As the end of the term looms near, reports demand our attention and life seems to be increasingly hectic, we can forget the important things such as encouraging one another. Some schools have focused on encouragement this year and have found many blessings in a gift that costs nothing but has long-lasting benefits for the encouraging and the encouraged. This story reminds us of the importance of encouragement.

One day Verdi, the great musician and composer, came upon an organ grinder who was messy, dirty, and greasy. Even his monkey was dirty. Worst of all, he was playing the tune on his instrument too slowly. Verdi tapped the man on the shoulder as he walked past him and said, "Pick it up; pick it up."

Three weeks later Verdi came upon this very same fellow again, and to his surprise the man was clean, neat and well-dressed. Even his monkey was neat and clean now. But, best of all, he was playing the tune in perfect time.

Verdi walked past the man and turned to congratulate him on his tremendous improvement of appearance and style and, to his utter surprise, saw a band on the organ-grinder's hat which read: "Master Musician, Student of Verdi."

A word of encouragement or guidance from someone whose judgement we value can revolutionize our lives. When we feel that nobody cares how we look or work, then we begin to lose our sense of pride. Sometime just a word, spoken in the right tone, can restore our pride and bring out the best in us.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Lane Butts in Daily prayer online, http://churchresources.info/pray/

- How have you experienced the transformational power of encouragement?
- Which student is in need of your encouragement today?
- Who in your school community needs your words of encouragement?

“So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.”
1 Thessalonians 5:11

Anne Dohnt
Christian Studies Officer
**Love Comes to Life’ – LCA, SA-NT District Synodical Convention Theme**

The convention is being held in Alice Springs July 6-9 2012.

“The Lord make your love increase and overflow” 1 Thessalonians 3:12

In our Lutheran schools there is abundant evidence of love coming to life. One of the ten values of Lutheran education is LOVE.

The statement on this value from the Framework for Lutheran Schools 2005 is:

**Love** – As Christians it is response to God’s love that leads to inner peace. Love when coming from the heart shows through caring, kindness, respectful thoughts, words and actions. In our school communities all have the opportunity to make a difference to the lives of others through love.

### Points of Reflection

⇒ How does your school / centre reach out into your community with the good news of Jesus Christ and his unfathomable love?

⇒ Where is this evident in the daily life of the community?

⇒ What yet to be considered would make LOVE abound in your personal life?

**June 19 Event to be rescheduled – ICT One to One Forum**

Schools have recently been advised of a forum session at the LSA offices to give opportunity for schools to talk strategy, implementation models and student learning outcomes related to the introduction of one to one computer initiatives in our Lutheran schools. This was scheduled for June 19th.

Unfortunately, there has not been significant availability of people on this date to make the session viable. Hence, the session will not be held on June 19th as publicised. As there has been significant interest in the concept of giving schools a chance to share ideas, outcomes and strategies, the session will be rescheduled for early Term 3. A new date will be advertised shortly.

**LSA email addresses**

We have recently installed a new server which has been significant for us as we were previously sharing a server with the District Office. The breaking of that sharing arrangement has meant that we now have completely new servers and network – including a new email server. A possible outcome from this has been some minor disruption to email services (and hence ‘lost to the ether’) during those few days as well as some bounced email issues for people using old forms of our staff email addresses.

We apologise if this affected communications with the office staff for you. We can confidently assure you that this was a very temporary situation and the new server has resulted in much improved email services for our office. To be sure of successful email communication with us, please check that LSA email addresses in your contacts are of the form first.last@lsa.lutheran.edu.au (eg rod.wearn@lsa.lutheran.edu.au) It seems there may be issues for some using old email address format, such as ‘xxxx@sa.lca.org.au’

**Friends of Lutheran Archives meeting**

**Topic: Lutheran educators in the 20th century.**


**‘Fifty years of Lutheran schooling: achievements, opportunities (missed opportunities?) and challenges’**

The annual Fritzsche Oration is a new initiative of Lutheran Archives and the Australian Lutheran Institute for Theology and Ethics (ALITE)*, part of Australian Lutheran College (ALC). The oration highlights the contribution of theologians of the Church to the history of Australian Lutheranism. In the early 1840s Gotthard Fritzsche opened a small college in Lobethal SA to provide theological education for pastors and teachers, inspiring generations of theological training in Australia.

Rev Dr Malcolm Bartsch will deliver the 2012 address at ALC North Adelaide on Wednesday, 25 July 2012 at 3.30pm. To book, please contact ALC reception on (08) 8267 7400.

*ALITE is the new research centre being established at ALC, and this oration is one of its first activities. More information about what ALITE is and what it does will be coming your way soon.*
Warm winter evenings at Australian Lutheran College
Starting Tuesday 31 July at ALC in Adelaide and running for six weeks, three topics will be offered: the Gospel of Luke (Dean Zweck), the OT book of Job (Peter Lockwood), and the group study Beliefs (Dan Sawade and Travis Doecke). Brochures are available from www.grassroots.edu.au, email deansoffice@alc.edu.au, or phone 8267 7400.

Vacancies in Lutheran Schools
For details of positions vacant in Lutheran schools, follow the link below and click on “Vacancies in Lutheran schools”. www.lutheran.edu.au

News from Canberra
LEA Canberra Connections
Earlier this month John Proeve, LSA Executive Director, Tim Stollznow, Yirara College Council Chairman, and I travelled to Canberra to make representations on behalf of Yirara College. In preparing for discussions, LEA engaged the services of lobbyists, Hawker Britton. Hawker Britton is a well known company which specialises in assisting organisations in meeting key politicians and political advisers.

Ashley Wells, the LEA Hawker Britton lobbyist, was able to get us to meet with the senior advisers of Peter Garrett and Bill Shorten. By the end of this month we expect another opportunity to go to Canberra to meet face-to-face with Jenny Macklin.

Whilst most of the discussion focussed on the current and future needs of Yirara College, I was able to also meet people from both Garrett’s office and DEEWR. These people have offered to engage LEA in ongoing dialogue about several matters which include Gonski funding proposals as well as system funding.

At the request of David Boyd, Senior Adviser to Peter Garrett, the College of Directors will be taking part in a teleconference on Thursday, June 21. LEA appreciates this opportunity for a direct link to the Minister’s Office and at the Minister’s approval and looks forward to being able to present the views of Lutheran schools on a range of key issues.

LEA Gonski data analyses
LEA, via the services of Stephen Kroker, Business Manager, Immanuel Primary School, Novar Gardens SA, has used the 2009 and 2010 Gonski data to provide national summaries for the College of Directors and the Board for Lutheran Education Australia.

GAP year students: more work than play
More young Australians are taking gap years before going to university and spend that time working or in further study, according to a new report from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER). Released today by NCVER, “Who takes a gap year and Why” by Marilyn Lumsden and John Stanwick, examines the characteristics, intentions and outcomes of students who take a gap year. The figures show that 24% of young Australians took a gap year in the period 2009-10, an increase from 10% in the ten years since 1999-2000. Full media release.

Progress on school funding reform
School Education Minister Peter Garrett released further details on the work that is underway on the recommendations of the Gonski review of school funding, including examining the details of the per student amount and the levels for loadings to tackle educational disadvantage. The updated information was provided to members of the Ministerial Reference Group on school funding. Read the full media release.

$350 million to improve the quality of care for all children
Early childhood educators and carers will be able to help all children, regardless of where they live or their background, to get the highest quality care thanks to new Australian Government grants that help make sure all children are included and supported in child care. The Australian Government is providing $350 million to 39 child care training organisations across the country to help child care staff learn even more about how to support these children and give them the best start in life. Read the full media release.