

Hearts and Minds

Newsletter for Encounter Lutheran College

Welcome to 2024

KELVIN GRIVELL | PRINCIPAL

I hope you all had a restful and delightful summer break, albeit with the Fleurieu not quite consistently delivering on the warm weather we may have been expecting. Perhaps February will be when the season goes out with a bang.

It's been wonderful welcoming students back to school this week, with many new faces amongst staff and students an extra special part of the last few days.

As you may have read in my letter last week, there is certainly a great deal worth sharing and celebrating as we commence a new year together. Apart from the road being constructed in Wurur Ruwi, I mentioned the two new buildings that have taken shape in recent months. Last week I mentioned the new Middle & Senior School space in Wurur Ruwi, which has been named *The Wilderness Centre*. To give you some context, a wilderness area is where flora and fauna are thriving and relatively undisturbed and that is what we desire for all that lies within view and reach of our soon-to-be Wilderness Centre. The name is intentionally aspirational, as it seeks to be something far more than what it is currently. We have an opportunity to acknowledge God's Creation, to inspire our students and to be an example to our community to allow this space to become a place surrounded by and amongst wilderness. In the future our hope is for Wurur Ruwi to be a rich learning environment, a dynamic habitat, a space for play and exploration and a reminder of what is possible when we make our planet a priority. Our intention is for the Wilderness Centre to foster creativity, encourage contemporary teaching practices and for us to seek meaningful moments to step



CONTINUED ➔

What's On!

TERM 1 | WEEK 2

Tuesday 6 February

- Year 11 MFS Road Awareness Program
- Junior School Parent Information Evening, 6.00pm

Wednesday 7 February

- Middle & Senior School Parent Information Evening, 6.00pm

Friday 9 February

- Junior School Shine returns, 8.55am (Kondole)
- Middle & Senior School Shine returns, 10.45am (Kondole)

TERM 1 | WEEK 3

Monday 12 February

- Parents & Friends AGM, 7.00pm (Staff Lounge)

Tuesday 13 February

- Shrove Tuesday Community Breakfast, 8.00am-8.45am (outside The Nest)

Friday 16 February

- First House Meeting (All students wear House/PE Uniform)

TERM 1 | WEEK 4

Friday 23 February

- Night on the Green, 4.00pm-8.00pm (top oval precinct)

More at: www.encounter.sa.edu.au/calendar

FROM THE PRINCIPAL (CONTINUED)

outdoors and enrich learning and wellbeing. We also hope it will be a place where we can engage with community and invite them into the Encounter Family. The Wilderness Centre and all of Wurur Ruwi is a gift to be shared and a living legacy for all of us to embrace.

Turning our attention to Adelaide Road, our new Early Learning Centre will be known as *The Lighthouse*.

Importantly, a lighthouse serves as a beacon, a clear landmark, and something that provides safe passage for travel from one place to another. Lighthouses hold prominent positions and Encounter also finds itself at the entrance to Victor Harbor and has the opportunity to declare itself as a safe haven, a destination and a point of reference. I believe all of those messages resonate with who we are and what we want to be for our youngest learners at Encounter, as well as our broader community.

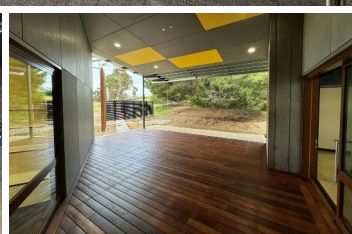
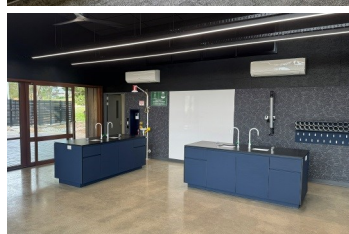
In the Bible, John 8:12 declares *'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'*. As the first point of contact for many of our students and their families, I think it's critical for people to know our foundation of faith and that we seek to provide light and God's love for the lives of everyone who enters into a relationship with us.

