On Sunday 16 March our College joined with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for a contemporary service, with high involvement from students, College band and Choir. It was an awesome time of worshipping together and praising God for all that He does for us.
Newsletters
Last year we commenced using the College's website and a College Facebook page to give parents regular communication about the upcoming events and activities of the College. We have found over the last six months that this has now become the main way that parents seek information about what is happening at the College. It is not unusual for an article or reminder to receive 700 - 800 hits when it is uploaded to Facebook and the tracking that we do on how many people are accessing our website indicates similar numbers.

We have found in discussions with parents that this newsletter is no longer used as the primary source of information about the events of the College. Over the next two terms we are going to trial a new system to give you information about the College and its programs. Firstly we are going to put more information and reminders on the website and Facebook page, including articles about specific events and diary dates. We are also going to publish and print a larger newsletter once a term that will give you more in-depth information about what has occurred at the College. This newsletter will be mailed home to you towards the end of the term. At the end of this trial period we will be seeking feedback from you as parents as to the effectiveness of this change. In the meantime can I encourage you to check in regularly on our website or Facebook page and read about all the College events that are occurring?

Visiting Principals
Last week we had 8 Principals from Lutheran Secondary schools in South Australia visiting Good Shepherd. They were extremely impressed with the programs that the College offers and the facilities. However the most outstanding feature of the College in their words were the students. They were so amazed at how easily the students engaged with them when they spoke with them about what they were doing and learning and the pride that the students had in their achievements. In one class the students who were learning dance at the time asked if they could show them the routine they were learning and then went on to perform a spectacular routine. What was obvious to them was how engaged the students were in their learning and how well they related to staff and their peers. Sometimes it takes someone from outside to point out things that perhaps we don't notice or just take for granted.

Black Out
I would like to thank parents and students for their patience last Wednesday when the College was closed due to the loss of power across Darwin. The policy of the College is to follow what the Government schools do when it comes to school closures due to emergency situations, this includes cyclones and severe weather events and we can now add mass power outages to the list. If any of these events occur and the Minister of Education declares that schools will be closed then we will follow suit and close the College. We will put messages out through Facebook and the website as well.

Julian Denholm
College Principal

Temporary Administration Officer Position
Palmerston Campus

Good Shepherd requires assistance with front office administration from Monday 14 April – Friday 9 May (four weeks), 10.15am – 1.15pm. If you would like more information, please contact the College on 8983 0300 or email Suzanne Otto, Office Manager; suzanne.otto@ntschools.net
Showing Compassion

Always be humble and gentle. Patiently put up with each other and love each other.
Ephesians 4:2

There are a number of stories in the Gospels about Jesus showing compassion to people. The one we have been looking at in chapel this week is when Jesus fed 5,000 people using just a little bit of food which had been brought by one boy. Jesus saw that the people were hungry and he was moved to provide for them. Many times we read of similar stories when Jesus came across people who were sick, or upset, or in need in any way. In his earthly life he demonstrated the love and compassion of God for all people.

We both live in and God’s compassion and are now moved to show it to others each day. We do this in the way we help out those who are overseas, as well as the people we come in touch with in our everyday lives.

A question for us all is; how does God’s love and compassion affect me in my life each day? What things do I have to be thankful for? How do I see God’s grace coming through in what happens to me every day? What does it mean to me that he loves and forgives me?

And then: how do I show compassion to others? Do I forgive them in the same way I expect to be forgiven? Do I treat them the way I want to be treated? Do I look out for the needs of others and do whatever I can to help them, even if it means putting myself out?

In the Bible and in our lives we have so many examples of God showing love and compassion to each one of us. We can remember that, thank him for it, and also ask him to help us to show love and compassion to each other.

God’s blessings to you all,
Pastor Andrew

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Sunday Worship: 10:30am
Howard Springs Campus, The chapel, Senior Schools Building
Cnr Whitewood Road & Kundook Place
Howard Springs

Kokoda Special Offer – School Fundraiser
14 Day Kokoda Package – Save $200 & raise $200 for the Good Shepherd Lutheran School
This July a group from Darwin will be walking the Kokoda Trail in Papua New Guinea
If you would like to join us, we are offering a $200 discount to anyone who books before end of April. In addition to the $200 discount for you, we will also donate $200 to your school.
This offer is only open to anyone who books before April 30.

