



Hearts and Minds

Newsletter of Encounter Lutheran College



Dear Parents/ Carers

If variety is the spice of life, then my role as Principal of Encounter is the most fragrant, mouth-watering and exotic thing you can imagine. Does that make any of you want to be a school leader?

Although there are mundane, complex, time-consuming and heart-wrenching aspects to my role, the reason I keep coming back for more each day and each year is the sheer diversity and unpredictability of what I do. Just in the weeks either side of writing this message I've spent time backstage at Wakakiri, attending our Dance Showcase, visiting a future camp venue in the Flinders Ranges, taking a training run for the Jamieson Ultra, dressing up for Book Week, driving the bus for Year 4 camp, mentoring a group of Year 6 Exhibition students and celebrating the achievements of my Year 9 Community Project group. WOW!

Although one day can easily drift into another when we find ourselves mid-term, I encourage you to pause and ponder what everyday blessings you may have missed in your daily life at work or at home. Each day truly is a gift from God and I hope you are able to count your blessings, especially as the days get longer, warmer and ready us for the summery months ahead.

I offer an ongoing thanks to all of you for continuing to support our efforts in a COVID-impacted environment and know our shared efforts will enable our students to continue thriving as they are.

Blessings to you for the week ahead,

Kelvin

What's On!

Week 6 Term 3

Monday 23rd August

- BOOK WEEK!

Monday 23rd-25th August

- Year 4 Woodhouse Camp

Tuesday 24th August

- SAPSASA Southern Fleurieu Athletics Carnival

Wednesday 25th August

- River Journey Program - Year 7-11

Thursday 26th August

- Foundation Excursion to VH Library

Friday 27th August

- BOOK WEEK DRESS UP DAY - Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds
- Year 10 SSSA SVF Basketball

Week 7 Term 3

Monday 30th August

- SSSA Open Boys & Girls Basketball

Wednesday 1st September

- Year 6 Exhibition

Wednesday 1st-2nd September

- Year 2 Camp - Nanu Farm

Thursday 2nd September

- Jamieson Ultra
- SATAC School Information Session
- P+F Fathers Day Stall

Friday 3rd September

- STUDENT FREE DAY



thrive



connect



belong

From the Head of Junior School

Dear Parents and Carers,

As many of you may know, the Junior School team has had a very intentional focus on Spelling over the last 18-24 months. After considering the research, talking to other educators and investigating a range of models and approaches, we made the conscious decision to adopt a 'synthetic phonics approach, leaning heavily on the Jolly Phonics program. (A synthetic phonics approach simply means helping children to break up words, or 'decode' them, into individual sounds and then blend the sounds until the word can be read.) We chose Jolly Phonics/Grammar because of its child-centred approach and the multi-sensory way of helping students move concepts from their short-term memories into their long-term memories.



It has been wonderful watching the progress our students have made and the confidence in which children as young as 5 years of age explain such things as phonemes and graphemes to others.

Naturally, improvement in the teaching of Spelling led to questions about how we can teach children to write even better too; to help our students craft their ideas and weave storylines together with rich and varied vocabulary. This year, with our approach to spelling now consistent across the year levels, our focus has moved to writing. We engaged Amanda Barram (from Lisa Burman Consulting) to work with us on how to better teach writing. Amanda has worked with staff on College PD days, in classrooms with our students, during staff meetings and through coaching and observations and amazing things have begun to happen. As well as students being encouraged to see themselves as writers, teachers too, have been encouraged to do likewise. We observed first hand and in powerful ways when children see themselves as writers, they are more likely to want to write. You may notice too that there is an absence of teacher corrections over children's writing. As Lisa Burman states: "If everything you write is corrected, the focus becomes correct spelling, not creative and critical thinking. It often shuts down the bigger intellectual thinking and young writers become 'safe writers' - they only choose the words they can spell rather than the rich word choice devices they have been taught".

Please don't mistake a lack of 'markings on the page' as a lack of assessment. Teachers are keeping careful records learners are achieving and what to teach next and in fact can individually cater more effectively for the range of needs that exist in the classroom.

The 'Writers Workshop' is an internationally recognised approach to literacy with the benefits extending to children seeing themselves as writers, better understanding how various texts work, developing critical and creative thinking skills, improving their oral language and building healthy dispositions towards reading and writing. Our students have loved their 'Writers Workshop' sessions and their writing is certainly reflecting this enthusiasm. Please feel free to ask your child about their writing and keep an ear out for talk at home about Writers Workshop, book making and literary devices your child is using to better engage their audience.