I hope the familiarity and significance of those names grow on you in the days ahead, along with the excitement we have for how those buildings will create opportunities and rich engagement for our learners and our staff. I look forward to inviting families into those spaces so you can get a taste of our excitement too.

Have a blessed week,

Kelvin

Pictured Below: Encounter Staff Worship held in the new amphitheatre of the Wilderness at the end of Staff O Week.



DEVOTION

Finding Peace in Nature

LEAH REID | OUTDOOR ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

School's back for 2024 and the slower pace of holidays will soon become a distant memory, therefore finding peace may prove challenging. It is reassuring to know that there is a sanctuary waiting for us, a place where tranquillity and solace abound—the great outdoors! Nature, with its captivating beauty and serene landscapes, offers a respite from the noise of the world, allowing us to connect with our inner selves and experience a profound sense of peace. How lucky are we to have such wonderful opportunities to engage with nature and find peace within the beautiful Fleurieu Peninsula.

The research is in, and it can't be denied that spending time in nature has overwhelmingly positive benefits for our well-being. The gentle rustle of leaves, the soothing sounds of flowing water, and crisp, fresh air that can rejuvenate our spirits. Scientific studies have shown that immersing ourselves in natural surroundings reduces stress, boosts mental clarity, and enhances overall happiness. It is in nature's embrace that we often find peace that surpasses all expectation.

As we reflect on the marvels of creation, the bible verse Psalm 46:10 reminds us, "Be still, and



know that I am God." This verse encourages us to embrace moments of stillness and contemplation, and what better place to do so than in the embrace of nature? It is important that we all take time to venture outdoors, appreciate the wonders around us, and discover the profound peace that God's creation graciously offers.

May your journeys into nature be a source of inspiration and renewal, allowing you to experience God's peace in the crash of the ocean, the setting sun, sunlit dewy grass or even a gentle breeze.

Leah

Parents & Friends Annual General Meeting

MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY | 7.00PM

All parents to the College are welcome to join us for our first Parents and Friends meeting of the year which will be our AGM to elect the committee for the next 12 months. All positions will become available, with some of our long-serving position holders stepping down.

The meeting will be held on Monday 12th February at 7.00pm in the Staff Lounge (enter via the Student Services entrance). We look forward to you joining us in 2024!

Upcoming Parent Information Evenings

- **JUNIOR SCHOOL PARENT INFORMATION EVENING**
Tuesday 6th February, 6.00pm-7.30pm
Meet in the Kondole for a 6.00pm start.
- **MIDDLE & SENIOR SCHOOL MEET & GREET**
Wednesday 7th February, 6.00pm-7.30pm
Meet in The Plaza area (entry via Student Services) for a 6.00pm start. Sessions at 6.30pm for parents and students will focus on Years 7, Year 9 and Year 12.

MIDDLE & SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

A great start

JON GREAR | HEAD OF MIDDLE & SENIOR SCHOOL

It has been great seeing students returning to school this week. There has definitely been a real buzz in the air as teachers and students get reacquainted with each other. This year we have welcomed a number of new staff into the Middle and Senior School and they have all settled in well and already I have heard a number of comments about how welcome they have felt and how excited they are to be part of the Encounter community.

Next Wednesday is a wonderful opportunity for parents to meet the new teachers and to get some information about the year ahead. While all parents are most welcome, this year we are particularly focussing on parents of our Year 7's, 9's, and 12's and there will be specific sessions for these groups. These events are important to prioritise as it further strengthens the home/school partnership throughout the secondary years. We look forward to seeing you in the Middle and Senior Plaza area from 6.00pm.

It is probably also worth noting that this has been my first week in my new role as Head of Middle and Senior School at Encounter. While lots of you may know me, I think this is a great opportunity to give you some extra insight into my journey to this new role. My wife Jennifer and I have lived in Victor Harbor for just over 25 years. I actually arrived here as the new Manager of the Commonwealth Bank.



