



the Spirit

St Luke's College

seek truth and justice

2 - Term 1 2009
24 February 2009

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Principal's Renewal Leave

I will be taking Renewal Leave from 18th May to 3rd July – Weeks 3 to 10 during Term 2.

Renewal Leave is accrued at the rate of one week for every year as a Principal in the WA Catholic system. It is designed to assist Principals to enrich their understanding of the Catholic faith in order to enhance their capacity to lead Catholic schools.

I will be studying Theology in Renaissance Art at the Lorenzo di Medici University in Florence and will then tour significant Catholic sites in Italy.

During my leave, Mr Rob Knox, former Deputy Principal 2003–2007, will be Acting Principal.

Student Numbers

As at census day, the College had 402 students enrolled.

- Year 8 96
- Year 9 95
- Year 10 84
- Year 11 78
- Year 12 49

This is the largest enrolment we have ever had at St Luke's. I am particularly pleased that parents are choosing to

- stay in Karratha for their child's upper school education
- not enrol students in boarding schools in Years 11 and 12.

Quite obviously, the larger the enrolment in upper school, the greater range of subjects we can offer. By increasing the variety and difficulty level of subjects, we can offer more appropriate subjects suited to individual students.

Year 8 Camp

I am very grateful to Rhianna Copeland, Year 8 Coordinator, for her superb organisation and presence on our Year 8 Camp at Dampier.

Thank you also to Mel Kearney, Lisa Gemell, Emily Forsyth, Sunniva Antonucci, Tom Kavanagh and Ross Wakely for their work with the students.

Teachers are on duty for 24 hours when they take students away and have a huge responsibility. I appreciate our staff members' willingness to be away from home and to take on these extra duties.

Year 8 Parents Cheese and Wine Evening

All parents of Year 8 students are invited to attend our annual event when parents are able to meet teachers in a social setting.

COMING EVENTS

25 February
Ash Wednesday Mass

26 February
1:30—6:30pm
Inter-House Swimming
Carnival

27 February
Pupil Free Day

2 March
Labour Day Holiday

3 March - 7:00pm
Year 8 Parent Wine and
Cheese Night
(Harding block)

11 March - 7:00pm
Friends of St Luke's
Meeting
(Computer Room)

During this evening, all parents will be able to experience a live YourTutor demonstration.

The Friends of St Luke's (FOSL) will also be present to explain their function and to recruit new members.

Please come along to the Year 8 (Harding) block at 7:00pm on Tuesday 3rd March.

Inter-House Swimming Carnival – Thursday 26th February

All parents are welcome to attend our annual Inter-House Swimming Carnival this Thursday 26th February between 1:30 and 6:30pm at the Karratha Aquatic Centre.

This carnival is compulsory for all students. All students will be required to participate.

Please note that no transport home will be provided after the carnival. Students must make their own arrangements.

Pupil Free Day – Friday 27th February

The College staff have a staff development day on Friday 27th February, so the school will not be open for students.

Year 11/12 Review

The Year 11 and 12 teachers will be compiling results from all students at this early stage of their upper school courses. Students who have not demonstrated an ability to pass subjects will be asked to modify their course.

Our aim is for every student to graduate from St Luke's with a WA Certificate of Education.

Year 9 and 10 Class Structure

In Year 9 and 10, we have three classes for Religious Education, English, Maths, Science and Society and Environment. Students in these core subjects have been allocated to an extension class or to one of two standard classes.

This allocation has been done on the basis of the student's previous results in the core subjects and with reference to their scores on other standardised tests such as the Middle Years Ability Test, the NAPLAN or MSE9 tests.

In both years, the 32 students who have the best total scores have been allocated to the extension class. This extension class is common to the five core areas.

In English and Society and Environment, all students will study the same content. In Maths and Science, there are extension activities designed to lead students into the higher Maths and Science at Upper School level.

Students may be transferred between the two groups depending on their progress and work ethic. A review of placements will occur at the end of Term 2.

Homework

Following is an excerpt from our College Diary that explains the College's policy on homework. Every student must be in the habit of spending the recommended time at their desk each day after school. Parents must support a constant routine at home and insist on a regular homework session. Even if homework is not due the next day, the student should be revising, reading ahead, making notes or even tidying up notes. A daily homework session should be as automatic as having dinner. In secondary school, there is no such thing as no homework.

1. Why Homework?

Research findings clearly indicate that a carefully thought out and conscientiously implemented homework programme produces higher levels of student achievement.

2. Homework Defined

Homework is any study or learning activity outside of regular class time, which a student does in response to a teacher assignment and that deliberately seeks to enhance the extent to which a student benefits from the school's educational programme. It may be uniform for an entire class or it may vary from student to student.

