Principal’s Corner

Last weekend on a beautiful Saturday morning, parents and children gathered in St Margaret’s Chapel for the last of the transition visits to support the 88 children who will commence their Reception year in 2015. This is a time when we acknowledge the faith that these parents and caregivers have entrusted in St Peter’s Woodlands, by enrolling their children in our school.

We also reflect on closure for our Year 7 students, as they commence their last week of Primary education. At this time I have the opportunity to read the final reports for our Year 7 students and I am able to marvel at their progression over the years. In particular I enjoy reading of the students’ described highlights. Without doubt the trip to Canberra, school camps, opportunities in the sporting arena and engagement in the Arts, continue to be the icons most remembered by students, and it is these too that have attracted our Reception enrolment commencing in 2015.

The beginnings for Reception children and the closure for Year 7s has given ample opportunity to ponder the impact of our revised Year 6-7 Centre. For 2015, I particularly look forward to seeing a continuation of the large array of co- and extra-curricular activities taken up by students, and I am also looking forward to evidencing the outstanding academic successes of students within a growing list of subject offerings utilising the Australian curriculum.

As the 2014 school year comes to a close, I would like to particularly thank the School Council for their ongoing direction in relation to the strategic direction of our school, the PFA for their efforts in friend and fundraising, the St Peter’s Woodlands Old Scholars for their ongoing support and engagement with the school of today, the Woodlands Trust Board for their funding of scholarships, and the SPW Foundation for their efforts in reaching fundraising targets for the second year in a row.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the SPW staff for their continuing contributions to the successes of our school.

Happy Christmas to you all.

Christopher Prance
Our annual transition focused morning for the benefit of our Year 7 students saw us welcome to Chapel Ben Warren (2014 Premiership coach of Norwood Football Club) as our guest speaker. In a very unassuming way, Ben shared some fantastic insights with the Years 3-7 students at the Service.

Some key points were:
- When things are not working, talk to people about it, because problems are much harder if you don’t talk about them.
- When facing a challenge, focus on the things that you can control.
- We can learn from challenges and grow from them. It’s really important to have a good mentor (or several) to help us do this.

As we headed into the final weeks of term, the themes of Advent and Christmas took over. Sharing the story of St Martin caring for a poor beggar, was great inspiration to launch our Anglicare Christmas appeal. The choir sang: “A gift for every child” which is a key aim for us as a school community in our donating to Anglicare. Our Advent Wreath Service, along with the Reception Nativity and the Community Carols Service are all wonderful celebrations filled with joy and peace, and a fitting end to a wonderful year of worship in SPW’s St Margaret’s Chapel.

Father Andrew Mintern  
Chaplain

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From the Chaplain

After two years of cancelling our walk to St Peter’s Glenelg for an annual Service in honour of St Peter, it was wonderful to be able to undertake this pilgrimage once again. Our thanks to Fr Tony Tamblyn for leading the Service and speaking to us about St Peter.

Our Blessing of the Pets Service in Week 2 was once again blessed with good weather and many of the furry, feather and finned members of our extended SPW community enjoyed the outing and the prayers for their benefit.

The Year 4 students presented a Chapel Service on Heroes based around their Unit of Inquiry for the term. Whilst we often think of heroes as the super kind in capes and tights, it was refreshing to pick up on the theme that heroes are ordinary people who make an extraordinary difference in our world. 2AA and 2MR presented an interesting comparison between the life of a school child here at SPW compared to a school child living in Jesus’ time. The similarities and differences were striking and the child dealing with a mischievous modern dog and a mischievous historical chicken was a great humorous highlight.
Year 7 Formal

This year the Year 7 Formal was held on Friday 17 October.

On arrival, students mingled on the lawns outside the Nutter Thomas building. Many parents and other family members took the opportunity to photograph the impeccably dressed students. Then, in twos and threes, the Year 7s entered the beautifully decorated Baddams Hall and demonstrated a progressive dance to their proud parents. The parents left, but the dancing continued through the evening under the guidance of Tiffany from “Bop till you Drop”.

The dinner was a highlight. After finding their set places, students sat at the creatively decorated tables and were served their meal by staff members. A special thank you goes to Wilma Mungar and her daughter Alexa who voluntarily helped set up for the meal and clean up in the kitchen.

