

The Shuttle

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Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.



FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Abbotsleigh seizes the moment to commemorate Remembrance Day

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

Tomorrow is a very special day in the life of Australia. At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, people throughout our nation will stop what they were doing to commemorate the exact time when the guns on the Western Front fell silent, marking the end of what was arguably the most widespread and destructive war in the world to date: World War I – The War to End All Wars.

There is nothing glorifying about war itself; indeed, war is horrible. There is much; however, to glorify about the human spirit of those who fought and worked for us. In World War I, all the courageous men and women who served as soldiers, doctors, nurses, and in many other capacities, were volunteers, as were many in the wars that have followed since. Their actions and phenomenal sacrifice have meant that we can live in peace and freedom in Australia today.

Following this year's theme, 'Remember to Remember', the Senior School girls commemorated Remembrance Day in a special service at school today. The Junior School will hold their service next Tuesday morning. Tomorrow, a number of Abbotsleigh girls will honour all those who have fought and worked for peace and freedom at the Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby Remembrance Day Services. We are grateful to Ms Ruston, Mrs Ware, Saskia McDonald and Savannah Tan (Year 6), Alexandra Balog and Penelope Hu (Year 12), who will represent us at the Roseville ceremony, and we are equally grateful to Mrs Rennie and Year 9 girls Sophie Cheung, Laura Jones, Mackenzie Mullarkey, Cindy Sun and Vanessa Ton, who will represent us at the Hornsby ceremony.

I would like to thank all the girls who were involved in our service today, and all those who will be involved in the Junior School service next week. We especially thank Amber Johnson (Year 9) who played the *Last Post* and Annika Loel (Year 9) who

played *The Rouse* in the Senior School Service. The girls played beautifully, and we were very honoured that Annika used her great grandfather's service bugle to play this significant piece.

Remembrance Day is about honouring the people who have made the ultimate sacrifice; they were, 'ordinary people, who did extraordinary things, in the most shocking of conditions'.

Remembrance Day also is about hope; hope that wars do come to an end and that peace and freedom can, and will, prevail.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God...
Matthew 5:9

I encourage every member of our community to stop what they are doing and 'Remember to Remember' at 11 am tomorrow morning.



ABBOTSLEIGH

Visit the **Parent Portal** to edit your profile, view the calendar and view parent notices.

Thank you

Mere words are not sufficient to express my gratitude for all who donated on our Abbotsleigh Giving Day 2023. The generosity of everyone in our Abbotsleigh community knows no bounds.

As a result of your generosity, young women who could never have had the opportunity to come to our school, will now be able to experience the unique and transformative education that Abbotsleigh provides.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Megan



Community

Abbotsleigh Band Festival

Mrs Lynette Clarke
Head of Music

Join us as for an evening showcase of our Junior and Senior School bands.

Bands performing: JS Bundarra Band, JS Concert Band, SS Concert Band, SS Symphonic Winds

Thursday 16 November
5.30-7 pm

Peter Duly Concert Hall, Senior School



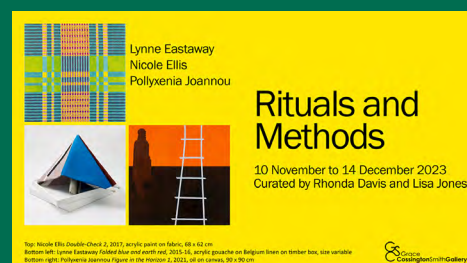
Ritual and Methods

Mrs Mary Faith
Director, Grace Cossington Smith Gallery

You are invited to the opening of Rituals and Methods, on Saturday 11 November at 2 pm, in the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery.

You are also invited to visit this last exhibition for 2023 from 10 am to 5 pm Tuesday to Saturday until 14 December.

Rituals and Methods was curated by GCS Gallery Coordinator, Lisa Jones, and Macquarie University Head Curator, Rhonda Davis. They have selected works by established artists Lynne Eastaway, Nicole Ellis and Pollyxenia Joannou. These artists create non-objective responses to their world, responding to colour, pattern, form and tone. Their works show abstraction that lends meaning to the artists' encounters of history, memory, place, family and home, that sets their works apart from formalist abstraction.



