



Hearts and Minds

Newsletter for Encounter Lutheran College



We were fortunate to see friends from Melbourne last weekend, who shared their relief in having their first normal term of school since the end of 2019. In contrast, having almost dodged many of the everyday impact of COVID for the past two years in schools (certainly in comparison with our Victorian neighbours), we have well and truly copped it between the eyes to kickstart 2022.

With an interrupted start, increased COVID cases, the frustration of 7 day periods of isolation, parents not being able to engage in daily school life, College events postponed and masks still being the order of the day, it has been far from ideal in so many ways.

Having said all of that, there have still been joys, blessings and wonderful memories from the past eleven weeks. New teachers and class mates, fresh subjects and opportunities to engage, grow resilience and thrive.

I think everyone at Encounter is deserving of a break right now. However, just as our students have had time to reflect while walking our new prayer labyrinth in recent days, I hope your families can find the time to ponder the blessings of recent weeks and look forward to a brighter Term 2.

Have a blessed Easter and a restful autumn break.

Kelvin

What's On!

Term 1 Week 11
Thursday 14th April
- **STUDENT FREE DAY**

- Parent Teacher Interviews starting 8.30am

Term 2 Week 1
Sunday 1st - 6th May

- Year 9 Heysen/Flinders Camp Commences

Monday 2nd May
- Term 2 Commences

Tuesday 3rd May
- Author Visit: Rosanne Hawke

Wednesday 4th May
- Early Learning Mothers Day Morning Tea
- Fleurieu Cross Country 10-12

Friday 6th May
- P&F MOTHERS DAY STALL



thrive



connect



belong

FROM THE HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

Many of you would have easily picked up by now, how important 'teaching out' is at Encounter. Indeed, it may even be one of the more compelling reasons some of you enrolled your child at our College.

It has been wonderful seeing the impact our newly appointed Outdoor Learning Coordinator (Leah Reid) has already made on the teaching and learning program in the Junior School in what has been quite a disjointed term. It has been such a great investment in your child's education.

Why the appointment of an Outdoor Learning Coordinator?

Did you know that according to lead author and PhD candidate Tassia Oswald of the University of Adelaide, the typical Australian child averages about seven-and-a-half hours per day of screen time? Wow! The concern about children spending too much time indoors on screens has become so extreme that Richard Louv, child advocacy expert (and author of 'Last Child in the Woods'), has named the crisis 'nature deficit disorder'. His concern is that our children just aren't getting outside and therefore not getting the benefits that learning in an outdoor environment provides.

What emerging research in this space shows us, is that children who spend time outside achieve more academically, have greater well-being are more attentive and less anxious than children who spend their time inside.

So what does 'teaching out' look like across the Junior School?

Our youngest learners have been going for walks in nature while identifying items they can see starting with their focus sounds. Small groups practise their digital recording techniques by taking turns to photograph items on their iPads and collating them into class collages beginning with their focus sound. They have also been learning to write sounds using natural materials as well as practising letter formations by tracing the letters in the sand or dirt. They have been exploring our links with First Nations people and learning about local dreaming stories as well as developing an ever expanding vocabulary to vividly describe the characteristics of our special location, or textures and colours of objects. They have been exploring their favourite elements of God's creation and locating and describing the incredible patterns found in nature. Students have observed seasonal changes and become more attuned to their ever-changing surroundings.

Our older students have been looking at standard and non-standard units of measurement, symmetry in nature, fractions in the environment, and temperature in different parts of the school. They have been refining their use of adjectives and peppered their writing with their ever-expanding rich vocabulary. They have been involved in orienteering, planting, building. They have learnt about the behaviour of heat and the role of oxygen and natural fuel sources through the creation of fire. They have been creating fantastical art using the patterns, shapes and designs of natural materials in the Block.

Don't you just wish school was this fun when we were all at school? Is it any wonder engagement is improved when students can develop their creativity and imagination in such meaningful ways? Learning outside the classroom provides different stimulation. All senses are activated. Louv warns that time spent indoors leads to a narrowing of sensory experience, time outdoors does just the opposite. It promotes inquiry. Nature creates a unique sense of wonder that leads to more questions. It reduces stress and fatigue.

