

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Term 2! I hope you all had a blessed Easter and holiday. This term is looking very different to normal - it does feel very strange and quiet here at the moment as we prepare and deliver our remote learning lessons. However, we look forward to the day when the school yard is again buzzing with the laughter and noise of our happy and healthy students. Please remember that we are here to support you, no one is expecting you to be the teacher at home. The most important thing you can do is to keep communicating with us at school and to continue to provide routine, support and encouragement to your child/ren at home. I will still be sending out a newsletter each Thursday to celebrate the teaching and learning that is happening. Please send me some photos of learning that is happening at home. I can't wait to see some happy snaps because we truly do miss the smiles and laughs of our wonderful students.



STAFF 'UBER' COURIER SERVICE

Every Friday, we will be delivering packages and picking up completed work samples from your home. Any work that will be needed for the following week will be delivered sometime during Friday by a staff member. If your child/ren needs some more library books, take home readers, stationery supplies etc. please let us know so that we can organize this for you. If you do not happen to be home when we come past, please leave any work that is to be returned to school at your front door.

Likewise, we will leave any packages for you at your front door. We are looking forward to getting some friendly smiles and waves and at least we get to see our wonderful students (even if it is from a distance!).

STUDENT AND FAMILY WELLBEING

It is so important to be mindful of our physical and mental health during this time. We acknowledge that this type of remote learning is new for everyone, and we thank you in advance for your respect and willingness to be extra patient and supportive. Chaplain Jurgen will regularly check in with parents to see if there is anything else we can do to support your family. Please note the following suggestion list of apps that may be helpful to you and your family, rather than bombard you with a big list, we will update suggestions of helpful links each week.

- Kids helpline- <https://www.beyondblue.org.au> / 1800 551 800
- Headspace – <https://au.reachout.com/tools-and-apps/headspace>
- Vic health – <https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/vichealth-apps/healthy-living-apps>



STUDENT AWARDS

Even though teaching and learning is now delivered remotely, we will still be writing weekly student awards. These awards and birthday awards will be celebrated in the newsletter and delivered via our weekly staff 'Uber' courier service.

From the Principal cont'd ...

NAPLAN

Education Ministers have decided that NAPLAN will not proceed in 2020. The NAPLAN test window was scheduled to be held from 12 to 22 May. All Education Ministers acknowledge and thank all of our school leaders, our teachers and support staff for the essential work they do every day educating our children and young people, particularly during these challenging times. They are all playing a vital role in managing the response to COVID-19. The decision to not proceed with NAPLAN in 2020 has been taken to assist school leaders, teachers and support staff to focus on the wellbeing of students and continuity of education, including online and remote learning. Further, the impact of responses to the COVID-19 virus may affect the delivery of NAPLAN testing, including the operation of centralised marking centres and the implications for nationally comparable data if an insufficient number of students are available to do the test.



Grow Ministries
LCA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

GROW MINISTRIES

Grow Together newsletter supports parents and families in our community to share their faith at home. The Grow Together newsletter can be used for a range of purposes and settings and it's always rewarding to see and hear how families are being encouraged by it. Please see the latest publication attached to the end of this newsletter.

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS FROM INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS VICTORIA

We are very fortunate to be able to support our Parents through the services of Independent Schools Victoria. I encourage you to visit ISV's Parent website <https://www.theparentswebsite.com.au/> to obtain professionally curated articles and information from a range of writers and sources. Content on the site, is free and open to all, includes material provided by professional experts – educators, psychologists and others – but written in an accessible, useful and reassuring way.



VICTORIAN PREMIERS' READING CHALLENGE

As you know, reading helps to ensure that children develop foundational skills and helps them to imagine, explore and learn more about the world around them. This year, students are invited to participate in the

Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge and everyone who completes the Challenge will receive a Certificate of Achievement. Please note that this is not compulsory school activity, but a great opportunity for students to set a goal in reading. For students from Foundation to Year 2, the Challenge is to read or experience 30 books. For students in Years 3-6, the Challenge is to read 15 books. If you would like to find more information about the Challenge – please go to the official website www.education.vic.gov.au/prc We have registered every child at school and account details will be emailed home to each family with instructions of how to log on. Please note that the Glenelg library in town offers a range of free online services including Kanopy Kids and Borrowbox. The library is staffed every day and can assist people to access online resources.

