Whole Lot of Love

Last Friday was a big day for love – or so we are meant to believe. Celebrating Valentine’s Day seems to be part of many people’s diaries each year. And isn’t it great that we can take time to appreciate those we love and find special ways to let them know how we feel.

How would it be if we spent every day making sure those we love knew it and felt it? Imagine if we spent our whole lives with a focus on giving words of encouragement, performing acts of service and kindness and showing our appreciation to the people in our lives. Imagine the difference this could make to lives. Wouldn’t the world be a better place if we showed a heart of love and service to others all the time?

We’ll never be able to love perfectly but when we really want to know about love that is perfect – humble, giving, not self-seeking, - we only need to look to Jesus. His whole life was not about him. Instead, he gave up all he had and became a servant. His whole life was one of love and service for us, taking care of our greatest need - our need for forgiveness. His life showed us how we can truly love all others - not just those special to us.

When Jesus says in John 13:34 ‘A new command I give you: Love one another,’ he isn’t asking us to send flowers and chocolates everyday, but rather spend our lives focusing on serving others.

Every day we have the gift of love to share with others through our words and actions. Every day we can make a difference in the lives of people we meet. I pray God strengthens us for this task.

Friday Chapels
Families and friends are always welcome to join us at our weekly Friday chapel services. They are held at 9:00am in our hall. Following chapel, you are able to join in with Coffee and Chat in the library, which is a great way to meet other school families.

This Friday at chapel, we will acknowledge our Class Carers with a time of blessing. The following Friday, 28th February, our Year 2 students will each be presented with the gift of a bible. This gift is from the school and the St Mark’s Church Ladies Fellowship.

School Camps
Next week we have two of our year levels participating in camps. Our Year 3 students will travel to Aldinga and be involved in their camp with a history focus on the importance of Country and Place to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our Year 6 students will be traveling to Murray Bridge and be attending the Murraylands Aquatic Centre.

Our Community Fete
Last Thursday evening, an enthusiastic group of parents met to continue planning for our fete on Saturday 5th April. Great progress was made as we made preparations.

Tomorrow we will provide a further information update which will also include requests for help. Please look out for this and then reply to show your support for our fete.

Parents and Friends AGM
I would like to highlight and remind you that our P and F meeting will be held on Thursday evening from 7:00pm in the library. The meeting is open to all parents and friends. Come along and be involved in the life of the school.

Welcome
This week we welcome Sam H to our staff. Sam has been appointed as a School Support Officer.

James H
Principal
School Fees
The fee statement for Term 1 fees were sent home last week. Fees are due Tuesday 25th February (unless you have a prior arrangement with the school). Your attention to this matter is appreciated.

LIBRARY
Book Club
Order forms and payment are due in to the office (or class trays) by Wednesday 19th February. The order will be placed online and usually takes about a week to arrive.

Book Covering
If you are able to cover some library books, you are more than welcome to pick up a bag from the Library and take them home to cover (covering supplied).

Louise P
Teacher/Librarian

Parent’s & Friends News
Annual General Meeting – This Thursday, 7pm - Library
The first P&F meeting of the year is always one of the most exciting! It is when our group of dedicated helpers welcome some new faces – and this is something that we really look forward to. At the end of each year we lose a few committee members as their children head off to high school. In order for the P&F to be successful, we need to recruit some new members at the start of the year. As easy as it may sound, often it is quite difficult. I have spent some time researching what encourages a person to volunteer or join a parent committee and also what discourages them. A common thought is that we may not put our hand up to help because surely there are other people out there who have more time. Or it may be rather daunting to come along to a meeting where you don’t know anyone and perhaps don’t feel as though you have anything worthwhile to contribute. You may have these beliefs yourself – which is why you aren’t planning on coming along on Thursday night. For those who have been part of the St Mark’s community for some time, you would have seen the P&F group at many events – working hard, but also having fun. Each person on the Committee is very busy with family (some have four children), work, sport and other committees. Yet they manage to find a way to contribute – whether it be by attending meetings, to offer ideas/support, corresponding via email to help out where possible, volunteering at events when needed etc. And if not knowing anyone is of concern – well, what better way to meet new people than to come along! Some of my closest friends are fellow P&F members who I met at our meetings. So I really encourage you to come along, find out how you are able to help out and make some new friends.