We hope that over the holiday period, you will carve out some time to get your children outside. The benefits speak for themselves.

Tori





Staff Devotion | Leah Pilla

Last week, during our morning drive to school, my son Leo asked me,

"Mum, do you know why you sometimes fall off your bike?". I told him I did not. Leo replied, "It is because of God." Puzzled, I asked Leo to explain why he thought God was responsible for people falling off their bikes. With the air of someone stating the obvious, Leo explained, "it is because God has the whole world, like the whole universe in his hands. He just holds it right in his hand and in the other hand he holds heaven. That is just how big he is Mum, the whole universe!" Amused, I reflected on a seven-year-old boy's thoughts about the vastness of God and God's relationship to the universe.

I have the privilege of teaching other children my son's age and I get many opportunities to be part of their wonderings about God and the universe. It is truly a wonderful thing of which to be part. To listen and watch, as they grapple with their fledgling understandings about God's identity and who we are in relation to Him.

At this time of year, classrooms across Christian schools are learning about Easter. I always enjoy being part of the interest and amazement children show when learning about this special event in the Church year. I usually get students to write and retell the events leading up to Easter.

A few years ago, I remember reading 'Holly', a cheerful and bubbly student, account of The Last Supper. She wrote "and then Jesus invited all of his best friends over for a tea party, and they drank tea and ate cake and had a big party with balloons".

As we begin our Easter celebrations this weekend, I invite you all to embrace your faith through a child's eyes. They may not yet have all the facts yet and are still trying to develop an understanding about how this is all possible, but I can guarantee it will make you reflect on how truly magical God's love is.

(Even if sometimes we fall or trip because God has lost his balance).

Leah



ENCOUNTER
PARENTS & FRIENDS

WHATEVER YOUR SKILL
WE NEED YOU!
1 HOUR, 1 DAY...
WHATEVER YOU CAN DO.
WE'D LOVE YOU TO JOIN
THE P&F CREW!

TO BECOME A MEMBER
OR VOLUNTEER

CONTACT
LAUREN.MCKEE@ENCOUNTER.SA.EDU.AU



P+F Update

It was fantastic to see so many new faces at the AGM and we look forward to working with you all on some exciting fundraisers this year. If you were not able to make the meeting and would like to be involved, either as an involved member, class representative or casual volunteer, please contact lauren.mckee@encounter.sa.edu.au or chat with any of the committee members. Many hands make light work, and that is the focus for this year with the hope that the P&F can become bigger and better.

We will also be reintroducing the Business Directory! If you are a school family and have a business, we'd love to hear from you. encounterlutherancollegepandf@gmail.com

Don't forget our ongoing fundraiser - The Entertainment Book - purchase here <https://au.entdigital.net/orderbooks/16682d7>



ENCOUNTER
PARENTS & FRIENDS

Mother's Day Stall

Friday 06 May
8.30am - 11.30am
Junior School Art room

GIFTS FROM \$5-\$10 - CASH/EFT
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FROM THE NEST



News from the Nest

The Annual Encounter Nest Quest was held on Thursday 7th April with this year's theme focussed around the UN International Year of Artisanal Fishery (sustainable/small fishing).

Students from Foundation to Year 12 represented their Houses and took part in quizzes, dress-ups and a catwalk. Delicious food was catered for by our wonderful Food and Hospitality students.



We encourage all students to use library bags – many of our books are returned damaged, wet, sticky or dirty.

Please help look after our library resources by placing books in library bags.

MakerSpace

The 'MakerSpace' program coordinated by Brenton Rowland during the lunch break in the Nest continues to be popular with students from various year levels in Junior and Middle School attending. Participants experiment with robotics, coding, electronics and model building. All students are welcome to attend at any lunch time.



COLLEGE NEWS

Encounter Lutheran College Phone App

Download the free Encounter App onto your smartphone or tablet for the latest College information and alerts at your fingertips. Keep up to date with the important alerts via push notifications, calendar dates, newsletters, and notify us with an absentee, plus other relevant links. Now available to download from the Apple Store or Google Play.



