From the Headmistress

Abbotsleigh staff honoured

Mrs Megan Krimmer | Headmistress

It is with great delight that I congratulate three members of our teaching staff who have been presented with highly prestigious and very well-deserved educational awards during the past week.

Last Friday evening at a very special awards ceremony and dinner, The Australian College of Educators fittingly honoured our superb Head of Junior School, Ms Sally Ruston, and our wonderful Year 5 teacher, Ms Susanna Matters, for their exceptional work and contribution to education. Ms Ruston received an ACE NSW Excellence in Education Award ‘for excellence in leadership, as Head of Abbotsleigh Junior School, and in her Presidency of National and State Principals’ Associations.’ Ms Matters received the ACE NSW Young Professional Award, ‘for excellence in teaching practice, and a high level of personal commitment to the teaching profession, demonstrating initiative and advocacy for young girls both within NSW and overseas.’ A glimpse of the inspirational work of these fine educators can be seen in the citations below*

On Wednesday evening this week, our dynamic and talented Chinese teacher, Mrs Ming Urwin, was honoured for her ‘professionalism and commitment to quality education’ by being awarded the highly esteemed Premier’s 2017 Kingold Chinese Language Teacher’s Scholarship. The scholarship will allow Mrs Urwin to travel overseas to conduct further research on project based learning in relation to the teaching and learning of Chinese. Mrs Urwin will visit schools that specialise in project based learning curricula in the USA, Canada, Singapore, Taiwan and China. She will then create her own project based learning curriculum which she will implement and share with other language teachers as well as teachers in other faculties.

Mrs Urwin received her award from the NSW Premier, The Hon Gladys Berejiklian, MP, who, in a marvellous ceremony held at the State Library, congratulated Mrs Urwin on her success and dedication to teaching and learning.

Congratulations Ms Ruston, Ms Matters and Mrs Urwin. We are very proud of you.

Thank you Mrs Liz Cannon and the APA

I would like to thank Mrs Liz Cannon and the APA most sincerely for the wonderful parent seminars they have organised this term. Dr Kristy Goodwin’s presentation, Raising Your Child in a Digital World, was so pertinent for parents as we navigate the unchartered waters of parenting in the 21st century where it seems that ‘absolutely everybody’ is connected digitally. Please view this brief video of Dr Goodwin sharing her Top 5 parenting tips around the use of technology.

This excellent presentation was followed by another equally powerful presentation by Dr Justin Coulson on Monday evening this week. Through his helpful and poignant presentation on Raising Resilient Children, Dr Coulson reminded us just how important...
Almost at the peak

Rev Jenni Stoddart | Chaplain

My brother-in-law, who is also a teacher, has a saying: students are only ever five weeks from a holiday. Next week marks the point when we are closer than further away. It’s usually the time to start planning. My hope is that your family will be able to take some time out together. However if this holiday is one where other priorities are in place, can I recommend CRU Camps. For our HSC students, there are great options to enable study with assistance.

chaplains are a great option to help students succeed, but it is also important to consider the emotional and social well-being of students. For many students, the holiday is a time to catch up with friends and family, to relax and recharge.

For primary and high school, there is the opportunity for students to get out of their usual bubble in a safe environment, make new friends and see the Christian faith lived and taught. My personal experience is of seeing kids grow in confidence and character. I am one of those kids who as an adult looks back in thankfulness for her time on camp. I am pretty sure my mum and dad were also thankful for the time out from me!

For more information, visit the CRU Camps website.
Spatially aware = mathematically able
Ms Sally Ruston | Head of Junior School

Is it a coincidence or causal effect that because boys in infancy have a natural inclination towards construction that they are often more confident mathematicians? Certainly the research is clear that there is no physiological reason as to why girls are not equally as able in this analytical domain as boys. Therefore, I was especially interested in research by Cheng and Mix in the *Journal of Cognitive Development* that again found a causal link between spatial awareness and success in mathematics.

