



Volume 35 Number 3

23 February 2018

## *From our Principal's Desk, .....*

### **"You are not Special!"**

I shared this topic with the Middle School students at our weekly D&M (Devotion & Messages /Deep and Meaningful) on Monday morning. You can imagine the reaction of the students when a supposedly caring Principal says ..... guys you are not special! Eyes were wide open, mouths agape, one student exclaimed "That's harsh!" another "I'm offended!"

Now to elaborate... *"Contrary to what your collection soccer/netball/rugby league trophies suggests, your glowing school report card records...no matter how often your maternal caped crusader eg. Mum... has swooped in to save you... you're not that special that you are entitled to whatever you want.*

*As a person on this earth you are not entitled to anything. You are not entitled to an A for Maths because you are usually good at Maths, you are not entitled to leave a classroom untidy or damage school property because your parents contribute financially for you to attend the school and when you leave school you will not be entitled to a job, a large home or a six-figure salary. All of those things are earned. "*

You are not special because you all, each one of you, are special, and each one of you, deserve to have parents and teachers who want to prepare you, and equip you, to handle the reality of living and working in this world. It takes grit, motivation and resilience to be successful in this world and you can't develop those traits if they do not have the opportunity to work on them.

Children with a sense of entitlement, who receive too much from their parents, aren't challenged academically at schools are often not the happiest adults and the growing statistics around depression and mental illness in our young people support this.

What does this mean for parenting and education? Our children need...

1. **To know the value of hard work and money.** Have opportunities to work, earn money and save for what they want. This teaches delayed gratification and the value of the dollar.
2. **To have confidence through adversity.** Protecting our children from danger is one thing, but shielding children from adversity doesn't equip them to persevere.
3. **Have an accurate view of self.** Encourage our children to set goals and reach them. But help them shape their goals based on an honest assessment of their God-given abilities and willingness to work.
4. **To cultivate the quality of empathy.** To have the ability to share another's pain, walk in their shoes. Empathy is not just critical to reaching the world for Christ, but it also plays a central role in adult relationships. Forgiveness, sacrifice and the deepest level of communication rely on a foundation of empathy.

I finished with....in the biblical sense, you are indeed all very special. The Word makes it clear that we are each special in God's sight. We were each "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14), made in God's own image (Genesis 1:27), and we are each given a unique set of gifts and talents (1 Corinthians 12).

But we all need to understand the difference between being "special" in God's sight and acting like the world owes us something for nothing.



### Upcoming Events

#### **28 February**

- College Council Meeting at 6:00 pm

#### **2 March**

- Middle School Social Night

#### **12 March**

- PFC Meeting at 2:00pm Staff Room

#### **13 March**

- FCFD - Year Six providing

#### **16 March**

- National No Bullying Day - Wear an Orange Accessory

#### **18 March**

- Sunday Service and Supper at The Trinity Chapel led by Year Two at 5:00 pm.

#### **28 April**

- Under 8's Play Day

### **REMINDERS -**

SRC will be selling Icy Poles Fridays at lunch time in Banksia. 50c each.

## Prayer Families

### Week 5

- Buhlmann
- Bulten
- Burling
- Burnett

### Week 6

- Clapham
- Clapper
- Clews
- Cochrane

## Birthday Blessings

The College Community would like to wish the following students a happy and blessed birthday.

### February

- 24 Benjamin Hicks
- 27 Elijah Madu
- 28 Jared Currier

### March

- 1 Harry Dendle
- 1 Stavros Milios
- 3 Emma Clapham
- 4 Riley Roberts
- 7 Isabel DeGit



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## Teaching and Learning News.....

### Home - School Partnerships

The benefits of positive home school partnerships are undisputable. Desforges and Aboucher (2003) write that positive relationships within this space are “...important for young people’s social and emotional wellbeing and academic achievement.” When teachers and parents are on the same page with regards to expectations, students feel a sense of comfort and ease as they know exactly where they stand and are aware of what is and isn’t acceptable behaviour.

At Redeemer, our mission is Student Focused Learning for Life. We work hard to identify and meet the needs of the individual students in our school. Whilst we try really hard to get our teaching right, like all things in life, there is room for improvement. We consistently evaluate our practice and seek constructive feedback around gains can be made. If the partnerships between school and home are strong, then parents should feel comfortable about offering feedback around where improvements lie from their perspective. We always welcome respectfully offered constructive feedback as we seek to improve the learning outcomes for your students.

*Sandra Wass*

## THANK YOU

The staff have a mystery healthy “snack” provider. Your generosity and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. Thank you for caring for our health and wellbeing.



## From the Bursar’s Office.....

### School Fees

Thank you to the parents who have paid their fees on time. The College appreciates your continued support as this allows the College to pay its own invoices on time. Term fees were due for payment on Friday, 16 February 2018 making any unpaid invoices now overdue. These accounts will be charged a \$55 Administration Fee. Fees may be paid using internet banking, EFTPOS, credit card, cash, cheques or through Parent Lounge. Thank you. Families paying full years fees are reminded the due date is **Wednesday, 28 February 2018.**

### School Leavers Tax File Number

The Australian Taxation Office would like to encourage Middle School students to apply for a tax file number (TFN) while still attending school. A TFN is essential for their employment, deferring university fees or applying for Centrelink benefits. Please watch this video <http://tv.ato.gov.au/ato-tv/media?v=bd1bdiubkctq5u>. Don’t miss out on money you’ve earned, apply for a Tax File Number (TFN) before you start working. Go to <https://ato.gov.au/getTFN> today.

### Uniform Shop

- Grevillea and Acacia house shirts are available from the Uniform Shop. Buy shirts now for the Cross Country on 28 March 2018.
- Remember to buy winter jumpers and track pants before the cold mornings start.
- There is a good supply of Middle School track pants and jackets available.

### LLL Matching Deposits and School Loans

Redeemer College uses the Lutheran Laypeople’s League (LLL) as the preferred option for student savings accounts. School Banking occurs each Wednesday when students can bring in their passbooks and savings. Books will be handed back to the students in the afternoon. By saving with the LLL, the College is able to borrow from LLL at a low interest rate.

When opening a new account with LLL please remember to nominate Redeemer Lutheran College Biloela for your Matching Deposits. In order to maintain the Matching Deposits during the life of any College loans, we encourage you to continue using LLL for your saving requirements. More information can be found on the Lutheran Laypeople’s League at [www.lll.org.au](http://www.lll.org.au).