Applying Ourselves

And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful. Titus 3:14

I do not know if there is much that is more frustrating to a parent, educator or boss than to see someone fail to reach his or her potential. We search for the button to push that will jump-start them to apply the abilities that we know they possess but have not been motivated to utilise. It would be so much easier if we could give them medication, purchase it, or somehow show them the level at which they should be working.

What causes people to settle for less than they could accomplish? Apprehension of the unknown, laziness, fear of failure or sometimes just not knowing the right steps to take may hold people back. Can you think of other reasons? How do you help a child reach his/her potential? Encouragement? Bribes? Challenges? I have seen that a taste of success brings about unbelievable motivation. Although, as teachers we’ve all had students whose abilities we could see, the students may not have known or believed they could succeed until they got a small taste of success. For the competitive type, a good competition will spark a flame. For those who like to please, “I am proud of you,” will go a long way. If you have more than one child, you know that they can be very different. What works for one doesn’t always work for the other.

The challenge of finding the secret of motivating a classroom or several classrooms full of students can be overwhelming. As teachers we pray over them. We ask God to show what will inspire them. We use different methods, not just one. Are you reaching your full potential? What holds you back? What inspires you to go beyond your comfort zone, to work harder, to take risks? My prayer for today is that our students will apply themselves fully. Our schools and our world are full of “cases of urgent need,” and we must not be unfruitful.


Adapted from “Christian Educators Association International – Daily Devotionals”

Submitted by Coralee Hambour
‘Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience’ Colossians 3:12

Over the coming weeks our school is refocussing on our Lutheran school values:

Love
Compassion
Appreciation
Service
Justice
Forgiveness
Courage
Hope
Quality
Humility

Nest week we are focussing on compassion. What is compassion? How do we give it and have we received it? In the dictionary it states… “A feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering”.

Having that empathy for others and understanding is a powerful emotion but acting on this is the key. I have noticed students who see that someone is in need and act upon it. Just like when an older student helps a younger one with their shoelaces. Tying shoelaces can be a very big deal for those who are still learning how to do this successfully. It can be frustrating and upsetting to some when they can’t do it. I often see older students bent over doing up a lace of a younger student. This in its simplest form is showing compassion for others.

Last week our students and some teachers displayed a number of these values during our daily swimming lessons. I saw courageous acts of getting into a cool pool, there was hope that they would be able to stay in a little longer to practice their skills as the week got warmer, there was a growing evidence of quality swimming as they improved on their skill each day and plenty of appreciation for the opportunity to swim each day in such a lovely environment. It’s never difficult to see these values in action every day as we do what we do each day. I encourage you to spend a moment thinking about where and when you have recently witnessed these values in your home.

We welcome Tess Lawson, student teacher, to St John’s who will be with us for the next three weeks. We hope that Tess enjoys her learning experience with us.
From the Principal continued…..

Newsletter Cut Off
If you would like anything to appear in our weekly Wednesday newsletters, please have all information to Fiona by NO LATER than Monday afternoon of each week. Thank you.

Parent Information Evening
Thank you to those parents who attended last night’s Parent Information Session. It was fabulous to see so many parents. I trust that you gained a useful insight into your child’s educational program and class routines.

If you were unable to attend a class session, the information books should be forwarded to you. Should you require further information or have any concerns, I would encourage you to make an appointment to see your child’s class teacher. At St John’s we view open two-way communication as vital to the progress of all students and value the opportunity to discuss issues with parents.

SRC
Congratulations to Nikki Grosser and Henry Kleinig who were elected as the School Captains for 2015. SRC Members and House Captains and Vice-Captains will be announced in next week’s newsletter.

Lunch Orders
Due to the Swimming Carnival next Friday, lunch orders will be available from the bakery on Thursday 19th February 2015.

Have a blessed week

Paula Skinner
The Year Three/Four class has been transformed into a room full of “Superheroes!”. In the first weeks of our time together as a class we have shown creativity, cooperation and enthusiasm while inquiring into the PYP Learner Profile.

The students were given a Learner Profile attribute and created a “superhero” based around that attribute. They were also asked to develop a list of their heroes’ super powers.

These superheroes are displayed in our classroom to remind us of the different ways that we can use the Learner Profile in our everyday lives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Captain Open-minded</th>
<th>Reflector Man</th>
<th>Captain Courageous</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balanced Brittany</td>
<td>Mystery Thinker</td>
<td>Knowledgeable Jack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principled Girl</td>
<td>Inquirer Wire</td>
<td>Captain Communicator</td>
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Swimming Lessons
Snapshots.....
Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday 18th February is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. During forty days of Lent we remember a special time in Jesus’ life. He grew up and worked as a builder/carpenter then He began His new work—telling people about God. To get ready for His new work He spent forty days alone in the desert, going without food and thinking of all that lay ahead. Lent is a time when Christians try to live more simply than usual so that they have time to think about God too. In days gone by the rich foods people gave up for Lent were milk and eggs. They used these to make pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CARE COUNSELLING SERVICES

Counselling provides an opportunity to share personal concerns or goals with another person who is professionally trained. Christian counselling will help you clarify concerns, gain understanding, consider alternatives, set goals and implement strategies. The service is open to people of all ages and backgrounds. Individuals, couples or families can share problems before they become a crisis, be listened to and be offered genuine care and support when facing difficulties. Services include: personal counselling – issues such as personal concern, crisis, depression, guilt, fear, loss, abuse and domestic violence.

