From the Deputy Principal

This week has seen yet another wonderful opportunity through the Arts for our students by way of the Senior Musical ‘Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat’. It was a privilege to have experienced it at last evening’s performance; you could only but be impressed and taken aback by the talent of our students. The cast performed brilliantly with talent, enthusiasm, enjoyment and maturity – as we have said before all this and they are Primary aged students – extraordinary.

Of course in saying all of this, we need to acknowledge Mr Mark Delaine and staff for the talent, time, and energy that went into preparing the children to the level that was viewed on the evening. Congratulations to all the children and staff who were involved in this event. The students should rightly feel very proud of their achievements last evening.

To quote Mr Mark Delaine “To say I am proud of our students is not enough. They are amazing...”

The Peer Support Programme commenced this term with the Year 5 students working very effectively in pairs as Peer Support Leaders with their group of 6-8 Junior Primary students. For the Year 5 students this has been a chance to develop confidence and leadership skills. The sessions they lead have a focus on social skills development. The sessions are framed at an appropriate level for the Junior Primary students and are annotated with leadership hints and pointers which were provided to the Year 5 leaders.

It is a great sight to see the Junior Primary students focusing on their leaders, and to witness the Year 5 students growing in confidence in this role. Thank you to the staff who have facilitated the training of the Year 5 students.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Simon Theel

ELC Parent Information Session

Our next parent forum regarding the 2016 ELC program, will be held on Tuesday 25 August at 7.00pm in the Chapel. To RSVP, please call Jo Gray on 7221 6217 or email jgray@spw.sa.edu.au.

IPSHA Poetry Recital Competition

Congratulations to our four year level winners, who will represent SPW at the IPSHA Poetry Recital Competition. These students won the first stage of competition held at school where they competed against their peers. We wish them well as they continue to rehearse, in preparation for the main competition on 2 September at Mercedes College.

Year 4: Mitchell I
Year 5: Ben N
Year 6: Jesse K
Year 7: Olivia C

Mrs Nicki Pitt
SPW’s IPSHA Poetry Coordinator
SPW School Camp Week
Please find below the dates and venues for the 2015 Camps.

Year 2  Sleepover at SPW    Friday 11 September
Year 3  Woodhouse, Piccadilly  Monday 7-Wednesday 9 September
Year 4  Douglas Scrub    Monday 7-Wednesday 9 September
Year 5  Roonka, Blanchetown   Wednesday 9-Friday 11 September
Year 6  Flinders - Melrose     Wednesday 9–Friday 11 September
Year 7  Hindmarsh Island    Tuesday 8–Friday 11 September

Information about the Year 2 sleepover will be distributed later this term.

Senior Musical
Our Senior Musical, Years 4 to 7, opened last night at Walford with 112 students participating. It’s difficult to convey the time, blood, sweat and tears that go into making a musical if you haven’t been a part of the process. These three performances are a culmination of work that began last year.

For a Primary School to be able to perform a full scale musical, with live band, is an achievement that shouldn’t be underestimated. The Arts is generally non-competitive so I can’t bring back a medal or prize, but the students have blown all my expectations out of the water. It’s hard to quantify all of the skills and learning students get out of participating in a musical. Seeing their confidence grow is fantastic.

To everyone who has assisted in any way throughout this whole process, a big thank you.

Mark DeLaine
Arts Coordinator

Sports News

SPOTS RESULTS

Netball
SPW Year 5 Teal   5 goals   SPW Year 5 Jade   4 goals

DISTRICT ATHLETICS TEAM TRIALS AND SELECTION
The SAPSASA District Athletics Championships are on Thursday 27 August, at SA Athletics Stadium. All the best to our athletes participating on Thursday.

ATHLETICS PRACTICES FOR SCHOOL TEAM
Please ensure your child is aware of when they are required at Athletics practices next week prior to the event on Thursday.

