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From the Headmistress
Wishing you all a very Happy Easter
Mrs Megan Krimmer | Headmistress

This week our girls, staff and parents have participated in a number of wonderful chapel services to celebrate Easter. Rev Jenni Stoddart spoke powerfully about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus at the Infants and Primary chapels on Tuesday morning and again at the service on Wednesday evening. The celebration services showcased our fantastic Junior and Senior School musicians, choristers and dancers.

Additionally, on Wednesday morning, the whole Senior School was privileged to be addressed by Dr Jennifer Wiseman, a highly esteemed astronomer from the United States. Dr Wiseman spoke about the wonder of God’s creation that includes the earth and our own galaxy as well as other galaxies well beyond our own. She inspired the girls with her deep knowledge and her curiosity - she is especially curious about whether or not life exists in these other galaxies.

Rev Jenni Stoddart’s article that appears below highlights Dr Wiseman’s great insights.

I hope you enjoy reading this article. I also hope that every member of our community has a wonderful and blessed Easter break.

Upcoming events

Monday 2 April
Easter Monday

Tuesday 3 April
Student free day
SS extraordinary musical rehearsal
Boarders return from 4 pm

Wednesday 4 April
All students return from Easter break
Year 12 mother daughter breakfast
Junior School tour
AOGU meeting

Thursday 5 April
New exhibition at the GCSG – Of Land, Sea and Sky
SS CIS diving championships
Literary Festival parent information session

Friday 6 April
Year 8 STEAM Day
Infants assembly with parents
Twilight athletics

New exhibition at the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
Mrs Mary Faith | Grace Cossington Smith Gallery Director and Head of Visual Arts

Of Land, Sea and Sky – 5 to 14 April 2018
The talented artists of Unisson Disability Art Studios have created various artworks for their upcoming exhibition, Of Land, Sea and Sky. The exhibition showcases works in paint, paper and ceramics, which are inspired by the natural environment and reflect the diversity of creative expression, with each artist portraying a unique interpretation of their subject.

Unisson Disability Art Studios (formerly known as Sunshine Homes) provides a supportive and dynamic arts-focused environment where individuals with disability can explore their creativity across various mediums.

Exhibition opening
We warmly invite you to join us on opening night Thursday 5 April at 6 pm
RSVP essential. Call 1300 266 222 or email info@unisson.org.au

Want to know more?
Visit the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery website or our Facebook page.

The Gallery is open Monday to Friday, 10 am to 5 pm and Saturday 9 am to 4 pm.
Autumn Holiday Program
Ms Cassandra Chan | AbbSchool Holiday Program Supervisor

The holidays are a fantastic opportunity for students to try a new activity or spend time with friends. Why not do both at the upcoming autumn Holiday Program? Take a friend or make new ones at some of the exciting workshops on offer for boys and girls from Abbotsleigh and the local community. Highlights include:

• Junior Activities
• Tennis
• Netball
• Lego Robotics
• Kids in the kitchen, Easter treats
• Code Camp, beginner and advanced courses
• Excursion to the Powerhouse Museum Future Park exhibition

Click here for further information about the workshops on offer and how to book for the Holiday Program.

Of Land, Sea and Sky
Artists: Suzanne Sorrell Landscape, Venessa Crane Untitled, Kerry Patterson Tweet

Click here and book now
The Literary Festival needs you!
Mrs Heidi Grout | Community Relations Manager

The next Abbotsleigh Literary Festival, ‘The Story Within’ will be held between 5-7 June, 2018.

The biennial Abbotsleigh Literary Festival is an exciting event for students and adults, providing them with the opportunity to hear from and work with outstanding Australian and international authors and illustrators at minimal cost. In order for this event to run smoothly we need the assistance of parents.

There are many tasks for which you can volunteer. No matter how much or how little time you have – any time you can spare would be very much appreciated.

How can you help?
• Event set up and venue decoration
• Guide authors or visiting schools around our campuses
• Transport authors
• Hospitality
... And a host of other jobs to suit all talents and time frames
To find out more about how you can get involved as a volunteer, we are holding a meeting.

Thursday 5 April 2018
8.30-10.30am
Lower Everett Room, Junior School
Please RSVP by Wednesday 4 April to Heidi Grout or call 9473 7736
Refreshments will be provided

Like to help but can’t make the meeting?
Please click here and one of our team will get back to you.

