

The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

Please drive and park with courtesy, respect and legality so that we may 'Journey With Joy' and safety together!

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

I love Abbotsleigh – I love that our girls and our parents are so involved and so enthusiastic, and that everyone wants what is best for our girls. However, there is one aspect that is causing the teachers and I **HUGE** concern, and that is the way in which road rules and the safety of our girls seem to be blatantly disregarded by some parents and girls. This is **DEEPLY** disappointing.

I have written before about an Abbotsleigh girl who was hit by a car a number of years ago – she survived, but her life and the lives of her parents and siblings were changed forever. Katie was a bright and bubbly Junior School girl with a wonderful sense of humour and a keen intellect. She is severely disabled and now lives with constant pain and irreparable brain damage. So much potential lost, and so much pain and misery that will affect Katie for the rest of her life. We do **NOT** want that to happen to any other girl, and I know you do not want this to happen to your daughter/s!

Let me describe to you just some of the many incidents I have witnessed in the past few weeks:

- Parents parking illegally across neighbours' and the school driveways in Junior School and Senior School, or dropping off their daughters in these driveways, then backing out into oncoming traffic – SO dangerous
- Parents performing U-turns across double yellow lines on Ada Avenue
- Girls being dropped off in the middle of the road or in no-stopping zones
- Junior School parents waiting for their daughters up to 30 minutes early, creating a line of traffic that reaches around into Wahroonga Village, thus holding up MANY other people
- Drivers overtaking a line of traffic and driving on the wrong side of the road to get to the front of the queue!



One particularly disturbing incident unfolded before my very eyes last Friday evening on Ada Avenue at 9 pm. It was very dark, and two lines of traffic were moving towards the traffic lights on the Pacific Highway. A parent had stopped on the inside lane, not at the kerb, which was a no-stopping zone in any case. Holding up the traffic in that lane, a Senior School girl deposited her bag in the back of the car, then walked around into the second lane of traffic to get into the car. She could barely be seen by the other cars moving in that lane. I do not know how she was not hit; she almost was. It was AWFUL to watch. She appeared to be completely oblivious to the danger.

Yet this was not an isolated incident, nor were the illegal and/or inconsiderate acts listed above. As parents, we must be good role models for our daughters, and we must ensure that the SAFETY of all our girls is paramount. Most do this; some do not. The road rules are in place for safety – not for the sake of it. We do not want another girl to have her life ruined because of the inconsiderate and thoughtless behaviour of drivers.

Please find guidelines below for both the Junior and Senior School girls coming to and leaving school.

In the meantime, please know that we have asked NSW police and Ku-ring-gai Council rangers to regularly monitor the roads around the School. The fines for the actions listed above, as well as other illegal manoeuvres, are quite significant. But the money is not the point – safety is.

Thank you all for considering this important safety message – the lives of our girls depend on you driving and parking safely and legally.





Junior School traffic guidelines

Ms Larissa Cameron
Head of Junior School

To ensure the safe and smooth flow of traffic around the Junior School, please take note of the following important reminders:

1. Please do not arrive early and queue before your designated pick-up time.

Arriving early causes unnecessary congestion and blocks surrounding roads. We ask you arrive no earlier than the times listed below:

- Transition: 2.30 pm
- Kindergarten: 2.50 pm
- Year 1: 3 pm
- Year 2: 3 pm
- Year 4: 3.10 pm
- Year 5: 3.20 pm
- Year 6: 3.20 pm

2. If you arrive early or your daughter is not yet ready for collection, staff will direct you to keep moving and rejoin the line.

This ensures the car line continues to flow safely for all families.

3. Years 3-6 families are encouraged, where possible, to drop off further from the entrance.

Girls in Years 3-6 are confident walkers and can enter via the footpath leading into the carpark, helping to reduce congestion at the main gate.

4. Please ensure that grandparents or any trusted adult who collects your daughter is aware of these expectations.

This helps keep all students safe and ensures a consistent process.

5. Do not make U-turns in the school zone.

This is extremely dangerous and significantly disrupts traffic flow.

