St Peter’s Woodlands Grammar School
Preparing Happy, Resilient Children for a New Tomorrow

Term 4, 2015
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Christmas Message

When the song of the angels is stilled
When the star in the sky is gone
When the kings and princes are home
When the shepherds are back with their flocks
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost
To heal the broken
To feed the hungry
To release the prisoner
To rebuild the nations
To bring peace among the people
To make music in the heart.

By Howard Thurman “Bread for tomorrow”
Principal’s Corner

As I contemplate the last week with our Year 7s, I am reminded of a short piece I read on the weekend entitled “May we always be friends when we meet again”. The context of this article was an 18 year old Head boy at the Christchurch Boys High School who, one week prior to his graduation, was diagnosed with a very fast growing tumour. He had already written his speech for Prize-giving and managed to leave his hospital bed to deliver it from a wheelchair. What he said was “I wrote this before I knew I had cancer, and now I have a whole new spin on it. Here’s the thing; none of us get out of life alive. So be gallant, be great, be gracious, and be grateful for the opportunities you have; the opportunity to learn from those who walked before you and those who walked beside you.” He went on to say, “Wherever we go and whatever we do, may we always be friends when we meet again.”

For our Year 7s I look forward to hearing of your many successes as you take the next step in your life’s journey; and may your SPW friendships always be remembered.

In relation to 2016 I have a number of areas to report on, including staffing and future plans.

Staffing

- We farewell Miss Kirsty Schutz who is going overseas, Mrs Rebecca Wood, Mr David Coulter, Mrs Christiana Schammer, Mrs Kelly Warren and Mrs Liezel Sellars who have resigned, and Mrs Cathy Sellan who is leaving at the end of the year after 7 years of working in the Finance Office. We wish them all the best for the future.
- Thanks also go to Mrs Georgia Ktanis, Mrs Emiko Allum, Mrs Di Byles, Mrs Alice Bleschke, Mr Michael Pugh, Mr Neil Fishpool and Mr Dennis Lymberopoulos for their assistance during this term.
- Fr Andrew Mintern, who has been the Chaplain at SPW for 8 years, will be taking up the position as Parish Priest of St Peter’s and St Martin’s Churches in the Anglican Parish of Glenelg. We thank Fr Andrew for his support of parents, students and staff over this time, and we look forward to our continued joint ministry with St Peter’s, Glenelg in future years.
- After many years of distinguished service to SPW, Mrs Susan Bennett, Mrs Jenny Richardson, Mrs Sheila Foulis and Mrs Kaylene Burgess are retiring. Cumulatively, these extraordinary servants of SPW have given 79 years to this community. They would have seen amazing changes, many of which they have embraced with perhaps a few which they may have found more challenging. Whatever the case, we cannot question their unswerving commitment and passion to the children and to SPW, and for this we are forever grateful.

Future Plans - 2016

Planning is well and truly underway for the new year, and there is much to be excited about. During the coming vacation period extensive alterations and renovations will take place in the current Early Learning Centre and in the Year 1 classrooms. This will include work in what is now being called the Village Square (outdoor space between the Early Learning Centre and Year 1s) and the other outdoor play area bordering Pier Street. This is all part of the implementation plan for the exciting launch of our new Early Learning Centre in 2016.

On another front, we will be launching the SPW Future Centre under the direction of Mr Geoff Bilney. The Future Centre will be housed in the current Library and the staff present will include an Information Specialist (Teacher Librarian) and two Library Technologists who will have outstanding technological skills. This Future Centre will ultimately shape SPW’s vision for 21st Century learning.

Throughout the year we will be reviewing our extra- and co-curricular offerings in readiness for any improvements that could be implemented prior to 2017.

Whilst Camp Australia will continue to be our licensed provider for Out of School Hours Care and Vacation Care during 2016, plans will be developed to transfer responsibility for the care of school aged children back to SPW; indeed, our new Future Centre will house the Out of School Hours Care program commencing 2016.

Of course, with the appointment of Father Andrew to St Peter’s Glenelg, an opportunity has arisen to appoint a replacement School Chaplain who will also be employed by St Peter’s Glenelg. This exciting new initiative will not only enhance our chaplaincy program at SPW but also assist in building wider Parish connections with our mother church. In addition the liaison between SPW and St Peter’s Glenelg will provide opportunities for Father Andrew and his Assistant to develop much shared ministry inclusive of SPW and the Parish.