From there I worked locally as a Financial Planner until eventually I went to university for 4 years to become a teacher. This was more than two decades after I first got accepted into teaching and deferred for one year, that eventually become 25 years! I have 3 adult children, Emily, Lucy, and Darcy. Emily actually started in Reception at Encounter back in the College's first year in 2001.

Some other interests of mine include involvement at both the Encounter Bay Football and Cricket clubs. I also have been known to appear in musicals with the South Coast Choral and Arts Society most years, and I am also a member of Adare Uniting Church. I very much feel a part of the local community and after teaching at Encounter over the last 9 years I am so excited to be a part of this amazing Encounter Lutheran College Community and to lead the Middle and Senior School team.

Finally, by the end of Week 1, our students will be using and engaging in learning in our new Wilderness Centre based on Wurur Ruwi (Block 69). The building has the most wonderful outlook over the land, and the learning spaces provide greater scope for interdisciplinary, and experiential learning. Stay tuned for details about an opportunity for parents to visit this Centre in the coming weeks.

I look forward to this opportunity to work with you throughout 2024 and beyond as we partner in your child's schooling journey.



COLLEGE NEWS

New Faces | Introducing our new College Staff



We're delighted to be able to introduce you to our new Encounter staff team members for 2024! We look forward to their contribution to Encounter, and as they get to know our students and families in the coming weeks. Please welcome these new faces to the Encounter family as you come across them!

Back Row: Kylie Pitt (Library Assistant), Belinda Delyster (MSS), Abbey Turner (MSS), Tom Mason (Grounds)

Third Row: Ally Miller (MSS Co-educator), Emma Kraft (MSS Co-educator), Will Weiss (MSS Co-educator)

Second Row: Annie Smith (JS), Tarina Falanga (EL Co-educator), Maddie Trueman (JS)



Front Row: Elizabeth Ibbetson (JS), Vanessa Harvie (Director of Early Learning), Cassie Burrows (MSS), Siobahn Connery (MSS).



Bush Kindy

AT THE BEACH


RETURNS WEDNESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY
HORSESHOE BAY | PORT ELLIOT | 9.00AM



Books Alive!

IN THE BURROW

RETURNS THURSDAY 8TH FEBRUARY
THE NEST | 9.00AM - 9.45AM



COLLEGE NEWS

2024 TERM DATES



TERM 1

- Public Holiday: Monday 11th March 2024
- Good Friday: Friday 29th March 2024
- Easter Monday: Monday 1st April 2024
- Concludes Thursday 11th April 2024
- Parent Teacher Interviews: Friday 12th April

TERM 2

- Commences Monday 29th April 2024
- Public Holiday: Monday 10th June 2024
- Concludes Friday 28th June 2024

TERM 3

- Commences Monday 22nd July 2024
- Concludes Friday 27th September 2024

TERM 4

- Commences Monday 14th October 2024
- Concludes Friday 6th December 2024

2024 College Fridge Calendar

A fridge magnet calendar of key dates has been distributed to the youngest child of each family this week. Check with your children to see if one has arrived home. Additional copies are available to collect from the Front Office or at the College Shop.



College Shop Extended Hours

A reminder that the College Shop has extended opening hours for school uniform sales for the first two weeks of Term 1.

Opening each day, Monday 5th – Friday 9th

- Morning 8.30am – 9.30am**
- Afternoon 2.30pm – 3.30pm**

Regular opening hours resume in Week 3 for

- Monday: 8.30am – 9.30am
- Tuesday & Thursday: 8.30am – 9.30am and 2.30pm – 3.30pm

For your convenience, orders can also be placed via the online College Shop for click & collect (or delivery to students) at

www.encounter.sa.edu.au/college-shop/

Accessing the College Calendar

Parents are able to access the full online live version of the College Calendar by logging into the TASS Parent Lounge via the following link:

tass.encounter.sa.edu.au/parentlounge/

If you have any difficulties with your login, please contact our IT Help Desk via it.help@encounter.sa.edu.au

Junk email reminder

A reminder to check your Spam or Junk email folder. Sometimes emails sent from the College will finish up in these folders. To ensure that you don't miss any important communication, please remember to check these email folders regularly, whitelist or mark any emails from @encounter.sa.edu.au as a safe sender.