Connect with Ecnounter

Keep up to date with the latest news and information from Encounter Lutheran College by connecting with us via the following online platforms:

Facebook: Like and Follow our Facebook page at @encounterlutheran (www.facebook.com/encounterlutheran)

Instagram: Follow us on Instagram at @encounterlutherancollege (www.instagram.com/encounterlutherancollege)

NEST Instagram: Be sure to follow @encounterthenest Instagram page for new books and magazine releases, events, book clubs and more!

LinkedIn: Follow us on our LinkedIn page and connect with us a past student or staff member at: www.linkedin.com/school/encounter-lutheran-college.

Student Highlight

Charlie Ellis had great success at the SALA State Individual Championships held at SANTOS on 3rd/4th April. Winning two gold medals in the 1500m and 800m and for the first time competing in a 400m at championship level, won a silver medal.

Congratulations Charlie!



Japanese word of the week!

To connect our families to the Japanese curriculum at the College we are introducing a Japanese word of the week!

This weeks word is from our Junior School Japanese teacher Jess Andrews:

ありがとうございます pronounced a-ri-ga-to go-za-i-ma-su. This the Japanese for 'Thank You,' it is a great word to learn because politeness is very important in Japanese culture!

COLLEGE NEWS



Uniform Update

As we continue to receive stock of the new uniform, we endeavour to update our College community as new items of uniform become available.

Latest Updates:

- Boys shirt now available
- Jackets due week 3

Our uniform is now trans seasonal, no more summer and winter terms, students may wear pants/shorts/dress/skirts all year round. The exception is Senior School- Years 10-12, Ties and Blazers must be worn in terms 2 & 3 in (Blazers must always be worn to and from the College)

Sport and Formal uniform cannot be mixed and matched except for the Puffer vest and new Encounter Jacket (Jacket is due week 3 of term 2). Our new shirts are designed to be worn untucked, but students may tuck in if they choose. The old blue shirts must be tucked in.

College Shop will be open from 9-3 Friday 29th April

Any questions please email collegeshop@encounter.sa.edu.au



SAPSASA Swimming

The Encounter Year 4-6 team had a fantastic day at the Strathalbyn Swimming Pool competing in the SAPSASA Southern Fleurieu Swimming Championships a few weeks ago against local schools in our zone.

Well done to all the students involved on your amazing swimming efforts and team spirit. Congratulations to Quinn Nightingale, Charlotte Barry and Brayden McKiernan on their selection in the 50m Freestyle Relays for their age groups as well as Mitchell Andrews on placing first in 50m Breaststroke, 100m Freestyle and 50m Relay selection for 12 year old boys. These students will represent the Southern District Zone in State Swimming Championships early in Term 2.



COMMUNITY NEWS

A self guided Stations of the Cross Prayer Walk

At the new Encounter Prayer Labyrinth

Open Good Friday 2-5pm

Encounter Lutheran College - 64 Adelaide Road, Victor Harbor.
Enter via the main driveway.

Follow the signs to the Labyrinth. Enquiries: 0490 889 108

Bring: walking shoes, hat (optional: phone and headphones)



Sponsored by:



This Easter weekend come and celebrate how we are:

'Built by Jesus'

through his life, death and resurrection.

@ Victor Harbor Lutheran Church
21a Adelaide Rd, Victor Harbor

Maundy Thursday - 14 April - 7.30pm
The Life of Jesus

Good Friday - 15 April - 9.30am
The Death of Jesus

Easter Day - 17 April - 9.30am
The Resurrection of Jesus

(These Services will be livestreamed on the @VictorLutheran Facebook page and You tube channel)

Extra activities:

Good Friday - 15 April - Stations of the cross prayer walk
A self-guided 'labyrinth style' walk. **Open 2-5pm**
@ Encounter Lutheran College
64 Adelaide Rd, Victor Harbor

Easter Day - 17 April - Ecumenical sunrise service
6.30am @ Kent Reserve, Encounter Bay

Easter Day - 17 April - Evening service
7.00pm @ Yankalilla Lutheran Fellowship,
Sanders Hall - 121 Main South Rd, Yankalilla

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