

The Shuttle



Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

Abbotsleigh Junior School has braved every wave for 70 years

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

2024 has been, and will continue to be, a great year of celebration for the Junior School as it marks the impressive milestone of being situated in its present location for 70 years and developing as the highly renowned centre of learning that it is today!

As you are aware, the Junior School hosted a fabulous 1950s picnic and a sensational colour run on the last day of Term 1. The pure joy and happiness that beamed from the faces of the girls, their teachers and their parents said it all – the Junior School certainly is a very happy place, full of fun activities for the girls to enjoy.



The Junior School also has a deep sense of history, and today we celebrated its remarkable history in a poignant assembly that highlighted all that is special about this very important part of Abbotsleigh.

Please find below the heartfelt message in relation to our wonderful Junior School from our Chair of Council, Ms Linda Ellis, and Ms Sally Ruston's excellent speech, 'Standing on the shoulders of giants', which I commend to you.

I am sure that you will join with me in wishing our Abbotsleigh Junior School a very happy 70th birthday!



ABBOTSLEIGH

Visit the [Parent Portal](#) to edit your profile, view the calendar and view parent notices.

Happy birthday Junior School

Ms Linda Ellis
Chair of Abbotsleigh Council

How exciting to celebrate the Junior School's 70th birthday today! The Junior School is a vibrant, busy place full of curious, dynamic, engaged girls exploring the world and beginning their life-long learning journey under the loving and expert guidance of our Junior School staff, headed by Ms Sally Ruston.

The Abbotsleigh motto reminds us that time flies faster than a weavers shuttle and we know that as the shuttle flies, a pattern is being woven as threads are intertwined. Our Junior School has been a crucial part of Abbotsleigh's

Standing on the shoulders of giants

Ms Sally Ruston AM
Head of Junior School

Today we celebrate 70 years of Abbotsleigh educating primary aged girls on their own campus and 139 years of educating young minds. Indeed, our first official school photo shows 11 of the 31 students were Junior School age.

There are two fabulous reasons why this heritage is so beneficial to us all today.

Firstly, we are indeed fortunate to enjoy a remarkably stable and solid foundation – a huge giant if you like, that has been built upon by successive generations of Abbotsleigh educators and girls.

These giants go all the way back to 1885 when Miss Marian Clarke put the unlikely manly subjects of geometry, gymnastics, Latin and woodwork on the curriculum and landed her school on a site that allowed for girls to be robust in their play.

We have our 4th Headmistress, Miss Everett as another giant for being visionary in seeking out this site as a place purpose built for young girls to learn. Our 9th Headmistress, Mrs Wheeldon introduced specialist teachers in STEM subjects back before the term was even invented. Our 10th Headmistress, Mrs Poole established our Early Learning Centre and our current Headmistress, Mrs Krimmer has advocated for and supported the building of our wonderful, newly completed Library and Innovation Centre.

Secondly, we benefit from the giants of traditions, values and spirit of the Abbotsleigh girls who have gone before us. Decades of Abbotsleigh girls are recognisable beyond the school gate for being adventurous, curious and modelling a wonderful sense of fun and independence of thought and spirit. Girls have built cubbies, climbed forts, ridden scooters and blades, constructed bilycarts and played robustly on the sports fields. Equally, they have been great learners, constantly striving to achieve their personal best.

pattern since 3 May 1954 when it was opened and named Everett House after Abbotsleigh's fourth headmistress.

Abbotsleigh girls are educated to lead a purposeful life, to thrive, to do good and to make a positive impact on the world. Our tradition is one of Anglican schooling and we commend and attempt to manifest Christian values and faith. Our Junior School is where it all begins.



Such a strong and positive cultural giant envelopes all girls new to Abbotsleigh and propels them forward. This unstoppable giant force for good sees us today standing tall and able to see a clear, purposeful and hopeful road ahead for all girls who enter her Junior School gates.

So now, as we stand on the shoulders of these giants of women and traditions, we too are called to leave a legacy – building that giant ever taller so that those who come after us are equally encouraged and enabled.

Today, you have created a legacy as you have left your unique handprint on a work of art that will be displayed for years to come in the hallways of the Junior School. Equally you have donated books in your name that will be read by girls now and ahead. You too are adding to the legacy giant in profound and meaningful ways as you journey through the Junior School.

What a joy it is to celebrate these giants today and to be able to look ahead to the lasting legacy we are creating together for the next generation of Junior School girls. We do so confident in the knowledge that, in the words of our 6th Headmistress, Miss Betty Archdale, 'With education, women can do, or be, anything'.



Chaplain

Sydney Prayer Breakfast and being grateful

Rev Sarah Hobba
Senior Chaplain and SS Christian Studies Teacher

Each year, the Sydney Prayer Breakfast is held to pray for Sydney, Australia and the world. This week, Abbotsleigh joined with others in education, business, media, politics, charities and church leaders, where we were led in prayer, as well as praying in small groups.



We prayed for peace, an end to conflict, for leaders throughout our communities and the world, and for those in need. Dr Andrew Browning, an obstetrician and gynaecologist who has worked in Africa focusing primarily on fistula repair of women, spoke of his own prayer life. He told of the ups and downs of his service,



the times it has been hard to pray and the times he saw God work in amazing ways through prayer.

He spoke about first arriving in Africa with a 4-month-old son. There was one condition that his wife wanted in a house: running water. The house had a tap, but it took six months to fix that tap so water would flow. They were so thankful, but soon after, Dr Browning then started wanting a house with electricity, and then a bit later a car. He said that rather than being content and grateful, so often as humans we crave more and more.

We all have so much in life to be grateful to God for, many things that we sometimes take for granted. Give thanks to God for his goodness in so many ways.