3. yourtutor

All students at St Luke's have access to yourtutor between 3.00pm and 10.00 pm Sunday to Friday.
www.yourtutor.com

4. Purpose of Homework

- a) To extend the time available for students to consolidate skills and concepts learned at school.
- b) To have students explore new ideas and situations through research.
- c) To help students to learn to study through practice -
 - (i) To identify the job to be done.
 - (ii) To budget their time and effort.
 - (iii) To concentrate with persistence on the job at hand.
 - (iv) To locate materials and select the ones which are useful for their purpose.
 - (v) To develop independence.
- d) To have students revise, memorise and/or review work done previously.
- e) To accomplish a gradual transition in the amount of study expected as they progress through to upper school.
- f) To provide extra opportunity:
 - (i) for slower learners to achieve satisfactorily by giving them more time;
 - (ii) for creative or more able students to extend their achievement to a level in keeping with their ability.

5. Failure to do Homework

Students who fail to do their homework to a satisfactory level will be issued with a lunchtime detention.

Failure to attend a lunchtime detention will result in 2 lunchtime detentions being issued.

Failure to attend to these will result in an after school detention.

6. Time Allocation of Homework

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| Year 8 | 1 - 1½ hours/night |
| Year 9 | 1 - 1½ hours/night |
| Year 10 | 2 hours/night |
| Year 11 | 2 - 3 hours/night |
| Year 12 | 3 - 4 hours/night |

Students' Success

Jess Khouri who left at the end of Year 10 in 2006 to go to Mercedes in Perth has been accepted into Medicine at UWA - joining three other St Luke's alumni in the UWA Medicine intake.

Luke Williams (Class of 08 Dux) has added the UWA Excellence award to his \$5,000 Burrup and \$10,000 North West Shelf Venture Scholarships.

PETER BOTHE
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTY'S OUTBOX

Week 4 and most students appear to have settled in to the serious task of their studies. Just another reminder to the Year 11 and 12s about the importance of constant revision in order to consolidate on their learning.

Friends of St Luke's (FOSL)

The school Inter-House Swimming Carnival is on Thursday 26th February and the Friends of St Luke's (FOSL) will be hosting a sausage sizzle. Any parents who can help on the day are requested to contact Paul Ahern on 0439 968 044.

The Friends Of St Luke's is an integral part of the College community. It comprises parents and carers who plan and undertake programs and events to build a stronger school community and raise ancillary funds to support the College's educational development for all students. It conducts a number of events each year to raise funds for educational, sporting, cultural, musical and ancillary equipment and services.

The Friend of St Luke's has monthly meetings – usually the second week on a Wednesday – in the school computer

room at 7.00pm.

I would like to encourage all parents to come along to the FOSL meetings and enjoy the exciting experience of their children's formal school years by active participation and personal involvement in the activities and life of the school.

God Bless.

SUNNIVA ANTONUCCI
Deputy Principal

The next meeting of the Friends of St Luke's will be

**Wednesday 11th March - 7.00pm
in the Computer Room near the Library**

We would love to see you there!



FROM THE RE COORDINATOR

Oh what a busy Season!

Ash Wednesday, Lent and Project Compassion

From the Religious Education point of view, this is a very busy time. We begin the Season of Lent on February 25th with Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance and there will be liturgies in school where the students will be invited to have a cross marked on their foreheads with the ashes from last year's Palm Sunday.

Lent is a 40 day season when the Christian World undertakes a sacrificing of something in a positive or denial fashion as they prepare for the ultimate Sacrifice of Jesus on Good Friday and his subsequent Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Students will be encouraged to embrace the concept of sacrifice and some of this can be undertaken by committing some savings to Project Compassion.

Each year, Caritas promotes Project Compassion where funds are allocated to specific projects. In fact **Pope Benedict XVI** has stated, *"Every person and family can and must do something to alleviate hunger...by adopting a lifestyle and consumption compatible with the safeguarding of creation and the criteria of justice."*

The projects of Caritas this year will be in Uganda, India, PNG, Indigenous Indonesian communities, training community members of indigenous Australia and projects in Bolivia. More information is available on www.caritas.org.au. Please encourage your student to be involved and try to make a difference to those in greater need. Just remember that:

- \$10 could provide 35 tree seedlings to reforest a drought affected region in tribal India
- \$20 could provide a Bolivian child with two chickens and skills to rear them to increase family nutrition
- \$50 could support a young Indigenous Australian to learn skills in youth work for the benefit of their whole community

Christian Service Learning (CSL)

Year 12 students this year must complete their CSL if they wish to graduate. This was a Government initiative some years ago. Those Year 12s who still have outstanding hours should try to finish this commitment as soon as possible because they will have enough to attend to later in the year.