Can you help through sponsorship of the festival?
Please click here to register your interest.

Uniform Shop holiday trading
Mrs Lorraine Boothby | Uniform Shop Manager

Friday 30 March (Good Friday): closed
Monday 2 April (Easter Monday): closed
Tuesday 3 April (student free day): 9.30 am-4 pm

Friday 13 April (student free day): 9.30 am-4 pm
Monday 16 April to Friday 27 April (weekdays only): 9.30 am-4 pm
Wednesday 25 April (Anzac Day): closed
Monday 30 April: 9.30 am-5 pm

Normal trading hours resume on Tuesday 1 May 2018.

You Can Do It! behaviours in action
Ms Sally Ruston | Head of Junior School

As an Anglican school with a wonderful heritage and tradition, we stand on the shoulders of giants of wisdom and vision. While we see ourselves as leaders in girls’ education and innovation, we equally understand the place of strong, modelled values and actions that have been important in the past, now and into the future. The challenge in a primary school setting is how to inculcate such values and actions with the girls in meaningful and enabling ways.

I recently spoke to girls in both Infants and Primary assemblies and to our grandparents who were here in Senior Citizens’ Week about our You Can Do It! values and actions that have been highlighted to the girls this term. While the girls are fabulous at recalling these enabling values and recognising the puppets and keys, they sometimes struggle to see these values in action. These five inclusive and positive values include confidence, affability, organisation, persistence and resilience. We aim for a consistent language, ensuring that the girls know how to ‘call out’ these behaviours when they see them in action. This is the language we are using at school:
To reinforce the importance of modelling these behaviours we ask the girls and staff to identify such actions from within the student body and to write to me with a note or email of the circumstances and details of the person so engaged. Each week I received a handful of nominations that are then validated by the teacher before a bookmark award of this value is made publicly in assembly.

Here is a nomination received from a student identifying one of our school values:

I would like to nominate Emma* for a Freedom Award. From my perspective, freedom is the right to do what you believe in and I think she demonstrates this value consistently. She stands up for what she believes in, even though all her friends might be on the opposite side. She has the freedom to express herself. This is why I nominate Emma* for a Freedom Award. (*student name changed to ensure confidentiality)

The girls find it easy to identify the value of social affability as defined by Gabby Get-along. However, I caution them always to ensure this is not about their ‘bestie’ or BFF (best friend forever), but rather about inclusive and ongoing friendly and inclusive behaviours to all. What the girls find difficult is identifying some of the other values in action such as persistence, organisation and resilience. I encourage parents to have conversations at the dinner table about what these values mean in a Christian school such as ours and how they might not only identify but also demonstrate such traits on a regular basis.

New School Values
Last year we spent much time reviewing and reworking our School Values to ensure that they remain pertinent to our current context and are aligned with the School’s ethos, vision and practice. We were also keen to reduce the overall number. The Student Representative Council in the Junior School, Tutor Groups in the Senior School and staff groups throughout combined to ensure that we identified five values that were meaningful and significant to girls at Abbotsleigh. As launched in our new Strategic Plan on Speech Day 2017, the following are the School Values that are underpinned by our Christian ethos.

- **Integrity**: we do what’s right, not what’s easy
- **Respect**: we value everyone for who they are
- **Courage**: we dare to take risks
- **Compassion**: we lift each other up
- **Perseverance**: we get up, we don’t give up

This term, the girls in SRC have been consulting with their peers to come up with definitions and synonyms that enable each girl to thoroughly know each value, what it looks like and what it feels like when in action. I have also challenged the girls to see if they can arrive at a symbol for each value, so that again we have a common language and way of knowing exactly what we most value at Abbotsleigh.
**Year 1 Minibeasts excursion**  
*Mrs Peita van Bussell | T-2 Coordinator*

As part of the Year 1 Science unit, Minibeasts, the girls will participate in a variety of hands-on workshops at Macquarie University on Tuesday 10 April. We are delighted to be able to work in collaboration with the university to tailor a program to provide the girls with experiential learning opportunities as they explore the world around them.