The challenge for us at Abbotsleigh therefore is how to make spatial activities fun, engaging and alluring to our girls so that motivation levels are high, self-efficacy is strong and achievement standards match those attained in the literacy and arts. It is through the following initiatives that we are seeing success achieved by our girls, such as that reflected in the excellent Mathematics Challenge results reported in *The Shuttle* last week:

- **Creating a playground of the mind** in our outdoor settings has provoked interest, curiosity and engagement in mathematical and scientific games and therefore thinking. Construction activities target the development of spatial awareness and an understanding of geometric properties. Giant strategy games such as chess, Chinese checkers and draughts promote systematic and logical thinking. An understanding of chance and probability are possible when girls play with snakes and ladders, ludo and other dice games.

- **The scooter program** has been introduced to encourage and promote active play. Every time the girls take up their scooter, they are engaging in making a large number of mathematical judgements and decisions. Judging speed on angled ground and around corners, navigating a course through peers and buildings, maintaining balance and building coordination all support mathematical thinking and understanding.

- **The introduction of BAM** twice a week after lunch ensures that our girls see mathematics as having high importance. BAM stands for ‘Be A Mathematician’. This session runs for 20 minutes in a similar format to DEAR. We have provided maths based resources, books and games in classrooms to provoke the girls’ interest in these domains. Both Miss Grzanka and I take delight visiting classrooms to share our respective love of KenKen and Sudoku puzzles. While both involve playing with numbers, the games are really those of logic.

- **Building fluency with mathematical facts** translates to girls being able to crunch numbers with alacrity, freeing up working memory to pulverise number problems and produce justifications through logically reasoned proofs. We seek parent support with this dimension as it is through drill and repetition at home that such fluency is developed.

- **Celebrating 100 days in kindergarten**. On Thursday last week, the Kindergarten girls were delighted to celebrate their first 100 days of formal schooling. This celebration involved the girls engaging in maths games and activities all centred on the number 100. While the NSW Education Authority only mandates that Kindergarten girls are exposed to the numbers to 30, it was fantastic to see our girls negotiating really tricky puzzles and games that allowed them to demonstrate their number sense to 100.

- **Celebrating through the Mathematics and Science Festival.** As we open our new STEAM learning space on Monday 16 October this year, we will also launch the opening of our Maths and Science Festival. We are really excited that this year all girls from Transition to Year 6 will engage with hands-on puzzles, modern and traditional games, codes, conundrums and brainteasers. These provide opportunities for rich learning experiences whilst inspiring the girls to pursue maths as a pastime in their lives beyond the classroom. The Maths and Science Festival will see girls involved in a variety of workshops over the course of the week: Transition and Kindergarten will be wowed by Professor Maths, Stage 1 will use their imaginations to design, build and construct with Lego, Stage 2 will sharpen their orienteering skills with a treasure hunt around the school and Stage 3 students will have the opportunity to be crime scene investigators or explore energy.

Through such immersion in the everyday play activities of the girls, we build confidence, motivation and a positive mindset. We want our girls to see themselves as capable mathematicians, because they see that this is about creativity, invention and investigation that is relevant to their world.
Photos from Primary Athletics Carnival

Ms Sally Ruston | Head of Junior School

The Primary Athletics Carnival photographs are now ready to view and purchase from the Anthony Khoury Photography website.

• Click on ‘Click here to access the gallery’
• Click on the Abbotsleigh crest
• Enter your email address and password, or if you don’t have an account with AKP, click the ‘request password’ button

By selecting the tick box to receive updates, you will be alerted whenever Abbotsleigh events photographed by Anthony Khoury Photography are ready for purchase.

Let a picture speak 1,000 words – 2017 photography competition

Ms Sally Ruston | Head of Junior School

During the Christmas holidays, I took time to explore a box of trophies from archives and our trophy cabinet. I found a trophy instituted in 1971 for photography that hadn’t been awarded since 1999. I shared this delightful find with the girls and suggested they might like to send photos they had taken to me as we re-established this competition.

I was thrilled to receive an enormous number of entries and entrusted the judging to our Visual Arts Department educators – Annabelle Armstrong, Mary Faith and Louise Keyter. All three are photography enthusiasts and artists.