COMING EVENTS

Shrove Tuesday Community Breakfast

TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY | 8.00AM-8.45AM

We're excited that our Shrove Tuesday community breakfast will be happening once again this year on Tuesday 13th February beginning at 8.00am outside of The Nest.

We will once again be adding our own twist to the day by serving bacon and egg muffins, with gluten free options (as well as a small amount of pancakes).

We hope to bring the true meaning of the day to light, rather than it simply being known as 'pancake day'. Everyone from our community is welcome, and we hope you can join us for the day as we come together before Lent begins.

Please bring along a gold coin donation to support the children of Ukraine.



For more information about the work of Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS) and their work in Ukraine, visit www.alws.org.au/news-and-stories/ukraine-crisis/



Pancake Day for Ukraine

Did you know that pancakes are a favourite breakfast food in Ukraine?

So, with Shrove Tuesday coming up on 13th February ...pancakes seemed a simple way to remind people that on Tuesday 24 February, it will be two years since the war in Ukraine started.



Lutheran schools across Australia will be holding a "Pancake Day for Ukraine" to support the children of war. In exchange for your pancake or bacon and egg burger, we simply ask for a **gold coin donation**.

Did you know...

- More than 6,500,000 people are displaced inside Ukraine (that's the entire population of Victoria!)
- Almost 8,000,000 Ukrainian people are refugees in Europe
- Another 369,200 people are refugees beyond Europe
- Ukraine is ending a cold winter
- In Kharkiv, the temperature ranges from -1 to -8 degrees.

How we can help...

- **\$548** = Emergency food / shelter / drinking water for a family of 4 for a month
- **\$26** = Drinking water for a month
- **\$32** = Child safe spaces for a month
- **\$52** = Emergency Shelter for a family for a month
- **\$21** = Learning support for a child for a month



COLLEGE NEWS



17,000 Books & Counting!

Special thanks to our quiet achiever in the Nest, Dawn Althorp.

Dawn has volunteered in various roles at Encounter for the last sixteen years when her grandchildren first commenced in Foundation, but in particular, we are so lucky to have Dawn cover all our library books in contact.

Many schools are required to pay a fee per book to have them covered, but Dawn comes in once a week to the Nest to collect our new resources, takes them home to cover, and returns them the following week. Over the summer holidays Dawn covered 365 books! She keeps a tally and it would be close to 17,000 books she has covered for Encounter.

We don't know what we would do without you, Dawn! Thank you for all you do.

Private Music Tuition

Enrolments are now open with our carefully selected, professionally qualified Instrumental Music Tutors at Encounter Lutheran College.

Voice • Violin • Electric Guitar • Acoustic Guitar • Bass Guitar • Ukulele • Piano • Keyboard • AMEB Theory • Drums •



A brochure listing all of the private instrumental tutors that teach at the College can be collected from Student Services. To apply for lesson, or download a copy of the brochure, go to the following link:

www.encounter.sa.edu.au/learning/the-arts/

Talkin' 'bout the CAWASH!

The CAWASH (Come And Work After School Hours) is on again for 2024. 45 minutes from 3.15pm to 4.00pm, Monday to Thursday, gives Middle and Senior School students an opportunity to smash out some work before they go home. A supervised time in room 203 is also an opportunity to ask questions and get help with subject matters and homework. So join us after school while we are "working at the CAWASH, yeah", and if you smash it out, you won't have any homework left to do at home!