AbbSchool finishes on Saturday 2 December 2023

Ms Cassandra Chan
AbbSchool Supervisor

A reminder that Week 8 is the final week for AbbSchool classes. There will be no AbbSchool classes running in Week 9. The exception to this is the Aquatic Centre lessons, which will continue until Saturday 16 December 2023.

Uniform Shop holiday trading

Mrs Lorraine Boothby
Uniform Shop Manager

Please note that the last day of trading for 2023 is
Wednesday 6 December (9.30 am-4 pm)

Holiday opening times for 2024

- Monday 8 to Thursday 25 January (weekdays only) 9.30 am-4 pm
- Closed 26 January 2024 (Public holiday)
- Monday 29 to Wednesday 31 January from 9.30 am-5 pm
- Normal trading hours resume Thursday 1 February

Please call the Uniform Shop to make an appointment.



AMEB and Spring Instrumental Festival performers

Mrs Lynette Clarke
Head of Music

Last week the School was pulsating with music as we gathered to celebrate the exceptional talents of the students at the Spring Instrumental Festival. With a staggering 230 performers, approximately 254 individual pieces or songs, across 18 concerts in seven venues and a multitude of instruments, it was a remarkable showcase of the many talented students learning an instrument through the AbbSchool Music program.

Some students performed solo or with a piano accompanist for the first time, displaying courage and confidence as they stepped into the spotlight. There were also many students taking the performance opportunity to help prepare for the AMEB examinations held this week.

The Amnesty Club, a service group which advocates for global human rights, sold refreshments and home-made treats provided by the music students. "It was amazing for us to have this opportunity to raise money for the people displaced by the current war in Gaza! We're also incredibly

grateful to the generous people who made additional donations to this great cause." – Davina Chan, Year 10

Congratulations to all the students on their individual performances and also to the ensembles who performed in the Instrumental Festival final concert. Thank you also to the dedicated peripatetic and ensemble staff for nurturing, teaching and preparing the students.



Junior School

Becoming a great mathematician

Ms Sally Ruston
Head of Junior School

When asked, 'Does knowing tables matter?', my answer is unequivocally 'Yes!' But this is too simplistic a response, as there is so much more that is equally important if we want our girls to be great mathematicians.

I argue that good mathematicians are seen to possess four attributes:

1. Fluency with basic mathematic facts to a point of automaticity. This is essential if one is to have sufficient brain capacity remaining for the higher order investigating. Pete Persistence is the girls' greatest friend here, as although this is not the exciting and

fun part of maths, it is essential that each girl is able to automatically recall the basic number facts, including times tables, pertinent to the content being covered.

2. Conceptual understanding is essential too, as pure rote learning does not allow for insightful thinking and the transfer of knowledge to different contexts. For instance, girls need to know and be able to visualise that 2×3 is actually about two groups of three being added together to give the answer of six. This understanding needs to be learnt to a position of mastery where in any similar situation, the skills and knowledge of how to complete each sum is known without conscious effort. Again, this is important for freeing up brain capacity for higher order thinking and meaningful application.
3. Problem solving in mathematics is where the real fun is to be had. Again, there is a range of nine problem solving strategies that we explicitly teach to the girls. With fluency, conceptual understanding and problem-solving strategies on board, our girls are set to be successful in their mathematical endeavours.

4. However, I would also add one last attribute – that is having the capacity to understand that mathematics is more than getting a right or wrong answer. In fact, there are often multiple ways in which a problem can be solved. You will attest to this when you try to show your daughter how you once solved such a question and are promptly told that your suggestion is unhelpful and unwanted. We are keen for our girls to realise that a number of problem-solving approaches are possible, yet one is probably less likely to produce errors and more efficient in reaching a solution. In this way we help our girls to walk away from perfectionist tendencies and to revel in the trial and error and multiple pathways to making sense and solving problems.