Package includes
• 10 days on the Kokoda Trail.
• All trek meals and guesthouse accommodation
• Experienced Australian Guide
• Local PNG Guides and group porters
• Emergency communications
• Road transport to and from the track
• 2 extra days at the Northern Beaches or Buna & Gona
• Cultural welcome & Boat Transfer.
*Does not include optional personal porter, pre & post-trek hotel & airfares

For more Information, please visit: www.freespiritadventures.com.au

Contact: wayne@freespiritadventures.com.au or Mobile: 0421 598 465
Greetings all

It's amazing how quickly that we have reached week 8 of the term. It seems like only last week that we were conducting information evenings and discussing what to expect in the year ahead and what was required of students in order to be successful. We are now well into the term, many assessment tasks have been completed and patterns in student achievement and application have started to become apparent.

Aside from formal assessment procedures, we regularly monitor student progress, not only regarding the grade standard that students are demonstrating at any given time, but also their approach to their learning (as per the performance indicators we use in the end of semester reports). This monitoring allows us to remain in touch with how students are generally progressing across their subjects and to identify patterns which can help us to support their improvement. By regularly seeking feedback from teachers, we are able to stay in touch with student progress across a term, semester and year.

At this early time in the year, it is very encouraging to see that the majority of students have established productive approaches to their studies and are beginning to produce good quality work. Although it is early days and change is inevitable as the year progresses, establishing these good practices early is a good indicator of future success and students are to be congratulated (and will be recognised at a Senior School assembly this week) for such a good start. There are some students who are still coming to terms with the work requirements of their new year, and by staying in touch with their progress, we can identify staff who can support them in the areas in which they need to improve. Different students will require support at different stages of the year so it is important that we continue to monitor progress in between the formal assessment program.

This process of monitoring progress, reflecting on performance and setting future goals is an important skill both in school and in life. On Monday in week 8, our year 12 students spent the first half of their day (while year 12 teachers attended important professional development) examining goals that they set for themselves in their orientation week last year, making judgements about their progress to date and setting goals for the coming term. This process of goal setting not only involved looking at their academic progress to date (grades), but also how they are coping with setbacks, tackling challenges and managing their time, personal lives and mental health. Students are supported in taking positive and proactive steps to manage this important year, while building upon the relationships which will help to carry them through as a team.

In addition to the subject specific learning and support provided by teachers, we will continue to engage students in a range of events and programs throughout the year that will help them to stay in touch with their current progress as well as their future goals and ensure that these remain in sync. These include aspects of the Pastoral Care program, visits from universities, personal interviews, parent/student information evenings, targeted support resulting from data collection and orientation programs. I encourage parents and students to view these opportunities as seriously as they do their studies as together they will ensure a balanced and strategic approach to success in senior school and a transition to the student’s goals beyond.

Sincerely
Darren Boyce
Head of Senior School.

---

**Working with Performance Standards in the NTCET**

When students are given a task in an NTCET subject, they are also given the performance standards against which they are going to be assessed. Students should look carefully at the standards as they are described at the different grade levels as these will give them the information they need to do well as they describe what a student has to do in order to achieve at the different levels. The description at the A level might be focused investigation and insightful analysis, which is very different to the C level description of generally organised investigation and considered analysis. If students are unsure about the meaning of the descriptor in the standards then they should be asking their teachers to give them examples of each level.

The Achieve Magazine for Stage 2 students that is published by the SACE Board describes the performance standards in this way, “Having performance standards allows for fair grading across the subject in all schools. All SACE teachers and assessors are marking with reference to the same performance standards, so students receive comparable grades. As a student, you can use the grades and performance standards like stepping stones across a river. If each stone represents a grade, then the performance standards help guide you from one stone to the next. You can look back and see where you’ve been and look forward to see what you want to achieve, with a clear idea about how to get there.”

A student who is working ‘smart’ will always pull apart the performance standards before they begin a task and use them constantly as a reference point as they complete the task.

Elsabe Bott
Head of Studies
Next week parents of Middle School students will have the opportunity to attend three way conferences with their child’s teachers, and most importantly with their children. Bookings for these conferences can be made through the College Website, in the PTO section of the ‘My College’ Parent tab (bottom right corner of website).

Three-way conferences, while similar to Parent Teacher Interviews, are different in that they place the student, and their learning, at the centre of the conversation. Students are expected to take part in the discussion about their learning, and use the opportunity to reflect on what they have learnt, and what they need to do to continue learning and improving.

