hart has designed satisfaction surveys and developed a process for organisational improvement in a number of industries across Australia and around the world. Dr Hart has proven, through extensive research, that organisational climate has a significant impact on the quality of the outcomes of that industry. In a school situation, this transposes to student learning.

GLC and St John's conducted a survey of staff, parents and students in May of this year. The survey results have now been returned to us. The next challenge for us is to review these results and strategically drive organisational improvement for

Special Needs Funding Inequity for students with disabilities

All schools, no matter which system they belong to, need to satisfy set criteria to attract Special Needs funding for students with disabilities within seven categories: Intellectual, Severe Language, Severe Emotional, Autism, Physical, Vision and Hearing. The support given to students in independent schools however, is far less than that given for the same child in State or Catholic schools.

The current funding system for special needs students in independent schools is not based on student need but rather on the type of school chosen by the parents.

Victorian Government: ISV administers funding for students eligible for support under the Victorian Government State Support Services Programme.

Victorian Government funding is provided for visiting teacher services and speech therapy. In State schools these services are provided by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) at no charge to parents, but independent schools must purchase the services.

Students are approved for a number of hours for the year, and an hourly rate is set for funding based on the amount allocated by the Victorian Government and the total number of hours approved in all schools. The amount allocated varies from \$400-\$1,200 per annum according to the level of need.

This funding is totally inadequate and the student either does not receive adequate support, or the funding is supplemented by the school and/or the parents. The average amount received by students with disabili-

ties attending independent schools is less than the minimum level of funding received by students attending government schools.

Australian Government: ISV administers funding on behalf of the Australian Government to provide salary support (Integration Aides and/or physiotherapy and occupational therapy) for eligible students to access mainstream education. Applications are assessed by an expert panel and students are assigned a level of funding according to their level of need. Some extra funding is also allocated to each school in two ways. A School Program amount, taking into account the number of eligible students for which the school has to cater, ranges from \$2,000 to \$6,000.00 in total. A small amount, approximately \$993

on average per eligible student, is included in general funding under Strategic Assistance (per capita) funding for students with disabilities.

In 2011 the total average funding from the Australian Government for each eligible student with a disability in an independent school amounted to \$4,516.12 lower than the Level 1 funding in a Government school.

Source: Independent Schools Victoria

Special Needs Funding per student

Level	Independent Schools	State
1	\$1,700.00	\$5,894
2	\$2,800.00	\$13,632
3	\$3,900.00	\$21,519
4	(Special School) \$5,000.00	\$29,368
5	No funding available at these levels	\$37,158
6		\$44,991

setting the stage at GLC

Stage 2—Middle School Moves In!

The Middle School building at GLC was finally ready for use by the end of July. The students in Years 7-9 have since moved into the new buildings and made themselves at home!



morning in early September. The teachers and the students have worked hard to make the Middle School look appealing and the samples of work around the rooms looked fantastic.

Internal Works

Although there was minor finishing off internally, particularly in the Science Room, the students moved into the classrooms and were excited about having their own learning space. The classrooms looked impressive during the Twilight Tours and the Open

The internal finishing is now complete and all the rooms are getting plenty of use.

External

Due to the continued wet weather in July the external works have not been completed to the point where landscaping can begin.



We are hoping this will happen soon so that the fencing can be removed and the project totally completed.

Construction is now underway on the walkway from the Middle School building to the courts area. Once completed, this will give the students direct access to play areas and reduce the need for them to cross primary play spaces and walkways.

We are well and truly looking forward to it all being finished.

Geelong's Newest Suburb—Armstrong Creek (3217)

It was exciting to read recently that Geelong Lutheran College is the first and, for the time being, the only school in the newest Geelong suburb to be known as Armstrong Creek. The article in the Surf Coast Times used the phrase, "Before the post-code and the suburb, there was the school." The next few years will see significant changes as subdivisions take effect and roads are built, infrastructure is installed and houses are built. Up to 50,000 people will be living around the College in the years to come.

The City of Greater Geelong (CoGG) has unveiled plans to realign boundaries for Mt Duneed, Grovedale, Connewarre and Marshall in response to the Armstrong Creek Urban growth plan and have created two new suburbs, Armstrong Creek and Charlemont with the postcode of 3217.

The CoGG is holding a number of public forums to inform local residents about the proposed changes and to also answer any individual questions. Two of these forums were hosted by Geelong Lutheran College in early September.