I also share the fabulous Maths Olympiad results our girls in Years 5 and 6 have achieved in tackling exceptionally difficult and beyond primary curriculum mathematic problems over several months this year. This competition enables our able mathematicians to pit their skills, conceptual understanding and mastery of this subject against posed problems that challenge and extend their thinking and capacity. Please see the article written by Sally Southan that highlights the girls' great efforts and success in this domain.

Speech Day organisation

Ms Sally Ruston
Head of Junior School

Our Junior School Speech Day, being held at **2 pm on Wednesday 6 December 2023**, promises to be a very special event to celebrate the achievements of our girls.

Electronic invitations were distributed this week. Our guest speaker will be Jacqueline Harvey, who knew she wanted to be an author from a very young age. Rehearsals are underway at school and the final rehearsal will occur at the venue before the event. The expansive space of the Judith Poole Sports Hall means that seating does not need to be restricted and queueing will not be necessary as all parents will be seated in the venue.

Speech Day will commence as a regular school day for the girls with duty and classes commencing as usual and the girls wearing full summer uniform, including blazers and white panama hats. The girls will be involved in class-based activities on Wednesday morning before departing after an early lunch for the Senior School with their class teacher to rehearse and enjoy a snack in the Senior School grounds.

The girls will be seated by 1.40 pm and we ask that parents enter at this time to be seated by 1.50 pm. The ceremony will commence at 2 pm and we anticipate concluding by approximately 3.30 pm.

On conclusion of the ceremony, Junior School girls and teachers will meet parents at the Marian Clarke Plaza in class groups for refreshments and to enable a smooth dismissal, after the girls have been signed out by their class teacher.

Junior School girls requiring After School Care will be walked back to the Junior School campus.

Girls catching the Abbotsleigh bus will be taken to the Senior School bus stops with a staff member to catch their



relevant buses, which will be departing as soon as the girls arrive at the bus stop. This may mean the Abbotsleigh buses will depart approx. **10-15 minutes later than the normal time.**

Students who normally catch the Hills bus will need to make alternative arrangements.

Please note that there will be **no parking available on the Senior School grounds or car parks**. Where possible, we ask that parents travel by public transport and not to queue early on this day to avoid congestion with the earlier Senior School Speech Day event.

Girls should bring food for morning tea/lunch, and a water bottle in disposable packaging. Girls are to wear full summer school uniform including their blazer and panama hats. Girls are asked **NOT** to bring school bags.

Girls are to take home scooters and bikes by Friday 1 December 2023.

A summary of the day's events is as follows:

From 7.50 am – Normal drop off procedures in place in the Junior School

1.40 pm – Doors open for parents to enter the Judith Poole Sports Hall

2 pm – Official ceremony commences

3.30 pm – Speech Day concludes with refreshments being served on the Plaza area at the front Senior School Reception, where Junior School girls and their teachers will meet parents in class groups to enable handover.

3.30 pm – Girls not departing with parents will be walked back to After School Care

3.30 pm – Normal buses routines in operation departing from the Senior School, except Hills bus – please see above.

Absences

Attendance by all girls is required at Speech Day. However, if your daughter is ill on the morning of Wednesday 6 December, please notify the School by using the Abbotsleigh app, or ring Junior School Reception by 8.30 am to report the illness. Please ensure that a medical certificate is provided.

Events over coming weeks

The following two weeks of term are wonderfully exciting times as we celebrate the conclusion of a great year and farewell our Year 6 girls. Please be aware of the following events and times so that you can support the girls in preparing for the following occasions:

Tuesday 21 November at 8.30 am	Year 6 Farewell Chapel service, Senior School Chapel
Thursday 23 November at 6 pm	Year 2 Celebration and Soirée, Everett Hall*
Tuesday 28 November at 6 pm	Year 3 Soirée, Everett Hall*
Thursday 30 November at 7 pm	Junior School Twilight Christmas Carol Service, Infants Amphitheatre*
Monday 4 December at 6 pm	Year 6 Farewell Celebration, Dinner and Dance, Hornsby RSL Club*
Tuesday 5 December	Variety Concerts
Tuesday 5 December	Special end of year luncheon provided by APA
Wednesday 6 December at 2 pm	Full School Speech Day, Judith Poole Sports Hall*
Thursday 7 December	Vacation Care program in operation