From the Principal cont'd...

POSITIVE EDUCATION

The following article is written by Cat Lamb who is a consultant from The Institute of Positive Education.



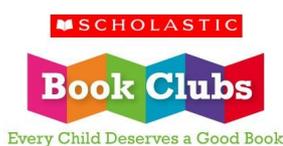
INSTITUTE OF
**POSITIVE
EDUCATION**

To access her article, click on the link

<https://www.ggs.vic.edu.au/blog-posts/four-strategies-to-support-a-resilient-response>

She has some great strategies that one can use to develop a resilient response during this current global pandemic of COVID-19.

SCHOLASTIC BOOKCLUB



All parents should have received an email yesterday (Wednesday) from Kylie regarding Scholastic Book Club. We are still offering book club this term but it will be all ordering needs to be done online. A link for the catalogue was in the email, if you would like to order please do so, all orders will be delivered to school and upon delivery we will then deliver to students on our weekly "Uber" courier service.

ARTWORK DISPLAY

Our display board in the front office foyer is looking very sad and lonely. It needs some cheering up and colour! Tomorrow (Friday) our school couriers will be out delivering and picking up work from your child. If your child would like to draw a picture for our board please have it ready and our courier will pick it up each Friday for display the following week. Look out for a picture of this display in next week's newsletter.



With Christ, Tara Pritchard

Child Safety...

Please remember that during remote learning, Cybersafety is crucial. Please remember the following points:

- ⇒ Keep computers, laptops, iPads in a common area of the house – **NOT** in the bedroom.
- ⇒ Use the hyperlinks provided by the teachers as this avoids young children Googling aimlessly with no supervision.
- ⇒ Parental monitoring of use is vital – make sure that you know what your child/ren are doing.
- ⇒ Advise your child to immediately exit any site that makes them feel uncomfortable.

For more information about cybersafety, visit <https://www.esafety.gov.au>

St. John's Lutheran Primary School is a Child Safe School



Devotion...

SEARCH FOR ME

"From there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul." Deuteronomy 4:29 (NASB)

I want you to search for Me—not just once in a while, not just on Sundays, and not just when you need My help. I want you to look for Me at all times.

And I want you to search with all your heart and soul—not just because you think you should, or because someone told you to. Look for Me with everything that is in you because you want to find Me.

When you search for Me with all your heart and all your soul, you will find Me—and you will enjoy Love, Joy and Peace in My Presence. I promise.

See Me in good times; seek Me in hard times. And you will find Me watching over you all the time.

Read on your own: *Hebrews 10:23; Psalm 145:20*

Taken from "Jesus Calling—365 Devotions for Kids" by Sarah Young



STORY OF THE WEEK

Read or view the video at www.lca.org.au/sow





Grow Together

GROW MINISTRIES FAMILY NEWSLETTER

2020 EDITION 1

In the four editions of Grow Together this year, our prayer is that you find wonderful ways to connect with your children, and together as a family. One of our deepest longings is to belong, and when we connect with others we gain a sense that we belong together. May these simple ideas and thoughts inspire you to connect in more purposeful ways with those around you.



Connection through Love – LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE

Have you ever heard your child say 'I don't feel loved?' It can, and should, stir us up a little as parents to be responsive to what that means for that child.

Sometimes this is just a mismatch between the way they receive love and the way they are being loved. How can we know? Knowing a person's love language allows you to connect better with a person and to know what he/she responds to best.

The 5 Love Languages books by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell show practical and very effective ways to help people figure out how to best connect with each other. These books are worth a deep dive – especially the edition for kids. In this edition we're just going to share a short snippet and some ideas to start you thinking.

