I dreamed I had an **INTERVIEW WITH GOD**.

"So, you would like to interview me?" GOD asked.

"If you have time," I said.

GOD smiled. "My time is eternity... what questions do you have in mind for me?"

"What surprises you the most about humankind?"

GOD answered...

"That they get bored with childhood, that they rush to grow up, and then long to be children again."

"That they lose their health to make money... and then lose their money to restore their health."

"That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live in neither the present nor the future."

"That they live as if they would never die, and die as though they had never lived."

GOD's hand took mine... and we were silent for a while.

And then I asked, "As a parent, what are some of life's lessons you want your children to learn?"

GOD replied, "To learn they cannot make anyone love them. All they can do is let themselves be loved."

"To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others."

"To learn to forgive by practising forgiveness."

"To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in those they love, and it can take many years to heal them."

"To learn that a rich person is not one who has the most, but is one who needs the least."

"To learn that there are people who love them dearly, but simply do not yet know how to express or show their feelings."

"To learn that two people can look at the same thing, and see it differently."

"To learn that it is not enough that they forgive one another, but they must also forgive themselves."

"Thank you for your time," I said humbly.

"Is there anything else you would like your children to know?"

GOD smiled, and said... "Just know that I am here. Always."

Submitted by Hayley Schutz
"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God". Ephesians 2:8

We have had many gifts bestowed upon us here at St John’s over the past week. It is a place where people just get things done without fuss. We have a lot to be thankful for. I would like to thank Mr David Scholz for repairing the water damage holes in our car park. This has made it a safer place to park and walk on. I would also like to thank the P&F catering committee, in particular Mrs Linda Pfitzner, for the decadent pancake recess she and other parents provided our staff and students with on Tuesday. This celebration and reflection on Shrove Tuesday is something that we as Christians do believe is an important time to remind ourselves of the many gifts and blessings we do have in our lead up to Lenten season and Easter. A big thank you to Daniel Doering, Dale Drage and Mel Nicolls for competently helping me out with our school chapels over the past three weeks. It has been a true blessing working with these young students as we delivered God’s message each week.

Some updates and news for families include Mrs Denholm returning to our staff next week. We welcome Mrs Denholm back and say farewell to Miss McAuley as the Reception/Year One teacher. As at Week Five Kate will begin the role as Arts teacher. We have also had a couple of visits from Mr Tim Dansie, a school Psychologist. He has been visiting classrooms and working with teaching staff to further develop ways to help students with their learning needs. We also welcome back Pastor Josh as he returns from a few weeks’ holiday.

**SRC Members**

After recent voting, we advise that SRC members for Semester One, 2015 are:

- **Reception**: Demi Mosey and Beau Prior
- **Year One**: Lilli Pfitzner and Ryan Milde
- **Year Two**: Savanna Laucke and Mitchell Roebuck
- **Year Three**: Mia McKenzie and Jack Schiller
- **Year Four**: Dusty Schulz and Thomas Mosey
- **Year Five**: Sophie Nietschke and Dylan Stocker
- **Year Six**: Olivia Schiller and Rylee Cluse
- **School Captains**: Nikki Grosser and Henry Kleinig

The 2015 House Captains and Vice-Captains are as follows:

- **Dutschke Captains**: Mel Nicholls and Angus Handke
- **Dutschke Vice-Captains**: Jourdan Jenke and Henry Kleinig
- **Eckermann Captains**: Ella Anning and Raymond Drage
- **Eckermann Vice-Captains**: Ruby Schutz and Henry Rowett
- **Ziersch Captains**: Jack Mosey and Nikki Grosser
- **Ziersch Vice-Captains**: Harrison Pfitzner and Sarah Morris
Primary Years Programme Permission Form

Please return your Primary Years Programme Permission Forms to the front office as soon as possible. Please ensure that one form is filled out per child. If you have misplaced your forms, please see Fiona at the front desk to obtain new ones.

Acceptable User Agreement

If you have not already done so, could you please return the ‘Acceptable User Agreement’ to Mrs Verrall as soon as possible.

Bus Travel Arrangements

It is imperative that school staff know what your child is doing after school. Please either write a note in communication books or send an email to the front office if there are any changes to your child’s travel arrangements. Changes to bus transport must be done prior to 2.30pm. If changes occur after this time, you will be required to telephone the Area School to notify them of any changes. Thank you for your assistance.

Lunch Orders

Due to the Swimming Carnival this Friday, lunch orders will be available from the bakery tomorrow, Thursday 19th February 2015.