Stepping Down, but Staying ☺
Thank you to those that have contacted me about stepping down as Chairperson in 2014 – I really appreciate your comments. I have been Chairperson for the past three years and have had the pleasure of leading a fantastic group of dedicated parents. I have learnt something from every person on the committee and am always in awe at how much they put in. The fundraising achievements of the group have enabled the school to provide better facilities to our children. The P&F have also run many events which create a real sense of community for both parents and students. I’m grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of this, and it is something which I find very rewarding. However, as much as I love bossing everyone around (when they let me), I feel that it would be a good time to hand the reins over to someone else while the group is as strong as ever. Over the next few months, the business I run with my husband David will undergo a lot of changes which will take up not only a lot of time, but a lot of ‘me’. Knowing this, I decided to lighten some of my responsibilities. However, I intend to remain on the P&F Committee and help out whenever needed. So if you are planning on putting your hand up for one of the positions on the committee, rest assured that there are plenty of people around to support you.

Sam J – Chairperson 2013

CANTEEN
Please note that the 375ml banana flavoured milk on your canteen list is no longer available. The banana Up & Go 250ml is still available to order. A reminder that if your child is absent on the Tuesday and you have a canteen order, you will need to directly email ymitchell@cornerstone.sa.edu.au by 10am on Tuesday advising of the absence. Your child’s order will then be delivered the following week. If you do not email by 10am, unfortunately your child’s order will be forfeited.

LOST
A child’s silver chain and cross has been lost belonging to Jordan H (1M) class. If found, could you please return it to Miss Minge’s class - thank you.

Coming Up
• Year 6 Excursion to Parliament House - Thursday 20th February
• Parents & Friends AGM - Thursday 20th February
• Chapel (5A)/Class Carer Installation - Friday 21st February
• Year 6 Aquatics & Adventure Camp - Monday 24th – Wednesday 26th February
• Year 3 Aldinga Camp - Monday 24th – Wednesday 26th February
• School Council Meeting - Tuesday 25th February

For Your Information
• Australian Red Cross Blood Service Donornobile - Mt Barker Bowling Club on Tuesday 4th March 12.30-8pm, Wednesday 5th March 12noon-8pm, Thursday 6th March 12noon-8pm, Friday 7th March 8am-2.30pm
• ROCKIT Performing Arts - various activities available including holiday activities (Echunga, Nairne, Verdun and Aldgate) for children aged 2.5-18 years - see flyer on noticeboard for further information
• Adelaide Hills Hockey Club - Hockey Come ‘n’ Try Day (+ Registration) Sunday 2nd March @ Cornerstone College, 4.00pm. Players wanted: under 9s, under 11s, under 13s, under 15s, boys and girls. More information ring 0428 849 753 or email hillshornets@gmail.com
THURSDAY
20TH FEBRUARY
AT 7.00PM
(LIBRARY)

All parents and friends of St Mark’s Lutheran School are invited and encouraged to attend the P&F Annual General Meeting.

It would be great to see more people involved and we encourage you to consider what support you can give.

The P&F are looking forward to a strong and positive year. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

YEAR 7, 2016

All Year 5, 2014 parents should have received an invitation to attend an Enrolment Information Evening on either Tuesday 18 February or Thursday 20 February at 6.30pm. If you are intending to send your student to Cornerstone College and have not received an invitation, please contact Helen Charles on 8398 6009.

Keen to play in a local chess club?
Eager to learn and improve your chess skills?

Learn the way Europe is taught using the 6 step plan
Join us every Wednesday morning 8am for chess class in the library
Only $4 per student per class.
Never been to the St Mark’s chess club before?
Come and try and have the first two classes free!
To register or for more information contact me, David Koetsier on 0433 093 990 or via chesslife@bigpond.com and www.chesslife.com.au
St Mark's Lutheran School Fete

Come and enjoy being part of
Our Community

Saturday April 5th
10am to 3pm
37 Hampden Rd.
Mount Barker

5 hours of activities!

Rides - Food Stalls (11am-2pm) - Lego Exhibition
Activities & Much More!