The girls will discover phasmids, bees, ants and their brains, illusionists, life cycles, slime mould, web building spiders and invertebrate fossils. The girls will also find and collect ‘minibeasts’ and look at them under varied microscopes available at the university.

The girls will travel to and from this excursion by bus, within normal school hours. Girls should wear their full summer uniform including their Panama hat and blazer. Students should bring their excursion bag with their morning tea and lunch in disposable packaging.

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**Taking reading to new heights**  
*Mrs Georgina Stamatopoulos | JS Teacher Librarian*

**Abbotsleigh Reading Challenge for Years 4, 5 and 6**  
The Abbotsleigh Reading Challenge (ARC) was first introduced in 2011, and is now an integral part of DEAR time and the home reading program. All girls in Years 4, 5 and 6 are taken out of their comfort zones and challenged on three levels:

- **by the** *variety* **of books read**
- **by the** *quality* **of books read**
- **by the** *quantity* **of books read**

The Challenge will commence Wednesday 4 April and needs to be completed by Wednesday 22 August 2018.

As in previous years, the Challenge is genre based. The Challenge is often referred to as ‘The Green Eggs and Ham Challenge’, as the girls need to ‘taste’ a variety of books before they can begin to fully establish their firm favourites. Girls are encouraged to focus on ‘intentional borrowing’ – having a plan of what to read before borrowing time. They may create a wish-list of books for the different categories by carefully looking at summaries and reviews on the Library catalogue.

Class teachers and the library staff work closely to ensure that the books chosen support and extend every girl’s level of reading. We want every girl to be challenged appropriately. (As discussed in class, this is the Abbotsleigh Reading Challenge – not the Abbotsleigh Reading Easy or the Abbotsleigh Reading Impossible...) The rules and requirements of the Abbotsleigh Reading Challenge have been explained during library lessons. As outlined in the letter sent home, a booklet will be kept at school. Girls are strongly encouraged to print out another copy from Virtual Classrooms or Student Notices to record their reading at home.

**Premier’s Reading Challenge – Kindergarten to Year 3**  
The Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) is now underway and finishes on 31 August.

For girls in Kindergarten to Year 2, the PRC takes place at school – in library lessons and in the classroom. Permission notes were issued earlier in the term. Parents are not required to keep a log of their children’s reading as this is completed at Abbotsleigh.

Some Years 2, 3 and 4 girls have nominated to complete the Year 3-4 Challenge, while some girls in Years 5 and 6 will be undertaking the Year 5-6 Challenge. These girls have been issued with a username and password and an information page to assist them in logging their reading record online at home. If there are still queries, girls are welcome to stop by the library for assistance.

Booklists are available on the [PRC website](http://www.abbotsleigh.com). Girls are also welcome to peruse the lists in Palmer Library and in the classroom.

All girls completing the Premier’s Reading Challenge receive a certificate at the end of the year.
Inter-school Chess Competition
Mrs Valerie Williams | JS Christian Studies Teacher and Chess Coordinator

Thank you to all those who have registered for the 2018 NSW Junior Chess League’s Primary Schools Competition. This year we have entered three teams; one Intermediate and two Rookies teams. Four players will compete in each team, but for any team that has an additional player, the students will take part on a rotational basis. When a student is not taking part in the competition matches, they will attend Chess Club.

The competition matches will be played on Friday afternoons, beginning Friday 11 May, which is in Week 2 of Term 2. When the draw becomes available, you will receive further information about when and where your daughter is playing each week. There is always the possibility of adjustments on any day if a student is away and a substitution needs to be made, as we would always seek to play a full team each week.

After the competition draw is received you will also be contacted regarding the transport roster for the away games. It is expected that parents will volunteer to provide transport and accompany the team for one or more away matches.

During the competition season, a tutor from The Sydney Academy of Chess will coach the team members. This will be held at lunchtime on a day yet to be finalised. Students will be informed when details are available.

From time to time students may also receive information about additional chess tournaments that are held often on weekends or during school holidays. These events provide an opportunity for our girls to gain experience and develop their skills in competition matches. However, participation in these events is optional and parents will need to organise participation in any such additional event.

Please email Mrs Williams if you have any questions.