Pre-marriage/relationship preparation, marriage and relationship counselling, assistance to families and parenting support, support through divorce or separation, counselling for children. For more information contact Lynn Grosser, Care Coordinator or speak directly to Lutheran Community Care, Barossa Valley to arrange an appointment. Phone (08)85622688 Office hours 9.00am – 4.30pm Monday—Friday. Email: barossa@lccare.org.au or visit the website for more information: www.lccare.org.au All appointments are confidential.

Prayer and Care.....

This term we pray for our school families, staff and their families:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Terrence and Peta Brown</th>
<th>David and Kathy Cluse</th>
<th>Kate McAuley</th>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Curnow</td>
<td>Karissa Cole</td>
<td>Hayley Schutz</td>
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<td>Peter Burman</td>
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Hello and welcome to a new school year.

An extra special welcome if you are one of the many new families who have joined the school community this year. I look forward to meeting you all and I welcome you to attend any of the up and coming Parents and Friends meetings which are advertised in the newsletter and generally held once per term.

The Parents and Friends Committee also plans a social function each term as a fun and informal way to network and enjoy each other's company. In the past, these have included bus trips to the Barossa and Clare Valley areas, lunch dates and shopping trips. These events are also advertised in the newsletter and all parents are welcome to attend. Your ideas and suggestions for other social functions are always welcome, bring them along to the meeting!

Thank you to those families who have shown an interest in supporting our school community by either registering your membership with P & F via the forms package or by offering your time to help out with the many catering events run by the P & F Committee. Your help is always welcome and very much appreciated.

A reminder that the first meeting of the Parents and Friends Committee for this year will be held next Monday 16th February commencing at 3.30pm in the School Hall. We are hoping that many parents can stay for the meeting after collecting their children.

Children are welcome to hang around outside while the Committee meet. There will be some light snacks available for the children under the lunch shelter area while the meeting takes place. We hope to see many new and old faces there.

Sonya Mosey
Parents and Friends Chair

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day
The P & F will be serving pancakes to the students at recess time on Shrove Tuesday (17th February) for the cost of a gold coin donation. If any parents are available to help serve pancakes and clean up afterwards please contact Linda Pfitzner on 0417 804 965.

Lemons Lemons Lemons
If families have any spare lemons they are able to donate for the pancakes, please send them to school with children. Thank you.
**Community**

**News and Events.....**

**PIANO TUITION**

Piano lessons will resume in Week Five after swimming has concluded. Lessons will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Students will receive their Term One timetable in Week Four. There are some vacancies, so if any families are interested, please get in touch with Chris Ruediger, 0488 047861 or ruediger@ipstarmail.com.au (new address). Lessons go for 30 minutes per week and are available for children in all year levels. The cost for 2015 will be $15 per lesson for Year Three to Seven students and $12 for younger children, with invoices issued at the end of each term.

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**CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB**

Do you like to read? Would you be interested in joining a Christian Book Club?

We are seeking interest from anyone that may like to join and participate in Christian fellowship on a monthly basis.

Please contact Kerry, Manager at The Cottage for further information and to register your interest.

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**Church Times**

**Sunday 15th February 2015.....**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EUDUNDA PARISH</th>
<th>ROBERTSTOWN PARISH</th>
<th>KAPUNDA PARISH</th>
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<tr>
<td>Neales Flat</td>
<td>8.30am LR</td>
<td>Point Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Point Pass</td>
<td>8.30am HC</td>
<td>Robertstown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eudunda</td>
<td>9.00am LR</td>
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</table>
Parents and Friends

News.....

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY FAMILY MARKET

Market Date: Friday 27th February 2015

Time: 5.00—8.00pm

Where: Corner crossroads of Menge and Magnolia Roads
Tanunda
Ph: 8563 0943

Local* Handmade Products* Sausage Sizzle

If you are interested in having a stall ($20 stall fee donation to the centre) please check out our Facebook page to fill out an application form or drop into the centre for more info.
Help your child ACHIEVE!

One way to help your child achieve at school is to work together with your child's teacher. The parent-teacher partnership takes work from both sides to become a reality. Here are some ideas that will help.

1. Know what your child's teacher is trying to achieve
   Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child’s teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child’s class.

2. Keep your expectations reasonable and positive
   If your expectations are too high your teacher may give up. Too low and they will meet them! The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their ability and their interests. Also be realistic about what your child's school can deliver. Sometimes our expectations of schools are not in line with their capabilities or their roles.

3. Support your teacher's expectations & activities at home
   One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their home-based learning tasks and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.

4. Send kids to school ready to learn and on time
   Maximise your child’s chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time. It's estimated that many kids miss up to two weeks of school a year when they are routinely late by just five minutes a day.

5. Inform teachers of your child's challenges and changes
   Life's not always smooth sailing for kids. Family circumstances can alter. Friends move away. Illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child's teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.

6. Skill children to work with others
   Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to kids, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help kids with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

7. Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties
   Resist the temptation to solve all your children's problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

8. Participate in class & school activities
   There is huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child's schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve his learning then take an interest in his learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child's teacher. This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

9. Trust your teacher's knowledge, professionalism and experience
   Your child's teachers are your greatest allies. Their training, their experience around kids, and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to make judgement calls about your child.

10. Talk up what happens at school
    Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning, and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure he or she hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by talking up your school.

This type of 10-point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three ideas from this list to really focus on in the coming year and you'll find that the rest will fall into place. Good luck and nurture the partnerships you have with your child's teachers.


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