Welcome
Welcome to 2014! I trust you all had a relaxing break over the summer and looking forward to a positive and rewarding year. I am looking forward to teaching your child and meeting families in the coming weeks.

Seeing as I am new to St John’s this year, I thought it fitting to give you a bit of background about me. I am originally from the Barossa Valley and moved back at the end of 2013 after teaching in Jamestown for three years. I currently reside in Tanunda and enjoy being a part of the Barossa community. In my down-time I enjoy playing sports, reading, travelling and spending time with family and friends.

I see the partnership between the school and home essential in providing the best education for our children and would like you and your student to take the time to read through the following.

Student Information and Communication
Regular communication is an important part of our relationship. Please make sure you notify me of changes to routine for your child, especially travelling arrangements. Students arriving late or leaving early must be signed in / out through the front office. Parents helping at school also need to sign in / out through the school office.

Attached to this letter is a ‘Student Information’ form which I will keep for my records as an instant way to have you and your child’s information and contact details. It is a short summary of all the information you have already given the school on one form, which makes contacting parents and dealing with any issues, whether behavioural, health or extra-curricular related far more efficient. Please also state what mode of communication you prefer and find most valuable. Please complete this form and return it by Friday 7th February.

Diaries
This is an important tool for developing routine, organisational skills and communication between the school, the student and home. I will check diaries each day to ensure homework and messages are entered, and on Mondays for the parent/guardian signature. Please encourage your child to use the diary correctly, entering home-work in detail and having a weekly parent signature.

Homework
It is expected that students will spend about 20-30 minutes completing homework each night. Each week students will be completing a ‘Learning at Home’ grid that has a range of activities, both compulsory and optional, for them to complete throughout the week. Homework activities will need to be completed and handed up on the Friday of each week. Information regarding the expectations and running of this homework program is included with this newsletter. Please read this information carefully with your child and if you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me.
Absences
If your child is absent from school for any reason, please contact the front office as soon as practically possible.

Bible Presentation
Year Four students, along with new Year Five students, are presented with the gift of a Bible from the St John’s Lutheran Congregation. The school is very grateful for this generosity from the church. Students in Years Four to Seven use and continue to learn more about the Bible and its contents, so having their own Bible is valuable.

The Bible presentation will be on Sunday 6th April at 9.00am (please note change of date) and all students to be presented with a Bible are urged to attend. Students need to wear their official summer uniform to the service. New staff will be installed and continuing staff rededicated at this service.

Information Night
Please keep a look out for details regarding Information Night in the school newsletter.

Sports Uniform
This term our Physical Education lessons will be on a Tuesday afternoon. Students are to wear their sports uniform to school on Tuesdays.

Swimming
During the second week of school, students will be participating in the Royal Life swimming program at the Eudunda Swimming Pool. Our session time is 1.15 – 2.00 pm which means that we will be having a slightly different lunch break during this week. Please do not order lunch from the bakery for your child this week as we will be eating earlier, before the Bakery lunches are delivered. Students are to wear their sports uniform to school all week and may wear their bathers underneath their sports uniform if practical. Please make sure to pack underwear if wearing bathers to school.

Our Swimming Carnival will be on Friday 21st February, with a practice on Thursday 20th February. All students in Year 4 and up are strongly encouraged to take part in at least one Championship Event during the morning. Please discuss this with your child and encourage them to select an event appropriate to their skill level. Students who are not strong swimmers may wear a life jacket to compete in events. While they will not be eligible for a place, they will earn points for their house team.

School Camp
The Year 4/5 class along with the year 3 class will be taking part in an excursion to Woodside Activity Centre in the Adelaide Hills in Term 2 as part of our unit on ‘Forests’. More information will be given shortly.
Unit of Inquiry
We are beginning this term by exploring the varying lives of children around the world, their responsibilities and how they are similar or different to our own.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transdisciplinary Theme:</th>
<th>Who We Are</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Idea:</td>
<td>Children around the world have many similarities and differences.</td>
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| Lines of Inquiry:        | - The similarities and differences of children who live in different countries.  
                          | - Why child’s lives vary.  
                          | - The responsibility of the world towards the rights of children. |
| Learner Profile:         | Principled  
                          | Open-minded |
| Attitudes:               | Respect  
                          | Empathy |
| Concepts:                | Form  
                          | Causation  
                          | Responsibility |

Please feel free to pop in and introduce yourselves. If at any time you have questions about anything in relation to your child’s education please do not hesitate to contact me; all my contact details are below. I know we are going to have a wonderful year.

Yours in Christ,

Kate McAuley  
P: (08) 8581 1282  
M: 0410 841 016  
E: kmcauley@stjohns-eudunda.sa.edu.au