In this issue

Headmistress
Chaplain
Junior School
Featured articles
Events
Senior School
ELC

Upcoming events

Literary Festival
8-10 August

Literary lunch
Tuesday 9 August

JS Book parade
Wednesday 10 August

Archbishop lecture
Thursday 11 August

Wheeldon 11 family dinner
Friday 12 August

From the Headmistress

Welcome to the new Shuttle, which is now in PDF format. Our Abbotsleigh newsletter aims to provide you with a concise summary of important information, current and upcoming events. Among the articles in this week’s edition, you will find lots of information on the eagerly anticipated Literary Festival and Science Week events; results from the JS athletics carnival and AMT Mathematics Competition; hear from one of our German exchange students and learn how women are making their way in STEM careers.

I also recommend to you the upcoming lecture, ‘Christian life on the edge of society’.

Chaplain

Christian life on the edge of society
Rev Jenni Stoddart | Chaplain

How should we live in a secular society? What could we say? Things in our society are changing. Here we are, more than a decade into the twenty-first century, and the place we hold in society feels far less secure than even at the end of the last. Rights to be able to express our faith and to exercise our religious freedoms are being challenged. The church is no longer at the heart of the village. What is a Christian to do? What do we say? Does the Bible help us with any of this?

Please join us for a chance to explore Christian faith and engage with our world.
Bishop Chris Edwards has engaged Don Carson, Research Professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School to speak. Don has published more than 57 titles on theology and the New Testament.

Thursday 11 August 2016
7.30 pm
Peter Duly Concert Hall

Entry is by donation but booking would assist with organisation. Book here or email me at stoddartj@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au

Junior School

All booked up for the Literary Festival next week
Ms Sally Ruston | Head of Junior School

When we know that children’s fluency in reading is a strong predictor of future career success and that greater fluency is achieved when children are passionate and capable readers, we realise just how important such an undertaking the Literary Festival really is. Our girls and the broader community will be exposed to the talents of writers, authors, poets and illustrators for three days of workshops, presentation and events. There is a sense of great anticipation and excitement surrounding all that is ahead.

We encourage parents to engage in the Literary Festival and to model to your daughters your own passion of reading and engaging with authors. I warmly commend to you the following opportunities.

Writing workshop just for adults
Want to hone your writing skills? Do you love writing? Darcy-Lee Tindale, a teacher, author and actor, will guide participants through a practical look at writing, understanding the market, finding your voice, refining and improving your work and how to approach publishers.
Tuesday 9 August
9 am-12 noon
Betty Archdale Library
$50

Reading for life
In this session, highly acclaimed children’s author Jacqueline Harvey will discuss helping your child develop lifelong reading habits for learning and leisure. This opportunity is ideally timed for all parents coming to the book parade as the session immediately precedes the Book Parade.

Wednesday 10 August
11.30 am-12.30 pm
Lower Everett room, Junior School
$10

Full STEAM ahead in the Junior School for Science Week
Sally Ruston | Head of Junior School

National Science Week is an opportunity to acknowledge the contributions made by Australian scientists to the world of knowledge. It is also aimed at encouraging younger generations to become fascinated by the world of science. The official theme for schools in 2016 is ‘Drones, Droids and Robots’ and celebrates the Technology in STEAM. The theme centres on the real-world application of autonomous technologies in areas including agriculture, mining, manufacturing, medicine and space and deep ocean exploration. It also looks at how technology has transformed our day-to-day lives – from robot vacuum cleaners and lawn mowers to automated pool cleaners.

We will be celebrating Science Week from Monday 15 to Friday 19 August and there are many ways to become involved. Read more about National Science Week here.

The follow activities will be available to the girls during this term as we celebrate Science Week:

■ Transition and ELC involved in Senior School Drones, Droid and Robots Expo.

■ All girls and parents welcome to the Drones, Droid and Robot Expo on Tuesday 16 August from 3.30-5 pm in the Senior School Library.