Students in SAPSASA years, born 2005, 2004, 2003 and 2002, are encouraged to try out and attend the following practices:

WEEK 6
• Monday Lunchtime
  High Jump         Baddams Hall
  Please note that your child should notify me if they wish to attend both
  • Wednesday Before School (8.15-8.45am)
    Run Club: 100m, 200m, 800m, relay runners
    (all other runners from Years 3 to 7 are welcome to attend)
    Long Jump:        McKenzie Oval

SPORTS PRACTICES/GAMES
If your child is unable to turn up for their practices or game, be it mid-week Netball or Saturday sport, it is important that Mr Huw Bowen is informed of this. Your child can either see Mr Bowen, or you can email on hbowen@spw.sa.edu.au.
When your children participate in team sports they develop:

- Cooperation and teamwork skills
- Respect for team mates / opponents / officials
- Friendship and camaraderie
- A sense of belonging / team membership
- Self-discipline, patience and persistence
- Appreciation of different abilities
- Social interaction skills
- Physical skills
- Self-esteem and self-concept
- Team goal-setting skills
- Leadership skills
- Resilience through sharing positive and negative experiences

Part of the learning process of being involved in sport at SPW is the commitment and responsibility of playing in a team sport. There are great life skills that the children are learning through sport. The process of playing in a team, where everyone relies on each other, is a fantastic place to start.

Huw Bowen
Sports & PE Coordinator

Canteen
THURSDAY SPECIAL
Piping hot Ham and Cheese croissants are available on Thursdays, giant sized, for only $5. Also, don’t forget about all our other warm, healthy treats for those cold winter days, such as Macaroni Cheese, Lasagne, Spaghetti, and the very popular Chicken with Rice, available every day.

Rosy Elphick
Canteen Manager

PFA News
MONDAY BARBECUES
The barbecues after school on Mondays this term are being run by our wonderful Reception parents, and we would like to thank all of the helpers.

SATURDAY SOCCER BARBECUES
Please see below the timeslots and the number of helpers we need to assist with the Saturday Soccer barbecue. We would really appreciate you lending a hand so all parents can enjoy the game with coffee, and an egg and bacon muffin.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday Soccer BBQs</th>
<th>22 August—Teams</th>
<th>Helpers Required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00am—8.30am</td>
<td>Year 3 / Under 9</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.30am—9.30am</td>
<td>Year 4 / Under 10 Gold</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30am—10.30am</td>
<td>Year 5 / Under 11</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
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Please email pfa@spw.sa.edu.au or text Jane on her mobile 0402 235 573 in relation to your availability.

FATHER’S DAY BREAKFAST
Please mark in your diaries the up and coming Father’s Day Breakfast - Friday 4 September, 7.15am to 8.30am. Come along with your children for some fun and games, and a delicious breakfast. The Year 6 team have commenced coordinating what promises to be another amazing Father’s Day event at SPW. A flyer went home this week—it sounds like being a great morning.
YEAR LEVEL EVENTS
The PFA have traditionally provided $300 per year level for a ‘Friendraising’ event, with the event needing to be inclusive of all across the year level but not necessary needing to include the children. Please submit the dates and details of your event to the PFA by Friday 21 August for this money to be allocated to your year level. Thank you.

NEXT PFA MEETING
Our next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 2 September at 7.30pm in the Nutter Thomas Dining Room. We look forward to seeing you—all welcome.

CONTACT
pfa@spw.sa.edu.au

Chaplain’s Chat
Chapel Service next week will be presented by 2AD and 2JH on the theme “World Religions and their Special Places”. 8.45am Thursday 27 August. All welcome.  
Fr Andrew Mintern  
School Chaplain

Thought for the Week
Life is like a camera. Focus on what’s important and you’ll capture it perfectly.

The Self-Forgiveness Prayer
Lord, grant me the ability to forgive myself for past stumbles and falls,  
To correct what I can, and accept what I can’t,  
And the courage to try again, this time a bit wiser.
St Peter’s Woodlands Early Learning Centre is delighted to invite you to attend

ELC 2016 Parent Forum & Information Evening

This is an exciting opportunity for parents and caregivers to discover the changes to our ELC in 2016 and the Long Day programs which will be on offer to our Early Learning families next year.

Tuesday 25 August
7.00pm
St Margaret’s Chapel

RSVP to Joanna Gray
jgray@spw.sa.edu.au or 7221 6217
by 24 August

Maths Scavenger Hunt at SPW in Week 7
Trail times ........
From 8.15am until the bell
Recess, Lunch & After School
Trail hunt attached to the Weekly next week, or collect from the Front Office
When completed, please hand to class teacher.

