Unseasonal weather

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end (Ecclesiastes 3:1&11).

At the start of 2011 there have been floods and fires, earthquakes and tsunamis. People are naturally a little bit shaken by all that has occurred. Some have wondered about the quantity of disasters and the escalating nature of them. Are we entering a new season that will mark the end of all things?

Only God knows the answer to that question. Only God knows the day when he determines that the present heavens and earth will pass away. We are not to worry about such things.

The author of Ecclesiastes, King Solomon, could see how different seasons can seem like a burden to us. And yet, he could also claim that God has made everything beautiful in its time. We are quick to see the burdens of our age. Are we just as quick to acknowledge the beauty?

Despite what we see happening God is still in control. We can't fathom what God is doing from beginning to end. We are called to trust that he is at work and that he is using even tragic circumstances to bring about good in ways we struggle to understand, to fathom.

One thing these burdens should do is to give us a growing yearning for God's heavenly kingdom to come. Or, as King Solomon said it: ‘he has also set eternity in the human heart’. We long for God’s purposes and will to be revealed and we look for the beauty of his hand, even in the burdens of our time.

Dear God, we can so easily lose sight of you in the suffering we see around us. Open our eyes to see how you are at work in our world, bringing beauty, hope and life to it. Amen.

Pastor Stephen

Dear Parents,

Last weekend I had the pleasure of attending an extended family reunion on the Darling Downs in Qld. With over two hundred people in attendance I reflected on the place of history in our lives. Beginning in Hahndorf most of the family members migrated to Victoria or the Downs over 160 years ago where they began their simple lives as farmers. St. Michael’s school (and church) has a strong history and the reason for its existence remains relatively unchanged from when it began in 1839 – the teaching of the Gospel to all who are members of this community. This is a responsibility and privilege which we as a school take seriously and we thank God for the opportunities that have existed in the past, now in the present and into the future.

God bless,

Shane

Prayer suggestions:

- We thank God for our families - they have shaped and directed our lives and made us the people whom we are.
- We thank God for the blessings bestowed on our community over the last 160 years. May He continue to smile on us.

Please pray for the following families:

Barron, Bekker, Bell, Berger, Berzins, Bethel & Bishop
Sports Day
Our annual Sports Day was planned to be held this Friday but due to the amount of rain, the dampness of the school oval and the obvious safety of your children Sports Day will be postponed til Monday the 28th of March. Needless to say the decision has been based primarily on the safety for the students (wet grass is not good for running and jumping). Friday will now operate as a normal school day.

Sports Day will now be held on Monday the 28th of March (students will need to be at school at normal time).
- Students are to arrive at school between 8:45am and 9.00am and go to classrooms as rolls still need to be taken.
- Students are to wear blue PE shorts, PE shirt (or T-shirt of their House colour), normal shoes and socks.
- HATS ARE TO BE WORN (school hat).
- Hair can be coloured.
- No coloured zinc – but remember the sunscreen and water bottle.
- The Canteen will NOT be open for lunches on Monday but will be open to sell cold drinks and ice blocks
- Morning tea will go ahead as planned by the Class Carers. If all donations could come to Bukatila on Monday morning.
- The day will conclude between 3:00pm and 3:30pm and all students are expected to be present for the whole afternoon
- Students are expected to remain in their bays (on the oval) during the second part of the day. This is to help with organisational purposes.
- Could all people who kindly volunteered their help on the day please get in contact with Megan Norman or Mick Phillips if they are unavailable for helping on Monday.
- If you can help now due to the change of day please let Robyn know at the Front Office.

Middle School Meeting
A reminder that the meeting for middle schooling at Cornerstone (2014) will be held tomorrow evening (Thursday) at 7:30pm in the worship Centre (Church).

Epi-Pen Training
All staff received training in the use of epi-pens last week. There are quite a number of students who may need this medication at some point due to allergies and proper use of these is essential.

Zebra Kids
On a weekly basis we have a visit from our little friends from Zebra kids. The children are brought up by their teachers, who then read a story to them. It’s great to be able to share our facilities with these folk.

Church St Parking
Whilst the bulk of the road works have been finished in Church St. they are incomplete with line markings still to be painted. I would ask that you be aware of local residents and their needs during this time as some of them have found it difficult to access / leave their property as road users are parking and waiting indiscriminately along Church St. Thankyou for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

P & F Bible Presentation/Bush Dance
Please see attached in your newsletter this week the flyer for the Yr 7/Reception Bible Presentation and the Pedal Prix Bush Dance. Tickets will be available from next Monday from the front office. Cost is: $10/adult, $5/child or $25/family with all proceeds going to the Pedal Prix Team for 2011.