**The italicised events above are the events we are very much looking forward to seeing the Junior School family coming together to celebrate.*

The 2023 Maths Olympiad

Mrs Sally Southan
JS Mathematics Specialist Teacher

Each year, schools from all over Australia, New Zealand and other neighbouring countries take part in the Maths Olympiad run by APSMO. In preparation for the four, 30-minute contests, our selected students learnt and shared specific problem-solving strategies. It was inspirational to see these mathematicians grow in both skill and confidence.

Congratulations are extended to the following girls who earned a competition total which places them in the top 10% of all participants: Sophie Birch, Ryka Dave, Elaine Ha, Stephanie Huang, Gemma Lim, Christina Lin, Saskia McDonald, Maisie Mei, Ailia Qi, Emily Shelley, Heidi Sun, Yuxi Wang, Elaine Wu, Maggie Yang, Meii You, Olivia Yu, Claire Zhang, June Zhang and Sophie Zhou.

In addition to placing in the top 10%, Amanda Tan is applauded for attaining a perfect score, for which she will be receiving a medal.

Commendations are extended to the following students who placed within the top 25% of entrants: Sankavi Ajanthan, Sophie Bates, Mahi Bhargava, Alicia Chung, Annabelle Eldridge, Oviya Geevasinga, Scarlett Harris, Amelia Kung, Emma Li, Skye Martin, Lexi Mulcahy, Ariana Noake, Neve Peters, Savannah Tan, Emily Tan, Emma Tsai, Abigail Tseng, Sandra Wang, Eileen Wang, Isabella Watters, Claire Wee, Olivia Yip, Amelia Young, Mia Yu, Yolanda Zhan and Gwendolyn Zhang.

Well done to all students for showing such impressive mathematical problem-solving ability and determination, all within a demanding time frame.

Unleash your talent! Variety Concert 2023

Mis Katie Devine
JS Classroom Teacher

In Weeks 6 and 7, the girls will be auditioning for the Infants and Primary Variety Concerts to be held on the penultimate day of Term 4, Tuesday 5 December.

Our upcoming Variety Concert promises to be an engaging and fun day of performances, and we're thrilled to invite all girls to audition for their special moment. We are very excited to see the girls showcase their hidden talents revealed through the auditioning process. This process is designed to be engaging, inclusive and bring out the best in all our talented auditionees.

The prime intent of the Variety Concert is to build confidence and social competencies. The hour-long Variety Concert, while a fun and joyful end to the school year, is really only a fleeting memory for the girls. It is the preparation, creativity and teamwork shown throughout

the auditioning process where the important learning takes place. As a result of the huge volume of audition requests, we cannot place all girls in the line-up.

We know, for all our talented girls, their hopes and dreams for success are not riding on a position in the final Variety Concert. We ask for your assistance in reiterating this with the girls at home when they receive news, either good or bad, regarding placement in the Variety Concert. Our girls are encouraged to use resilience and a growth mindset to reframe their thinking and develop their persistence to audition again in 2024.

Ms Keyter and I are looking forward to seeing their girls unleash their talent in auditions soon. We will share news with the students of their placement within the Variety Concert program towards the end of Week 7/early Week 8.

Let the fun and joy begin!

Year 1 Royal Botanic Gardens excursion

Mr Justin Owens
Year 1 Classroom Teacher

On Monday 6 November, Year 1 headed into the city to explore the Royal Botanic Gardens. The students learnt about the needs of living things and the habitats that can be found in our local areas. During the day the girls explored the flora and fauna of the gardens, played games, listened to stories and helped build and design habitats for native wildlife. Year 1 then explored the notion of harmony and were able to see first hand the importance of caring for spaces and places in our world.