This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalm 118: 24 and 29



Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

Process and Practice: A Sculptors Eye exhibition	Until Thursday 25 May	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
Resilience parent information webinar with Dr Justin Coulson	Tuesday 14 May 7-8.30 pm	Online
APR meeting	Thursday 16 May 8.30-10 am	JS Auditorium
Cyber safety parent information evening with Susan McLean	Wednesday 22 May 6-7.30 pm	Peter Duly Concert Hall

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 6 netball and hockey training	Monday 6 May 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
T-3 Life Education incursions	Tuesday 14 to Friday 17 May	Life Education van on site
CIS cross country training	Tuesday 14 May 7-8.15 am	Junior School
ELC to ACEE	Tuesday 14 May 8.30 am-2.30 pm	ACEE
Year 4 Judith Krause Parent Information Evening	Tuesday 14 May 7-8.30 pm	Auditorium
Year 5 netball and minkey training	Wednesday 15 May 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
CIS cross country training	Thursday 16 May 7.15-8 am	Junior School
da Vinci Decathlon	Thursday 16 May 8.30 am-3 pm	Knox Gramma School
Years 3 and 4 netball and minkey training	Thursday 16 May 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
T-3 Life Education Parent Information Session	Friday 17 May 8-9 am	Junior School
Year 3 Harbour Bridge Pylon excursion	Friday 17 May 8.30 am-3 pm	Sydney
Year 5 Nursing Home talk with Emma Cabuil	Friday 17 May 9.30-10.30 am	Auditorium
JS Production rehearsal	Friday 17 May 3.30-5.30 pm	Everett Hall
ISDA Debating Octos 2	Friday 17 May 5-8 pm	Venue TBC

IPSHA Saturday Sport	Saturday 18 May 8 am-12 noon	See Parent app for team sheets and venues
JS Production rehearsal	Saturday 18 May 2-4.30 pm	Everett Hall
Year 6 netball and minkey hockey training	Monday 20 May 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
CIS cross country training	Tuesday 21 May 7-8.15 am	Junior School
ELC to ACEE	Tuesday 21 May 8.30 am-2.30 pm	ACEE
Years 5 and 6 Judith Krause Parent Information Evening	Tuesday 21 May 7-8.30 pm	Auditorium
Year 1 Vaucluse House excursion	Wednesday 22 May 8.30 am-3 pm	Vaucluse House
Years 5 and 6 Cyber Safety with Susan McLean	Wednesday 22 May 1.30-3 pm	Everett Hall
Year 5 netball and minkey training	Wednesday 22 May 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
CIS cross country training	Thursday 23 May 7-8.15 am	Junior School
Years 3 and 4 netball and minkey training	Thursday 23 May 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
Year 2 LEGO WeDo incursion	Friday 24 May 8.30-10.30 am	Year 2 Classrooms
JS Production rehearsal	Friday 24 May 3.30-5.30 pm	Everett Hall
ISDA Debating quarter finals	Friday 24 May 5-8 pm	Venue TBC
IPSHA Saturday Sport	Saturday 25 May 8 am-12 noon	See Parent app for team sheets and venues
JS Production rehearsal	Saturday 25 May 2-4.30 pm	Everett Hall

SENIOR SCHOOL

Year 9 Challenge Week	Monday 13 to Thursday 16 May	Kangaroo Valley
Year 11 Study Skills session	Monday 13 May	
Year 12 Business Studies incursion	Monday 13 May	
Year 8 Geography Water in the World field trip	Tuesday 14 May	Lake Parramatta
Year 12 Drama incursion	Tuesday 14 May	
Years 9-11 da Vinci Decathlon	Wednesday 15 May	Knox Grammar School
Year 10 Big Science Competition	Thursday 16 May 9.40-10.55 am	
Year 11 EES field trip to The Glade	Thursday 16 May	The Glade, Wahroonga

IGSA Cross Country Carnival	Friday 17 May	Frensham, Mittagong
Lunchtime Futures Talk (Monash University)	Friday 17 May	
Lunchtime Futures Talk (Western Sydney University)	Friday 17 May	
ISDA Debating	Friday 17 May 4-9 pm	
Sporting fixtures	Saturday 18 May	Click here for venues and times
AMEB examination block	Monday 20 to Friday 24 May	Music Department venues
Year 12 PC Concert	Monday 20 May 12.45-1.15 pm	PDCH
Athletics 400 m and 1500 m finals	Monday 20 May 12.30-3.30 pm	SOPAC
Kerry Martin Ensemble Masterclass	Monday 20 May 1.15-2.10 pm	PDCH
Year 8 PTI	Monday 20 May 3.30-8.30 pm	
Athletics Carnival	Tuesday 21 May 8.20-3.30 pm	SOPAC
Archdale Debating Round 1	Tuesday 21 May 4-8 pm	
Years 7 and 8 Cyber Safety with Susan McLean	Wednesday 22 May 11.20 am-12.45 pm	Assembly Hall
Year 7 ELES Study Skills	Thursday 23 May 6.30-8 pm	PDCH
Years 7, 9 and 11 Mothers Day Breakfast	Friday 24 May 7-8.15 am	Gymnasium
Year 11 EES field trip to The Glade	Friday 24 May 9.40 am-1.30 pm	The Glade, Wahroonga
ABPA meeting	Friday 24 May 2-3.30 pm	Wheeldon House
ISDA Debating	Friday 24 May 4-9 pm	
Sporting fixtures	Saturday 25 May 8 am-12 noon	Times and locations TBC
Hockey and netball trials	Saturday 25 May 1-5 pm	
APA Social Event	Saturday 25 May 7-11 pm	Gymnasium