Sponsor Child

For those families new to our school community, St John’s sponsors a child from Spain called Jacqueline G. Verceles. Jacqueline is now seven years old. Each week the collections from Monday chapel are sent to Jacqueline to assist with her education. If you have a few gold coins to donate each week, it would be most appreciated.
Congratulations Nikki

Congratulations to Nikki Grosser who was selected to help present Adelaide to the world as India took on Pakistan in the World Cup Cricket held at Adelaide Oval on Sunday 15th February 2015. It was expected that over one billion viewers tuned in to see this game which unfortunately was not telecasted on free to air television in Australia. Nikki is one of eight lead flag bearers appointed to perform duties during the opening ceremony, welcome and playing of teams’ National Anthems for the four scheduled Cricket World Cup series games to be held at Adelaide Oval. Nikki, along with one other girl, who also was a SAPSASA State girls cricket representative were the only two girls selected, which is quite an honour in amongst a male dominant sport. Nikki will perform more of her duties in March with England versus Bangladesh, Pakistan versus Ireland and then the quarter final game. Well done Nikki.

Introducing Mr Gary Briggs—Music Teacher

Mr Briggs is a private music provider, who currently teaches at Balaklava and Riverton. He teaches guitar, bass, drums and coaches school bands. He has a relaxed but serious style and a passion to nurture confidence and professionalism in all of his students. He has had 35 years’ experience in live music, production and teaching.

Mr Briggs’ rates are as follows:
Lesson—1/2 hour $25.00
Hire of equipment—$5.00 per week

If you think your child would be interested in lessons with Mr Briggs, please contact him directly on 0413 867 343.

Have a blessed week.

Paula Skinner

Prayer and Care.....

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Richard Crouch and Angela Serafin</th>
<th>David and Shannon Drage</th>
<th>Kathy Cluse</th>
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<td>Michael and Carolyn Doering</td>
<td>Michael and Karen Dreckow</td>
<td>Mandy Verco</td>
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From the Care Coordinator.....

Bring Light to the Darkness through Prayer

We appreciate your generosity and prayer support. In this prayer calendar you will find prayer point suggestions for the 40 days of Lent and a link to devotions based on the readings that you can use for the Sundays during Lent. Thank you for praying with us for the work of Lutheran Community Care and ministries of care around the world.

February 2015

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>Isaiah 58:6-9</td>
<td>1 John 1:5-7</td>
<td>Psalm 25:10</td>
<td>Matthew 9:11-13</td>
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<td>We pray for healing for those affected by the devastating bushfires and for those who courageously fought the fires.</td>
<td>Pray that we can bring light to one another in our community.</td>
<td>Pray for those who find themselves on a path in their life that brings darkness.</td>
<td>Pray that we can be accepting of all people as Jesus was.</td>
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<td>Pray that we can work to overcome injustices.</td>
<td>Give thanks for all those who bring light to those who are suffering.</td>
<td>Pray for all who are isolated and have no family.</td>
<td>Pray for families experiencing destructive conflict.</td>
<td>Pray for all who will go hungry today.</td>
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LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CARE FINANCIAL COUNSELLING AND BUDGET SKILLS

Overwhelmed with bills and debts? Taking the first step and asking for help may be difficult. LCC financial counselling service is available FREE of charge. LCC will be on your side, not there to judge. They can listen and support you and help you resolve your debt situation so that it is more manageable.

A Budget Skills Worker can help you better manage your money by ensuring you are receiving all your concessions and entitlements, giving you options to help you manage your money, helping you prioritise your bills and debts, working out a budget or payment plan, referring you to a financial counsellor and/or other agencies that can help you make informed choices.

A financial counsellor can help you with information about your financial rights, responsibilities and options, dealing with court debts, personal finances, budgeting and money management, negotiating with creditors and others, insolvency and bankruptcy options, hardship applications if your situation has changed.

For more information contact Lynn Grosser, Care Coordinator or speak direct to Lutheran Community Care, Barossa Valley to arrange an appointment. Phone (08) 8562 2688 during office hours (9.00am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Email: barossa@lccare.org.au or visit the website for more information:
Is your son or daughter taking up the Challenge in 2015??

If so, please ensure they fill in their student reading records as they read their books, gets them signed off as they go and please make sure your child hands it in to their teacher or the school contact person before: Friday 4 September.

The Challenge is to read a minimum of twelve books in total.
- Reception to Year 7: eight of these books are to be from the Challenge booklists, available on our website and four of their own choice and these can include class novels and research texts.
- Years 8 and 9: students read four books from the Challenge lists and eight of their own choice and these can include prescribed texts, research texts and any other texts from their research or studies.
- Years 10 to 12: students read twelve books of their own choice, and these can include prescribed texts, research texts and any other texts from their research or studies.

Student reading records are available from your child’s teacher, from the school contact person, who is usually someone in the school library (ask your child’s teacher) or download from the website.

Your son/daughter can also Rate a Read, by reviewing the books that they are reading and send this in to us. A winner wins a book prize every month and their first name and school are posted on our website. Also, we have a student blog section for both primary and secondary students to post and share thoughts about the Challenge and books that they are reading – encourage your son/daughter to have a go.

You can see what other students are reading, by looking on the checklist at the Top 10 Likes for each reading level.