■ Year 2 robot workshop with an expert in this field, Ms Erin Filan, during Science lessons.

■ On Friday, the Senior School robotics team will be at the Primary Assembly with their robot Prongs to show students how the robot works.

■ Girls in Years 3 and 4 participating in a forensic science workshop.

■ Years 3-6 students have been encouraged to put their creative hats on and come up with a LittleBIGidea. The LittleBIGidea is an initiative by Origin Energy, asking school students to come up with an invention, a smart way to save energy or a clever idea that helps people or makes their lives easier. The winner in each category will be awarded a trip to the USA to visit the NASA Kennedy Space Centre and Disneyworld.

As well as the above, the Senior School library will host a robotics display on Tuesday, 16 August. Visitors will get to see Prongs, the FRC robot that competed in the World Championship in the USA this year. They will also have a chance to drive a Sphero robot around and over obstacles, learn about how robots are made and try out apps made by Year 7 students. The apps will be accessible to everyone with an internet connection. All are invited to visit the robotics display in the Senior School library until 5 pm on Tuesday.

What an enriching week of learning this will be. We are committed to piquing the girls’ interest and curiosity and giving every reason for continued exploration in the fascinating worlds of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Junior School staffing changes
Sally Ruston | Head of Junior School

We farewelled Mrs Emma Avery at the end of this week as she takes up a secondary Science teaching position at The King’s School. We wish Emma every success as she furthers her passion in teaching Science. Due to the timing of Mrs Avery’s departure, we are very pleased to announce that we have been able to secure the services of Dr Ishara Gunesekere who has a Bachelor of Science (Hons) as well as a Doctorate of Philosophy in Microbiology working as an educator, technical officer and research officer at Monash University. She has most recently been working as a Science Laboratory and Art Assistant at Glenaeon Rudolf Steiner School in Sydney. She will be supporting...
Kindergarten celebrated 100 days of learning
Mrs Heather McWhannell | Transition to Year 2 Coordinator
On Tuesday 26 July, the Kindergarten students celebrated their 100th day of school. The girls engaged with mathematical activities based around the number 100 and enjoyed adding their collection of 100 objects brought from home to their ‘100 Gallery.’ Kindergarten were particularly delighted to be joined by Ms Ruston, Ms Grzanka and Mrs Poole, as well as by surprise guest ‘Zero the Hero!’ The girls ended their celebrations with a ‘100’ cake.

T-2 Jump Rope for Heart
Mr Paul Guirreri | JS PDHPE Teacher
Last Friday we launched our Transition to Year 2 Jump Rope for Heart program. The girls have also been busily honing their jumping skills during PE lessons and also in their own time at recess and lunch. Many girls who couldn’t skip in Week 1 are now getting over the rope! We really need to push the fundraising side of things with the girls actively seeking sponsorship. All funds raised go towards such an important cause and the more prizes the girls can earn, the more we can donate to those in greater need than us. Looking forward to our ‘Jump Off’ in Week 5 and seeing those sponsorship dollars rolling in. Thank you for your support.

Year 2 to the Powerhouse Museum
Mrs Heather McWhannell | Transition to Year 2 Coordinator
On Thursday 11 August, Year 2 will visit the Powerhouse Museum, as a component of their Term 3 HSIE unit, Transport.

The girls will observe the kinds of vehicles that have shaped our way of life, including some grand and gracious vehicles of the past, space exploration vehicles and a car sectioned and powered to reveal its construction and operation.

We look forward to the girls exploring advances in transport: from walking to horse riding, cycling to driving, and train riding to aeroplane flying. Using scientific inquiry, they will consider how changing forms of transport technology meet society’s need to be quick, sustainable and quiet.