One of the love languages is 'Physical Touch'. For example, your child loves to receive hugs and kisses, enjoys being carried and is probably a 'cuddler'. They enjoy physical activity; racing, wrestling, tag, and climb into your lap for snuggles. Parents can emphasize their love and show physical affection when they; hold hands and hug often, have family cuddles, tickle and wrestle, let their child sit on parent's lap for reading, and play active games often.

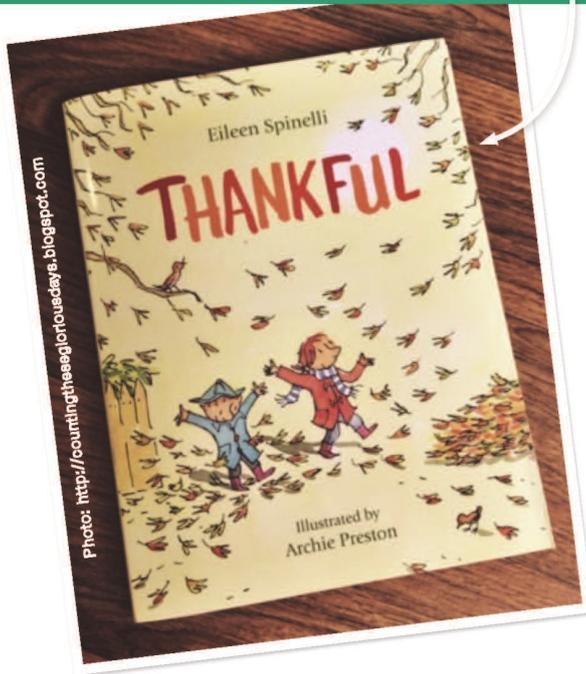
All children, and particularly young children, will show love and need to receive love in every form. They are small, often unnoticeable gestures, but can be so meaningful when it is a child's special love language. Figuring out what each child responds to best can help parents identify when love tanks are running low and work on building that connection again.

www.5lovelanguages.com

Resource to share

There are many great books to share about being thankful or having gratitude... here's just one...

Thankful by Eileen Spinelli



Verse to learn.

Copy, cut and place this around your home this term...

Give thanks
to the Lord,
for he is
good; his
love endures
forever.

PSALM 107:1



Connection by serving together.

One of the most wonderful ways we can connect with each other is through a shared experience.

When this is done with the motivation to encourage, support, equip or serve others, wonderful things happen!

Serving together as a family provides the opportunity to give collectively.

A very simple idea this term is to write thank you letters. You might choose to all write to different people, but do it at the same time, or you might write a letter from your whole family. Use this simple outline to get you started.

Dear

Thank you for

OR I just wanted to tell you.....

(Compliment 1-2 things)

I think you are.....

Because.....

We/I really appreciate you!

I hope you have a day!

Love



Teaching our kids to be thankful

Every parent who has seen their baby playing with her toes or heard his sigh of contentment after a good feed, senses that the baby has an innate sense of appreciation and delight. Part of our job as parents is to help our children retain this sense of appreciation, rather than to develop a self-centred, 'the-world-owes-me' attitude.

If we want our children to be polite and get along in society, we need to teach them to use please and thank you as soon as they are able to speak.

If we want our children to be truly happy, we will try to instil in them an attitude of appreciation and gratitude. The words please and thank you are not magic formulas for getting what we want. Please means that you value and respect the other person, with their own needs, obligations and priorities. Thank you means that you are grateful that the other person has chosen to take the time and effort to do something for you.

Teaching children to be grateful is best done in an environment where people and things are appreciated. The best teacher is example. To raise children who are thankful and appreciative, we must model these attitudes ourselves.

One hot summer afternoon Jenny picked up her daughter from school. Traffic was very heavy, but eventually a driver stopped to let her in. Instead of waving a thank you, Jenny muttered 'and about time too!' What message did Jenny's daughter get from that encounter? Why should Jenny not be surprised when her child behaves ungraciously?