Once the planning process is complete, a final recommendation will go to the CoGG Council so that the name change becomes official. Once this sign-off occurs the college will be known as **'Geelong Lutheran College, Armstrong Creek'**.

community update

St John's turns 50

St John's Lutheran School was established in 1962 by the members of St John's Lutheran Church. The first Principal, Mr Gary Matuschka, was involved in the start up of a number of Lutheran Schools and still lives in Adelaide. Mr Matuschka attended the 25th anniversary celebration in 1987.

St John's Lutheran school is currently planning the 50th Anniversary celebrations for the school for the weekend of the 17th - 18th March 2012.

St John's began in 1962 after the members of St John's Lutheran Church expressed their desire to start a school to educate Lutheran children in Geelong. In the first year, St John's offered Kindergarten through to Year 6 and soon after offered Years 7 and 8. By 1970, it was decided that St John's should remain as a K-6 school which it has been ever since. During its history, St John's has had 6 Principals, two of whom later became District Directors within the Lutheran system, Mr Kevin Oster in South Australia and Mr Alan Wiebusch here in Victoria.

I began teaching at St John's in 1986, and although that was a long time ago, it will surprise you to learn that I am not the longest serving teacher at St John's! One teacher even dates back to 1980 - although she did have a break in service for some of the intervening years!

The 50th Anniversary celebrations will include an open afternoon, an archive display including photos and uniforms etc, a dinner for past staff, students and parents as well as a worship of thanksgiving on Sunday morning to celebrate God's blessings to the community of St John's and Geelong over the past 50 years.

If you know someone who attended St John's School or Kindergarten during the last 50 years, make sure you let them know about the celebrations and ask them to contact the office at St John's so we can forward them further details.



Lutheran Schooling History in Grovedale

Geelong Lutheran College may have only been in existence for three years and St John's for almost 50, but Lutheran Education in Geelong actually dates back to the 1850's when a Lutheran school was first established here in Grovedale.

The Lutheran school at Germantown (now Grovedale) was the first congregational school established in Victoria and was part of what is now known as St Paul's Lutheran Church. It arose from the wish to educate the children of the ten families from the 'Emmy', which arrived in Melbourne in December 1849, one of the first ships to bring substantial numbers of German emigrants to Victoria. These families had been recruited by William Westgarth to establish vineyards for the then Mayor of Geelong, Dr Alexander Thomson. Though the vines were later to die due to disease, the families remained and turned to mixed farming on their small allotments.

Formal instruction at this school was first given by Johann Stanger from 1854 in a simple building of mud walls with a grass roof, which served also as church and general meeting place. Stanger taught at this school until 1858.



The Lutheran School at Westgarthtown (Thomastown) 1855-1876

Dimensions were 12 by 5.5 metres but part of this was also the teacher's dwelling. The land, on Church St, was granted by the Government for religious purposes and the school was surrounded by the cemetery, a less than ideal situation, which was to lead later to a request for a new building elsewhere.

In 1859 Robert Renzow took over as teacher at the school. Although there were factional differences within the community, all the children (including non-Lutheran) continued to attend since this was the only school in the district at the time and the school committee also reflected these different groups. Under these strained circumstances the Committee decided it would be more appropriate and neutral if the school became part of the Education Department and this was done in 1868 – the first Lutheran school to do so.

Except for a few months in 1858 the school was taught by Robert Renzow for the next thirty-four years. In 1868 he donated three acres in order that a new, larger school might be built, away from the cemetery and more central for the children. The School Committee wished to take advantage of the Government offer of 1:1 funding for a new school providing

that student numbers were at least sixty. Pressure was then applied to Lutheran parents living in neighbouring Freshwater Creek (known as Waldkirch) to send their children to the new Germantown school. The Government matched the £220 contributed by the parents and the Grovedale Common School, No.283 was built; a substantial two-roomed brick building. This school thereafter ceased to be a Lutheran school, even though Renzow remained as Head Teacher until 1892.

The original school (St Pauls) was not the only congregational school in Germantown. In 1905 or early 1906 the Trinity congregation established a small congregational school in a modest

weatherboard building on the site of the old mud wall school. In his application for registration under the 1905 Schools Registration Act the Head Teacher, Frederick Schulze, gave details of 'Lutheran Trinity School, Germantown, registration number 677.'

The school taught Grammar, Geography, English, German, Music, Physiology (!) and History and so was a full-time school rather than a Saturday or Sunday School. The school was closed in 1913 due to lack of numbers.

Lutheran Education Australia—Principal's Conference

The Principals from our Lutheran schools across Australia met in Canberra from the 21-24th August under the theme 'A Brilliant Blend'. The Principal's conference is held every two years and recently each conference has been held in Canberra.