From girls in Kindergarten to Year 6 it was obvious that the girls are avid photographers facilitated by the ubiquitous use of mobile devices. It quickly become clear that while we would identify a winning photo, there was a great need to also acknowledge many highly commended entries. It is with delight that I announce that the 2017 winner of the Arts Association Junior Award for Photography is Olivia Taylor. Her winning entry is shared here. I also commend the following girls who were awarded highly commended certificates for their photos.

Highly commended
Lucy Breden, Emma Fontanot, Shirley Huang, Soraya Kauffman, Athena Lam, Liah Liao, Allegra Peacock, Isabelle St Clair, Tasha Wong
**IPSHA athletics team 2017**

Mr Paul Guirreri | JS PDHPE Coordinator

After the running of our athletics carnival in Week 2, the Abbotsleigh Junior School athletics team has been announced for the IPSHA carnival being held on Tuesday 29 August.

Well done and congratulations to the following girls on their selection:

- Grace Black, Sophia Bradford, Aurora Caie, Chloe Chakrabarti, Angelina Cheung, Sophie Cheung, Genevieve Cook, Alexandra Cuthell, Genevieve Doran, Jasmin Foster, Ashley Fung, Alexandra Gavagna, Catherine Gavagna, Cameron Graham, Harriet Kaan, Gillian Lawrence, Sarah Magnussen, Bonnie McInerney, Charlotte Pullen, Skye Pullen, Trinity Teh, Estella Tran, Annabelle Wang, Sarah Wang, Emma Yap, Kiera Yerbury, Taya Yerbury, Millie Young

We wish these girls every success at the upcoming IPSHA carnival.

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**UNSW ICAS writing competition results**

Miss Kate Grzanka | Deputy Head of Junior School

We are delighted with the results attained by girls in Years 3 to 6 who participated in the UNSW International Competition and Assessment for Schools (ICAS) writing competition, which included the awarding of 22 high distinctions, 59 distinctions, 132 credits and 18 merits.

**High distinctions**

- Louise Barbour, Kaitlyn Blair, Veronica Charteris, Evelyn Cooksley, Alexandra Gavagna, Arya Gunalingam, Yvonne Hsiao, Gillian Lawrance, Amber Li, Elaine Li, Sophie Lim, Evelyn Liu, Sally Liu, Katherine Ly, Jacinta Mak, Camille Murray, Rachael Pearce, Emma Tan, Natasha Ton, Julia Wedgwood-Oppenheim, Rosa Wedgwood-Oppenheim, Charlotte Whyburn

**Distinctions**

**Year 3**

- Cate Atkinson, Kaitlyn Au-Yeung, Liana Chai, Lauren Dimitropoulos, Francesca Emmett, Maya Gradinscaik, Leanne Huang, Amber Johnson, Lauren Kwong, Hannah Lee, Zoe Lindgren, Abigail Ly, Charlotte Panikian, Charlotte Parasyn, Vanessa Ton, Melanie Wong

**Year 4**

- Beatrice Chung, Fuschia Lim, Isabel Loh, Rhiannon Masters, Emily McLaren, Anika Niles

**Year 5**

- Alexandra Balog, Jaylise Beale, Imogen Beletich, Xanthe Beletich, Isabella Bradford, Sophia Chi, Desiree Daher, Jasmine Hing, Jade Liang, Annette Lynch, Annelise McCormick, Alyssa Sor, Sophia Sun, Veronica Wade, Arica Wong, Isabelle Wong, Danielle Wu, Alice Zhang

**Year 6**

- Charlotte Allan, Poppy Andrew, Catherine Bai, Julia Barbour, Monique Batuwitage, Anna Calthorpe, Vivian Choi, Meave Churchyard, Genevieve Cook, Catherine Gavagna, Felicity Hu, Amadea Luong, Phoebe Luu, Eve Mclellan, Emily Nathan, Sophie Pitman, Tasmai Rasiah, Meredith Wang, Eva Whymper-Williams

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**Tournament of Minds 2017**

