

The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

Bee Connected: Abbotsleigh celebrates our teachers on World Teachers' Day 2025

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

'One child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world. Education is the only solution.'

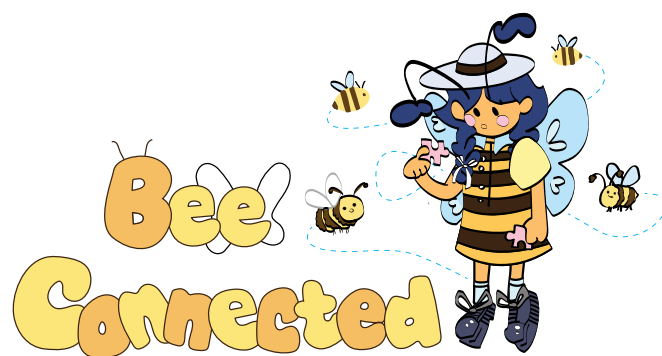
As Malala Yousafzai stated the above so powerfully to the United Nations in 2013, on her 16th birthday, the education of our young people is so important. Indeed, education has the power to transform individuals and the world.

Pivotal to this transformation are our teachers (and parents, of course!) and we should recognise the incredible job our teachers, and indeed every member of our staff at Abbotsleigh, do in bringing such a rich, relevant and empowering education to our girls. As such, we feel it is very important to celebrate World Teachers' Day, although it should really be celebrated every day. This year, the official date is 31 October, but at Abbotsleigh, we are celebrating throughout October.

The theme for this year's World Teachers' Day, 'Recasting teaching as a collaborative profession', fits in beautifully with our Prefect theme, 'Bee Connected', as it highlights the importance of collaboration as a driver of educational transformation (from: [World Teachers' Day 2025: Collaboration is key to making teachers](#)).

In Senior School assembly this week, our Year 8 Student Representative Council presented a wonderful dedication to our teachers. They encouraged every girl to write gratitude posters to their teachers in the shape of bees, which they have put up all over the Senior School. The comments are very heart-warming and are certainly appreciated by every member of staff.

Our dedicated teachers at Abbotsleigh are highly qualified, talented and very hard-working professionals, with our girls' interests, learning, social, emotional,



spiritual and physical needs front and centre of what they do. They are passionate about their subjects and students. They are equally passionate about lifelong learning, and as such, collaboration and professional learning are highly valued. As well as their Abbotsleigh connections, our teachers are connected with members of the profession – primary, secondary and tertiary – well beyond the gates of Abbotsleigh, which enables them to keep learning and refining their craft. They aim to create powerful and empowering learning experiences for our girls, not just during the school day, but well into the evenings, on weekends and during the school holidays.

Equally, our professional, administration and operational staff at Abbotsleigh are highly qualified, hard-working, dedicated and talented. All aim to provide the best possible environment and opportunities for our girls, and I am sure you will agree, they certainly achieve this in spades.

In fact, for Abbotsleigh, I like to think of World Teachers' Day as 'World Abbotsleigh Staff Day' as we honour every member of staff for their superb contribution to the education of our girls.

Some years ago, I shared one of my favourite stories. It is the story of a powerful emperor who decided to honour the greatest person in his empire*. It goes something like this:



The emperor commissioned a delegation in full regalia to go into every corner of his realm to find all those who were considered 'great' and have them gather in the Imperial City. As the candidates arrived, a member of the grand council ensured a list was made recording their names and credentials: heroes from battle, the wealthiest from commerce and trade, the most poetic in writing, the most insightful in medicine, the most clever in invention and science, a talented musician, a gifted artist, renowned lawyer, a famous orator, elite athlete and others; each outstanding in their own right.

It was a dazzling spectacle and as the emperor gazed at the awe-inspiring group before him, he wondered how he would choose who was the greatest among them. Each had refined their talents and learning to be the best they could be in their chosen field; they were indeed, 'the best of the best'.

As his eyes surveyed the glittering assembly, he suddenly noticed a white-haired woman (or man if you prefer) standing quietly at the back. People greeted this woman, whose eyes were alive with knowledge, understanding and care, with deep respect and visible affection.

'Who is this woman?' demanded the emperor. 'Why is she here? What has she done?'

'Your Majesty,' replied his chief minister, 'you have met and spoken with all the greatest people of your empire. This is their teacher.'

In his wisdom, the emperor now understood who was indeed the greatest among this distinguished group before him. To the applause of all who were assembled, the emperor came down from his throne to honour their teacher.

