Memorandum

Date: 13 May 2015
To: Directors
From: LEA Executive Director
Re: Directors’ Email 07.15

For directors:

1. LEA news for schools
   Following is the LEA news for schools. It would be greatly appreciated if the news on the following page/s
   could be included in your regional newsletters in its entirety in one section.

Stephen Rudolph
Executive Director
Lutheran Education Australia
LEA News for school leaders
13 May 2015

You’re welcome
Schools will be receiving a quantity of the LCA’s You’re welcome publication in sufficient quantities to distribute to all staff (teaching and non-teaching) and all school families. Principals can expect these to arrive before the end of May 2015.

The LCA Communications department and Lutheran Education Australia have agreed on a communication strategy for 2015 which will pave the way for members of the LCA to grow in their understanding of the mission and ministry conducted within the school context, and also for Lutheran school staff and families to deepen their understanding of the work of the church.

During 2015 all subscribers of The Lutheran will receive a copy of the two issues of SchoolLink published this year. In addition, all schools will receive copies of the LCA’s You’re welcome publication twice this year. Would you please ensure that You’re welcome is distributed to all staff and school families.

If you would prefer that SchoolLink and You’re welcome be distributed electronically in the future, please let us know (email lea@lutheran.edu.au).

LEA writes to Minister Pyne
In a pre-budget letter to the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, LEA wrote the following:

Sustainable indexation of school funding beyond 2017
LEA holds the view that school funding increases must reflect the increases in school costs. Should these increases from 2018 be calculated by CPI indexation, an increasing financial burden will be imposed over time on all Lutheran schools. LEA requests that positive consideration and assurances be given to the sustainable indexation of school funding for all schools to reflect real school cost increases.

LEA does not support CPI indexation to school funding from 2018, but rather funding increases that keep pace with increases in real school costs.

Funding for students with disability
LEA positively supports needs-based funding for students with disability, particularly ensuring such funding follows students between sectors, regardless of school type.

Since 2014 LEA notes a significant difference between the funding new students with disability attract compared to the funding for students already in Lutheran schools. The differential funding arises from transitional arrangements which calculate marginal funding for new students with disability to funding for current students. This has resulted in a shortfall for Lutheran schools. LEA requests the Commonwealth government addresses this unintended consequence of current funding arrangements.

NAPLAN online
While LEA generally agrees with the move to online NAPLAN assessment, there is deep concern about the cost of preparing for this at the local Lutheran school level where there will be additional costs required to implement this change.

In the mix: National School Pastor / Chaplain Conference
Date: 26-28 August 2015
Venue: Foothills Conference Centre, Mooroolbark Vic

In the mix, the 2015 National conference for people involved in ministry in Lutheran schools, 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. The conference 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 to plan to have at least one representative attend this conference. If you are interested in leading an elective, please contact conference coordinator, Christine Paech (Email: dcpaech@optusnet.com.au). Online registration available soon.
Lutheran Super: Business Development Officer

Lutheran Super invites applications for a Business Development Officer:

- Part time position: 0.6 FTE
- Flexible working arrangements
- Existing member base plus new business responsibility
- Supportive environment with full training provided
- Competitive salary package


School partnership

Many Lutheran school leaders would be aware of, and have possibly met, Ridwin Purba, the Education Secretary of National Committee of LWF in Indonesia. Ridwin recently attended the World Educational Leadership Summit in Singapore along with BLEA chairman, Dr Neville Highett, and the national and regional directors. Under the auspices of the LCA Mission International (Board for Mission), Neville Highett has worked extensively with Ridwin to develop mature and robust leadership for the Lutheran schools in Indonesia.

On behalf of Lutheran schools in Indonesia, Ridwin expressed appreciation for the school partnerships that have been established by Grace Lutheran College, Rothwell Qld, and Navigator College, Port Lincoln SA [Pictured right: Navigator staff and students visit GKPS Bishop].