A Brilliant Blend

The sessions during the three days of conference highlighted ways of working and learning and growing as people in Lutheran schools. The Key-note speakers included Dr Dennis Shirley presenting on the "Mindful Teacher & Leader" and Dr Richard Eckersley on "Principal Wellbeing". Dr Neville Highett, a former principal at Immanuel Lutheran College Adelaide, presented the Reuter Oration, which has been a long-standing tradition at the Principal's Conference.

Since we have been meeting in Canberra, we have invited our local Member of Parliament to share dinner with us at Parliament House. This is a great opportunity for us to make our parliamentarians aware of Lutheran Schooling in Australia. We are a small system and this is a valuable opportunity to bring our Lutheran Schools into the presence of our Government in a personal way.

Q and A >>>

Q: What is a Lutheran?

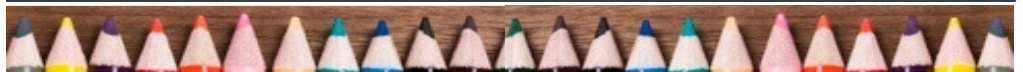
A: A Lutheran is a person who believes the truths of God's Word as written in the Holy Bible.

In doing this we confess the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To be a confessional Lutheran is to be one who honours the Word of God and believes the confessional writings of the Lutheran Church as summarized in Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Lutherans have two sacraments, baptise babies, and believe that Jesus' body and blood are 'in', 'under' and 'with' the bread and wine of Holy Communion.

Lutheran's believe:

- that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and it alone is the source of what we believe and practice;
- that salvation is based on the unearned free gift of God's grace;
- that grace is received through faith in what Jesus has done for us;
- that our sole basis and assurance of salvation is the life, death, and resurrection of God's son, Jesus Christ.

Hand-in-hand with our commitment to pure teaching and confession of the faith, is, and always must be, our equally strong commitment to reaching out boldly with the Gospel and speaking God's truth to the world.



further thoughts...

Cybersafety

It is terrifying to learn about the ways in which our children may be exposed to cyberbullying, identity theft, exposure to inappropriate content and contact. Thankfully there is excellent help and support.



Twice now, we have engaged the services of Cyber[Smart] to visit our schools and run information sessions for staff, parents and students. These sessions have proved invaluable in educating our communities about the dangers of online communication.

ACMA's Cybersafety Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness

As part of its Cybersafety Outreach program, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), delivers free internet safety awareness presentations for parents, teachers and students. Presentations provide valuable information about the risks confronting children online, and offer tools and tips to help make their internet experiences safe and positive.

Internet safety presentations cover topics including:

- the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies
- potential risks for children online, such as cyberbullying, illegal content, inappropriate contact, identity theft, grooming and predatory activity
- tips to help children stay safe online.

The presentation is thorough, non-technical and is conducted by an accredited Cybersafety trainer. Presentations are free of charge.

Support materials for parents

The Australian Communications and Media

Authority's (ACMA) Cybersafety Outreach program offers a range of free resources for parents, teachers and children.

Materials developed for parents include:

- **Cybersmart Kids**, an online guide to smart surfing, chatting and emailing.
- Visit www.cybersmartkids.com.au
- **Cybersmart Kids** brochures:
 - Cybersmart Guide
 - How to be phone smart
 - Smart guide to social networking.
- **Cybersafety Gateway** - In mid-2009, ACMA launched a Cybersafety Gateway—a web portal giving all Australian primary and secondary schools easy access to the full range of ACMA's cybersafety education resources. The Gateway will host current ACMA resources, link to existing national and international resources and offer new materials as they are developed. The Gateway will include strategic tools for cybersafety education planning.
- **Cybersafety Contact Centre**, for information and advice. Telephone 1800 880 176.
- **Email for information**, printed materials and advice about online safety cybersafety@acma.gov.au



coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue

What's Next :

- Buildings
- Staffing

Opening of Stage 2

*Parents & Friends—Founder's Day/
Movie Night*

Kindergarten from 2013

Pleasing Mum and Dad matters



The Funding Debate

School Funding Research

Four independent research papers on school funding were released several weeks ago and make a valuable contribution to the debate on school funding. Although there are variations in the recommendations of the research, the comments from Independent Schools Victoria indicates that some of the conclusions reflect their views and others in the non-government sector.

These research papers will contribute to the Gonski Review on funding which is due to be tabled in Parliament at the end of the year.

It was interesting to listen to the Hon Peter Garrett MP at the Principal's Conference where his speech clearly indicated that the government may not take any of the recommendations from the Gonski Review. Interesting times ahead!



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