Primary athletics carnival 2016
Mr Paul Guirreri | JS PDHPE Teacher
Last Friday Sydney Olympic Park was bathed in sunshine for our carnival. Individually there were some fabulous performances throughout the day. Congratulations go to the following girls who took home our event trophies:

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Winner</th>
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<tr>
<td>Senior shot put</td>
<td>Brooke Cousins</td>
<td>Senior long jump</td>
<td>Amelia Hansen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior discus</td>
<td>Rachel Ee</td>
<td>Senior 800 m</td>
<td>Georgia Fichardt</td>
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<td>Senior 100 m</td>
<td>Georgia Fichardt</td>
<td>Open 100 m</td>
<td>Georgia Fichardt</td>
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<td>Junior 100 m</td>
<td>Gillian Lawrence</td>
<td>Open 200 m</td>
<td>Georgia Fichardt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior high jump</td>
<td>Georgia Fichardt</td>
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Congratulations to Kiera Yerbury and Georgia Fichardt who were named Junior and Senior Individual Point Score winners respectively. Well done to Kiera Yerbury who added 4 cm to the previous Junior high jump record setting a new benchmark of 1.16 m. At the conclusion of all events, Lawson won the McCredie Shield as the overall winners.

Thank you to all of our fabulous parent helpers who assisted in making the day run so smoothly, and to all House Captains, staff and spectators who made the day a success. The girls who will represent Abbotsleigh at the IPSHA carnival will be announced next week with information sent home to relevant families.

Kindergarten visited Calmsley Hill City Farm
Mrs Heather McWhannell | Transition to Year 2 Coordinator
On Thursday 28 July, Kindergarten visited Calmsley Hill City Farm as part of their HSIE unit, The Farm. The girls were treated to a tractor ride for a farm tour, as well as a working dog and stockwhip show. They enjoyed several new and exciting experiences, including farmyard petting and milking a cow. This opportunity proved a wonderful way to extend the girls’ learning beyond the classroom.

the class teachers as the Junior School Science Integrator in the delivery of the BOSTES Primary Science Curriculum for girls in Years 1-6 and sharing her acumen, passion and expertise in scientific methodology with us all. Additionally, Mrs Sally Southan will continue to work with the girls who have developed research projects to ensure they are ready for inclusion in a variety of competitions.
Allies on the subject of STEM
The Alliance of Girls’ Schools (AGSA) hosted a dinner at Abbotsleigh on 2 August where over 100 educators and school leaders gathered to network about teaching girls. The topic for the evening was on engaging girls in STEM subjects and careers – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Annabel McDermott races in Poland
Abbotsleigh is very proud of our Year 12 student Annabel McDermott who has recently returned from the IAAF World U20 championships in Bydgoszcz, Poland at the end of July. Annabel competed in the 5000m final (12.5 laps of the track), placing 14th with a time of 16:08:44. Click ‘Read More’ to watch Annabel’s trackside interview after her race.

Student success
Miss Kate Grzanka | Deputy Head of Junior School
Congratulations to Victoria Teo who performed in the open age instrumental duet session of the Sydney Eisteddfod with Lawrence Wei. Victoria and Lawrence played a Haydn and Handel Passacaglia duet for violin and cello and were awarded first prize.

Leather and Laces Sports Lunch
An annual fundraising event by the Abbotsleigh Foundation, the Leather and Laces Sports Lunch raises money for our Indigenous Scholarships program at the school. The Master of Ceremonies for the sports lunch is journalist Rebecca Wilson while a live auction of fabulous prizes is auctioned by Stuart Gregor. Friday 26 August.

AMT Mathematics Challenge results include six perfect scores
Ms Sally Southan | Junior School Mathematics Specialist Teacher
Selected middle and upper Primary students were challenged to work in small teams to complete a range of complex mathematical problems and provide clear explanations in the form of mathematical proof. Of the selected students, a total of 20 students achieved a distinction, 39 were awarded credits and a number more were awarded with proficiency certification.

