From the Headmistress

An amazing week at Abbotsleigh

Mrs Megan Krimmer | Headmistress

It was with great pride and delight that our whole community learnt of our cross country team’s phenomenal success in coming 2nd overall at the World Cross Country Championships in Paris. Each member of the team gave of her best and attained PBs, and their individual results were sensational: Abbey Rockcliff came 1st and Sarah McDermott 4th in the race. Hannah Cerezo came 11th, Rosie Fordham 12th, Olivia Hogg 26th and Annabel Magnussen 47th.

The whole Abbotsleigh community is so proud of you girls!

This week we have also been privileged to have Crossroads Foundation visit the Senior School. Abbotsleigh girls and staff have been involved with Crossroads since 2002 and every time a group returns enriched, empowered and much more deeply aware of what it is really like to live in impoverished conditions.

Crossroads was set up by Abbotsleigh Old Girl, Mrs Sally Begbie (Marr, 1968) and her husband, Malcolm. The work they and their whole family do, and have done over many years, makes a significantly positive impact on our world. Please read Mrs Donna Moffatt’s article ‘Lessons that last a lifetime’ in the featured news area to see what our staff and our girls in Years 9-12 experienced this week. It was life changing.

NAPLAN testing

The girls in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will undertake the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy to assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools. The results of the tests will provide information to the School about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement at the end of Term 3. Each girl’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

The tests will be conducted on the following days:

- Tuesday 15 May: Language conventions (including spelling, grammar and punctuation) and writing tests
- Wednesday 16 May: Reading test
- Thursday 17 May: Numeracy test (including number, algebra, function and pattern, measurement, chance and data and space)

Time has been given in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 classes to ensure that the girls are well prepared for the style and content of these tests. Therefore, it is our recommendation that the best preparation for the girls is a good night’s sleep and a healthy and sustaining breakfast on the mornings of the tests.
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.
**Real love...**

*Rev Jenni Stoddart | Chaplain*

Over Easter, Christians across the world celebrated the God who is real love. Easter is God's gift to his world, it is his love in action – he gave his beloved son Jesus that we might know his love, forgiveness and eternity.

This week our students have had the opportunity to connect with Crossroads, an organisation that is committed to seeing the need of our world and responding in real love. Crossroads is run by Old Girl Sally Begbie (Marr, 1968) and her husband, Malcolm.

DJ, their son, spoke in chapel and Years 9 to 12 have had the opportunity to experience a poverty simulation run by DJ. All staff experienced this simulation during a Professional Learning day and I, for one, was humbled by the reality of poverty. But I was not only humbled – DJ invited us to something more; he invited us to see ourselves as those who can act in our world to bring real change. Our hearts yearn for it and we can be part of it.

Watch this clip to learn a little about how Crossroads began with just one ordinary family.

Or explore the [Crossroads website](#).

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**Super Mother’s Day Classic**

*Mrs Heidi Grout | Community Relations Manager*

The Women in Super Mother’s Day Classic celebrates its 21st birthday on Sunday 13 May and this year, in addition to a competition for the biggest school team, the MDC will be searching for Australia’s most generous school. Of course, we’d like it to be Abbotsleigh!

The most generous school title will be awarded to the primary or secondary school that raises the most money. The winner receives a $2,000 technology voucher, 2nd place will receive $1,000 and third will receive $500.

Some of our mums and Old Girls have already begun fundraising, as you can see by clicking our [fundraising page](#). Each participant can set up their own fundraising page, and just link it to the team page – Abb Girls – and it will all be added together. And running is not strictly necessary to support the Women in Super Mother’s Day Classic – you can simply make a donation.

It’s a great day for family to walk or run together and raise much needed funds for breast cancer research. For more information visit the [website](#).

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**Junior School**

*Ms Sally Ruston | Head of Junior School*

This very busy, full and successful term concludes on Thursday of next week with the usual dismissal routines in place. As this will be the last Shuttle for the term, I take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support you have brought to the Junior School. Staff and parents, together, have ensured that girls have been well engaged with the learning process and that the outcomes achieved have been most positive.

I have thoroughly enjoyed coming to know the girls better this term through the many events and activities that have occurred. From visiting five of the Year groups whilst out during the Outdoor Education Week to seeing the girls perform at sports trials, the swimming and cross country carnivals and affirming the school values with them through chapel and assembly, I have come to admire anew the girls’ delight in engagement, determination to learn and positive disposition.

We are grateful for the tremendous support we have enjoyed this term from the school community of parents. There are so
many invaluable ways in which parents have stepped up to assist from organisation for the Year 4 Father Daughter Dinner, providing valet drop-off services on Grandparents’ Day and supervision on excursions to being overwhelmed by the league of parents who covered books and helped out weeding in the kitchen garden.

**Collecting experiences and learning, learning, learning**

I read an advertising slogan that asked the viewers to determine whether they were a collector of experiences. I felt very confident to respond in the affirmative to this question and I would argue that we also encourage our girls to think similarly and with a positive mindset. Whether exploring beyond the classroom at camps, on excursions or at the ACE or new STEM Street, I believe we speak with excitement and great anticipation that such new undertakings will be well worth collecting. Engaging in new and challenging learning opportunities in the classroom can be equally rewarding and worthy of collection.

