

The Shuttle



Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Brave the Waves in 2024!

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress



Welcome to 2024! I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new girls and their families, and I would very much like to welcome back all our girls and their families to Abbotsleigh this year. We also warmly welcome our staff and our new members of staff to 2024 in our vibrant and stimulating school.

It has been absolutely wonderful to have been back at school with all the girls and staff this week. I love the beginning of the year – a new year always brings with it new beginnings and exciting events and possibilities. This year, in particular, is a very special year for Abbotsleigh as we are celebrating the Junior School's 70th birthday. Yes, I know that Abbotsleigh has always had Junior School girls; however, as we grew, the Junior School as we know it was established on its current site in 1954 – 70 years ago. As you can imagine, in true Junior School style, it will most definitely be a year of great celebration, and I look forward to seeing our Junior School girls and parents at the great events that have been planned by Ms Ruston and the fantastic Junior School staff.

Fitting in beautifully with new beginnings and exciting possibilities, our 2023/24 Prefects, led by Head Prefect, Lily Thornthwaite, launched their inspiring 2024 Prefect theme, 'Brave the Waves' to the girls this week. As Lily said,

'This theme encapsulates our vision for Abbotsleigh this year, with two key elements:

Firstly, the waves. Waves are a metaphor for the obstacles which are inevitable in life. We are all faced with challenges or waves daily.

Some days will be smooth sailing and other days we'll get tumbled by rough surf. Sometimes the waves will appear larger than we can handle, and other times the surf will be great. Some days we will be thrown off balance, but we need to learn to get back up again.

This is where the Brave comes in.

Challenges can be overwhelming and stressful, but they can also be heaps of fun and rewarding. When we equip ourselves with the right tools, such as grit, resilience and a growth mindset, we are able to embrace challenges and enjoy the journey.

As a prefect body we invite you to truly embrace our theme of Brave the Waves in all aspects of school life, whether it be in music, sport, debating, robotics, chess, service or in the classroom. Brave the Waves will become part of our everyday vocabulary.

The beautiful logo, the work of Emma Tan, Ella Han and Mrs Lightfoot and her team, celebrate their awesome creativity!

In the wise words of Jon Kabat-Zin, "You can't stop the waves, but you can learn how to surf."

We look forward to surfing with you this year, growing as individuals and thriving as a community.'



These are such wise words from Lily, and we certainly look forward to supporting the Prefects with their inspiring and important theme throughout the year.

Indeed, together with the Prefects, the girls' teachers and I have big dreams for our girls to brave the waves and:

- Love learning
- Develop growth mindsets
- Develop positive and respectful relationships
- Be kind
- Be resilient
- Develop into young girls and young women of fine character
- Be involved in all areas of the School
- Be connected to each other and to their school
- Have fun
- Flourish

I hope that 2024 brings every member of our Abbotsleigh community God's richest blessings and great joy.

We are certainly looking forward to working in partnership with you and your daughters in what promises to be another sensational year as we encourage our girls savour every moment as they:

Brave the Waves
and

'embrace every opportunity to do more, so that each girl has the ability to be more'

Twilight on the Plaza

As is our tradition, we have a many whole school events planned for all our parents this year. The first of these is Twilight on Plaza, and I look forward to seeing you all here next Friday evening (9 February). This is always a fantastic event, and our huge thanks go to Mrs Harinder Randhawa and the APA as well as our Development Office team, for organising this for us.

Our new look Shuttle

For parents who have been at Abbotsleigh for a while, you will know that over the years, *The Shuttle* has grown and expanded to become a very lengthy document. There are some incredibly dedicated parents who read every article, but many have assured me that they just don't have the time to do this – week in, week out.

So, we have decided to return to the original purpose of *The Shuttle* – a weekly news 'letter'. Going forward, *The Shuttle* will consist of one feature article, a short message from our Chaplains and a list of important events that will be happening in the Junior and Senior Schools over the next fortnight.

We will be ensuring that we keep you up to date with timely photos of girls on excursions, camps and other activities via our Facebook and Instagram pages. Longer articles that may have been included in *The Shuttle* will now be included in our publication, *Around Abbotsleigh*, which will be produced once a semester. Our magnificent year book, *The Weaver*, will continue to be produced annually, as will *Clippings*, our research publication, which consists of research and scholarly articles about education in general and girls' education in particular.

As is our custom, details about excursions and camps will be sent to parents and, in some cases, hyperlinks will be provided in our calendar list to assist parents.

The Abbotsleigh parent app is a mine of information and I encourage you to visit all the relevant sites to keep up to date with sporting events and fixtures as well as other activities relevant to you and your daughter/s.