Distinctions
Middle primary division: Years 3 and Year 4
Stella Aung, Arya Gunalingam, Laeticia Lin, Camille Murray, Alyssa Sor, Emily Sor, Lily Thornthwaite, Anica Wong, Isabelle Wong

Upper primary division: Years 5 and Year 6
Jasmine Burton, Rachel Ee, Caroline Gu, Erica Kim, Hayley Kwan, Gwyneth Leung, Sophie Lim, Arwyn Stone, Monique Tran, Julia Wedgwood-Oppenheim, Rosa Wedgwood-Oppenheim.
Willkommen

Mrs Carole Helbert | Senior School Languages Teacher

On behalf of Abbotsleigh, we warmly welcome Sophie Zeggelaar, a German exchange student from our sister school, Annette-Von-Droste-Gymnasium, in Münster. Sophie is hosted by the Heath family and will stay with us for the whole of Term 3. Verity Heath, 10W, will head off to Germany in the middle of Term 4.

Sophie has adapted smoothly and with enthusiasm to her new environment and the School’s routine. Here is a paragraph written by Sophie giving her first impressions of Australia and Abbotsleigh.

I am already for approximately one month in Sydney and I could provide an insight into the life of the Australian people. Overall, I have excellent impressions of Australia. Already, after the first couple of days after my arrival the beautiful and plenty of nature attracted attention, which makes Sydney to a considerable degree lovely. In the holidays my host family and I made a road trip to Queensland and we visited a huge number of cities in which I noticed the affability and civility of many Australians. Two weeks after my arrival the school started. The biggest difference between my school and Abbotsleigh is the school uniform which is for me, as a German student, very extraordinary. However, after one week I accustom myself to it and I prefer the idea because everybody is dressed acceptably and everybody looks same. Moreover, I realized the comity of all students. One example here for is that the students get up for adults in trains and buses. This behaviour isn’t seen often in Germany. Furthermore, I could detect the well-organized educational structure. The lessons as well as the student’s daily routine is well-structured. Through the permanent conversations in English I improved my English and I think it will help me for my English lessons at my school.

I hope that I will learn a lot more all-around Australia and that I will experience a couple of things.

Sophie Zeggelaar
A recipe for a fun day
Waiwai Yeap | 9F

1. Take a mathematics competition held on a Monday
2. Place it in Pymble Ladies’ College (just for a day)
3. Add eight Abbotsleigh girls with passion and grit
4. Sprinkle in some other schools, only a pinch, just a bit
5. Mix it all together, close your eyes and hope for the best
6. Fun, passion and excitement will make the rest

Serving suggestion
Serve with a dash of curiosity and a pinch of determination.

On Monday 1 August, eight Abbotsleigh girls competed in the Northern Suburbs Mathematics Challenge at Pymble Ladies’ College. Upon arriving, we were each allocated to a group of four people from a mix of schools. We were set four activities, all of them testing our accuracy and speed in maths and open-ended problem solving. We raced against the clock in a back-and-forth crossword puzzle, a set of challenging maths questions, a fast and furious array of problems and a quick-fire questions relay.

Abbotsleigh performed well, with one of our teams placing in the top three, and the others not far behind. We also made a lot of new friends, as after all, Mathematics is the true universal language.

Year 8: Lily Adams, Humpshinie Baskaran, Rowena Si, Kira Trahana
Year 9: Chelsea Chaffey, Sophie Looi, Xiaoran Qian, Waiwai Yeap

Success on the podium
Ms Jennie Kelly | Debating and Public Speaking Coordinator

Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award
The Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award encourages the use of clear and effective spoken English. Since its inception in 1995, the competition has provided an opportunity for NSW junior secondary students to improve their confidence and to develop their speech-writing and public speaking skills. Congratulations to Jacinta Lin and Satara Uthayakumaran who represented Abbotsleigh successfully in the local final of this competition. Both girls spoke with poise and presented their ideas with conviction. Jacinta was selected to go forward to compete in the regional final on Wednesday 17 August.

Would you like to find your voice?
Public speaking workshops are offered on Thursday after school and are open to all Senior School girls. The senior public speaking competition for students in Years 10, 11 and 12 takes place in Term 3. All information has been posted in Student Notices.