Junior School Easter Services
Ms Sally Ruston | Head of Junior School

On Tuesday morning of this week, it was delightful to see so many parents and grandparents join with the Junior School students for our two Easter Services. This was a time for us all to reflect on the true meaning of Easter and be thankful for the forgiveness and new life Jesus brings to us.

Our musical items, hymns and interpretive dance captured the sadness of Christ’s death, but also celebrated the joy of the resurrection morning. We are grateful to all students and staff who contributed to make this such a wonderful service.

This year the Reverend Stoddart helped the girls understand just what an unexpected leader Jesus was. We have come to know that while he didn’t wear a crown, drive an expensive vehicle or dwell in a palace, he is the most memorable and remarkable leader we have known. With the help from teachers sharing their talents such as origami, push ups and dance, the girls came to appreciate just what the impact is when we behave in ways that are unexpected.

While the readings started with a note of derision and despair, as Jesus was ridiculed and crucified, the tone changed markedly and unexpectedly as Jesus rose again on the third day to the surprise and consternation of the people. The despair that Jesus’ followers had felt gave way to overwhelming joy when they realised that Jesus had turned death into life. It is this promise that we celebrate each Easter. Jesus bore our sin so that, through Him, we can know true forgiveness and the gift of eternal life with Christ forever.

The joy of Easter was celebrated by the girls from Years 3-6 as they departed Chapel with an Easter egg. For the girls in Transition to Year 2, they engaged in the traditional Easter Egg Hunt on Bundarra Lawn before heading home for the break.

Rev Jenni Stoddart encouraged us all to connect with our local church over this Easter break. If you would like information regarding details of churches in your area, please email Rev Stoddart.

During each service, an offertory was collected to support the Anglican Aid’s ‘Egg a Day’ program, improving nutrition for young children in Rwanda. Thank you to all who contributed. Because of your generosity, $1,026 will be donated to support this program.

I trust that you will all enjoy a wonderful time with family reflecting on Christ’s love over this break. Illustrations in the programs were by Ashley Chan 5O, Sophie Cheung 4O, Annette Luu 5L, Lily Thornthwaite 6D and Tasha Wong 5D.
Abbotsleigh’s production of

Disney

THE LITTLE MERMAID

Thursday 10 to Saturday 12 May 2018

Book now
www.trybooking.com/358134

Pre-show dinners available

Music by
Alan Menken

Lyrics by
Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater

Book by
Doug Wright

Based on Hans Christian Andersen story and the Disney film produced by Howard Ashman and John Musker and written and directed by John Musker and Ron Clements

Originally produced by
Disney Theatrical Productions

The Foundation Scholarships are now open to new and current Abbotsleigh students in Year 9 2018
Mrs Colleen Fenn | Registrar
The Foundation Scholarships are needs-based academic scholarships which commence at Year 10 level and provide up to 50% remission of school tuition fees for the remainder of schooling. Consideration is given to academic attainment, general interest and ability and participation in other activities, for example, service and community activities, music, drama and sport.

There are two scholarships awarded. A completed student statement will need to be endorsed by the Year Coordinator or Head of Senior College Archdale.

The application kit is available on AbbNet > Student links > Scholarship applications, or download the application kit here. Applications close on Friday 11 May 2018. Interviews will be held early in June.

Email the Registrar, Mrs Colleen Fenn for further information, or call Colleen on 9473 7744.

Getting ready for the workforce
Mrs Marg Selby | Careers Advisor
So much of what we learn and do at school on a daily and weekly basis is actually preparing our students with the ‘soft skills’ that they need to succeed in the workforce.

Being ready to join the workforce requires students to have so much more than simply some academic qualification. It is the characteristics they have developed along the way and the activities they have undertaken outside of their study program that will distinguish them from their peers in the employment market.

According to a recent survey undertaken by LinkedIn, employers want employees who have attributes such as good communication skills, critical thinking skills, resilience, teamwork and organisational skills. They of course also value punctuality, the capacity to think independently, to pay attention to detail, to demonstrate a growth mindset and to promote an optimistic outlook.