We have updated the website to address: students, teachers and staff and the families page. Check it out for some great ideas.

Don’t forget the GreatStart website, developed to support families with ideas and activities to help make the most of everyday learning and events, especially important in the first five years of their life:

“We know families are busy so we have ideas for activities that you are already doing, ideas that may be new and will only take a few minutes and others that will take longer. We have also included extra information for you if you want to learn more about the literacy and numeracy that your child will be developing and how this will link to learning in later life.”
DASLD Support Group
(Dyslexia and Specific Learning Difficulties)

WORKSHOP
Thursday 12th March 2015
9.30am to 1.30pm

The Dys’s
Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dysgraphia

- Understanding them
- How they affect student’s functioning at school
- How to make life at school more positive for students who have these learning needs

*Highly suitable for both high & primary school staff, teachers, SSO’s, parents, leaders & students themselves*

Presenter

Bill Hansberry — of Hansberry Educational Consulting, respected South Australian educator and author, born and raised in Kapunda!. Check out his website: www.hansberryec.com.au

Where: St John’s Lutheran School, 8 Ward Street, Eudunda
(Please park in the church carpark opposite the school)

Cost: $15 cash on the day (includes morning tea)

Registration/info: Chantal Diener 0411 527 385
Nat Nolan 0408 294 925
Shedmen

The next Shedmen will be held on Friday 20th February 2015 from 6.00pm at the Eudunda Heritage Gallery. The BBQ will be at the back of the shed. Entry will be from Barwell Street. Marcus Reseigh will share some stories. BYO chairs, drinks and $7.00 for tucker.

Eudunda Parish AGM will be held on Sunday 22nd February commencing at 1.30pm in St John’s Lutheran Church, Eudunda.

Church Times

Sunday 22nd February.....
Teach your kids to SHRUG!

The secret to having resilient, confident and optimistic children is to teach your kids to shrug!

It was so irritating, yet so effective.

I’m talking about my boyhood mate Terry’s habit of shrugging his shoulders whenever anyone teased him or tried to persuade him to their way of thinking.

‘Hey Terry, you’re a “$&@’
Shrug.
‘Hey Terry, everyone says you…….”$&@!’
Shrug.
‘Hey Terry, I’m going to tell on you!’
Shrug.

His nonchalance used to drive everyone nuts!

So much so that he was rarely targeted for teasing despite the fact that he wasn’t sporty. He wasn’t cool and he was late maturing – all of which back then, as now, would put a boy in the ‘to be picked on’ category.

I thought of Terry recently when I was coaching a young person about how to respond to some schoolyard taunts.

This young person wore his heart on his sleeve, taking taunts and even witticisms too seriously for his own good. Unfortunately, some of his so-called mates used to enjoy seeing him become angry.

The best way to break this toxic cycle of taunt-react-taunt was for him to change his reaction.

So we did some coaching in the art of shrugging and before long my young charge was shrugging his shoulders, as if to say ‘Whatever’, and walking away at the first sign of a taunt.

Eventually he was channelling Terry so well that his nonchalance even began to irritate me.

Some things can’t be ignored
Don’t get me wrong. Kids cannot and should not ignore all negative comments directed at them.

There are times when they need to stand up and be counted. They don’t need to be aggressive about it, but they do need to be assertive from time to time. Sticking up for a friend, rescuing someone who is being taunted or even looking out for a sibling’s best interests at school are times when children need to assert themselves rather than shrugging off a problem.

Kids practise on their siblings
Socially savvy kids know that some of the negative peer comments directed at them need to be ignored. However, this is quite a skill.

Ignoring comments and choosing your arguments is something many kids learn in their battles with siblings.

Those noisy sibling skirmishes that annoy the hell out of parents actually toughen kids up for the less-than-pleasant social interactions that take place in the schoolyard.

Interestingly, my boyhood mate Terry was the youngest of four brothers. I guess he would have perfected the art of shrugging out of sheer necessity.

So, if you have a sensitive child who wears his or her heart on their sleeve, or a child who reacts impulsively to both taunts and witticisms alike, you may wish to introduce the art of shrugging into their repertoire of responses.

How to create a good shrug
Kids can practise shrugging in front of the mirror so that they can see what a good shrug looks like. There are 4 ingredients:

1. A ‘Whatever’ look.
2. A shrug of the shoulders.
3. A simple, non-combative, non-sarcastic line such as ‘You may be right’, ‘Whatever’ or ‘I hadn’t thought of that’.
4. A final breaking of eye contact that indicates that they are in control.

A word of warning
If you teach your kids to shrug, you need to be prepared for them to use this shrugging technique against you when you direct some criticism or constructive feedback their way. If they do, you’ll find out how damn infuriating nonchalance (even when it’s fake) can be.

Oh, and you’ll be seeing a child or young person who is exercising a degree of personal power that, when used smartly, will increase their overall social effectiveness.