Canteen Helpers 2011
Term 1 Week 9

Monday: 28th March
NO CANTEEN – SPORTS DAY

Wednesday: 30th March
Kerri Jordan
ALWS (Australian Lutheran World Service)

Yesterday (22nd March) several members of the SRC visited Springhead Lutheran Primary School for an ALWS Refugee Information Day. We discussed the Kakuma Refugee Camp and refugees in Sudan and Burundi. We all participated in four different activities eg: how we would run our own refugee camp, how to look after a certain part of the camp and if we had five minutes to pack if soldiers were invading us what would we take. We tried some food that refugees eat on a daily basis. Thank you to Mr. Dow for allowing to share in this experience.

Emmie Clark (7)

SCIENCE: 2011 Treasure Hunt

Any budding scientists out there? The SA Chamber of Mines is organising an interactive treasure hunt for students aged 8-12, where they will seek out answers to cryptic clues, handle sparkling crystals and minerals and view a 3D world under the earth’s crust in Santos Engineering Suite. There will also be a performance by interactive rock musical duo ‘Rock Chick and Science Geek’. The best part...it is FREE!

When: Wednesday April 20th 11am-1.30pm
Where: Adelaide University, North Tce
Bookings: Phone 8202 9999 or www.sacometreasurehunt2011.eventbrite.com

Playgroup

Playgroup will be on this Friday in Bukatilla. We meet from 9 - 10.30am. Just bring a piece of fruit to share and $2 to cover costs. Hope to see you there. Playgroup is having a Easter lucky number draw to raise money to help put shelving in the sports cupboard in Bukatilla. The Easter basket is full of lots of goodies that most families would love. If you would like to buy a lucky number, you can get one on sports day or go to the front office and buy one. The basket is sitting in the front office if you would like to see what is in it. Numbers are $2 each. The lucky number will be drawn on the last day of term 1, Friday April the 15th.

OSHC – Vacation Care

With the school holidays not too far away Hahndorf OSHC have their Vac Care programme available to view. Please call over to the Hahndorf OSHC to grab a programme and pack or call Cheryle on 8388 7420.

John Dow
PYP Coordinator

Curriculum Matters

The Year 5 and 5/6 classes recently competed a unit of work looking at the nature of advertising and how it attempts to influence the way people think and act. Last week at the International Baccalaureate Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Melbourne, the 900 delegates were put under considerable pressure to think, and to act, in a particular way by the Apple company.

When we arrived at the conference to register on Thursday morning, not only was Apple offering free cups of coffee (nice strong lattes) in direct competition to the in-house cafes of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, but also your choice of iPod Touch or iPad to use for the duration of the conference. Loaded on to the iPad was a range of trial versions of software, internet access and an online version of the conference booklet that was being updated as changes occurred.

What a brilliant marketing ploy! Luddites like me were able to spend time playing with the device and develop an understanding of its capabilities. I could twitter, blog, email (which is pretty old school these days), surf the net, take notes of the keynote speakers presentations, draw (using an application that British artist David Hockney has been using recently) and generally have my behaviour moulded by this very clever machine. The auditorium was aglow with screens, and you could see that not everyone was paying attention to the speakers, but busily getting involved the online community.

Apple didn’t quite succeed in changing the way I act enough for me to leave with a copy of the notes I’d taken. When I handed the iPad back in, I left my notes behind. It would have been a simple task to email them to myself!
From the Community Carer
Tegan Howard

Lessons I Learned From my Parents
#6: Your Word is Your Bond

Sometimes I think children have selective memories. For example, they never seem to remember to wipe their feet when they come inside, but they will remember an off-handed comment or promise that you made weeks ago but haven’t followed through on. I remember as a child thinking every word that came out of my parent’s mouths was gospel. Every time they would promise me anything or say yes to one of my requests, I would blindly trust that it would happen. Trust is such an important element in a child-parent relationship; it is a fragile thing and is something that should be nurtured and developed. Your children need to be able to trust in what you say. It’s so easy to promise something without thinking and then promptly forget all about it. But chances are, your children will remember exactly what you said, and they will not only remember, but they expect you to follow through. Whether it be a play date, a lunch order, tea at McDonalds or a consequence for inappropriate behaviour, make sure you follow through on what you have said. This not only builds trust, but teaches your children to take promises seriously with their friends as well. Make it a priority to build and keep your children’s trust by making your word your bond.

Tips for building and keeping trust
- Think before you promise anything
- If you can’t follow through on something you said, explain the reason why
- Make sure your yes is yes and your no is no
- Discuss with your spouse or partner before making a decision. This eliminates the child trying to play mum off against dad

Thanks to all those people who have offered to donate food to the coffee and cake stall for Sports Day. Please bring your food items to Bukatilla when you arrive on Monday. Can you please come and see me if you can help us out on Monday as the roster for Friday will not work on Monday. Thanks once again for your great support and I am looking forward to an exciting Sports Day.

From the Year 2D Class (Miss Dougherty)

Central Idea
People use music and movement to express themselves

Cello and violin

Hip Hop

Boomwhackers