Head of Middle School Report

Earlier this week information was sent home to Middle School parents providing details about the School’s Accelerated Learning Program; The Genesis Program. This program will commence in Term 1 of 2016 and will focus on Literacy and Numeracy. Other subject areas may be added to the program in the future. The selection process for entry into the Genesis Program will include external online testing, information from the student’s current school and/or teacher and an interview with the student. The Genesis Program is another part of our continuing effort to cater for the many needs and abilities of our students and it promises to be an exciting and challenging pathway for those selected.

With Middle School staffing almost finalised for next year, preparations and planning are well underway for 2016. The school endeavours to provide the most effective low teacher to student ratios, especially in literacy and numeracy classes. Team-teaching will allow for students to receive support and guidance quickly and will ensure that all students have the opportunity to experience success. Plans are also underway for alternative literacy and numeracy programs to feature as part of the curriculum. These programs will provide hands-on and interactive lessons which will allow students to utilise learnt literacy and numeracy skills in practical tasks. Further details about the 2016 curriculum will be outlined at the Information Night which will be held at the beginning of the new school year.

The Year 7 & 8 Boys and Girls Milo T20 Cricket Tournament scheduled for today has been postponed until next Thursday 12th November due to inclement weather. The Year 8 Girls Basketball team and Year 7 Girls volleyball teams have been busy training during lunch times and after school as they prepare to compete in the Greater Western Region and State Championships respectively. Good luck to these teams as they prepare to take on the best the State has to offer.

Last Friday night the Middle School SRC hosted a ‘Movie Night’ in the Middle School building. The SRC worked tirelessly to prepare popcorn and snacks and then transform the Collaborative Learning Area into a make-shift movie theatre. The night was well supported by the Year 7 and 8 students and I must commend them on their behaviour and conduct throughout the night. The SRC representatives demonstrated their leadership skills and did a wonderful job managing the night. A total of $257 was raised on the night which will go towards charity and mission organisations.

A reminder that this Saturday is the combined student testing and parent information session for 2016 Year 7 parents, starting at 9:30am.

Middle School students are encouraged to bring a small amount of change to give to the Chapel Offering each week. Parents are asked to support their children in providing this money which will be used to support those in need.

Jason Przibilla
Head of Middle School
Middle School Cyber Safety Update

Holy Trinity Lutheran School is committed to ensuring our Middle School students are using their technological devices safely and responsibly. The school is constantly looking at ways in which it can best manage the use of the iPad device to ensure the students are taught responsible use and can model it to others.

This week, IT Coordinator, Mr Matthew Polack spoke to the students at assembly about the school’s management system which allows the school to monitor the digital footprint left by each device when connected to the school’s network. Websites, apps and downloads can all be traced to individual devices allowing inappropriate use to be monitored and the student or students made accountable for their actions. The iPad, like most IT devices, is a great learning device and enhances student learning and engagement. Management of the iPad is primarily the responsibility of the individual student.

Our school’s management system is one of many ways of helping and supporting our students to use technology in the safest and most effective way in achieving their learning goals.