Back to School Prayer

by Mary Lynn Hendrickson

We thank you for the fragrance of a new box of crayons, Lord, the rainbow in each perfect row. Thank you for each bundle of snowy white notebook paper, awaiting fresh possibilities. May they remind us that you make all things new and bless us with abundance.

Thank you for this ruler; for every eraser that tops every pencil. May they help us remember to measure our blessings, but never Your boundless love for us;

To allow for the making of mistakes as a normal part of human learning.

As we lay out our new clothes for these first days of school, Help us remember to put on Christ each day, too, And to “clothe the naked” as He asked us.

But mostly, God, help us remember that Jesus is always our best and most devoted teacher— That we never outgrow all His lessons on how You want us to live and to love.

Submitted by Fi Jones
Welcome Back to 2015

I hope that everyone has managed to find some rest, peace and opportunity to stay fit and healthy. At the end of each year we have so many things happening with farewells, end of year service, and graduation of our Year Seven students, reports and celebration time of our school year along with preparing for Christmas celebrations. It is such an amazing time and in reflection I am always amazed at what our school staff manage to accomplish. Thank you again to all those involved in all aspects of our school and the way they help to bring our school year to such a fantastic close.

After some reflection and informal chats with parents and staff we have decided to return to weekly newsletters for families and will use the Skoolbag App more effectively to send home reminders and any other information. It is important that we are efficient and effective in disseminating information to you all, so I encourage you to use the Skoolbag App or hold onto our weekly newsletters to keep informed.

I am happy to announce that we are the proud owners of a brand new school server and thanks to Mr Mark Montgomery from Empyreal Consulting, we will be able to further deliver engaging and technically savvy learning opportunities for all of our students, which is very exciting. We have also been gifted with 25 personal computers that are only a couple of years old from Tanunda Lutheran Primary. This will again increase our student access to technology in the classrooms and in the ICT suite. Thank you to Mr Darren Stevenson and his school for this gracious gift.

Staff have already begun to return to the school in preparation for this year.

There is much excitement as we begin our journey as a DAS or Dyslexia Aware School and prepare for our IB evaluation in August.

With each New Year there are changes and new ways of thinking and doing, there are new challenges and new opportunities to celebrate. We cannot do this on our own and so I again ask that you continue to work with us to provide an amazing school community, not only for our children, but for all staff and families that choose to be part of this special place.

End of Year Service Offering

I am so happy to announce that we received $673.50 from the End of Year Service offering. Thank you very much to families who donated so generously.
From the
Principal continued.....

Farewells
On behalf of the school community, I would like to say farewell and thank you to the 2014 graduating students—Jordyn Bayly, Dale Cherrington, Lachlan Cluse, Ruby Crouch, Amy Doecke, Caitlin Fiegert, Francie Heinsen, Tianna Jenke, Nicole Kruse, Amy Mosey, Georgie Pepper, Andrew Prior, Sheldon Scholz, Adam Schutz, Taylor Skinner, Nicholas Tschirn, Fraser Wiech and Tyson Wilksch. I wish you every success for the future.

We also say goodbye to the following ‘graduating parents’: Donna Cherrington, Grant and Debbi Doecke, Jenny Fiegert, Brenton Kruse and Fran Pfitzner, David and Renee Jenke, Anthony and Marie Prior, Darryl and Vicki Schutz, Wayne and Paula Skinner and Steven and Sandy Wilksch. Thank you for the generous contribution you have made to St John’s Lutheran School over the years.

We are also farewelling the Greenwood family (John, Vicki and Aria). Blessings to you as you begin another chapter in your school lives and we sincerely thank you for your contribution to St John’s.

Book Pick Up
Book packs were available for collection on 14th January as previously advertised and will be available on Wednesday 21st January 2015 from 9.00am—3.00pm. If you are unable to collect on Wednesday 21st January, please contact Fiona to arrange an alternative date.

Payment by cash, cheque or card will need to be made on collection of the packs. Costs of the classroom book packs are as follows:

- Reception/Year One $57.99
- Year One (One/Two Class) $67.32
- Year Two (One/Two Class) $65.71
- Year Three/Year Four $48.47
- Year Five/Year Six $73.51
- Year Seven $79.59

Welcome to New Families and Students
A special welcome to the new St John’s families: Nick Baker and Emily Voltz with Ethan Baker (Reception), Daniel and Louise Jenke with Amalie (Reception); Douglas Partington and Sarah Golder with William Partington (Reception) and welcome back to Paul Crawford and Kelly Pfeiffer with Lillian Crawford (Year Three).

A special welcome also to new students of existing families of our school: Jade Jenke (daughter of Anthony and Tanya), Lachlan Meinhardt (son of Greg and Rachel), Demi Mosey (daughter of Richard and Jodie), Meg Mosey (daughter of Paul Mosey and Fiona Traynor), Charlotte Nietschke (daughter of Kym and Karen), Imogen Noack (daughter of Nicholas and Rebecca), Ruby Preston (daughter of Trevor and Katie) and Beau Prior (son of Brett Prior and Kristy Friebel).

We wish these students and their families well as they settle into our school community. God bless you all.
School Uniform 2015
Please peruse our school’s Uniform Policy when planning for 2015. The Policy can be found on our Website. Please take note of items such as jewellery, sneakers, socks without logos etc. Although these items are small on their own, they do impact on the overall appearance of our students. Our school is well known for taking great pride in its appearance, from our beautiful grounds and facilities to the way our students represent the school, so please take the time to look through our Policy before buying new sneakers etc over the holidays. The Uniform Shop will be open on Wednesday 28th January 2015 from 9.00am and thereafter each Friday from 8.45am. Order forms can be obtained from the front office and dropped off on book pick up day on Wednesday 21st January 2015. Please note that all uniform items must be purchased from the Uniform Shop (except for footwear).