Thank You

As the year draws to a close I do want to thank the Parents and Friends Association (PFA) who have had another successful year of friend and fundraising. We as a community are much indebted to a large band of Class Representatives and the PFA Executive, and we look forward to your continued involvement in 2016.

I would like to thank those individuals who help with the governance of SPW, namely those who serve on the SPW Foundation, the Woodlands Trust Board and the School Council. These people give timeless hours to our community to ensure that all matters governance are addressed in an appropriate way.

On the School Council front, we farewell Mrs Megan Papadopoulos after 6 years of service, including time as Chair of the Finance Committee.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who have given time to this community in some way throughout the year. There is some thought that the age of the volunteer is declining, perhaps as a result of our busyness; what I believe is that volunteers at SPW give what they can, when they can, and for this we are extremely grateful.

Finally, thank you to our wonderful staff who are to be congratulated, for the work they do. As Brad Henry said, “A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instil a love of learning.” That certainly captures the essence of our staff.

I wish all readers a safe and joyous Christmas and holiday break.

Christopher Prance,
Principal
Seeing the world through the eyes of your child

Early Learning at St Peter's Woodlands reflects what is in the best interests of children.

At the heart of our program are the needs of each child. We have prioritised accordingly so that children will be provided with a depth and rigour of curriculum that they deserve, effective relationships and quality learning spaces.

As a Centre committed to outstanding learning experiences for our Early Learning children, we have selected a highly qualified and dynamic staff team who:

- engage children in relevant and personalised learning experiences
- are proactive in supporting children's learning development
- are responsive, respectful, consistent and reliable in their relationships with children
- understand that children need opportunities to develop their social/emotional capacity
- develop authentic partnerships with parents
- pursue best practice in learning and teaching by being self reflective and engaged in professional learning opportunities

Our environment for Early Learners will be further enriched by small group sizes and carefully appointed rooms which promote interactions both within the room and between rooms.

Careful consideration has been given to the purpose and function of our learning spaces so that they promote high levels of engagement, reflective of children's needs and interests.

External learning spaces will enable children to engage their senses through music, art and drama, as well as gross motor opportunities, gardening, sand and water play.

All of these factors will enable each child to experience nurture and an array of opportunities for curiosity that lay the foundation for their learning development today and tomorrow.

This exciting program will cater for children from two years of age for 48 weeks of the year. We are currently in the final stages of seeking approval which will enable families to claim CCR or CCB.

Our new Centre will open on Monday 1 February 2016 with a special transition day before we officially commence the ELC program on Tuesday 2 February.

For further information about our ELC, please contact Joanna Gray, Admissions and Marketing Officer at jgray@spw.sa.edu.au, or phone 08 7221 6217.

Gemma D'Angelo
Head of Early Learning
Performing Arts — The Big Concert

The Big Concert was held on Friday 27 November at the Brighton Concert Hall. This year’s theme was ‘SPW Goes to the Movies’, which provided a wonderful theme for an engaging and varied concert.

We hold The Big Concert each year to provide a performance opportunity to the many co-curricular instrumental and choral groups. It is what we work towards all year and you certainly could feel the excitement in the air! It was electric. The Big Concert allows students to perform in a beautiful venue to a supportive and enthusiastic audience. Seeing our students shining on stage was an incredibly proud moment for me. Their commitment to music making and performing is outstanding.

Committing to an instrumental group, band or choir is a big time commitment and requires extra work on top of their curriculum studies. However, students gain confidence, team work skills, left and right brain activation, joy, fun, performance skills to name a few things that make participating in the Arts not only worthwhile but essential.

Mark DeLaine
Head of the Arts
Year 6—Glenelg Week

Over the course of the year many new initiatives have been incorporated into the Year 6/7 program. Two very significant initiatives were the inaugural Bay and City Experiences. Thank you to the staff and volunteers for the hours of organisation and planning of these programs. It has been wonderful to see the many new learning experiences that the students have been engaged in outside of the classroom and it is clear that the opportunities provided have been most successful and were a highlight of the year.

The focus areas of the Bay Experience, for the Year 6 students, included Sport, History, Art, Food, Economics and Business, Tourism and Environmental Management. As a result of their two day experience, students have created an iMovie that captures their learning. They then chose a focus area to create “A …?... Lover’s Guide to Glenelg”. Through this experience, students have gained an understanding of how Glenelg has developed over the years and how they can play a part in shaping its future.