Vacation Care program

Mrs Carmen Gaspersic
Deputy Head of Junior School

We are counting down the days until Christmas and that means summer vacation care is almost here! Bookings open today – Friday 10 November!

Please note that some of the days have capped numbers, so if you need care, please book in quickly to avoid disappointment.

View the program [here](#).

Email Kids Club if you have any questions or need further information.



IPSHA Gymnastics Competition 2023 results

Mrs Michelle Penn
JS PDHPE Teacher

Congratulations to all girls who competed in the IPSHA Gymnastics Competition on Thursday 2 November at the Sydney Gymnastics and Aquatic Centre Rooty Hill.

Artistic results

Level 1 team: 3rd place

Abby Chan (4L), Kylie Huang (3L), Christina Jin (4L), Finty Lan (3L), Kira Nguyen (4L)

Level 2 team: 4th place

Eloise Beaumont (3G), Eva Bennetts (3G), Sophie Kong (4O), Mieke McDonald (3L), Amelia Scott (3O)

Level 3 team: 3rd place

Olivia Ayres (4L), Katherine Carless (5D), Ivy Han (5D), Harper Mulcahy (5O), Emily Tan (5G)

Level 4 team: 2nd place

Iyla Callagher (6O), Hannah Hong (4L), Jessamy Reynolds (6L), Hannah Wotton (4G), Ava Yoganathan (4G)

Rhythmic results

Level 3 Individual Ball – 4th place: Sienna Jin (3G)

Level 3 Individual Clubs – 2nd place: Meixi Chen (3O)

Level 4 Individual Hoop – 3rd place: Amishi Singh (6O)

Level 4 Individual Ribbon – 4th place: Rachel Gerber (4L)

Level 5 Individual Clubs – 1st place: Brianna Chan (5L)

Level 6 Individual Ball – 2nd place: Natalie Zhang (6G)

Level 6 Individual Ribbon – 1st place: Summer Shao (6D)

Category 2 Group Hoop: 1st place

Brianna Chan (5L), Summer Shao (6D), Yuxi Wang (6D), Natalie Zhang (6G)

Category 2 Group Hoop: 4th place

Chloe Guo (4O), Jesinta Nipatcharoen (5O), Sashaya Wijewardena (4O), Anabelle Yuan (3G)

Congratulations also to Hazel Crisp (5D) who performed an outstanding ball routine as a display item to represent Abbotsleigh.



Student success

Mrs Carmen Gaspersic
Deputy Head of Junior School

Congratulations to Abelia Chung, who has been awarded a High Distinction for her research project titled, 'The effect of yeast as a biodegradable medium in decomposing surgical mask.' Abelia has been selected for an award in the 2023

STANSW Young Scientist Awards and will be attending the presentation ceremony on Monday 27 November.



Senior School

Year 7 History excursion to the History Museum at Macquarie University

Annanya Kaistha
Year 7

Recently we went to Macquarie University's history museum to expand our knowledge on Ancient Egypt. We did various activities including learning the process of mummification, translating and writing hieroglyphics, looking at artefacts in their museum, analysing artefacts and inferring which role of the social hierarchy they corresponded to, and we dug and found gems.

During the mummification workshop, we were able to get an accurate visual of what it looked like to successfully mummify a body. Additionally, we had the chance to embalm people like priests, allowing us to look at this process from a kinaesthetic perspective, which broadened our knowledge of their culture. Furthermore, we learnt multiple techniques on how to translate hieroglyphics. For example, to decipher which way we were meant to read it, we had to look at the way the symbols were facing and read in the direction facing the symbols.

We were also able to learn about all the diverse cultures in the museum like Ancient Egyptian, Australian, Roman, Mesopotamian, Greek and Vietnamese by walking around the museum and reading the information about the different artefacts. To continue, analysing the artefacts and seeing to whom they belonged on the social hierarchy helped us develop our ability to infer and think deeper, strengthening our understanding of the relationship between artefacts and which Ancient Egyptian role they linked to.