Ridwin has seven more schools eager and ready to establish a partnership with a Lutheran school in Australia. Such partnerships would include both teacher and student exchanges and visits. In addition, a further five Indonesian Lutheran schools would welcome Australian teachers to teach English or other subjects for a short period.

The schools ready to establish a partnership are SMA BNKP Nias Island, SMA HKBP 1 and 2 Tarutung, SMA HKBP Parapat Lake Toba, SMK HKBP Ambarita Samosir Island, SMK GKI Pematangsiantar, SMK HKBP Pematangsiantar and SMK GKI in Sibabohongabong. The schools that would welcome Australian Lutheran school teachers are: SD HKBP Balige (elementary school), SMP Amin Nias Island, SMP GKPM Mentawai Island, SMP GKP Arak Berkat Aek Bingkei and SMP HKI Aek Sarula (Junior School).

Read more about the enormous challenges Ridwin faces and the keen interest of Indonesian Lutheran school staff and students in developing partnerships on the LEA website.

If your school is interested in exploring the possibility of establishing a school partnership with a Lutheran school in Indonesia, please contact LCA Mission International (email [glenice.hartwich@lca.org.au](mailto:glenice.hartwich@lca.org.au))

The EDUCATOR

Principals may be interested in subscribing to The Educator, an electronic newsletter which shares education news, opinion and analysis at national and international levels. To subscribe, please go to: [http://www.educatoronline.com.au/newsletter](http://www.educatoronline.com.au/newsletter)

Commonwealth Bank's teaching awards are now open

Commonwealth Bank is giving Kindergarten to Year 12 teachers the opportunity to be recognised and awarded $10,000 to fund an existing or new financial education initiative at their school. CommBank's Teaching Awards celebrate and reward inspirational teachers from across Australia who are making an outstanding contribution to developing the money management skills of their students. Now in its fourth year, the Teaching Awards have funded a range of exciting and innovative programs. One past award recipient, Elizabeth Bowyer, has established a lawnmowing service in a remote Indigenous community, teaching students how to effectively run a small business by using balance sheets to calculate overheads and determine profit and loss. Another award recipient, Nadine Saul, has helped her students to launch multiple school-based businesses who sell their products at a bi-annual market day. Click here for further information.
School Planning, Design and Construction Conference
Creating innovative classrooms to sustain Australia's education future. See what 2015 has to offer in the latest classroom designs and innovations:
1-2 June 2015, Swiss Hotel Sydney
A recent report by NSW Infrastructure predicts that the number of school aged children in NSW will grow by 267,000 by 2031, which highlights the need for more classrooms not only in NSW, but across Australia to ensure that all children are able to enrol in a school in their catchment area. The issue of overcrowded schools has prompted the Baird government to include the construction of new schools in the proposed 20 year and $20 billion infrastructure vision. But what will these future schools look like? School Planning, Design and Construction will examine best practice in designing, planning and building new schools. Further, this event will examine new and alternate designs for learning spaces that move away from the traditional style of classrooms and encourage learning. Click here for further information

Bright futures for young adolescents
The 9th international conference to be held 20-22 August 2015 at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. The conference offers keynote presentations, papers, workshops, an optional pre-conference program including school site visits and workshops, Welcome reception, Conference and Awards Dinner, student participation and opportunities to network. Download the program Register online now

Stand up and cheer [Author: Loretta Re]
LEA has received a request to promote this book amongst Lutheran schools as it could be a helpful addition to your school library. The following promotional information may be of assistance:

It’s 1934. The Great Centenary Air Race from London to Melbourne will be the biggest, most exciting race ever. Ten-year-old Jack is a fan of Biggles and he’s desperate to watch the planes arrive and to see the courageous aviators. But he lives in the small town of Albury, miles away from the great event.
At Sunday school he learns about Martin Luther and his willingness to stand up to authority at a crucial time in history. At home, under the guidance of his parents, he learns all about the air race and listens to it on radio. He’s especially proud that his father, the local ABC announcer, is calling the race.
Then disaster strikes. ...
Loretta Re brings vividly to life this great true story which won both Albury and Australia a lasting place in aviation history. Whether you love planes, or long to have an adventure, whether you’re young or simply young at heart, you won’t want to miss Stand Up and Cheer.