At school, a large number of these attributes are fostered through our outdoor and co-curricular education programs. Outdoor education teaches resilience, independence and the ability to successfully negotiate a challenge, in a way that classroom activities are unable to achieve. Co-curricular activities teach organisational and time-management skills, along with the ability to work as part of a team. In the classroom, students are encouraged to adopt a growth mindset, to develop their critical thinking skills and are stimulated to think independently. Thus, we set out to educate the whole person, to nourish individual talents and independence in each student and we do not simply to turn out a series of identical products from an ‘education factory’. Every girl is valued for her individuality and encouraged to achieve her full potential, though this will look different for every student. Taking advantage of opportunities when they are offered and seeking to extend yourself in every way possible are characteristics which will be sure to pay fine dividends in the future employment market.

For other careers news, including news of vocationally related holiday opportunities, please visit the Careers page on AbbNet.

Plain English Speaking Award
Public Speaking Competition
Open to girls in Years 10, 11 and 12
Tryouts: Monday 9 April
at 5.15 pm in G3
All welcome
see Student Notices for more details.
Feather in the cap for the Ag Club
Mrs Susan Filan | Ag Club Coordinator, Head of Environmental Education and SS Science Teacher

For those of you who have been following our Ag Club girls, I am delighted to report multiple successes at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Our male meat chickens won 2nd place as live birds. The carcass and project competitions are still to come.

Four girls bravely competed in the Schools Junior Showmanship. We had never seen an actual competition. We had no idea what to expect and were competing against Agriculture students. All four girls presented their birds well and Molly Scholes won 7th place!

Afterwards a judge sought me out and showed me how to properly handle a caged bird (you must trap the legs in one hand). She was very helpful. She had thought that the girls had a bad Ag teacher! When she learned that we are a club with a Science teacher in charge, she took the time to help us out.

Now that we know what happens in a competition, we look forward to improving next year.

Sarah Chang – semi-finalist at the NSW Secondary Schools Concerto Competition
Mrs Justin Mokhtar | Music Administrator

Congratulations to our semi-finalist Sarah Chang, violinist in Year 12, who has been selected in the Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra NSW Secondary Schools Concerto Competition.

2018 is the 34th year Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra (KPO) has run the NSW Secondary Schools Concerto Competition. Regarded as a stepping stone to national and international success, the competition has been held annually since 1984 and provides an invaluable performance opportunity for young musicians to showcase their talents as concerti soloists accompanied by orchestra. The talented young musicians give dynamic concerto performances and assert a vibrant future ahead for live classical music performance.

Stage two of the semi-finals will be held on Sunday 8 April from 11 am-6 pm at Abbotsleigh Senior School.

Stage three, the finals concert, will be held on Saturday 30 June from 7 pm at The Concourse, Chatswood.
The Abbotsleigh Foundation invites you to the Dazzle and Dine Ball – a night of glamour, with a celebrity host and of course, a red carpet!

Saturday 4 August, 2018
6.30 pm to midnight
Crystal Palace, Luna Park
1 Olympic Drive, Milsons Point

$275 per person includes canapés, a three course dinner, a five and a half hour beverage package and live entertainment by the sensational ‘Martini Club’ band.

Dress: ‘A night at the Oscars’

Tickets now on sale (individual or tables of 12)
So get your dancing shoes ready and book now at www.trybooking.com/UUFH

Funds raised will go towards the means-tested Kathleen McCredie Scholarships and Indigenous Scholarships
**Boarding**

**Mamma Mia the musical**

Abella Judd | Vice Head Boarder

Last Wednesday evening a group of the Year 10, 11 and 12 boarders travelled to the Capitol Theatre in the city to see the musical, *Mamma Mia*. We had a wonderful night and celebrated the end of the Year 12 exams and Challenge Week. It was a great opportunity for the senior girls to go out together and bond. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening, especially the singalong at the end where the entire audience stood up and danced along with the cast.

We are all looking forward to the next musical!

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**What do you see in the stars**

At the Senior School Easter chapel service this year, some unexpected images filled the screen.

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**Music masterclasses hit the right note**

Mr George Torbay and Mr Harry Sdraulig recently shared invaluable knowledge with our singers and composers.

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**Abbotsleigh Literary festival 2018**

The biennial Abbotsleigh Literary Festival, ‘The Story Within’, is an exciting event for students and adults. 5-7 June.

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**The Little Mermaid**

Sing along to the adventures of Ariel, Sebastian and all the gang in Abbotsleigh’s production of Disney’s *The Little Mermaid*. 10-12 May.