Time passed quickly and parents were soon arriving to collect their children. The shirts, ties, suits and beautiful dresses were ready to be packed away for another occasion.

The 2014 Year 7 group demonstrated PYP attitudes such as enthusiasm, respect and confidence throughout the evening and enjoyed a great night.

Andrew Woodhouse
Year 7 Key Teacher

Embracing Japanese Culture

Year 6 Japanese Term 4 Inquiry
Food traditions are an important part of culture

Reflections from our visit to Japanese Restaurant, The Tomiko Station.

“In Japanese this Term we learnt about Japanese food culture and etiquette.” Jack 6EB

“One of my most favourite things was when we went to Tomiko Station.” James 6DC

“I learnt how to describe foods in Japanese and the proper Japanese etiquette.” Millie 6EB

“I enjoyed writing a menu in Japanese and using yen.” Holly 6DC

“We made Japanese sentences about mealtimes, did an online inquiry while drinking green tea, and learnt how to use chopsticks.” Richard 6EB

“We learnt how to order food in Japanese.” Natalie 6EB

“Before we went to the restaurant we did a role play of how to act and what words we should say when eating different Japanese foods.” Maddi 6EB

“We said kanpai before drinking green tea and itadakimasu before eating our meal.” Katherine 6EB

“Before we went to the restaurant we did a role play of how to act and what words we should say when eating different Japanese foods.” Maddi 6EB

“Visit to Tomiko Station Japanese Restaurant

“I liked visiting the Japanese restaurant Tomiko Station and having takoyaki, karage, gyoza, miso and yakitori.” Brayden 6EB

“I found it both fun and challenging when we wrote the restaurant play in Japanese.” Harry 6DC

“I have loved this food unit, it has been delightful and tasty!” Samara 6BS
Engaging in The Arts

The Big Concert 2014
On Friday 28 November the circus came to town. Cirque Du SPW showcased the many wonderful music, dance and drama talents of our students. Hosted by Jahara and Oliver the evening was a huge success. This year we held the Concert at the brand new Brighton Concert Hall located at Brighton Secondary School. What an impressive building. The acoustics were beautiful. Not only did we see performances from co-curricular music activities but also the Wakakirri and self-devised student work. Students had to audition with a piece they created around the circus theme. The work was all created by them and showcased on the night between acts. We had everything from dance, to acrobats, to singers, to yo-yos, to mime. Well done to those brave students who created work to present.

The 2014 Wakakirri captivated the sold out Concert Hall with its powerful message and story about World War 1.

Other highlights included the very cute Junior Choir singing “What Does the Fox Say?”, Upper Primary Glee creatively using cups, Middle Primary Glee belting out “Joyful Joyful”, Percussion Ensemble playing “Penguin Circus’” Flute Ensemble’s amazing sound, Brass Ensemble’s very funny rendition of Ghost Busters and SPW Band playing far and beyond the level of a Primary School band.

Many thanks to the staff who assisted in many different ways, especially backstage, and to the students for sharing their talents. Also thank you to the parents, grandparents and friends who encourage and help students thrive in the Arts. What a wonderful night of celebration which can be summed up in this quote, “The world is a complicated place, and there’s a lot of division between people. The performing arts tend to unify people in a way nothing else does.” (“David Rubenstein”)

Mark DeLaine
The Arts Coordinator
Primary Maths Challenge

During Terms 3 and 4 students from Year 1 to Year 6 participated in the Primary Maths Challenge, which was organised by the Primary Mathematics Association. Students worked individually or as part of small groups investigating the mathematics of an area of interest to them.

The high quality and creativity of the investigations as well as the time and effort all students put into them, is to be celebrated, and again SPW students were also very successful in the State wide competition as is displayed in the following results:

- State Winner - Year 2: Sebastian I – Goal Kicking
- State Winner - Year 7: Cooper B – How to calculate Pi
- Highly Commended - Year 4: Tyren W – Designing a Floor Plan for My Future Mansion

These students had their certificates presented to them by Rod Nancarrow, Director Numeracy and Literacy with DECD, at a special Awards Ceremony last Friday.

Also, of special mention, were:
- Certificate of Achievement - Year 2: Summer W – Loom Band Objects
- Certificate of Achievement – Year 6: Hannah V – Badminton

In participating in a challenge such as this, SPW students have again displayed many of the Learner Profile qualities embodied in our PYP curriculum.