It is with this in mind that I announce to our girls and the parent community that I will be taking Study and Long Service Leave for the entirety of Term 2. I am travelling by ship around the Polynesian Islands of Tahiti to celebrate my husband’s significant birthday. We will then return to Australia before heading off again for a further seven weeks to ride a snowmobile in Iceland, explore the fjords of Norway, catch ferries and trains and cycle as we explore Scandinavia and hike down from Mt Snowdon in Wales. Additionally, I will be attending a course at the London Business School, entitled the Essentials of Leadership. I am keen to explore what leadership looks like in ponds beyond education. I am really looking forward to this intensive executive level program for the insights I will gain through reflection and being challenged by leading international experts. I am very much looking forward to not only being a collector of experiences but also to time for professional reading and reflection.

It is with great confidence and knowledge of capacity that I share that my Deputy – Mrs Kate Coventry (née Grzanka) will take on the position of Acting Head of Junior School and Mrs Peita van Bussel will take on the Deputy role in my absence. Mrs Heather McWhannell will provide additional assistance to girls in Kindergarten to Year 2 to ensure all learning programs continue to be comprehensively delivered. As always, if you have any queries or seek advice please ring the Junior School Reception to make an appointment.

**Staffing update**

We are delighted for Miss Imogen Carlisle who has been appointed to her first permanent full time position teaching PDHPE at Killara High School, commencing Term 2. We wish her and thank her for her dedication to the girls’ learning and performing in PDHPE and Sport this term. We thank and farewell our Receptionist Annabelle Gow, who is leaving us to give more time to family. We thank her for her concern for the girls, smooth management of Reception and welcoming face of the Junior School.

This week we shared with the girls the delightful news that Miss Grzanka married over the Easter weekend and is now Mrs Coventry. The girls and staff have been most warm in their congratulations of her wedding to Mr Pete Coventry.

And finally, Congratulations to Chloe Chakrabarti who was presented with the position of Athletics Captain for 2018 in assembly today.

**Term 2 diary dates**

Ms Sally Ruston | Head of Junior School

Term 2 will be a time for wonderful new experiences for Junior School girls with the following events planned:

- **Transition to Year 3 Life Education parent information session** will be on Friday 18 May from 8.30-9.30 am in the Life Education van. This is in the second week of Term 2.
- **Transition, Year 2 and Year 6 Pink Mothers’ Day Breakfast** will be on Friday 11 May from 7 am. Invitations will be forwardeded in the last week of Term 1.
- **Year 4 Judith Krause parent information night on Tuesday 22 May from 7-8.30 pm in the Year 4 classrooms.**
- **Year 5 and 6 Judith Krause parent information night on Tuesday 23 May from 7-8.30 pm in the Lower Everett space.**
- **Kindergarten 2019 Parent information night on Tuesday 29 May from 7-8.30 pm in the Lower Everett space.**
- **Literary Festival community event on Tuesday 5 June.**
- **Infants Athletics Carnival on Friday 8 June.**
- **Primary athletics trials on Thursday 14 June.**
- **K-6 new parent report presentation Tuesday 12 June from 7-8 pm in the Lower Everett Space.**
- **Junior School production of James and the Giant Peach** will take place in Week 8 of Term 2 in Everett Hall. The matinée will be on Wednesday 20 June at 12.45 pm, followed by evening performances, from 7-8 pm on Thursday 21 June and Friday 22 June.

We look forward to the girls’ return to what will be a busy beginning to the term. The first day back is Monday 30 April and girls will return in winter uniform. Music ensembles, sport practices for minkey and hockey, and all AbbSchool programs will commence from the first day of the term. Year 3 and IPSHA Saturday sport will commence on the Saturday 5 May 2018, which is the first Saturday of Term 2.
Life Education and Healthy Harold
Mr Paul Guirreri | JS PDHPE Coordinator

During the second week of Term 2, the Life Education van and Healthy Harold will be visiting the Junior School to work with students from the ELC’s 3-4 and 4-5 rooms, and Transition to Year 3. Life Education Australia, a non-profit organisation, provides positive health education programs that motivate, encourage and empower students to make smart choices for a healthy future. Each of these year groups will undertake a different program, which targets various age-appropriate issues as outlined below. These are linked to the curriculum and support our own health programs.

ELC
*Harold’s Thankful Heart* empowers the children to have an awareness of their emotions and those of others.

Transition
*Harold’s Healthy Play Day* ensures that they develop a firm understanding of healthy lifestyle choices in their everyday lives, both at home and at school.

Kindergarten
*Harold’s Friendship* assists the children in exploring how to build safe and rewarding friendships.

Year 1
*Ready, Steady, Go* assists the children in discovering the benefits of safe physical activity and how their body needs a nutritious diet with water and sleep.

Year 2
*Growing Good Friends* explores health messages, identifies safety signs, recognises how physical activity and nutrition contribute to a healthy lifestyle, and explores how positive relationships benefit our health and wellbeing.

