

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

When educators become the learners, reflect on their experiences, and consider implications for their own practices, it can translate to more robust learning experiences for their students.” Katie Martin

Dear members of the Lisieux community,

This week I'd like to begin with the most **heartfelt gratitude** to members within and outside of our community for supporting my recent opportunity to participate in an educational tour to Indonesia, along with other principals of the Geelong Catholic network. The trip was planned and facilitated by Andrea Downie, from Project Thrive, who is an inspirational educator and who ensured that every detail of the experience was fine tuned. **Thank you** to staff, parents and Advisory Council members for your encouragement and a huge thank you to James Flint, from St Francis Xavier CPS, Corio, for standing in as Acting Principal during my absence. This was only made possible by the generosity of James' current Principal, Maria Scala, to whom I am also very grateful.

I hope to have many opportunities to share some of my learnings from the experience with Lisieux community members over the coming months. There was so much to be inspired by at The Green School in Ubud, a school which was started 10 years ago by Canadian John Hardy, and which has flourished and established an international reputation for its sustainability, its holistic education and its focus on wellbeing. The Green School was founded on a dream to create a community where students are at the centre; its physical structures are made from bamboo and there are no walls. For me, the lack of walls was both physical and metaphorical- we so often talk about 'breaking down the walls' or 'barriers' and in this space they have not let walls define their learning. Students were deeply engaged in experiential learning, much of it outside. There was an amazing sense of openness and wonder present in the space.

Like any new school community, including Lisieux, The Green School has had its share of trials and tribulations. They do not claim to be perfect. They have made mistakes and learned from them, all part of the journey.

The most significant learning for me was that with faith and commitment and a vision, anything is possible. I have not come home wanting to replicate what The Green School has, but the fire in my belly to build a learning community of welcome, growth, acceptance and possibility has been further ignited. There are so many expectations, rules, structures and guiding principles framing education today in Australia. What my visit encouraged me to consider is, *"How can we ensure that our students are at the centre of all we do? How can we meet them where they are and involve them in a learning journey that is authentic and life giving?"*

ISSUE 10 | 26 APRIL 2018

SCHOOL CALENDAR

APRIL

26th First Parents and Friends meeting – all welcome
7:00pm

MAY

1st Student Learning Conferences
3rd Whole school full day excursion – Werribee Zoo
10th Mother Day High Tea
(More details to follow)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

My goal is to continue to do lots more 'blue sky dreaming' with parents, staff and students to respond to those questions and continue to shape our own learning community in a way that is appropriate for our own context and our own mission. The most overwhelming feeling I have brought back to Lisieux is 'hope' and I am looking forward to what we will continue to create together.

One way to be part of the conversation about what is important to our school is to come along and join the discussion of our **first ever Parents and Friends Committee meeting tonight at 7pm in the Lisieux staff room**. We will be electing our first committee and talking about ways to further build our community. All welcome.

Interviews for 2019 enrolment will commence next week. If you have a child who you wish to enrol for next year, please contact our Office Reception as soon as possible to ensure the possibility of a place. God's blessings for the week ahead,

Susan Ryan

Principal

Susan.ryan@lisieux.catholic.edu.au

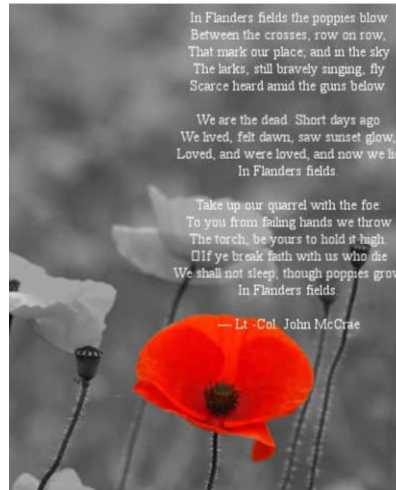
PRAYER / REFLECTION

Yesterday we marked ANZAC Day 2018, and in doing so we honoured all Australians and New Zealanders who served and died in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations, and remember the contribution and suffering of all who served.

“They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
we shall remember them.
Lest we forget”.



A Prayer for Peace
God of Peace,
may we become peacemakers by feeding the hungry,
welcoming the stranger,
planting kindness
and nurturing peace wherever we are.
Amen.



MOTHERS' DAY HIGH TEA
@ Lisieux

Thursday 10 May, 2pm
Afternoon tea, a glass of champagne & guest speaker.

A chance for us to celebrate motherhood.
Tickets available for purchase from Office Reception
\$10 per ticket
Mums, grandmums and special female role models all welcome.

