**[ 6 ] WEEK SIX - LEA Value: appreciation**

**KEY TEXT**: Phil 4:4-9 Focus on excellent things

(admiration, approval, enjoyment of, gratitude, thankfulness, value, recognition, respect, wonder and awe, comprehension ... Appreciation is recognising and valuing highly the gilts and blessings given to us and surrounding us. It is an attitude of gratitude for learning, loving and being. It is a positive attitude that responds in wonder and awe to, and with respect for, the created world its fragility and it’s potential.

*Other verses to look up:- Psalm 148, Habakkuk 2:20, Philippians 4:4-9, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, 1 Pet 2:17,...*

**BIBLE TEXT:**

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

**TEACHING FOR TEACHERS**: St Paul is strongly focused on our need to hold fast to excellent things – and to consider the goodness of God in our world and in our lives. He does not just me: “Be Positive.” But rather he guides us into a life-style that is not overwhelmed with evil and horror. This is very good for young people to consider as the daily news broadcasts are so often full of bad news.

**DISCUSSION**

We need to be encouraged to honestly look at ourselves and see how we are wonderfully made by God. Dr Seuss once said: “A person’s a person, no matter how small.” Each person is unique and we can show our appreciation of this truth, by honouring the gifts that each of us. We do this by building up each other: cheering at each other’s success; finding ways to celebrate each other; refusing to gossip about others; saying thank you to compliments; speaking well of others. Often we expect others to simply conform to our expectations. When we try to clone others to look like us, we make the world a colourless place. God has given us a wonderful rainbow of persons and personalities.

This heart of appreciation also needs to be directed to creation. The earth is not there to be trampled down and squeezed of it’s life. We have opportunities every day to honour the gift of the world that God has given to us. We can work to prevent pollution and to stand against the misuse and mistreatment of the animal life on this planet.

Finally this focus on appreciation means we must explore the qualities that make human beings unique in creation – through the expression of the arts and sciences.

**ACTIVITIES**

\* What skills, abilities, hobbies, talents exist in your class group? Who are the artists and musicians? What are the games that different student play? What music is most appreciated by students in your group?

\* Conduct a student performance: MY PCG HAS TALENT.

\* Join or regularly support environmental groups that are designed to “save the planet”.

\* Make posters designed to prevent litter on the School Grounds

\* Reproduce a list of the Australia Day Awards for this year. What does the list tell us about the things that we “appreciate” in Australian Culture?

\* We often fail to appreciate certain skills or activities as OUTSTANDING or NOTEWORTHY – What does your class group think?

\* Learn about the story of Susan Boyle

\* DEBATE THIS TOPIC: Young people who have "nothing to do" too often find themselves doing things that they would rather not be doing?

\* How do the students in your group spend their time free time? What activities would the students say show that they are appreciating, using and enhancing their own skills and abilities?

\* Encourage children and teens to tackle work or hobbies that are difficult for them and then work together to see them through.

\* Discuss careers, colleges; courses and dreams for the future. How do we choose career pathways that make the most of “who we are”?

\* What does it mean to “seize the day.”? Check out the foyer scene with Robin Williams in the movie: Dead Poets Society *(beware of the suicide theme in this movie)*

*A Bible Text:*

For it as you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. — Psalm 139:13-14