Tina Day
Maths Challenge Facilitator

From The Pines

At the beginning of Term 4, we were pleased to welcome many family and friends during Grandparents Week. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to share their learning with these special people. It was a delight to observe many guests joining their grandchild in painting, jigsaws, drawing and even some play in the sandpit.

The Playgroup and Toddler children have been enjoying exploring the theme of ‘Merrily Merrily’, a learning journey of songs, rhymes and music. The children showed enthusiasm for singing their favourite songs, as well as learning some new ones.

The Preparatory and Preschool children have been inquiring into Stories enrich our lives. The children have explored what a story is, what the different parts of a book are called and the different ways to share stories. A highlight of this inquiry was the Learning Journey excursion to the Esplanade, Glenelg, where the children dressed as a character from their favourite book, listened to a variety of stories read by the teachers and parents.

A memorable occasion for all groups of children in the Pines was the visits from Father Andrew to share the joy of Christmas. The children delighted in listening to Father Andrew tell the Nativity story and play his guitar to lead us in singing Christmas carols. This was another wonderful opportunity to bring the SPW school environment into the Pines Early Learning Centre.

Inga Dow
The Pines Early Learning and Care Centre Coordinator
Parents & Friends News

The PFA has had a busy and successful year giving back to the school community in many ways. This could not happen without the help of all the volunteers who offer their time and skills and the many donations by the entire school community. The executive would like to thank you all.

We commenced the year with Twilight on the Green on Mackenzie Oval which was a lovely way for families to mingle with old friends after the holidays and also meet some new ones. The ever popular events such as Shrove Tuesday, the Easter Raffle, the Mother’s Day Stall and Father’s Day Breakfast, the most recent Christmas Raffle and whole school Christmas lunch have brought smiles to everyone’s faces.

We were lucky enough to treat the mums and special friends to a wonderful Mother’s Day brunch this year. Special guests Lucy Cornes and Lisa Bondarenko spoke openly and candidly about motherhood and on the work, life, family balance that we all juggle. This was followed by a lovely brunch. The PFA were also lucky enough to secure Mark LeMessurier and Madhavi Nawana Parker, both excellent speakers, who enlightened us on how to “Raise Beaut Kids” and how to increase resilience and well-being in young people with both offering practical strategies for parents.

Term 3 began with a little Winter Wonderland Soirée. A great evening was had by all with lovely décor, great food, very generous raffle and auction donations and a unique set up by Games 2 U for a little Mario Cart racing for the boys.

The bi-annual Walkathon held on a gorgeous Friday morning at the end of October was a fabulous success this year. This turned out to be the biggest money raiser for the year, and is a wonderful event that the entire school can participate in and enjoy together.

Terms 2 and 3 were finished off with great family entertainment in the form of the Drive-in and Beachouse lock in. The Beachouse in particular is a great way to burn off the energy of the last week of term and get ready for the holidays.

This year we saw the launch of the SPW Dozen with a Wine Tasting at the Somerton Yacht Club, an event that was well attended. Much research went into selecting some great bottles for you to share with friends and family. We hope that all who received their dozen have enjoyed them.

To ‘throw another snag on the barbie’ is an understatement. The famous Monday after school Barbeque and also the Saturday Sports Barbeques are integral to our fundraising throughout the year. The PFA would sincerely like to thank the volunteers and all the families that stopped and bought a sausage on their way home on Mondays. These will continue in 2015 and we hope that there will be many more volunteers to help turn a sausage.

Some of the donations made over the year include new soccer goals, the purchase of the trolley and sports equipment for the Junior Primary to enjoy at recess and lunch times, $20,000 towards the Hub and to help purchase of new House flags.

Being involved with the PFA is a very rewarding experience. The children and school community are always very appreciative and supportive of what we do. If you would like to become involved next year why not put your hand up to either be a class representative or to help out at a specific event. Our success comes from the input of our volunteers.