Year 11 students should also continue the effort and avail of every opportunity to amass those hours and have them completed by the end of Year 11.

Year 10 students have just had the whole concept explained to them and a letter will be sent to parents later this semester explaining the importance and implementation of the scheme. Essentially, the students can volunteer to make a difference to someone who needs help. Where there is direct personal gain, the hours cannot be counted but most other contributions can. The students can discuss their situations and circumstances with me at any time.

The question is not to find the easy way out but to find the most beneficial way out. Students are asked to reflect on what they have done and achieved.

Victorian Bush Fires Appeal

Your children have been absolutely marvellous in their response to the appeal in school. They were keen to be involved from the very beginning and there were many requests from the students themselves as to how they could help. They raised in excess of \$1,600 and collected a vast array of clothes for forwarding on to those affected in Victoria. The students were also very empathetic and every day they keep the unfortunate families in their prayers.

The following prayer is one composed by a Year 10 student:

Dear God,

Please assist all who desire a helping hand. Our lives all contain constant stresses and confusing problems. Give us the strength, courage and resilience to overcome obstacles that we encounter during our lives. This we ask through Christ Our Lord. Amen

TOM KAVANAGH
RE Coordinator

INTER-HOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

This year's Inter-House Swimming Carnival has come around quickly and will be held this week at the Karratha Aquatic Centre. It will take place on **Thursday 26th February from 1.30 - 6.30pm** in line with the St Luke's tradition of a twilight carnival to avoid the heat. Students will be transported to the Aquatic Centre by bus and it will be parents' responsibility to collect all students by 6.30pm as there will be no supervision after this time.

The College Inter-House Carnival is a **compulsory** school event and all students are expected to attend the **entire** carnival. **Friday 27th February is a pupil free day** to make up for this time and no students are expected at school on this day.

As always, we invite parents to come along for the carnival as the extra encouragement from the sidelines is always helpful. If any parents are interested in helping out in any way (e.g. timing, recording etc) it would be greatly appreciated, and you can contact me at the College. Spectator entry to the pool will be free and the Friends of St Luke's will be hosting a sausage sizzle – so come down and make a night of it.

Students are to wear their full sports uniform to school on carnival day. This includes St Luke's House shirt, black shorts, school hat and sneakers. Appropriate swimming attire (for racing) should be brought in separately, as students will have the opportunity to get changed at the pool. Students are also encouraged to bring along sunscreen, a water bottle and snacks to ensure that they have an enjoyable day. Please ensure your child is prepared for the carnival.

This carnival is all about participation, with students getting points for every race they compete in. However, this year, we will be looking for the top swimmers in each age group to compete in the inter-school competition held here in Karratha, as well as the ACC carnival to be held in Perth. Our participation in the ACC carnival would not be possible without the great support from the North West Shelf Venture.

If you have any questions or would like to help on the day, please don't hesitate to contact me at the College. I look forward to seeing you for what is shaping up to be a very exciting carnival.

MELANIE KEARNEY
Sports Coordinator

CANTEEN NOTICE

A revised Canteen menu and price list with effect from 3rd March 2009 is attached to the hard copy of this newsletter and is also available on the College website.

EDUCATION TAX REFUND

The Education Tax Refund – Get 50% back

Under the new Education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to \$750 for primary students and \$1500 for secondary students.

This means you could receive a refund each year of up to \$375 for each primary and \$750 for each secondary school student in your care.

Are you eligible?

To be eligible you must have received Family Tax Benefit Part A for each child whose education expenses you wish to claim. You can also claim the Education Tax Refund if you were stopped from receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A because your child received any of the following:

- Youth Allowance (student) aged 18
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY
- the Veterans' Children Education Scheme
- the Student Financial Supplement Scheme
- a scheme under s258 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004
- an Australian Postgraduate Award.

Independent students are also eligible to claim.

What can you claim?

You can claim the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:

- laptops, home computers and associated costs — for example, internet and paper
- educational software, printers, USB flash drives, disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- stationery and art supplies
- school textbooks and associated learning materials
- trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade courses.

Some of the expenses you cannot claim include school fees or the cost of school uniforms, school excursions or travel to and from school, musical instruments or sporting equipment, clothing or footwear. For a more comprehensive list visit

www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

When can you claim?

You can claim your education expenses in your 2009 tax return. If you do not have to lodge a tax return, you will be able to lodge a separate claim with the Tax Office from 1 July 2009.

Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.

If your education expenses in one year are more than the claim limit for your children, you can add the excess to your education expenses for the following year.

For more information:

- visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au
- phone the Tax Office on **13 28 61**.