

LEA office arrangements

Over the December – January holiday period, the following arrangements will be in place for the LEA office:

- Up until 14 December 2018 the office will be open
- As from 14 January 2019 the office re-open

LEA Ministry Conferences 2019

All school principals, early childhood service (ECS) directors, school pastors and chaplains are asked to please place in your 2019 calendars the relevant 2019 LEA Ministry Conference. These have been designed for ECS and school ministry teams and have been planned as follows:

Tanunda, South Australia:	6-7 or 8-9 May (exact date yet to be finalised)
Templestowe, Victoria:	21-22 June 2019
Brisbane, Queensland:	18-19 or 22-23 July (exact date yet to be finalised)

If the conference in your region does not suit your calendar, you are welcome, as a team, to attend an alternate conference.

Conference registration costs are likely to be \$250 per person (same as 2017) with travel and accommodation costs additional. LEA will provide financial support to participants from remote / small / disadvantaged ECSs and schools as well as for participants in particularly needy circumstances. Further details will be circulated early Term 1 2019.

Sincere thanks to Stuart Traeger, LESNW Spiritual & Cultural Director, and Anne Dohnt, LEA Director of Formation, for leading these significant conferences.

Farewell and thank you

Finally I wish to express my sincere thanks to all Lutheran ECS and school leaders for your incredible energy, passion and enthusiasm for the people of your learning communities. Your support for, and care of, your students, fellow staff, parents and communities is acknowledged and a clear sign of the positive state Lutheran education is in today. Thank you for your support, honest feedback and ongoing collegiality to Janelle and me over the years. Please continue to keep the gospel message central to all you do as you serve and lead the people in your communities.

Thank you also to the LCA for allowing and calling us to serve in its schools and congregations over the years.

Finally, special thanks to my LEA staff team for their professional advice, support and energy.

Serving the Lord together

Stephen Rudolph
Executive Director
Lutheran Education Australia

Accreditation and professional learning pathways project

Principals received a letter on the 21st November outlining the decisions of NLT in relation to the implementation of *Connect (Pathways)* and *Equip 1* and *2* in 2019. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or seek clarification.

We realise that schools and regions have been working hard to deliver the current accreditation programs, and, if it would be of assistance, LEA would be happy to enter LEXICON data for you.

Anne Dohnt
Director of Formation

Valuing Safe Communities

The updated VSC4 has been completed. It is now in the process of being prepared to go online. Training of the VSC trainers is also underway in each region. Many thanks to Stuart Traeger, Eric Wilson and Gary Jewson for their work in undertaking this training. Schools will be notified once VSC4 is available online. Staff who are due to complete the update will also be advised when they can access the VSC4 update.

LDP workshop

The LDP leadership workshop will be held for all LDP participants in Geelong from February 28th – March 1st 2019. Participants have been asked to contact LEA if they require assistance with travel and accommodation. The workshop will be led by staff and guest presenters from each region as well as LEA staff. It is mandatory for all LDP participants to attend the workshops as part of their learning journey.

Responses to the Royal Commission recommendations

The Royal Commission into institutional child abuse has drawn up ten standards and made two recommendations for schools. In December each year the LCA will be required to report against the standards. On behalf of the LCA, LEA will be requesting information to contribute to that report.

Dianne Eckermann
Director of Leadership

Transfer Fund / Sick Leave Emergency Fund

Transfer Fund member schools needing assistance with moving new staff members over the Christmas / new year period are asked to alert us via email to lea@lutheran.edu.au. This email account will be monitored during the holiday break.

School business managers and finance officers please note: The LEA Sick Leave Emergency Fund provides a daily subsidy for accrued sick leave taken by teaching staff during 2018 that exceeds 15 days – the daily subsidy rate for 2018 is \$360. Claims from schools that are members of the Sick Leave Emergency Fund are due by the 28th February 2019. The claim form is available on the LEA website. Access the claim form here: <http://www.lutheran.edu.au/download/sick-leave-emergency-fund-claim-form/?wpdmdl=4392>



LEXICON

School and regional LEXICON administrators were recently advised of changes that will be seen in the LEXICON database from mid January 2019. These changes will accommodate the recording of the new accreditation requirements and also reflect the updated Valuing Safe Communities (VSC4) training. Further details including an updated handbook will be provided in January 2019. Please direct any questions to lea@lutheran.edu.au

Stephen Kroker
Business Manager

Installation: Dr Lisa Schmidt as LEA Executive Director

Please note that Dr Lisa Schmidt will be installed as the LEA Executive Director on Sunday, 10 February 2019 at 11am at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Flinders Street, Adelaide. Principals are encouraged to send greetings to Lisa for this important event. Some may even choose to attend. Please direct your greetings to lea@lutheran.edu.au



Australian Conference on Lutheran Education (ACLE 6)

The sixth Australian Conference on Lutheran Education will be held at the Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre



7-9 July 2021

Principals are encouraged to save the date and start budgeting for staff to attend.