The comments from the student really captured the Bay Experience well:

**Oliver V 6MR** “I really learned a lot from the talk at Adelaide Scuba and it was great seeing all the scuba equipment and how they maintain it.”

**Joshua R 6EB** “I found it really interesting how all the different places we visited and experiences we had all fit together to make Glenelg what it is.”

**Abby F 6DK** “Visiting The Strand restaurant was amazing! I found out what goes into making a restaurant work and be successful”

**Rosie E 6MR** “The Bay Discovery Centre was really great to visit. I especially enjoyed seeing the changes that Glenelg has been through and seeing what the early settlers went through to make a life here”
Year 5 Exhibition

The PYP Exhibition is a very important part of every SPW student’s education. The Exhibition allows students to showcase their development as a learner in a collaborative context, as they explore and take action about an issue which is of importance to them. David Whitehead Key teacher Year 5

Ruby G 5DC “It was fun and challenging and a good experience to try new things independently and in a group”

Kate L 5DC “It was exciting and frustrating as well, I felt really good when I finished all the work and set up the display”

Charlotte C 5DC “It was good that we got to choose what subject we wanted to do and what pieces of work we wanted to do”

Emily S 5DC “It turned out a pretty good night! I was proud of myself and I felt like I did a good job”

Will C 5CK “It was really enjoyable learning about an issue that I didn’t know much about before”

James S 5CK “The exhibition was good because we worked with people we haven’t worked with before and I liked the Exhibition night because you could see the work everyone had done.”

Star Awards—Term 4

Student Taking Action Recognition Awards

Congratulations to these students who were presented with a special badge and certificate at Assembly. The Star Award is a peer driven award. Children who show any of our four school values may be nominated.

Piper T
Oliver V
Scarlet G
Ryley J

Austin P
Molly T
Bradley L
Isobel D
Service in action at SPW

SRC and Blessing of the Pets
As part of Blessing of the Pets, the SRC presented to the school the idea of donating to the SA Dog Rescue animal shelter.

The SPW community responded well and many children, along with their pet photographs or stuffed toy animal, generously gave food items, toys, or bedding for cats and dogs in need. The generous donations represented the service heart of the SPW community. SA Dog Rescue received the donations with the utmost appreciation. “I want to say a big thanks to the SPW community for collecting donations for SA Dog Rescue. This time of year there are so many animals needing help to find their forever homes and without support from the community we wouldn’t be able to help so many.” - Michelle Roselli - Donations Co-ordinator SA Dog Rescue.

The SRC thanks everyone for their continued support of service to others.

Braydan G ‘It was so exciting to see how much food the school had donated’.

Izzy D ‘It was amazing to see all the food for SA Dog Rescue in front of the Chapel alter’.

SRC and Foodbank SA Weet-Bix Drive
The SPW community participated enthusiastically again in this year’s Foodbank SA Weet-Bix Drive. The SRC challenged the school community to donate enough Weet-Bix boxes to make a full circle of Weet-Bix around the Chapel.

At Week 7’s Assembly, the Chapel was filled with a buzz of excitement as the children eagerly made the circle and could see that the Weet-Bix challenge had been met.

Foodbank currently distributes enough Weet-Bix to provide 312,000 serves of the iconic breakfast cereal to large and small food relief charities around Australia. The Weet-Bix contributions provided by the SPW community will go to people in need in prepared meals, food hampers and emergency packs to provide a nutritious and sustaining start to the day.

What a brilliant effort and again, a true reflection of the value of service the SPW community upholds.

Bridget C ‘We completed the circle around the Chapel and had enough to do half a circle more’

Hugh W ‘It was so much fun building a circle around the Chapel with Weet-Bix! We got to show our support to those who are less fortunate’

Barbara Saunderson
Year 3 Teacher
Term 4 always holds many favourite events for SPW, but it is also a time for thinking deeply about the future for our Year 7 students. Especially their minds are occupied with what life will be like next year. Consequently we include some special events in our programming to address these approaching transitions. In Week 5 we welcomed back former SPW School Captain (2009) Josh Paynter who is currently studying Engineering at ADFA in Canberra. Josh spoke to our current Year 6 students about leadership, followership, transitions in life and rising to challenges. This was a great opportunity for the students who will be our school leaders next year to think about their transition into Year 7.