Miss Cassandra McKie | Classroom Teacher and TOM Coordinator

The Tournament of Minds regional competition day is Sunday 27 August and the girls in the TOM team have been working diligently on developing the skills required to respond creatively to the long-term problems and spontaneous tasks. These presentations take a considerable commitment on behalf of the girls, particularly in the area of script writing and costume design. The creativity and enthusiasm with which the team has worked is to be commended. We are sure that the Abbotsleigh Social Science Team of Lara Bentley, Veronica Charteris, Anouk Hakewill, Annice Ip, Chloe McDonell, Loretta Oun and Karina Wong will respond well to the challenges of tournament day.
Join master of ceremonies Tracey Holmes and a line up of legends including Robert de Castella, Marcia Ella-Duncan, Emily Seebohm and Michael O’Loughlin

$200 per person or $2,000 per table of ten

Limited tickets available **BOOK NOW!**

Bookings and enquiries 9473 7738
Friday unplugged
Kiara Davies and Abella Judd | Year 11 boarders

Last Friday night all of the boarders participated in ‘Friday unplugged’. Everyone put away their phones for a little while and bonded in their year groups through a cupcake decorating competition. Various decorations and icings were given to the girls and they were to decorate the cupcakes in an aim to become the winner in the Dining Hall. The cupcakes they decorated were then sold the Abbotsleigh Boarding Committee bake sale on Saturday with funds going to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

There was a little bit of friendly competition and lots of laughs and smiles, but every girl had a great time and became closer with those around them. Year 10 won with an amazing display of farmyard animal cupcakes.

Saturday was wonderful morning, with the sun shining. Many cakes were sold and a number of generous donations were made to support such a fantastic cause. Congratulations to the Year 10 ABC girls on such a highly successful first fundraising event. They all contributed and the girls who manned the stall on the day did so with a smile constantly on their face, ensuring that every customer was aware of how much the Royal Flying Doctor Service does for rural communities.

Much more than just planting trees
Corinne Zhou and Emily Sor | Year 5

On Thursday 27 July, the JS Environment Club went to a nature reserve in Wahroonga to plant trees for National Tree Planting Day.

We were very lucky to see a satin bowerbird. This native bird is very special because it has to attract the female bird by making loud squawks and decorating its home with bright blue items. It had made a clearing or a performance stage called a ‘bower’. We spotted the bowerbird in its bower, gathering strange, blue items.

Our guide was named Mr Wegener. He showed us how tiny native orchids can close their petals to catch insects. It was amazing! Did you know that the Sydney area has a lot of native orchids?

We planted many different native plants in a section of the reserve and wrote our names on the stakes so we can visit later and see how much our plants have grown.

We tasted a cinnamon myrtle leaf, which was spicy like cinnamon. The Aborigines used this to spice up their bush tucker food.

We also saw a powerful owl in the tree top. Underneath the tree we found possum bones and a grey, striped feather belonging to the owl.

We learnt about some common weeds and how to identify them. Mr Wegener said it is important to keep the weeds away to allow the native grasses to thrive.

It was a really fun excursion learning about caring for our natural environment. Thank you Mrs Tong and Mrs Eriksen for taking us.
Deciding on a tertiary pathway

Mrs Marg Selby | Careers Advisor

Over the upcoming weekends until the end of term, the universities and private colleges will all be staging their open days and information sessions, and attempting to entice students to come to study at their establishment. Students need to be very discriminating and to focus on the course that suits them best and NOT simply nominate the institution where they want to study. Unfortunately, research shows that more than half the students graduating from high school make the mistake of selecting an institution over a course and so end up dropping out of their course, once they realise the mistake they have made. I strongly advise our students to make stringent efforts to examine a variety of institutions and to judge which one offers the best for their own unique needs.

Employers regularly publicise that they look for a range of attributes when employing graduates. Where they studied is not the top of their list at all. Instead, they seek graduates whose knowledge base and alignment with industry skills are best. Along with sound theoretical knowledge, employers look for evidence of practical knowledge gained through internship and work experience opportunities. They like to employ people who have maybe been on an exchange or have wide co-curricular interests and so have developed mature life skills. Thus, when visiting tertiary institutions over the coming weeks, be demanding in your questioning of what proportion of their student body is able to gain these experiences through their normal coursework. All will tell you that they offer exchange and internships, but you need to find out how many of their students have these opportunities, as it is often only the top academic students who win these much sought after openings.

For more careers information and details about open days, visit the Careers page on AbbNet.