I started reading and couldn’t put it down. Truly, the story is great. About a young boy in the Air League, a ham radio...and a real message that sometimes you have to take a stand...I think everyone will want to read it. - Dick Smith, adventurer

LEA Assistant Director: Leadership
[Shane Paterson]

School surveys
As you are aware data collection for ‘Quality Schools’ will not occur until term 1, 2016. From discussions which have been held since this announcement, it appears that there are a number of schools who were relying on this tool to gather data for 2015. With this in mind negotiations have occurred with the ‘Quality Schools’ provider PC RADII, to explore the possibility of supplying a survey for schools who had planned to gather data for this year. PC RADII have presented LEA with a survey format and pricing for any schools that may wish to use these services.
Questions will be generated from the library of PC RADII. Schools will also have the option to include their own questions. Schools will receive the data from the survey within 24 hours after the close of the survey.

Please be aware that this is an interim measure for schools and is not reflective of the ‘Quality Schools’ project which will be explained to all principals later in the year. Schools who wish to use this option will negotiate directly with Peter Cuttance of PC RADII and pay him accordingly.
If you are interested in contracting the services of PC RADII could you please contact me Shane.Paterson@lutheran.edu.au / 08 8267 7318 and I will supply you with the information you need to take the next steps.

In the footsteps of Paul tour (2016)
There are a small number of vacancies left for this tour which will run 26th September - 8th October 2016. This is a great opportunity for professional learning / sabbatical as many biblical (Pauline) sites will be visited. The complete tour itinerary and costs can be accessed at www.missiontravel.com.au/lutheran2016. The tour has been organised to minimise time away from school and covers some, if not all, holiday periods in each of the states. If you require further information please contact Shane.Paterson@lutheran.edu.au.

LEA Assistant Director: Formation
[Anne Dohnt]

Service Learning Study tour
LEA will be offering a Service learning study tour for school and curriculum leaders in Melbourne on the 31st May - 2nd of June. The purpose of the study tour is to grow the understanding of leaders and teachers in what service learning is (and isn’t). The focus will be on the learning that occurs before, during and after service experiences and developing a school approach to service learning. The study tour will involve sessions with Damien Price of the Edmund Rice Centre, a street retreat conducted by the Edmund Rice Centre ‘Amberley’, a school visit to Star of the Sea and a session with Neville Grieger considering biblical understandings of service. Click here for further information. Places are limited so please advise Anne Dohnt of your interest by Monday 18th May (anne.dohnt@lutheran.edu.au).

Christian Studies Curriculum Framework [CSCF]
Feedback from teachers in recent weeks indicates that the updated Christian Studies Curriculum Framework (CSCF) has been has been well received. This revision has merged the two previous booklets (Theological Notes and Curriculum Statements) into one book. Schools have been sent been CSCF books for all Christian Studies teachers in their school together with an allowance for the staff library. To ensure that your Christian Studies teachers are using the latest version please recycle the old versions. The new CSCF books is also available electronically.

LEA Business Manager
[Stephen Kroker]

Business Manager and Finance Officer survey
LEA is looking at various risk management areas including leadership succession. LEA is very aware of the important role Business Managers and Finance Officers play in the success of Lutheran schools across Australia. As such we would like to gather some information regarding your current position, experience, qualifications and possible career options to determine future strategies for Business Manager succession via a survey. The survey was emailed out last Friday. Would you please complete this survey by or before Friday 22 May 2015.

ASBA 2015 Perth Conference
Please note there will be a Lutheran Business Managers/Finance Officers meeting on Monday 28th September 2015 from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm prior to the commencement of the ASBA conference. This meeting will cover Lutheran related business matters including updates from the Lutheran Laypeople’s League, LCA Insurance Fund and Lutheran Education Australia. More details will be provided closer to the date.