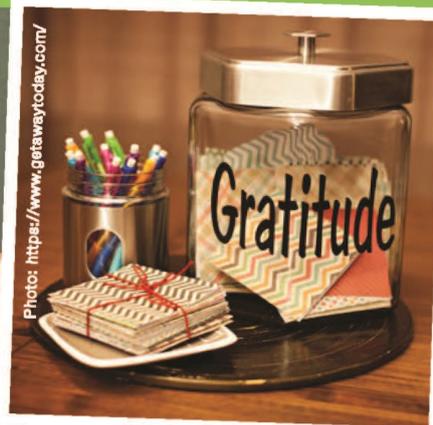
SOME THINGS PARENTS CAN DO

- Thank your child when they have made an effort to help you.
- Look for opportunities to express thanks.
- Look for ways of expressing appreciation. Consider the kind of thank you someone would really value.
- Talk about things for which you are grateful. Remind children that a warm house, a friendly neighbour and grandparents who love them are all blessings.
- Giving up - for a day or two - something they take for granted (television, car, mobile phone) is a challenging way to help older children appreciate what they have.
- Encourage your child to share with and give to others - especially people who have less material goods than they do.
- Older children can write or email notes of thanks for Christmas presents or on other occasions. Before a child is able to write, they can send thankyou pictures or voice messages.
- As the old song says: 'Count your blessings'. And thank God for them.

CREATE

Thankfulness in practice

Begin this year by placing an empty jar on your table. Have some small cut papers and a pen beside for people to write and draw things they are thankful for throughout the year. Stop and read/ share these at different times throughout the year.



Let's Talk.

In Deuteronomy 6 God encourages us to 'teach our children diligently, talk when you sit in your house, when you walk, when you lie down and when you rise' (paraphrased). Sometimes parents can feel overwhelmed or ill-equipped to share their faith. God is reminding us in these verses that we aren't to feel this way, we can simply remember God in the very ordinary times and moments of our daily lives and share these with each other. He has given us the Holy Spirit to help us too.

Meal times are a very precious time to simply give thanks and praise before eating. This is a great ritual that can be passed through the generations. Meal times also afford the time to share how life is going. Simply ask what a high and low was for each person for the day.

If you are seeking further resources you can find sets of great conversations starters on our website www.growministries.org.au



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA
where love comes to life



Equipping grandparents to connect



We know that parents are the key people who influence whether or not children will have faith, but research also highlights the enormous impact grandparents have too. Grandparents have new ways to connect with their grandchildren through technology, they are living longer and healthier and are often a carer to their grandchildren. This increased involvement also allows grandparents the opportunities to share their faith with their grandchildren. We have five roles that grandparents can play in enhancing their grandchildren's faith formation. Here is the first.

1 BE PRESENT

Grandparents have the awesome gift of being available, unhurried and giving timeless care. Grandparents have time to listen with open ears and hearts to the wonderings of a young child who has many questions. Invite your grandchildren for individual 'sleepovers' at your house. While they are over, do some of their favourite things together – cook, play music, sing, and even dance together! Far away grandparents can read a book series together over FaceTime or Skype, or send text messages of love.

The Culture of Forgiveness

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the LORD forgave you. Colossians 3:13

The home is a great place for creating a culture of practising forgiveness. We often hurt those that are closest to us. At appropriate times, parents can model speaking words of forgiveness with each other, especially where children can hear. Brene Brown suggests we stay curious when we don't understand someone else, and this often looks like asking questions. "I'm not really sure what you meant when you said ... can you help me understand?" or "I've realised what I've said or done has really hurt you, please forgive me?"

Essentially forgiveness is about making a U-turn in a situation – stopping things on the road they are heading down. Being responsive to the moment where we find ourselves against each other requires someone to start with the words "I'm sorry".

Forgiveness also acknowledges that you are letting go of that hurt, it doesn't mean the hurt has gone away. Facilitating conversations between siblings to share their feelings with each other, using questions and "I" statements, can form the foundation for practising forgiveness beyond the home.



For more information or subscriptions contact the Grow Ministries team
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