

LEVNT NETWORKS

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*LEVNT Networks is distributed fortnightly
Please ensure that ALL staff and school councillors receive this communication*



The New Frontier

In many ways, just as Australian Lutheran schools were at the frontier of Christian education during their establishment phase in the nineteenth century, so Lutheran schools continue to be at the forefront of Christian education in the twenty first century. However, the new frontier now is the rapidly changing face of society and the diversity this brings to Lutheran schools. Making generalized statements about students in today's Lutheran schools in terms of religious background and affiliation, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or economic and cultural background is impossible. Within our Region, one only needs to sit in a school assembly at Sunshine Christian School or Lakeside College, Pakenham to see the rich diversity, which is now common place in a Lutheran school.

As people from vastly different backgrounds, with vastly different world views are welcomed into our schools, we must ask ourselves more seriously than ever, what it truly means to be a Lutheran school. The temptation in this context is to compromise on our core values and practises e.g. the centrality of worship, grace as central to all relationships. However, the challenge for the current and upcoming generation of educators in Lutheran schools will be to retain and strengthen our Lutheran distinctiveness while presenting it in a way that connects to an increasingly diversified audience.

Since core Lutheran theology is incarnational, we need to continue to respond more quickly to changing needs. The history of Lutheran education is actually a history of innovative individuals, often rather idiosyncratic people, humble and not so humble at times, going about their churchly and educational business – there is no set formula for how we do Lutheran education. Our schools will continue to evolve in an emerging societal landscape, which will include some interesting, challenging and confronting frontiers.

We have high quality schools in this Region, like fine wine, some are vintage and some are exciting new blends, but all share a heritage that is grounded in the Gospel. So no matter what the future holds we share a vision that gives us the courage to seize the day and accept the challenge of presenting the Gospel to diverse communities who may be sometimes ambivalent and at times, hostile. However we are compelled by the love of God to accept the challenge, accept the vision, accept the future – for a Lutheran school future will always point to Christ.

Paul Weinert
Director
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LEVNT REGIONAL NEWS

Hub Networking

The Central Hub Conference was held on April 18 at Luther College and involved over 400 staff from six schools within the Hub. **Bishop John Henderson** was the keynote speaker who gave a passionate oration about mission in the contemporary Lutheran school. It was pleasing to note the high degree of staff engagement who between them, facilitated eighty electives, providing a rich array of offerings during the three elective sessions. Overall the conference was well received and should provide a catalyst for many future networking opportunities. Special thanks go to **Michael Kleidon and Luther College** for their excellent preparation of the facilities and catering.

The Central Hub Conference completes the conference schedule for the three Hub Groups. Each conference has had a different focus but the all-important theme of ministry and mission has been the common thread. Discussions will now take place amongst Hub principals about the future structure and frequency of the conferences. There is no doubt the collegiality and networking the conferences create bring benefits to all schools. The challenge will be to continue those networks across the region as we seek to connect staff and share practice. The creation of these networks whether they be face to face, or electronic, are an absolute priority for LEVNT.



N.B. A feedback survey for Central Hub Conference attendees was distributed today. The feedback from this survey will be highly influential in shaping future conferences so all responses will be gratefully received.

Brian Peck – Communications Advisor for ISV

We are deeply saddened to hear of Brian Peck's passing. Brian was a talented communications advisor for Independent Schools Victoria. We send our condolences to Brian's family and ISV.

Paul Weinert
Director

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LEA NATIONAL SCHOOL PASTORS' and CHAPLAINS' CONFERENCE

Wednesday, 26 August – Friday, 28 August 2015



The venue will be the Foothills Conference centre – in a beautiful setting in the Dandenong Ranges at Mooroolbark. More information regarding registration soon.

This is a rare professional learning and networking opportunity for School pastors, Congregational based pastors who serve our schools, School Chaplains and other ministry and pastoral care staff to attend a highly relevant PD event that will focus on contemporary spirituality and our ministry to young people and families in the complex world of the 21st century. We encourage all schools in our region to plan to have at least one representative attend this conference.

NOTE: LEVNT does have a small pool of funds available to assist one participant from each of the geographically isolated schools in our region to attend. This would include all schools in NSW, Eastside Hobart, the Western Hub Schools, Trinity Mildura and Victory Wodonga. To access these funds please register your interest with our Office ASAP. A minimum of \$250 will be available to a participant from each school to offset the conference costs.