Marten Jak

Parent Handbook 2024

A reminder that the 2024 [Parent Handbook](#) is now available for viewing and downloading via the following page on our website:

www.encounter.sa.edu.au/parent-resources/



SPORT NEWS

Development Basketball Program Opportunity

There is an exciting opportunity for any interested students in Year 5 to Year 8 to be involved in School Basketball. The College's Specialist Basketball Program will be running several lunch time 'expression of interest' sessions to establish the Development Program squads for 2024.

The Development Program aims to help students experience and learn foundation movements that are required to better understand how to engage in both individual and team play. These essential movements and skills are initially centred around the individual, including footwork and balance, shooting form, finishing, and ball control.

These sessions will allow coaches to identify newly interested students along with those who would like to continue. Rachel Grant, Mr Alexander Haynes and myself will be running the sessions at lunchtimes across Weeks 2 and 3 of school.

Week 2

- Year 7 & 8 Boys – Tuesday (6th February)
- Year 7 & 8 Girls – Wednesday (7th February)
- Year 5 & 6 Girls – Thursday (8th February)
- Year 5 & 6 Boys – Friday (9th February)

Week 3

- Year 7 & 8 Boys – Tuesday (13th February)
- Year 7 & 8 Girls – Wednesday (14th February)
- Year 5 & 6 Girls – Thursday (15th February)
- Year 5 & 6 Boys – Friday (16th February)

Students are asked to wear their PE uniform and bring their own water bottle.

Students who are successful will be notified by email, this will include further information regarding application forms (for new members), weekly training times, and the accompanying annual fee (\$150).

If you have any questions please contact me on troy.wegener@encounter.sa.edu.au or via phone on (08) 8552 8880.

Troy Wegener

Specialist Basketball Program Coordinator



Student Achievements



Congratulations to Jack Green (Year 8) and Riley Clifford (Year 7) who were both selected to represent SA Country in the recent Australia Country Junior Basketball Cup from 14-20 January in Albury Wodonga.

A great achievement and a wonderful experience! Well done, boys!

Has your child recently competed in a State or National competition, or been recognised by a community organisation or club? Share the news with us and our College community by emailing the details together with a couple of photos to communications@encounter.sa.edu.au

2024 NIGHT ON THE GREEN

FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 4 - 8 PM



ENCOUNTER
LUTHERAN COLLEGE

FUN FOR ALL AGES | EVERYONE WELCOME

Games | Sideshows | Entertainment
Beer & Wine | Stalls | Food Vans

COMMUNITY NEWS



MICROGROMS JUNIOR SURF CLUB
2024 REGISTRATIONS OPEN NOW

Come and try your first comp for free!
5-17 years across 3 grades
Beginner // Intermediate // Advanced

Go to www.microgroms.com for more information
or www.trybooking.com/COJGQ to register

Fleurieu AG FEST IS COMING BACK!

**MONDAY
18
MARCH
2024**

Returning to the Yankalilla Showgrounds to:

- Showcase the ideas and technology being used in agriculture, other primary production, conservation and land management.
- Promote the abundance of diverse career pathways in ag and related industries.
- Provide inspiration to students and build connections for careers, work experience, research projects and subject choices.
- Showcase local and regional produce.

**Calling for
SPONSORS
and
EXHIBITORS!**

All welcome!
Gates open 9:30am to 5pm
with speakers, panels and workshops
throughout the day.

Free community event!
Contact us via business@yankalilla.sa.gov.au
to get involved



Victor Harbor
**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
Welcomes you

Finding it hard to make ends meet?

Oz Harvest Food distribution
@ Lutheran Church Centre
Thursdays 6-6:45pm
Fridays 8:45-9:15am

21a Adelaide Rd Victor Harbor
8552 5380
www.facebook.com/victorlutheran
Pastor Nigel Rosenzweig
nigel.nosenzweig@lca.org.au



**VICTOR
HARBOR**