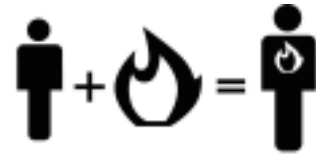


IGNITE



Para Vista Youth Ministries

Parent update

Hi all,

My name is Sophie Gerrie and I am the new Youth and Young Adults Team Leader here at Para Vista. I thought I would write this letter to tell you a little bit about myself and to fill you in on what is happening with Youth this year.



I am 20 years old and studying Youth Work part time at Tabor Christian College. I have been at Tabor for a year now and I love it. I have been a member at Para Vista for a year and a half, and I was involved in Youth as a leader last year. In my spare time I organise youth camps like Christian Life Week which is a HUGE passion of mine! I also love the beach, travelling, taking photos, playing the guitar and being super organised (weird for a youth worker, I know!).

I am very excited to be on board and am keen to get the Youth program up and running. At the moment it looks like Youth won't be starting until Term 2. The main reason behind this is Childsafe. For those of you who are unaware, the Lutheran Church of Australia has put together a compulsory training program called Childsafe, for all people wanting to work with children and youth. The aim of Childsafe is to ensure that all people working with those under 18 know how best to keep them safe. It is a fantastic program, only it is time consuming.

By taking the time to complete all the necessary Childsafe procedures we are aiming to provide a safe, fun environment for your children, where they will feel comfortable and will be able to grow in their relationship with Jesus. It also gives me some time to settle into the role and begin Youth with a clear purpose.

Because of Childsafe, there will be quite a lot of paper work for you (and me) to fill out, so please bear with me as I get this organised. Basically, we will need your child's medical details and your contact details. It will be very important that I get these forms back from you, before you send your kids along to Youth.

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To invite young people into God's story, that He would IGNITE their faith and lead them.

Some information about Youth in 2010:

- Junior (Fusion, years 7-8) and Senior (Ablaze, years 9-12) Youth will both be held fortnightly on Friday nights. However the format of these nights is still being discussed. Updates will be given shortly.
- The timetable for term 2 will be out within the month, so keep checking the website (www.paravista.org.au) and the Youth notice board (located at the back of the church).
- Communication will mostly be via the website ('Youth and Young Adults' and 'Parents' pages), sms, email and the notice board.
- If you have a young person in year 12 this year, please let me know. We are hoping to try something new for year 12s by offering them support that fits into their busy schedules. The aim is for the year 12s to have their own small group, run by one of our fabulous young adults. This way if Friday night commitments are not an option, they can choose a night and frequency that suits them.
- Christian Life Week (aka CLW) is on again as always. Check out the camp section of the website, under 'Youth and Young Adults' for more information. I really encourage you to send your kids along. For me it was the turning point in my walk with God. I have met friends who have seen me through everything; it really is a fantastic ministry.

Please pray for me, the Youth leaders, the young people and the Ignite program as we endeavour to get it up and running.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

Blessings,

Sophie Gerrie

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