For no matter how great their achievements, no matter how great the person, all success begins with learning and the encouragement to strive for excellence.

As we reflect on World Teachers' Day, I know you will want to join me in honouring and paying special tribute to our wonderful Abbotsleigh teachers as well as those who support our teachers – our incredible professional, administration and operational staff.

'Honour those who teach, for they touch the future.'

*This story is adapted from *The Assembly Collection* (UK)

Chaplain

Gracious

Rev Sarah Hobba
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

When we sit in the beauty of our Chapel's stained-glass windows, each one reflects a value from our school lesson. This term, House Chapels are focusing on the *Gracious* window. Designed by Old Girl Jane Garrett (Maynard, 1983), the window features vines to represent the tree of life, as well as Jesus as the vine, and we are the branches (John 15). Amongst the vine, a buzzing hive and Australian wildlife are visual reminders of life as a gracious gift.

Graciousness is life-affirming. Philippians 4:8 encourages us to 'think about these things', including what is gracious. In a world where cancel culture and criticism often dominate, graciousness can feel rare. But Scripture doesn't stop at thinking – it calls us to do what we have learned and seen, to live out grace in our actions.

In John's gospel, Jesus did not just speak about grace, but we see his graciousness in action. An account records that a woman was dragged before Him in shame, though Jesus didn't condemn her. He stooped down, waited and responded with compassion,

challenging those without sin to cast the first stone. One by one, they walked away. Jesus, the only one without sin, chose not to condemn but to offer her a new beginning. This is the graciousness we're called upon to reflect: not quick to judge, but quick to show kindness, patience and life-giving love. As Psalm 103 reminds us, *'The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love.'* May we be people who think graciously, receive grace deeply and live it out boldly as part of the 2025 Prefect Theme, 'Bee Gracious'.

'Finally, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and seen, do; and the God of peace will be with you.'

Philippians 4:8–9

Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

Dreaming, Looking Inwards exhibition	Thursday 2 to Saturday 25 October	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
School TV program – student wellbeing resources	Available to all parents on the Parent Portal	Click here to watch
AbbSchool Dance Showcase rehearsal and photo day	Saturday 25 October 12 noon-6 pm	Assembly Hall
To Approach the Unknowable Exhibition	Saturday 1 November to Saturday 6 December	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
AbbSchool Dance Showcase full rehearsal	Saturday 1 November	Wenkart Theatre, Knox Grammar School
AbbSchool Dance Showcase dry run	Wednesday 5 November	Wenkart Theatre, Knox Grammar School
Abbotsleigh Giving Day	Thursday 6 November	
AbbSchool Dance Showcase	Friday 7 and Saturday 8 November 7-9 pm	Wenkart Theatre, Knox Grammar School

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 2 Gibberagong excursion	Monday 27 October 8.30 am-2.30 pm	Bobbin Head
Kindergarten 2026 play sessions	Monday 27 to Friday 31 October 9.30 am-12.30 pm	Kindergarten classrooms
Transition 2026 play sessions	Monday 27 to Friday 31 October 10 am-12 noon	Transition classroom
50 and 5L Optus Belrose excursion	Wednesday 29 October 9.15 am-1 pm	
Junior School Leaders morning tea	Thursday 30 October 8.30 am-12.30 pm	NSW Parliament House, Sydney
ELC, T-1 intensive swimming week	Monday 3 to Friday 7 November	
Year 3 Gibberagong-Muogamarra excursion	Monday 3 November	Bobbin Head
IPSHA Debating Gala Day	Monday 3 November	

SENIOR SCHOOL

Saturday sport	Saturday 25 October and Saturday 1 November	Click here for times and venues
Years 9 and 10 Assessment Week	Monday 27 to Friday 31 October	
Years 11 and 12 French excursion	Friday 31 October	Macquarie University
Exchange student from Greshams School, UK	Monday 3 November to Wednesday 3 December	
Year 10 Immersion Week project day	Wednesday 5 November	PDCH
Spring Instrumental Festival	Wednesday 5 November 4-6.30 pm	PDCH and various Senior School venues
Year 9 Languages incursion	Thursday 6 November 8.20 am-12.45 pm	
Year 7 Inquisitive Minds incursion	Thursday 6 November	
Year 10 Semi-Formal	Thursday 6 November 6.30-10.30 pm	Hornsby RSL Club
Sports photos	Friday 7 November 12.45-2.10 pm	Sports Hall
Prefect Afternoon Tea	Friday 7 November 3.30-6 pm	Global Learning Centre and Marian Clarke Plaza