The student, with help from the teacher, will need to discuss their strengths and weaknesses, and will be asked to reflect on what they have learned and what they still need to learn, allowing them to set clear goals for future learning, based on the areas where they identify they need to make more progress.

As the parent involved in the discussion you are encouraged ask questions of the teacher to clarify what your child needs to do in the short and medium term to continue to improve, and discuss the feedback given by the teacher with your child to ensure all parties in the discussion understand what needs to be done early in Term 2 to reach the goals set.

The iBYMP program encourages three-way conferences as they involve parents and students in the learning process and improve an understanding of the teaching and learning, assessment and reporting process.

Examples of the questions that you may want to ask your child during the conference:
- What are your strengths in this subject?
- What are your weaknesses?
- What do you/we need to do to improve upon the weaknesses?
- What are you most proud of this term in this subject? Why?
- What are your goals for next term?
- What IB grade are you aiming for (1-7)? How are you going to achieve this?

Examples of the questions that you may want to ask your child’s teacher during the conference:
- What is working well for my child?
- What are one or two areas that you would like to see improvement in?
- Is there anything I can do to support my child’s learning?

If after the conference, and after discussions with your child, you want to follow up with the class or subject teacher please do this via email, or through the front office, leaving a message for the teacher to contact you. The reason for the conference is to give your child the best opportunity for success, and we as teachers are committed to ensure we give your child every opportunity to do this.

Rachel Boyce  
Head of Middle School

College Shop News  
Back To School Voucher.  The vouchers are available in the College Shop, they can be used towards uniforms, intercampus bus fees and the ICT Levy.  The vouchers must be used by Friday 4th April 2014.  
Shop opening times:  Monday to Thursday 7.45 to 3.30pm  No appointment needed. 
Uniform Orders can now be conveniently made through the Flexischools website. Go to:  www.flexischools.com.au 
Stationery, iPads, backpacks, even umbrellas can also be purchased from the College Shop.

School Based Immunisation Program  
The School Based Immunisation Program, covering students in Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10, will be conducted at the College this year.  The dates for this year’s program are:  
Second Visit  
Wednesday, 28 May 2014  
Friday, 30 May 2014  
Third Visit  
Tuesday, 16 September 2014  
If you have any questions or queries regarding the School Based Immunisation Program please feel free to contact the College Office on 8983 0300.
This week we begin the first of our parent information sessions with a workshop for Transition and Year 1 parents on reading. We have had an excellent response with a lot of interest in these workshops confirming that our parents are truly partnering with us in the education of their children.

The students will be attending the Palmerston Leisure Centre on Thursday 20 March for the annual swimming carnival. We thank Mrs Trahair for the work she has put into organising the carnival and I look forward to a successful day.

Our next assembly will be on Friday, 21 March and will be hosted by 5KC. All parents are welcome to come along.

The Junior School Three-way Conferences are being conducted in Week 10. All parents are asked to use the PTO system to book their timeslots. Please do this well in advance so that teachers can plan their schedules.

In addition to the classroom conferences there will be opportunities for parents to see what is happening in specialist lessons. There will be a display of what takes place during Music and PE lessons in the Resource Centre and the students are welcome to take their parents to these displays before or after their Three-way Conferences. Mrs Trahair will be in attendance on Tuesday afternoon and Mrs Lloyd will be in attendance on Wednesday afternoon but the displays will be available for the three days of the conferences.

The Japanese room will be open each day and students are welcome to take their parents in to show them what they are learning in Japanese. Yumi Sensei will be in attendance on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. Please arrive promptly for your timeslot and allow the conferences to run smoothly by finishing on time.

The Three-way Conferences are a very important part of our College calendar and we look forward to this opportunity to celebrate your child’s learning journey.

Lynne Pokela
Head of Junior School

Hello everyone!

I just wanted to introduce myself to those of you who might not know who I am. I am the new Learning support teacher and joined Good Shepherd in January. I have taken over in what used to be called the Little Stars room. My name is Miss Price (Lizzy) and I have renamed my room “The Lighthouse” it is situated between the transition and Year three class next to the rock area.

I am originally from the UK and have been teaching now for eleven years and this has been mostly in primary schools. I have been a Special Needs Coordinator in my previous schools. I have also been involved in the Autistic Spectrum Disorder Special program here in the N.T. I first moved to Perth from the UK and spent two years there before moving out to the remote community of Port Keats/Wadeye. I have been in Darwin now for two and a half years and I am very happy to have made a home here.