Science rules in the ELC with solids, liquids and gases
Ms Mary Santone | 2-3 Educator Assistant and Director ELC

During the break, many children had ‘winter wonderland’ experiences, which led to discussions about ice and snow. We decided to make our own ice, changing a liquid into a solid. Then we noticed it changing states as it melted.

We decided to see what would happen if water got very hot and watched as our model steam engine heated water in the boiler, turning it into steam and moving the piston, causing a wheel to rotate.

We then did some experimenting at the ACEE with Senior Science Teacher Susan Filan. The children were amazed to watch dry ice bubbling in water like hot water, yet the cup felt cold on the outside. Miss Susan then put a piece of dry ice in a balloon and tied it up. As the ice ‘melted’ (turned in to a gas) the children were amazed to see the balloon blow up.
Women in STEM
Mrs Marg Selby | Careers Advisor

At the Alliance of Girls’ School Dinner, which was held at Abbotsleigh this week, we were privileged to hear from three successful young women who already work in this field, including our own former student, Katie Bell.

Katie is a software engineer, who worked for Google both in Australia and abroad for six years and now works with Grok Learning. Another panellist was a civil engineer and the third has formed a company called the Power of Engineering, which helps young changemakers to solve the world’s big challenges.

All three girls agreed on the salient points below:
- Attending a girls’ school gave them an advantage, because they felt confident in undertaking roles which are often populated more commonly by males.
- There were plenty of job opportunities for STEM graduates.
- About 2.3 million are employed across Australia in STEM jobs, but only 16% of people in this workforce are females. (ABS 2011)
- They are employed across a range of expected and unexpected areas, such as professional, scientific and technical services, manufacturing, public administration and safety, education and training, health care and social assistance and in the financial and insurance sector.
- None of the three young women had ever felt intimidated at work by the preponderance of males in their workplace; to the contrary, they had felt empowered and capable.
- 12% of females and 12% of female STEM graduates earn a wage in the top income bracket, which sadly, is representative of most other workforce groups.

For other Careers information, please visit the Careers page.

Authors, books and bubbles
Ms Jacqui Everett | Community Development Officer

Please join us at the
- **Champagne Opening** on Monday 8 August at 5.45 pm in the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery. Peter FitzSimons AM will be our guest speaker. Book here now.
- **Literary Lunch** on Tuesday 9 August. Our star-studded lunch will feature recognised author and Abbotsleigh Old Girl, Nicole Alexander, and Meg Keneally, fresh from the success of her debut novel *The Soldier’s Curse* working along with her father Thomas Keneally.

Enjoy the experience with friends, and book your seats at a table hosted by one of our visiting Literary Festival speakers, including Jacqueline Harvey, Will Kostakis and Yvette Poshoglian.

Book here now.

Meet the Daisy Club’s newest members
Ms Jacqui Everett | Community Development Officer

Please welcome Woody and Ravi to our community. They reside at Walcha, near Tamworth. At the end of 2015, the APA purchased the two weaner steers through the school’s Daisy Club.

If you are interested in learning more about the Daisy Club, please contact the APA.

Upcoming APA events
Ms Jacqui Everett | Community Development Officer

- **Tuesday 9 August**: Year 6 table at the Literary Festival lunch. If you’d like to join us, please email abbotsleigh2022@gmail.com
- **Saturday 13 August**: Year 11 ten pin bowling. Invitations have been sent.
- **Tuesday 16 August**: APA sponsored seminar Safe partying – keeping our teenagers safe around drugs and alcohol. 7-9 pm in the Peter Duly Concert Hall and costs only $10 per person. Book here now. Refreshments available from 6.30 pm.

Friday 2 September: Kindergarten and Year 3 Father/Daughter Breakfast. Invitations have been sent.

Finally, our thanks to all the Parent Reps who attended last Thursday’s meeting. Our next APR meeting is Tuesday 8 November at 8.30 am in Lower Everett Room, Junior School.