Neville Grieger
Assistant Director

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BEGINNING TEACHERS' DAY – MONDAY, 18 MAY 2015

FOR TEACHERS IN LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WHO ARE BEGINNING THEIR TEACHING CAREERS

A Beginning Teachers' Day has been scheduled for **Monday, 18 May from 9.15 am – 3.00 pm**. This day is for graduate teachers who have joined Lutheran schools in 2014 or 2015. The day will be held at the Quality Hotel, 265 Mickleham Road, Tullamarine, to allow teachers from regional areas to attend. A registration form can be down loaded via the link on the home page on our web site at: <http://www.leser.lutheran.edu.au/> or you can email me at liz.pietsch@levnt.edu.au to register.



Further details can be found on the registration form. We hope that principals will encourage beginning teachers to attend this day so that they can develop an appreciation of being part of the wider Lutheran system while gaining support for their work in our schools as well as having time for reflection on their journey so far. Morning tea and lunch will be provided at no cost to participants. Please contact me, if you have further questions.

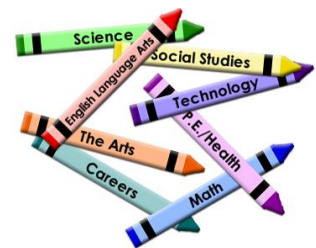
Liz Pietsch
Education Officer
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CURRICULUM NETWORKING UPDATE

The focus of my first term with LEVNT has been on gathering good information - thank you to those who completed a Curriculum Leaders survey online and those who have also had further discussions either via phone or a visit to your school. This input has really helped me to understand the context of your school, your current curriculum priorities, your needs and strengths. If I haven't been in contact with your school yet, I will be in the coming weeks!

Some common curriculum themes that are emerging across our region include:

- emphasis on formative and summative assessment
- differentiation
- teacher appraisal and learning, and
- whole school curriculum planning.



There is also a great appreciation of the value of sharing our resources and ideas across Lutheran schools – I would encourage you to consider what you could share with others in Lutheran schools – watch this space for opportunities!

I will soon be inviting Curriculum Leaders to join an LEVNT Curriculum Leaders YAMMER group (a social media tool for professional contexts where ideas, questions, requests, resources and links can be shared within the group of 'invited' people) as a space for facilitating networking.

Over the past week there have been two curriculum network gatherings – a short session at the Central Hub Conference on Friday, April 17 and a meeting of Western Hub Curriculum Leaders on Tuesday, April 21 in Horsham. It has been great to see the enthusiasm Curriculum Leaders have for working smarter through sharing and collaborating, connecting each other to useful people and resources. The Western Hub group had a major focus on whole school curriculum documentation and further resources will be developed and shared in respect to this topic.

Also, if you use Twitter as a means of building a Personal Learning Network (PLN) and connecting with great ideas of a Teaching and Learning nature, you may want to follow me @VickiMSchilling. Best wishes for a wonderful Term 2!

Vicki Schilling
Assistant Education Officer
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES – GOOD SHEPHERD EARLY LEARNING SERVICES



Good Shepherd Early Learning Services is an 85 place not for profit, community long day care centre and sessional Kindergarten. The Committee of Management is seeking to employ a full time Director to manage the service which is co-located on site with Good Shepherd Lutheran College - Junior Campus in Hamilton.

Applicants must have:

- Early Childhood Qualifications
- Current Suitability Card (Blue Card)
- Current Senior First Aid and CPR
- Anaphylaxis and Asthma Training
- Supervisor Certificate
- Victorian Driver's License
- Excellent communication skills
- Knowledge and skills in all aspects of Early Childhood, including financial management.
- Strong leadership skills
- Christian values, ethos and beliefs
- Minimum 3 years' experience in a similar position
- Involvement in Assessment and Rating process an advantage

For an application package please email carolynne.noonan@qlecs.org.au

Above Award conditions will be offered to the right applicant.

Applications close Monday, 04 May 2015.

Carolynne Noonan

Children's Services Manager and Christian Studies Facilitator

Queensland Lutheran Early Childhood Services

A branch of Lutheran Education Queensland, serving 59 children's services

Phone: 3511 4079 | Fax: 3511 4051 | Mobile: 0408 383 814

24 McDougall St Milton QLD 4064

ISV PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Details of Professional Development for 2015 can be found at:

<http://www.is.vic.edu.au/services/professional-learning/calendar/index.shtml>





GOOD SHEPHERD COLLEGE - HAMILTON

Good Shepherd a place of faith and learning where young people are inspired, equipped and cared for to become active contributors in a safe, caring, forgiving environment.



LEARNING CENTRED



WITH A HEART



PLANET MINDFUL



WITH A CONSCIENCE



SPIRITUALLY AWARE



WITH A HERITAGE

**hane Jurecky
Principal**

The next LEA News for School Leaders will be published on 29 April 2015.