LET GO AND LET GOD

Staff Devotion By Lucy Cameron

How do we let go and let God?

Paul says to “throw off everything that hinders us and the sin that so easily entangles us” (Hebrews 12.1 NIV). Every day we have a chance to renew our minds in Christ. This allows Him to take all that hinders us so we can run “the race marked for us.”

These hinders become sin that trips us up and slows us down. Giving it to God may seem scary at first, but our surrender will bring us freedom.

Runners know that to run with perseverance they have to let go of everything. Some will even shave the hair on their entire body because a slick, clean surface makes all the difference.

Every day we must choose to let go of what's behind, so we have a smooth surface surrendered to God. When we let go, we give God a clean slate to do His mighty work in our lives.

Giving it to God simply means to put your complete faith in God to work things out for your good and to know that, ultimately, it is His will and not your own, that determines the outcome.

Letting go and letting God is a daily, moment-by-moment choice. Like every discipline in life, we must learn to surrender and give it to God.

Let go and let God have control. Let go and let God have your worry and fears. Let go and let God have your finances. Let go and let God have your future.

You can begin letting go and letting God do what only He can do by:

Start each day by giving it to God

Give it to God by starting each day with prayer

Give it to God by starting each day with Scripture

Give it to God by surrounding yourself with encouragement

Give it to God by renewing your mind continually

BE STILL. LET GO AND LET GOD. Psalm 46:10

Lucy

Year 9 Community Project

A big congratulations to the Year 9 IB MYP Community Project students who presented their work through the Exhibition on Wednesday to the College Community.

The work they have researched and presented will inspire future passions and develop skills beyond the classroom!



Encounter Basketball

A huge day on Thursday for our Year 6 & 7 SAPSASA Basketball teams. We had all 3 teams (7 boys, 7 girls, 6 boys) win their way through to the State Finals undefeated. An amazing bunch of athletes! We're super proud of them!



Encounter Surfing

A massive week for our Encounter Surfers who took home a number of awards from this year!

On Monday, Encounter won the State Tag Team Surf competition and the State Under 16 Division, a fantastic effort by all on the day.

Presentations were also held for the All Star surfers. All Star surfers were individual awards for those who had accumulated the best scores across the year. In Under 16, Encounter took out the TOP 3 positions with **Indi Debono**, **Leo Torok** and **Fraser Gordon**. Additionally Indi finished in the Top 3 for the Open All Stars as well.

Amazing effort by all involved, congratulations on a great year!



The Emerald City Dance Showcase

For those who were lucky enough to join us on Tuesday evening would have witnessed just how fantastic our Encounter Lutheran College Dance students are.

We saw performances from our Junior Jivers, Senior Jivers, Middle & Senior Dancers as well as our Development and Specialist Dancers.

Well done to all involved!



Science Week fun!

This week the Seedlings have been celebrating Science Week by exploring the behaviours of materials. For each experiment they made predictions first and then tested their ideas. Also during the week, students participated in quizzes and activities in the Nest which involved building and experimenting with catapults!





Book week 2021!

Students are encouraged to dress-up as a character from their favourite book or something to do with this year's theme

'Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds'



Community Notice Board



**LJ & DELLY SAY
JUMP
INTO
IT!**

**AUSSIE
HOOPS**

REGISTER NOW AT AUSSIEHOOPS.COM.AU

Victor Harbor Tennis Club

Come 'n Try day

Monday, 23 August 2021 from 4pm
for all new, potential and current players

Junior Trials

will be run over 3 weeks on the following dates:
Monday 23/08/2021 from 4pm
Monday 30/08/2021 from 4pm
Monday 06/09/2021 from 4pm

No matter what your skill level, VHTC offers a way to stay fit, make friends and be part of a family oriented club.

ALL PLAYERS WELCOME!

For more information
send us an email to vhtennisclub01@gmail.com
or contact Maryka on 0488 275 966

SALA Schools Art Show 2021



Victor Harbor High School, 3 George Main Road, Victor Harbor
August 20th - 22nd Opening Hours: 20th 9am - 3pm, 21st & 22nd 11am - 3pm