Financial assistance is available to attend the ASBA 2015 Conference in Perth provided by the State branches of ASBA - please contact your State ASBA for details. In addition, Lutheran Education Australia will be providing grants of up to a maximum of $2,000 per attendee for Business Managers/Finance Officers of small/rural/remote/financially limited schools to assist in the cost of attending this conference. Please contact your regional Business Manager for details of the LEA ASBA conference grant.

LEXICON enhancement: schools can upload data from their HR/payroll system
A significant enhancement of LEXICON was completed earlier this year which enables schools to upload data from their HR/payroll system directly into LEXICON via a CSV file. Principals are asked to ensure their school LEXICON administrator is advised of this change. Contact the LEA national office if you encounter any problems with this new facility - Tel 08 8267 7318 or email lea@lutheran.edu.au
NAPLAN results to be delivered faster
[11 May 2015]
With more than one million school students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia sitting the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assessments from tomorrow, parents and teachers can expect to see the results sooner. Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP said that as part of the Government’s commitment to delivering faster turnaround of NAPLAN results, teachers and parents will this year be able to access this valuable information sooner than ever before. “The NAPLAN summary information will be made available even earlier this year, online from 31 July, after which parents will receive individual student reports,” Mr Pyne said. Read the full media release

$16.9 million to help lift teacher quality
[7 May 2015]
The Australian Government will provide an additional $16.9 million over four years to the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) to improve initial teacher education and to ensure teacher graduates are ‘classroom ready’. Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP said the funding would equip AITSL to implement the recommendations of the Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group (TEMAG) report, starting with the first recommendation of supporting the Government to implement a literacy and numeracy test for initial teacher education students from 2015. “It’s not possible to provide young Australians with a first-rate education without first-rate teachers,” Mr Pyne said. Read the full media release

Dates set for National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2015
[1 May 2015]
Students, teachers and parents have a week of exciting reading, writing and mathematics activities to look forward to after it was announced today that National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2015 will take place from 31 August to 6 September. Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, said the dates align the Week with Indigenous Literacy Day on September 2 and the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards on September 4. “National Literacy and Numeracy Week recognises the crucial role played by parents and teachers towards developing strong reading, writing and mathematical skills in young people,” Mr Pyne said. Read the full media release

Principal burnout ‘double the rate’ of the general population
[29 April 2015]
Between 40 and 50 Tasmanian principals took part in the four-year Australian Principal Occupational, Health, Safety and Wellbeing Survey, covering public and independent schools in urban, rural and regional areas. The survey results, which are being presented to principals around the state, rated the quantity of work, the lack of time to focus on teaching and learning, and resourcing needs as their biggest sources of professional stress. Report author, Philip Riley, from the Australian Catholic University (ACU), told the ABC principals’ health is suffering due to a lack of training in how to cope with increasing workloads and stress.

“There is far more administrative work than, say, 15 years ago,” Riley said. “The job has really changed out of sight in the last decade and principals have had no particular training in dealing with these kinds of management issues.” Riley said that principals suffer from health problems such as a lack of sleep, burnout, stress and physical aches and pains at double the rate of the general population. “Their sleeping problems are more than double the rate of the general population,” Riley said. “Things like burnout, stress, cognitive stress, somatic symptoms, as well as physical aches and pains are pretty much double the rate of the general population.” Although principals’ family backgrounds, jobs and finances are generally stable, Riley said that their health issues represent a “damning statistic”. “They tick all the boxes for mental health: they come from stable family backgrounds, they're in stable families, they've got good stable jobs,” Riley said. “They're well paid relatively speaking and yet they don't come up to the average in terms of mental health, so that's a pretty damning statistic.” Downloaded 8 May 2015 from http://www.educatoronline.com.au/news/principal-burnout-double-the-rate-of-the-general-population-199735.aspx