We hope the streamlining of our communication systems will assist you and your daughter embrace, navigate and enjoy all the wonderful opportunities here at Abbotsleigh.

Chaplain

This week in Chapel

Rev Sarah Hobba
Chaplain

Starting the academic year, Senior Chapel reflected on planning. We plan thinking about what is ahead, but we also know that plans change or don't go the way we think. Uncertainty can cause us to be anxious. Jesus grounded the anxiety of the listeners of his teachings, by painting the picture of the provision of food for the birds and clothing the flowers. God's provision and care for humans is then much more than those little living things.

Matthew 6:32b-34 "Don't worry, because your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things. What you should want most is God's kingdom and doing what he wants you to do. Then he will give you all these other things you need. So don't worry about tomorrow. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Tomorrow will have its own worries."

Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

Grace Cossington Smith art award Exhibition of finalists	27 January to 24 February	GCS Gallery
Twilight on the Plaza	Friday 9 February	Senior School reception Plaza Click here to RSVP
Lunar Calendar New Year Parent Morning Tea	Monday 19 February	Junior School Library Plaza Click here to RSVP

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 6 football, water polo and flippa ball training	Monday 5 February 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
ELC Parent/Teacher Evening	Monday 5 February 6.30-8.30 pm	ELC
T-6 Parent Information Night	Tuesday 6 February 6.30-9 pm	Everett Hall and Junior School classrooms
Year 5 football, water polo and flippa ball training	Wednesday 7 February 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
Year 3 and 4 football, water polo and flippa ball training	Wednesday 7 February 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School

Twilight on the Plaza	Friday 9 February 7-9.30 pm	Marian Clarke Plaza
IPSHA football, water polo and flippa ball	Saturday 10 February 8-12 pm	Various locations, see team sheets
Year 6 football, water polo and flippa ball training	Monday 12 February 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
ELC Lunar Calendar New Year Morning Tea	Monday 12 February 8.30-9.30 am	ELC
Year 2-6 cross country training	Tuesday 13 February 7.15-8 am	Junior School
Year 6 Spit to Manly Walk	Tuesday 13 February 8.30 am-3 pm	Manly Beach
Kindergarten Parent Morning Tea	Wednesday 14 February 8-9.30 am	Bundarra Lawn
ELC Lunar Calendar New Year Morning Tea	Wednesday 14 February 8.30-9.30 am	ELC
Year 5 football, water polo and flippa ball training	Wednesday 14 February 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
Year 2-6 cross country training	Thursday 15 February 7.15-8 am	Junior School
Year 3 and 4 football, water polo and flipper ball training	Wednesday 15 February 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
Transition Parent Morning Tea	Friday 16 February 8-9.30 am	Bundarra Lawn
Year 2 NSW Schoolhouse Museum excursion 	Friday 16 February 8.45 am-2.30 pm	Schoolhouse Museum
Primary Swimming Carnival	Friday 16 February 8.30 am-3 pm	Aquatic Centre
IPSHA football, water polo and flippa ball	Saturday 17 February 8 am-12 pm	Various locations, see team sheets

SENIOR SCHOOL

Year 12 Parent Information Forum	Monday 5 February 7-8 pm	PDCH
Archbishop's Prefect Service	Thursday 8 February 9.15-11.45 am	St Andrew's Cathedral
Design incursion: Year 9 Textiles, Year 10 Design and Technology and Year 11 Design and Technology	Friday 9 February	In their normal class time
IGSA Badminton and Tennis Round 1	Saturday 10 February 8 am-12 pm	

SS Softball Round 2	Saturday 10 February 8 am-12 noon	
AFL Round 1	Saturday 10 February 1-5 pm	
STEM Mixer Night	Monday 12 February 5.30-7.30 pm	PDCH and Assembly Hall Foyer
APA Meeting	Monday 12 February 7-9 pm	GLC, Senior School
Year 10 Visual Arts incursion	Wednesday 14 February	All day
SS Diving Carnival	Wednesday 14 February 3.30-5 pm	Aquatic Centre
APR Meeting	Thursday 15 February 8.30-10 am	SS Library
House Choir Competition (Students only)	Friday 16 February 8.30-10.20 am	Assembly Hall
Wimbledon @ Wahroonga (Students only)	Friday 16 February 3.30-5.30 pm	SS Tennis courts
IGSA Badminton and Tennis Round 2	Saturday 17 February 8 am-12 noon	
SS Softball Round 3	Saturday 17 February 8 am-12 noon	
AFL Round 2	Saturday 17 February 1-5 pm	

SAVE THE DATES

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Join us in Dubbo Saturday 11 May
- Join us in Wagga Wagga Saturday 22 June
- Join us in Tamworth Saturday 27 July