The last workshop included digging up artefacts and gave us a glimpse into an archaeologist's life, because we had the privilege to excavate the sand using special tools, enhancing our understanding of their career.

Overall, we had a wonderful experience as we got to refine many of our skills through all the activities Macquarie University had supplied us.



Year 7 Inquisitive Minds workshop

Ms Betina Wrightson

Head of Mathematics and Data Analysis



On Thursday 9 November, Year 7 were involved in the Inquisitive Minds Mathematical workshop. Students were immersed in mathematical and logical thinking as they were given opportunities to learn and utilise foundational and advanced problem-solving strategies. The workshops included an interactive problem-solving lesson and a hands-on, problem-solving competition that allowed students to use strategies of logical reasoning, make a pattern, draw a diagram and make a list.



STEM in action

Ms Betina Wrightson

Head of Mathematics and Data Analysis

On Monday 6 November, Year 8 took part in a fun but instructive 'STEM in action' excursion to Luna Park. The interactive learning experiences designed by the Abbotsleigh Mathematics and Science staff were designed to engage and challenge the students, providing fun and educational, real-life adventures. Students had the opportunity to unravel the laws of motion on the thrilling rides such as the big dipper, sledgehammer, the boomerang and lots more, while practising their essential mathematical and science skills.



Settling in at university

Mrs Marg Selby
Careers Adviser and Exchange Coordinator

As our Year 12 students sign out this week and finish their six years of secondary education, many of them are expressing their feelings of excitement, while others are talking about their apprehension about starting tertiary education next year. University can be a rather alien environment initially, when you are used to a school cohort of maybe a thousand and you then enter a setting with tens of thousands of students – bigger than many country towns! However, with a bit of planning, the transition can be made much easier. Some ideas on how adjustments can be made include:

Be proactive – seek out the information you need about lecture times, locations, assignment due dates and club meetings.

Be diligent – no-one will ever check if you have done the required readings, but it will make tutorials and end of semester tasks much easier if you have done so. For the same reason, it is wise to attend lectures, tutorials, workshops etc.

You will learn more quickly about the independent way of working at university if you do this.

Be social – if you attend classes and join clubs and societies, you will make friends more easily and will become connected to your new environment. You will also learn more about the expectations of tertiary education if you join faculty-based clubs as one of your social outlets. Mixing with older students there will help you to find mentors who will assist you to settle in.

Be smart – use the time management techniques that you have learned at school and keep up with your work. There are fewer face-to-face hours required at uni, but for every one hour of face-to-face teaching, you should be doing two to three hours of additional work at home. Make sure that you do not over-commit yourself to part-time work. However, working in an area related to your study will provide you with much better employability prospects on graduation than where you have studied or even the results you have received.

Best of luck to all our graduating Year 12 students for an exciting and fulfilling year ahead of them in 2024.

Please see the **Careers Information page on AbbNet** for further careers news and opportunities.

Boarding

What does a good friend look like? How would you recognise them?

Rev Rowena McMicking
Years 7 and 8 Boarding Coordinator

What does a good friend look like? How would you recognise them? These are questions the Years 7, 8 and 9 boarders considered on Tuesday evening, when they were visited by Ruby Riethmuller from Womn-Kind.

Together, the girls shared the characteristics of a good friend – trustworthy, there for you, funny, caring and kind. They spent time in small groups finding out things they have in common, despite different ages, year groups, ethnicities or home towns. Then, everyone sat in a circle. Each girl wrote her name at the top of a piece of paper. The pieces of paper were passed around the circle and every girl wrote something they appreciate about every other girl in the circle. At the end, each girl had a special, colourful reminder of more than 30 characteristics that make them uniquely, wonderfully themselves.

To be known and accepted is at the heart of human flourishing, and it was a delight to watch the girls' faces as they read what others said about them, realising that they are known more deeply and appreciated far more than they

realise. Each one of them has the capacity to be that great friend they long to experience.

With these groups moving up to live together, 2024 in McCredie House promises to be a very special time indeed.