Learning support Team
In a digitally literate world of ‘likes’ and social criticism Lakshmi Singh looks at how parents can foster critical spirit in a constructive, healthy and balanced way.

American keynote speaker, author and educator Tim Elmore recently penned an article observing a trend amongst kids dismissing careless criticism of processes, ideas and institutions.

From criticising classes to sports programs, the food offered on campus, administration or accommodation in some colleges and universities, students were increasingly displaying what Elmore calls a ‘critical spirit’.

Time magazine also ran a feature discussing the narcissistic tendencies amongst Millennials, contributing to a feeling of entitlement amongst youngsters.

So, is there a generational change brewing, where more kids go about criticising anything and everything, becoming self-absorbed in the process?

Experts say that a critical spirit has always existed, but now it is more prevalent. The ease of accessibility of forums through which criticism can be provided means that parents are more aware of it.

While experts say that cultivating a spirit of thinking critically about problems and situations is important, it is also necessary to foster a healthy decision-making process.

**The age of entitlement**

Parents have always wanted the best for their kids, but taking the “you deserve the best, this/this is not good enough” mentality a bit too far can also be detrimental, says parenting and education expert Ronit Baras.

“The rules of education are very simple. Judgmental parents will raise judgmental kids. Why? Because judgment is a coping mechanism to fight inadequacy. Judgmental people have weaknesses [and] judgment is their way of hiding. If I find faults in others, I will be able to hide mine.”

If parents model this mentality, kids will adopt it.

Similarly projecting a “my child is special and they need to know that” vision by over-supplying them with activities, commodities and even praise can lead to an unhealthy sense of entitlement, says Dr. Ash Nayate, clinical neuropsychologist.

“Narcissism (i.e. a feeling of entitlement) is a sign of unhealthy self-esteem. Narcissistic people don’t see themselves as equal to others, they see themselves as better than others — and the reason they hold this belief is to cover up their fear of ‘not being good enough’,” says Dr. Nayate.

Judging people helps alleviate that fear, she says. To stop the cycle, she believes parents need to lead by example.

“Developing a healthy self-esteem is critical. If as a parent you have low confidence and low self-esteem, your kids are going to pick up on that as well. If you want your kids to be resilient and confident, then you need to work on the confidence and self-esteem within yourself.”

**Readily accessible forums to dish out criticism**

It is no secret that Millennials are more digitally literate than the rest of us. With most having access to their own mobile phone, laptop and social media accounts, the stage through which they can communicate with others is wide and always available.

“Social media encourages us to be more vocal about criticism. So instead of just judging people quietly in our mind, we can do it aloud, behind the safety and anonymity of a computer screen,” says Dr. Nayate.

more on page 2 ➞
The privacy that social media affords also brings to the fore a trait that Baras calls a “brain fart”.

“In my program we consider it a “brain fart” when you do not consider others or the outcome of what you say and only want to say it, at all cost,” she says.

She believes the problem is intensified in a society that values external standards and imposes them on the education system through set metrics. “Teachers use marks, tests [and] they flash with standards and rules and this is far away from teaching critical thinking. So, no wonder kids are learning that everything in their life needs to be judged.”

From teacher review sites to specialist groups and threads on social media forums, kids today can criticise anything about their school, programs or individual people, making up their mind whether something makes the cut or not.

A culture that accepts criticism

With the prominence and popularity of reality TV shows comes the hard truth that our culture is now one of judgement and criticism.

“People are evaluated on the basis of what they’re missing, how they’re not good enough or worthy enough, and what’s ‘wrong’ with them,” says Dr. Nayate.

To compound the situation, today’s society is more geared towards materialism and capitalism, she says.

With the aim of being ‘better’, ‘richer’ and ‘more successful’ comes the habit to indulge in self-criticism, another trigger for engaging in a dialog centred around “I am better than this guy because …” or “I am so hopeless at this compare to …”

“Self-criticism is the first step towards judgement of others. We can only judge others if we’re somehow judgmental of ourselves,” says Dr. Nayate.

Striking a balance

So, how do we turn all this ‘judgement’ into something that is more considered, evaluated and more respectful of the people and practices involved in the process?

By understanding the difference between informed decision-making or critical thinking and straight judgement, says Baras.