Narelle Dandy, President
Jane Tuohy, Secretary
Sharon Smith, Treasurer
Students engage in an extended, collaborative inquiry process that involved them in identifying, investigating and offering solutions to real-life issues or problems. The Exhibition unit provided the students with an opportunity to show the attributes of the IB learner profile and demonstrate their engagement with the five essential elements of the programme: concepts, knowledge, skills, attitudes and action. It was their chance to reflect upon their learning throughout Primary School and show the school community what they have learnt during their time at SPW. They also showed how their action can have a positive impact on the local community. The students offered ideas for solutions or acted to address problems as a result of their learning. The exhibition provides the students with the following opportunities:

- to demonstrate independence and responsibility for learning
- to explore several different perspectives
- to take part in an authentic process for assessing understanding

This year our PYP exhibition came under the transdisciplinary theme ‘How we organise ourselves’. Our central idea, which is a broad conceptual understanding that the students will investigate, was The decisions made by organisations affect our communities. Our central idea, which is a broad conceptual understanding that the students will investigate, was The decisions made by organisations affect our communities.

The Unit began at the end of last term where the students reflected on previous units over their engagement with the PYP. From here the students developed their lines of inquiry and their guiding questions, which included such topics as shark culling, body image, drugs in sport and animal testing. Students then worked together with their teachers and mentors to focus their inquiry relating to their guiding questions. They explored the local and global issues related to this and prepared a presentation that they delivered to the Year 7 parents.

Simon Theel
Head of Primary

Sports News—Term 4

Whole School Relay
My personal favourite House event of the year. Maybe this is partly because it is the only time the whole school comes together in a sporting event. The courage and tenacity our runners have always shown was again on display this year and our students did a wonderful job. After a very close race, Eyre were the winners.

JP Sports Day
The bad weather stayed away and a wonderful couple of hours of activities in the gym, Braested and McKenzie Oval was had by the JP students.

It is traditional for the Year 7 students to provide support for the JP students and staff at this event, and this year was no different, this year the Year 7s took on more responsibility for organising and delegating their duties and tasks. Well done Year 7.

Our Sports Day was finished off in great fashion with a “dance off” with all Junior Primary and Year 7 students, ably led by Mrs Baldacchinio and some Year 7 dancers.

Swim Carnival
Our Swim Carnival was again a fantastic event and it is always great to see the students representing their Houses, supporting their class mates and ‘having a go’. After a tied event in 2013, this year’s winners are Flinders.

Sports Assembly
Our last event of the year celebrates the achievements but more importantly the commitment of SPW students, staff, coaches and volunteers to what is an outstanding program. The growth of the program since 2006 is extraordinary and 2015 is set to witness further growth in participation and the diversity of activities offered.

Significantly our special guest this year was Ryan Burton an Old Scholar of SPW who has gone on to blaze a bright trail through Football in SA and on the national stage.

Huw Bowen, Coordinator Physical Education and Sport

Whole School Relay Presentation
The Pines at the Glenelg Christmas Pageant

The Glenelg Christmas Pageant signaled the beginning of Christmas for everyone in The Pines. We chose to celebrate this year’s theme ‘60 years of the Glenelg Pageant,’ by dressing in clothes ready for a day at the beach. In the weeks leading up to the Pageant the children were involved in making a lei to wear as part of their costume. The children developed their skills threading pasta, patty pans, straws and colourful paper onto ribbon.

With the children dressed in bathers, sundresses, shorts and thongs, carrying buckets and spades, zinc on their noses and colourful lei around their necks, it didn’t take long for the group to wave, skip, smile and chat their way to the other end of Jetty Road. It was a delight to see all the happy smiling faces of not just the children but their families as well. Thank you to all our enthusiastic children, families, friends, SPW School Captains and House Leaders for their support, help and attendance.

Inga Dow
The Pines Early Learning and Care Centre Coordinator

Young Authors and Illustrators

We have a number of students who have submitted work in competitions this year, and many have been successful. It is great to see so many students being risk-takers.

The following students who have submitted work for publication and passed the first round are Louella S, Samara B, Sienna R

The following students have written pieces which have been accepted for publication:
Larna J – a poem called Live to Dance
Tahlia K – a poem called Shadows
Oliver S – a short story called The Smell of Salt

Macy N has entered a Picture Book Illustration competition for Wombat Books and has been long-listed for inclusion. Louella S was runner up in the Tom Gates competition to write to the author and convince her to come to Australia, which she did!

Congratulations to all students who entered their work, as it takes courage to be assessed by others.

Jenny Richardson
Librarian

Celebrating 60 years of the Glenelg Christmas Pageant
SPW is a proud sponsor of the Glenelg Christmas Pageant