Ecclesiastes 3 (The Message)

1 There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth:
2-8 A right time for birth and another for death,
   A right time to plant and another to reap,
   A right time to kill and another to heal,
   A right time to destroy and another to construct,
   A right time to cry and another to laugh,
   A right time to lament and another to cheer,
   A right time to make love and another to abstain,
   A right time to embrace and another to part,
   A right time to search and another to count your losses,
   A right time to hold on and another to let go,
   A right time to rip out and another to mend,
   A right time to shut up and another to speak up,
   A right time to love and another to hate,
   A right time to wage war and another to make peace.

9-13 But in the end, does it really make a difference what anyone does? I've had a good look at what God has given us to do—busywork, mostly. True, God made everything beautiful in itself and in its time—but he's left us in the dark, so we can never know what God is up to, whether he's coming or going. I've decided that there's nothing better to do than go ahead and have a good time and get the most we can out of life. That's it—eat, drink, and make the most of your job. It's God's gift.

Reflection:

For many of us time can often be seen as our enemy. The reference we make of time and the language used gives us away— we speak of deadlines and ‘lack of time’. When we view time in this way, we invariably become less welcoming, insensitive, more frustrated and more easily angered. It is hard to love and serve when time is our enemy. This poem from Ecclesiastes gives us a different perspective of time. Here we see that time is in God’s hands, and that God is at work with the things of eternity in the midst of time. If we allow God to work in our own hearts, then we will discover that God places “eternity in our hearts”, and we will begin to be free from the tyranny of time. With this new perspective we are better able to trust that God really does make all things beautiful in God’s time, and so we are freed to be compassionate, gracious, loving and attentive to the needs of others. We will also be able to truly experience ‘vocation’ in our service to others.

May God richly bless you as you give of your time to partner in His work.

John Proeve

Assistant Director (South East Region) Appointment

We congratulate Neville Grieger on his appointment to the position of Assistant Director of Lutheran Education South East Region (LESER). Neville’s departure from the LSA staff team will be a significant loss but we are very aware that his many gifts and talents will be a blessing to LESER as he takes up this new challenge.

Since taking on the Spiritual Development Facilitator role five years ago, Neville has made over 500 presentations to principals, staff conferences, spiritual retreats, staff teams, school councils and students. We thank him for his passion and unstinting commitment to the spiritual growth of LSA.

... cont.
Assistant Director Appointment (cont.)

Neville’s recent publication ‘Seeking Authenticity’ will prove a lasting legacy, challenging leaders and school communities to not compromise on those things that constitute being an authentic Lutheran school.

Neville will officially conclude his time of service to LSA on Friday 2 November, although he will lead the 22-24 November Sevenhill Retreat. An appropriate farewell for Neville will be held later in the year.

The process of appointing a Spiritual Development Facilitator has commenced. It is the intention to advertise in the near future and go through due process to have this component of LSA support continuing from the commencement of 2013.

ACER Conference 26-28 August 2012.

A number of LSA educators attended this conference which had as its focus School Improvement. This is the first of a number of reflections from key messages from the conference presentations. Other participants will be invited to share their reflections in subsequent editions of Update.

Part 1 – compiled by John Proeve

School Improvement: What does the research tell us about effective strategies?

School Improvement is a key objective of all educational systems and school leaders who share a common drive to deliver improved outcomes for students. The Research Conference 2012 highlighted recent research and practice that identifies not only WHAT schools can do to improve outcomes for students but also HOW they can do it most effectively.

Geoff Masters, CEO of ACER, in his keynote address ‘School improvement through evidence based practices’, stressed ‘the essence of a profession lies in the members’ commitment to using what they commonly understand to be good practice’. So we must ask the question - What do we know about highly effective teaching practice? The same question applies to leadership - What do we know about highly effective leadership?

From the LSA perspective – How can LSA support school leadership which in turn supports creative and innovative classroom practice?

These are questions which deserve our collective attention.

So, what do highly effective schools do to promote improved classroom teaching and learning?

Masters proposes that there are eight things they do/have:

1. An explicit innovation and improvement agenda – led by leadership and expressed in terms of measurable improvements in outcomes for students.
2. Monitor progress through the analysis and discussion of data. Data is used to monitor progress and to inform decisions.
3. A culture that promotes learning – an ethos built around high expectations and commitments to academic excellence.
4. Targeted use of school resources – both within school and through networks with other schools.
5. An expert teaching team that collaborate and take collective responsibility towards creativity, innovation and improvement.
6. Systematic curriculum delivery which makes explicit the scope and sequence of teaching and learning.
7. Differentiated classroom practice which values each student and engages them in learning.
8. Effective teaching practice where there is shared responsibility and commitment from leaders and teachers to implementing better teaching methods.

What are the implications for LSA and each school?

Can we develop meaningful measures of school practices to complement measures of school results? If so, how would such evidence best be used to support continuing school innovation and improvement?

More questions than answers! These questions however could form the basis of robust discussions within our school communities of which the answers in turn have significant potential to improve outcomes for students.
Ocean Forest Lutheran College
Dalyellup, WA

The South west Super Science Spectacular
On 18th August Ocean Forest ran its first ever South West Super Science Spectacular with amazing results! Over 5000 people flocked to the College to take part in the Science based interactive activities on offer.

Activities from facial reconstructions to electromagnetics and nano technology delighted the participants. Guest presenters; Ruben Meeran (the Surfing Scientist) and Dr Karl (who has recently been named an Australian Living Treasure) were exciting additions to this event. All in all it was a magnificent day which truly highlighted how exciting Science based activity can be!

SA Staff Conferences next Friday
Our sincere thanks to the organisers and host schools of the staff conferences to be held next Friday. We look forward with anticipation to the programs. Please remember to wear your name badge, and arrive in good time. Schools attending the Primary/Preschool conference are encouraged to bring a free standing school banner.

EQUIP MODULES 1 AND 2
We are happy to offer a final opportunity for teachers of Christian Studies to attend Equip Modules 1 and 2 in 2012 at the LSA office. Teachers of Christian Studies who have commenced employment in the second half of this year are strongly encouraged to attend these modules, as are other Christian Studies teachers who were unable to attend these modules earlier in 2012. The dates are as follows:

18th September - Equip Module 1 16th October  - Equip Module 2.

Registrations are online at the following link: http://www.lutheran.edu.au/public/sevents.aspx?wstate=SA

Leadership Development Program 2012 - 2014.
Information about the Leadership Development Program (LDP 4) 2012 – 2014 is available on the LEA website.

Potential participants may either self-nominate or else be nominated.

By September 7th we would like to have received the applications needed to identify participants in the 2012 intake. There will be a selection process on the applications received, prior to participants beginning their development journey through a reflective portfolio exercise. Please send applications to lloyd.fyffe@lsa.lutheran.edu.au

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
Quality learning through general capabilities: Opportunities and challenges

- Are you implementing the new Australian Curriculum in your school?
- Are you exploring how the general capabilities translate to classroom practice?
- Are you looking for practical ideas about how quality learning can occur?

The Australian Curriculum Studies Association’s Symposium Quality learning through general capabilities: Opportunities and challenges will explore practical ways to implement the Australian curriculum by focusing on how the general capabilities can be made meaningful.

Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide - 31 October and 1 November 2012

Further information including details of speakers and workshops can be found on the ACSA website www.acsa.edu.au