“Critical thinking is when we present kids with options and teach them to evaluate and consider the advantages and disadvantages between options. Criticism/judgment is considering yourself above others and rating them based on your own individual standard.”

The good news is that critical thinking skills can be developed without being critical of others says Dr. Nayate.

“It’s about adopting an attitude of open-mindedness and healthy curiosity. Just like a three year old who always asks “why” - the child isn’t doing it out of judgement or maliciousness, it’s simply a raw desire to learn more about the world.”

While critical thinking skills depend on the maturity of the child, Dr. Nayate believes parents can nudge kids in the right direction by role modelling it:

1. **Verbalise** the thought-process involved in everyday decisions – for example choosing healthier food options (“When I eat fries, I feel a bit sick in the stomach, and the next day I get a headache from all the salt and grease. And then I feel sluggish and lazy, and I just want to sit around at home all day instead of going to the playground with you.”)

2. **Assist** with decisions and evaluations – implement this as a two-step process, she advises: first, acknowledge kids when they have demonstrated critical thinking. For example: “that was a good decision to do your homework before you went to your friend’s house. That way, you can really have fun and you don’t need to rush to get home”.

Secondly, help them assess whether the decision they made was because they accept an idea or because it came from a person they accept. As an example, many teenagers tend to accept information as credible when it comes from their peers or celebrities more so than their parents.

3. **Help** them put their higher values in perspective – while some children may value hard work or aim for certain levels of achievement, they would also value acceptance, connection with others, happiness, fun and adventure, she says. For example, a child who values health and fitness highly might override them in favour of other values like fitting in with their peers who smoke and thus take up that habit. Encourage them to see when decisions are made based on what we value, rather than on impulse or what feels good at that moment.

Sources:
- Tim Elmore’s blog on ‘Curing a critical spirit in students’ - http://growingleaders.com/blog/curing-critical-spirit-students/

Lakshmi Singh

## The Week Ahead

### 2015 Term 3 Week 6

#### Monday 24 to Friday 28 August

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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<td>NO HELP REQUIRED</td>
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<td>JUNIKA TAKASHI</td>
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<td>Whole School Assembly (Chapel)</td>
<td>Early Learning Centre Parent Information Forum</td>
<td>Japanese Assembly—8.45am (Chapel)</td>
<td>Chapel Service—8.45am (St Margaret’s Chapel)</td>
<td>Year 2 Excursion to Synagogue and Buddha House—9.00am</td>
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<td><strong>Extra &amp; Co-curricular</strong></td>
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<td>Games Club R-7—12.50-1.30pm (The Hub)</td>
<td>Junior Choir—12.50-1.30pm (Music Suite)</td>
<td>Lego Technic/Construction Club (Yrs 4-7)—12.50-1.30pm (The Hub)</td>
<td>Lego Construction Club (Rec-Yr7)—12.50-1.30pm (The Hub)</td>
<td>Games Club—12.50-1.30pm (The Hub)</td>
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<td>Soccer School of Excellence Training—Girls (lunch time)</td>
<td>Knitting Club—12.50-1.30pm (The Hub)</td>
<td>Lego Technic/Construction Club (Yrs 4-7)—12.50-1.30pm (The Hub)</td>
<td>Chess Club—12.50-1.30pm (The Hub)</td>
<td>Netball SoftE matches</td>
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<td>MP &amp; JP Activities</td>
<td>Lego Construction Club (Rec-Yr7)—12.50-1.30pm (The Hub)</td>
<td>Yoga Yrs 3-7—12.50-1.30pm (Baddams Hall)</td>
<td>Show Choir—12.50-1.30pm (Music Suite)</td>
<td>SATURDAY MORNING</td>
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<td>Year 6/7 Football, Soccer, Netball Training—3.30-4.30pm</td>
<td>Debating Competitions—6.30pm (Pulteney)</td>
<td>Year 5-7 Netball Matches (various)</td>
<td>Year 6-7 Netball (various)</td>
<td>Years 3-7 Soccer matches</td>
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<td><strong>PFA</strong></td>
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<td>PFA Sports BBQ, 3.15-4.00pm</td>
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<td><strong>SATURDAY MORNING</strong></td>
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St Peter’s Woodlands is an IB World School accredited in the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (PYP)