Year 3
*All Systems Go* teaches the functions of various body parts and the actions required to keep these systems working well. This includes factors influencing the body such as exercise and drugs, exploring ways to manage peer pressure and how to make healthy food choices.

A parent information session will be held on Friday 18 May from 8.30-9.30 am in the Life Education van. We encourage parents with students in the ELC 3-4 and 4-5 rooms and Transition to Year 3 to attend this session so that you are able to have informed conversations at home. Please let us know if you are able to attend this parent session.

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Senior School

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.

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Great results at Senior State Gymnastics Championships
Mr Mark Everingham | Senior School Sport Coordinator

Congratulations to Charlotte Wong, who achieved some amazing results at the NSW Senior State Gymnastics Championships. Charlotte competed in the Level 10 session, against a tough field. She placed 6th in ball, 5th in ribbon, 1st in hoop and clubs and 3rd overall. As a result, Charlotte has now been named a member of the NSW Level 10 state team, which will travel to Melbourne at the end of May to compete at the Australian National Championships.
Ag Club success at the Royal Easter Show
Mrs Susan Filan | Senior School Science Teacher

The Agriculture Club was flying high with poultry at this year’s Sydney Royal Easter Show. On Saturday 24 March, four students competed in the Youth Showmanship event in a field of more than 20 contestants. Although it was the first time students had seen poultry showmanship, all girls presented their birds well and Molly Scholes was awarded 7th place.

Our male meat birds placed 2nd as a live bird pair and 4th in the carcase competition. The meat bird competition involved 75 schools, so it is quite an achievement to be awarded a prize.

Finally, our Light Sussex hens placed 3rd in Schools Purebred Layers. They also served as display birds in Showmanship and even got to meet Dr Harry during our excursion!

Club members had the opportunity to visit the show and take part in the Schools Program on 29 March. We attended sessions on cheese appreciation, cattle, modern dairy, sheep shearing and more. Students had the opportunity to see a variety of animals, as well as explore high tech agricultural tools that are being used in Australia. We look forward to more agricultural adventures throughout the year and another busy show season in 2019.

‘Daring to grow’ in the Rostrum Voice of Youth public speaking competition
Ms Jennie Kelly | Debating and Public Speaking Coordinator

In the Rostrum Voice of Youth public speaking competition, schools may enter a maximum of four junior speakers and four senior speakers. After participating in trials the following girls were selected to represent Abbotsleigh in the competition.

Junior speakers
Angela Ramsay (Year 7), Jessica Whyburn (Year 7), Megan Wang (Year 8) and Olivia Harlamb (Year 9)

Senior speakers
Kira Trahana (Year 10), Satara Uthayakumaran (Year 10), Alyssa Yuan (Year 10) and Natasha Huang (Year 11)

The girls gained confidence and stretched themselves by taking up this opportunity. All eight young women were fine ambassadors for their school. The adjudicators acknowledged their engaging manner and interesting choice of speaking material.

Reflections from the girls show they also had fun.

‘I had a lot of fun and Rostrum was such a great experience! It definitely improved my manner and I’ve become more confident compared to last year.’... Megan

‘I loved the experience and I hope I will be able to compete again. I received rather positive feedback. My downfalls were talking too quickly and sometimes the end of a sentence blurred together, but nothing a bit more practice couldn’t fix!’... Angela

Special congratulations go to Olivia Harlamb who won the Junior section of the competition with a compelling speech on the topic ‘When it is gone it is gone’. Olivia’s speech encouraged her audience to consider carefully what they post on their social media platforms. The adjudicators said Olivia’s speech was outstanding and was delivered with passion. Good luck to Olivia who will join Satara Uthayakumaran in the regional finals in May.

An Arts degree will future proof your employability
Mrs Marg Selby | Careers Advisor

Current statistics show that an Arts degree is likely to be the best pathway for students to follow if they wish to develop the transferable skills that are currently required to survive in a rapidly changing workforce. In Australia today, Arts graduates have better employment prospects and higher mid-career pay rates than the national average. In the UK, research has shown that the majority of CEOs of large companies have an Arts degree.

Social researcher Mark McCrindle regularly tells us that young people are likely to have five to seven different career paths during their working life, so limiting yourself to one professional skill focus is not necessarily the best path to follow. Arts graduates are generally well informed and keen to make a difference in the world. Through their study, they acquire a knowledge base in their major study area(s), the capacity to undertake research, the ability to think critically and to problem-solve, the ability to work as part of a team, while developing communication skills and, very often, they also gain global experience through voluntary work, an exchange program or an internship experience. Thus, Arts graduates have the edge in a global marketplace and have multiple career paths open to them.

For other careers news, please visit the Careers page on AbbNet.
Awesome cross country results in Paris
Six of our senior athletes recently competed at the ISF World Schools Cross Country Championships in Paris.

Lessons that last a lifetime
Working with Crossroads Foundation, all teaching staff and girls from Years 9-12 engaged in a confronting simulation on poverty.

Dazzle and Dine Ball
Abbotsleigh Foundation invites you to a night of glamour, with a celebrity host and of course, a red carpet!

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.