School Times
Please note that school begins at 8.45am and ends at 3.10pm. Children should be at school by 8.40am to ensure a prompt 8.45am start. Teachers will be in classrooms from 8.35am. Please also note that the first morning duty commences at 8.30am so children should arrive after that time to be supervised. Thank you.

Office Hours
The office will be attended Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4.00pm. Phone calls received before 8.30am will be redirected to the answering machine as staff devotion is held at 8.15am.

School Opening Chapel
The School Opening Service for 2015 will be held on Wednesday 28th January 2015 at 9.00am in St John’s Lutheran Church, Eudunda. You are most welcome to stay afterwards for a cuppa and fellowship provided by the Parents and Friends Committee. New families are especially invited to come along and meet other parents and families.

Bakery Lunch Orders
Bakery orders will be available on the first day of school (Wednesday 28th January) and each Monday and Friday thereafter for lunch only. Bakery orders will be available on a Tuesday after a Monday public holiday. When ordering, students will need to place money in a lunch bag (available from the front office at a cost of $2.00 for 50 bags) with their order, name, class level and teacher. Please ensure that there is only one item per bag and each bag states the student’s name etc. Orders will be collected by 9.00am and taken to the Eudunda Bakery for processing. Orders will be picked up and brought back to school by lunch time.

School Banking
School banking (Bank SA and LLL) will be collected Tuesday mornings. LLL information and new account forms are available at the office.
Installation/Redirection Service and Year Four Bible Presentation
St John’s Lutheran School will be holding the Installation Service for our new teachers and the rededication of Staff and School Council on Sunday 1st February 2015. The Bible Presentations for the Year Fours will be held on Sunday 1st March 2015. Please keep these dates free and add them to your diaries. More details will be provided at the beginning of Term One.

Communication 2015
For the new families to St John’s we have our own free Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our parent/student community. We encourage parents to install the App onto their devices. To install, just search our school name ‘St John’s Lutheran School Eudunda’ in either Apple App Store or Google Play Store. School newsletters and other helpful resources can be viewed from this App. It is encouraged that families access newsletters via our Website or the Skoolbag App to avoid unnecessary printing by the school. If you have any relevant items that you wish to appear in the weekly newsletter, please ensure they are submitted to Fiona no later than Monday afternoon of each week. If you have any problems installing the Skoolbag App on your device, please contact Fiona at the front desk.

Swimming Lessons
Swimming lessons will be held during the second week of Term One, Monday 2nd—Friday 6th February 2015. The Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 20th February 2015 at the Eudunda Pool.

Family Forms Packages
Form packages were sent out in Term Four and were due back to school by Monday 8th December 2014. There are several families who have not yet returned forms. Please return these forms as soon as possible so that all information can be entered into our database before the beginning of the 2015 school year.
Term Dates for 2015

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<tr>
<th>Term One</th>
<th>Monday 26th January</th>
<th>Australia Day holiday</th>
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<td>Tuesday 27th January</td>
<td>Pupil free day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 28th January</td>
<td>Term One begins</td>
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<td>Friday 10th April</td>
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<td>Term Two</td>
<td>Monday 27th April</td>
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<td>Tuesday 28th April</td>
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<td>Wednesday 29th April</td>
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<td>Friday 26th June</td>
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<td>Term Three</td>
<td>Monday 20th July</td>
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<td>Friday 25th September</td>
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<td>Friday 11th December</td>
<td>Pupil free day</td>
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Blessings to you all and see you on Wednesday 28th January 2015.

Paula Skinner

Principal
Preparing your child for school or pre school

The early days of a school year can be hard work for some kids – it’s hard for some kids to stick to the rules and routines of school.

During the holidays children need to be able to tune out from school. A break from school is good for your child’s mental health as well as giving them an opportunity to recharge their batteries.

As holidays draw to a close it is useful to turn your child’s attention to school and help him or her get ready for the year ahead. Some kids are excited by the prospect of going to school or pre school, whereas others are somewhat less thrilled that holidays are over and it’s back to reality. Here are some ideas to consider:

• Be positive about the year ahead, even if your child is apprehensive about some aspect of the coming year. Children often pick up the cues of their parents so your attitude to school or pre school, your child’s teacher and learning can set the scene for a positive year ahead. Often children’s fears and concerns about a particular grade level or class disappear on the first day.

• In the days leading up to the start of school or pre school begin to readjust children’s routines in line with the routine they will experience when they start school. In particular, bedtimes and wake up times should resemble those of the school year.

• Children can participate in the purchase and preparation of uniforms, books and stationery for the coming year.

School starters may even wear their uniform prior to the first day.

• Encourage discussion of school in a matter of fact manner and talk about possible friendships they may renew or begin. Give children practice in becoming more independent at home particularly if they are in the early years of school.

• Be on time on the first day. This is important for children to help settle into class and not disrupt others or themselves. The start of the day is the most important part of the school day.

A word of warning: Don’t be surprised if some young children are less than perfect when they come home from school in the first days of term. The early days of a school year can be hard work for some kids – it’s hard for some kids to stick to the rules and routines of school. They often blow off some steam in the relative security of home. Be prepared for your patience and understanding to be stretched a little. It’s good to remember that many kids save their worst behaviour for their parents!!

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