In addition to the classroom conferences there will be opportunities for parents to see what is happening in specialist lessons. There will be a display of what takes place during Music and PE lessons in the Resource Centre and the students are welcome to take their parents to these displays before or after their Three-way Conferences. Mrs Trahair will be in attendance on Tuesday afternoon and Mrs Lloyd will be in attendance on Wednesday afternoon but the displays will be available for the three days of the conferences.

The Japanese room will be open each day and students are welcome to take their parents in to show them what they are learning in Japanese. Yumi Sensei will be in attendance on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. Please arrive promptly for your timeslot and allow the conferences to run smoothly by finishing on time.

The Three-way Conferences are a very important part of our College calendar and we look forward to this opportunity to celebrate your child’s learning journey.

Lynne Pokela
Head of Junior School

Hello everyone!

I just wanted to introduce myself to those of you who might not know who I am. I am the new Learning support teacher and joined Good Shepherd in January. I have taken over in what used to be called the Little Stars room. My name is Miss Price (Lizzy) and I have renamed my room “The Lighthouse” it is situated between the transition and Year three class next to the rock area.

I am originally from the UK and have been teaching now for eleven years and this has been mostly in primary schools. I have been a Special Needs Coordinator in my previous schools. I have also been involved in the Autistic Spectrum Disorder Special program here in the N.T. I first moved to Perth from the UK and spent two years there before moving out to the remote community of Port Keats/Wadeye. I have been in Darwin now for two and a half years and I am very happy to have made a home here.

I am very happy to be part of such a wonderful happy and supportive school community and can’t believe how fast the weeks have flown! I look forward to working with all the wonderful children and fantastic teachers and getting to know all the parent and care givers too.

I’d like to put a request out to all the families from the school because I am hoping you can help me with some things you may have lying around that I could make use of for various craft projects. Please can you keep any old greeting cards and Christmas cards and hand them into the front office. Also if you have any old fishing or nature magazines they would also be gratefully received.

Many thanks,

Lizzy
Three-way Conferences

Three-way conferences, which are coming up in Week 10 (Monday 31 March, Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 April) are one aspect of assessment and reporting at Good Shepherd.

During the three-way conferences, everyone has a role to play. The students demonstrate what they know as they share their accomplishments and set new learning goals. You, as parents find out about your children's learning, have the opportunity to ask questions and express your ideas, and help make plans to support your children's learning at home. Teachers facilitate and add to the three-way conversations. They support the learners and the parents by clarifying, elaborating and responding to specific questions and concerns. In addition, this year there will be an opportunity for parents to speak one-on-one with the class teacher without the student present. Your child will be asked to leave the room for a short time and wait outside so that the conversation can continue just between the teacher and parent/s.

As parents you may already have some questions you wish to ask during this time. Here are a few more suggestions:

- How has this changed the way you think?
- I can see how your use of language and punctuation, etc is improving
- You seemed to have really enjoyed learning about...
- You presented your work...(well, with pride, so I could understand)...
- I can see how much more you understand because...
- I can see how much thinking you would have had to do, to...
- I can see that you displayed confidence/risk-taking/empathy/independence/commitment/enthusiasm/creativity when you completed this task. (choose one!)
- You should be really proud of......
- Perhaps next term you can focus more on...........for a goal.
- Thank you for sharing your learning with me/us, it's so good to have seen what you do at school

You would also have begun receiving assessments that you can access through the Knowledge Community. These are assessments of summative tasks in various curriculum areas that will count towards your child's 1 – 7 grade at the end of Semester 1 (end of Term 2). If you are unsure about what these mean please speak with your child's teacher.

Another aspect of assessment and reporting are the individual student portfolios. These contain samples of work across the curriculum that, as the year goes on provides evidence of learning. They also showcase reflective assessments which are very difficult to portray through a mark or grade. You will see samples where students reflect on themselves as learners and how they have been displaying the attributes of the PYP Learner Profile and Attitudes. You can take the portfolios home after the three-way conference, but they will need to be returned early in Term 2.

Teachers go through a cycle of planning, teaching, assessing, reporting and revising so that they are continually catering for the needs of the students in their class.

Assessment is integral to teaching and learning at Good Shepherd and parents are a critical part of this process. As well as reporting to you in various ways we know that you have the biggest impact on your child's life and consequently their learning.

We encourage you to be involved in your child's learning and talk with their teacher about ways you can support them at home.