



THE SPIRIT

The official newsletter of St Martins Lutheran College



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Welcome

A very warm welcome to all our new and returning students and their families. It is wonderful to see so many bright, smiling student faces at school and everyone looking very smart in their College uniform.

We are delighted to welcome many new families to St Martins this year, along with 9 new teachers, 5 new administration/support staff, and 3 new trainees. This year we opened with 739 students on the roll. This represents a growth of around 20 students on this time last year. We are very grateful for the continued confidence that parents, caregivers and the general community have in our College.

The new year ahead promises to be a very busy one. Since early last week, teachers have been working hard to prepare for another exciting and challenging year of learning for students. It is our hope that students will quickly settle into their classes and their studies. If your son or daughter experiences any problems, please contact their Class Teacher (for Junior School students) or their Home Group Teacher or Subject Teacher (for Middle/Senior School students). Please do not hesitate to contact us. It is very important that students start their studies well.

2020 College Theme

Each year the College chooses a theme to provide a focus for the school year. The theme is a way to communicate the values of the College whilst promoting positive ideals within our community. This year's theme is:

Stronger Together

At Tuesday morning's Opening Worship Service, we started to explore our new theme by looking at John Chapter 15 Verse 5, which is about being better and stronger together in Christ.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

During the holidays, I went for a walk around a friend's garden. In the garden he had vegetables, alongside raspberries, strawberries and numerous fruit trees heavy with lots of apples, pears, plums, grapefruit and lemons.

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UPCOMING DATES

Friday 31 Jan

- House Day
- Year 12 Retreat
- Junior House Captain/SRC Election Day

Monday 3 Feb

- Primary Assembly
- Cricket Try Out Day

Tuesday 4 Feb

- Tennis Try Out Day
- Year 12 Parent Info Night

Wednesday 5 Feb

- Middle/Senior SRC Meeting

Thursday 6 Feb

- Newsletter
- Junior SRC Meeting

Friday 7 Feb

- Worship
- Installation Junior SRC/HC

Wednesday 12 Feb

- Middle/Senior Swimming Carnival

Friday 14 Feb

- Worship
- SE Zone Swimming

Monday 17 Feb

- ACER Testing New Students
- Open Boys Cricket

Tuesday 18 Feb

- Parent Expo/Info Night



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Talking to my friend, I noticed that some of the branches of the fruit trees were so heavy with fruit, that they were bending down under the strain of the extra weight they were carrying. So, my friend had used some pieces of wood to help hold the branches up.

My friend noticed that I was looking at this and he said to me, *"If we want the fruit to keep growing and to ripen, so that we can harvest them, we have to make sure the branches do not fall down and break off the tree. If the branches break, we will not be able to eat the fruit and the branches will die if they snap off the tree trunk"*.

This made me think... If a fruit tree, like an apple tree or a lemon tree, or even a grape vine is to produce a good crop, its branches need to be strongly attached to the trunk. If the branches are too heavy, or if the wind blows too hard, there can be problems. The tree is strongest if all the branches are strong and if it is amongst other trees in an orchard that helps to protect it from the wind.

As people we are the same. As our bible verse tells us, God is the vine, or the tree trunk and we are the branches. If we stay connected to God, we will grow and produce good fruit.

Therefore, if we at St Martins work together and help each other, we will grow and become a stronger community, provided we stay connected to our Heavenly Father. He has amazing things in store for us this year. So, let's remember that we can be stronger together when we are connected to God.

I wish you all a fruitful 2020.

Alan Connah
Principal