Live and promote peace – together with more than 700 Protestant schools around the world

Would you like to stop bullying at your school and reflect with your students how to treat each other with love and respect? Is it a major concern for you to create a peaceful and secure learning environment for both students and teachers? Then join the worldwide network GPENreformation and take action!

The 'Global Pedagogical Network – Joining in Reformation', abbreviated as GPENreformation, is an international non-profit network of Protestant schools and their supporting organizations. It promotes worldwide exchange and learning from and with each other to improve educational quality at Protestant schools. In the context of the network's current Peace Education Period running until the end of 2021 a new project has been launched this spring. It is open to all school forms and aims to explore how peace and discord manifest themselves in the school context and where the causes can be found. You can find the accompanying materials and instructions for teachers and students available for free [here](#). Feel free to pass them on to student leaders and interested teachers e.g. for Christian studies. Take action for your school culture and become part of the great digital GPENreformation peace exhibition by submitting your findings! Simply visit the website www.gpenreformation.net, sign up for free membership online and get started.

This project is part of a long-term initiative to develop a valuable tool kit assembling suggestions, materials and project ideas of how to promote a peaceful living-together at Protestant schools. During the process both students and teachers will be invited to introduce their ideas via eLearning project phases and international meetings. Feel invited to join the global community on this exciting journey!

If you want to know more about the network and the opportunities it offers, please visit the [website](#), have a look at the [flyer](#) or get in touch with Bianca Kappelhoff, the network's contact person for Australia (Mail Bianca.Kappelhoff@gpenreformation.net, Phone 0412 470 750).

Sharing a story

Liz Polentas is the Subject Coordinator - Information Technology at St Andrews Lutheran College, Gold Coast, Queensland. This year they ran a pilot program, wherein teachers were asked to 'team teach' while integrating the curriculum across two learning areas, Design Technology and Information Technologies. Students were asked to use various software programs to design, build and program their own Theatre boxes. The integrated teaching and learning enabled the students and teachers to acquire skills across the different subject areas. Here's her story:

Our story begins Our teaching team, consisting of Greg Dart, Karling Howe and Liz Polentas from the Design Technology and Information Technology faculty were assigned an elective subject that crossed over the two subject areas. The 'team teaching' concept was an area that was being encouraged by the College. Naturally, our challenges were sharing decision making and developing consistent instructions within the team. This required a 'growth mindset' from all involved as we divided instructional content into segments using our individual strengths. At the start, we were overwhelmed by the thought of combining different subject areas into valuable course material whilst aligning the program to meet curriculum requirements. Incorporating one of the school's mission statement, 'Empowering Life-long learning', and keeping it 'real world' were major considerations. Initially it was important to determine what the students needed to learn, then ascertain the teaching pedagogy and lastly establish performance indicators through the project orientated activity.

So what did the students produce? The students were required to plan, design and produce a programmed theatre box. This project would provide the students with the required knowledge and skills and, a tangible product to share and communicate the journey with their parents/ guardians. Students created their vector images/puppets in Adobe Illustrator and printed them on the laser cutter. They designed their theatre boxes using Inventor, a 3D CAD software program in the IT lab and then progressed to cutting and assembling the wooden boxes in the Design and Technology workshop. Fun began when the students had to start programming the servomotors that would operate their puppets using the Arduino Open Source software. Some students found coding a challenge, while for others, programming ignited interest, some even got their puppets to move using their TV remote from home.

What did we learn? The integrated teaching and learning enabled the students and teachers to acquire unique skills across these subject areas. Explicit teaching was paramount allowing students to feel that every teacher in the room was an equal partner and had equal status; we had to trust each other. With the extra teacher in the classroom, the lowered teacher student ratio allowed for more one-on-one learning time. The students benefitted tremendously, they had teachers with complimentary styles and expertise in different fields. Students were able to connect with the different personalities and realise that everyone in the room had a common goal and we were all a team. A mutual understanding of equality with teaching staff was effectively established whilst at the same time lead teaching was divided into sections. The teacher that was on the learning-end also addressed student questions, where possible; this also encouraged on-the-job learning experience. As educators, we experienced different teaching styles and a collaborative approach and commitment to deliver creative lessons. We needed to be flexible and when things did not go to plan, we quickly adapted. Team-teaching is a great way for professional learning.

Liz Polentas, Subject Coordinator - Information Technology