The following week we had a transition morning in the Chapel for the Year 7 students. The Chapel Service itself focussed on the theme of transitions in life and explored the feelings we associate with such times: excitement, fears, joy, worries. We also affirmed that the Serenity Prayer is a great one to remember at such times. God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference. This reminds us that we do not need to worry about all the things we cannot control and can devote our attention to our own words, attitudes and actions in the things we can control.

Above all we know that God is always with us whatever we are facing.

Following the Chapel Service we heard from three current Year 8 students who graduated from SPW last year and went to different schools. Sam, Cate and Claudia shared their experiences of the transition to Year 8 and gave some helpful advice of how to approach it. The students then had a good opportunity to ask lots of questions.

Each Year 7 was presented on the day with a copy of the booklet “It’s your Move – Your guide to moving to secondary school” as a gift from the SPW Old Scholars’ Association. The book contains many interesting bits of information and help to prepare for a positive transition. The morning concluded with a Pizza lunch also provided by the Old Scholars Association, and the students were encouraged to consider an ongoing relationship with SPW as active Old Scholars in the years to come.

All of these activities are aimed to help with a smooth transition for our Year 7 students and we wish them well for the high school years to come.

Father Andrew Mintern
Chaplain
As part of the Year 7 City Experience “What’s the face of Adelaide, yesterday, today and tomorrow?” students were engaged in numerous experiences in Week 5 this term. They visited many venues that linked to the achievement standards within the Australian Curriculum, covering the learning areas mentioned above.

The students travelled to the city via bus or tram and returned to school via bus each day. The plan for the 4 days was exhaustive and included visits to many places the students do not always have the opportunity to see. As part of the experience, there were learning intentions based on the curriculum at each of the venues, including the Town Hall, Parliament House, St Peter’s Cathedral, Riverbank Authority, SAHMRI, Holy Trinity Church (the oldest Church in Adelaide), Rundle Mall Management Authority, SA Water, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and UNISA, provided many opportunities that the students would generally not have experienced.

A highlight of the City Experience was on the Wednesday, which was Remembrance Day, where the students attended a service at the War Memorial and visited the Torrens Parade ground.

The Year 7 students presented their learning by way of their year level learning journey in Week 6.

Thank you to all the parents who assisted; without their volunteer support these programs would not be the success they are. A special thank you must also go to Mr Alan Young, a grandparent at the school, who from the inception to the City Experience week has supported the staff and organised venues that have provided many opportunities that the students would generally not have experienced.

It was a wonderful success and experience for all.
City Experience—Uniquely SPW

Finn M 7KR City Week was such a good opportunity, especially for people who don’t spend much time in the city.

Hannah V 7BF City Week was so enjoyable and I learnt so much about the city than I thought I would.

Larna J 7BF It was a unique and “one of a kind” experience that along with all the amazing things I’ve learnt I will treasure forever.

Samara B 7AW The SAMHRI tour was so informative and hearing about the research happening there was so interesting.

Claudia K 7BF An excellent experience and I learnt a lot.

Maddi R 7AW The Festival Theatre tour was so interesting and we learnt so much about the design and why it was designed like it was. It was so funny when the actress, Emily, kept popping out of nowhere and started acting.

Jack D 7AW I liked seeing the glass blowing at the Jam Factory. It was so cool.

Louella S 7AW I loved how we got the opportunity to go behind the scenes of various venues in the city.
Year 6/7 Design and Technology

Did you know that SPW now has a specifically designed, well-equipped Design and Technologies Studio? It is available for use by any of our students, but is particularly useful for our Year 6/7 students for their Design and Technology lessons. Very few Primary schools are fortunate enough to have such a facility for their students.

This term the Year 7s have gone through the process of considering the essential features of a Primary school student chair and designing their own chair to meet these criteria. An exciting part of the project was that they 3-D printed and painted their designs.

The Year 6 students have used their lessons to turn a potential problem into a positive. Staff from the Pre-school expressed interest in using the Design and Technologies Studio, but pointed out that the work benches were too high for their children. Mr Kennedy took that as a challenge and they have designed, and are in the process of building, new work benches for use by the younger students.

Andrew Woodhouse
Year 7 Key Teacher