6. Please avoid blocking the roundabout.

When the roundabout becomes congested, all surrounding traffic comes to a standstill.

7. Please remember to remain in your car during drop-off and pick-up.

Encouraging your daughter to enter and exit the car independently supports her confidence, builds her sense of responsibility and keeps our car line moving efficiently. Our staff are on duty and ready to assist any student who needs help. If your daughter requires support, please pull forward to where a staff member can safely assist her.

8. We encourage all girls to greet the staff member on duty and thank them for their help.

A warm 'good morning' or 'thank you' fosters gratitude, respect and positive community connections.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our community safe and ensuring that drop off and pick up run smoothly for everyone.

Senior School guidelines

In the main, our Senior School girls should be able to catch public transport – buses and trains are regular – so please consider this. Pre-COVID, about 80-90% of our senior girls were **not** driven to or picked up from school – this was better for the environment and for the smooth flow of peak hour traffic. I would like us to return to that statistic in the Senior School, please.

If, however, you wish to drive your daughter to school, please drop her off or pick her up well away from the driveways and entrances of the School on Ada Avenue. Alternatively, drop her off/pick her up legally in Wahroonga Village – the carpark is very convenient. Unless your daughter is ill or injured, she is quite capable of packing her school backpack sensibly and walking that short distance to school.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our community safe and ensuring that drop off and pick up run smoothly for everyone.



Chaplain

The perfect diamond

Rev Sarah Hobba
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

In chapel, we have been looking at the themes of the stained glass windows that line the walls. Recently, we have focused on the topic of 'Pure'. If you go to buy a diamond, you will be told about the 4 Cs – Cut, Colour, Clarity and Carat. The clarity is about the quality and purity of the diamond. When the Bible talks about being pure, we can think of it like being clear diamonds.

When God created the earth, everything was pure, like a diamond without defect. However, our sin has blemished our world with impurities, meaning we can no longer be in relationship with a holy and pure God.

So how do we find this purity again? Firstly, we can 'Deny' – we can justify our actions, we say things like: 'I was only mean because they were mean first.' Or, we can 'Despair' – get really down on ourselves; we can look at our imperfections and get really frustrated, wishing that we didn't have any flaws. Or we can 'Dig-in' and try really hard to be spotless.

The Bible offers us a different solution to all of these, which is to 'Depend' on God – as David prays in Psalm 51:10, 'Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.' We can do this because Jesus, the perfect diamond, offers to trade places with us. 2 Corinthians 5:21 reminds us that 'God made him who had no sin (Jesus) to be sin for us.' And now the promise for those who trust in Jesus is that 'as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.' (Psalm 103:12).



Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

lines and lines and lines exhibition	Friday 30 January to Saturday 28 February	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
SchoolTV program – student wellbeing resources	Available to all parents on the Parent Portal	Click here to watch
Old Girls information and tour morning	Friday 27 February 9.30-11 am	Level 2, Betty Archdale Library
AOGU Generations Breakfast	Wednesday 4 May 7-8.30 am	Junior School Auditorium
International Women's Day Breakfast	Friday 6 March 7-9 am	Senior School Cafeteria
ART NORTH exhibition	Saturday 7 to Saturday 28 March	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
NAPLAN testing	Wednesday 11 to Friday 13 March	Junior and Senior School locations

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 5 Cuppa and Connections	Monday 2 March 8-9.30 am	Bundarra Lawn
Year 2 Cuppa and Connections	Wednesday 4 March 8-9.30 am	Bundarra Lawn
Junior Cross Country Carnival	Thursday 5 March 8 am-12.15 pm	
K-2 Literacy and Numeracy parent session	Friday 6 March 9.30-10.30 am	JS Auditorium
Year 6 Cuppa and Connections	Monday 9 March 8-9.30 am	Bundarra Lawn
Year 4 Father Daughter dinner	Thursday 12 March 6-8.30 pm	Senior School Dining Room
Transition Grow Your Friendship Day	Thursday 26 February	JS Locations

SENIOR SCHOOL

Saturday sport	Saturday 14 and Saturday 21 February	Click here for times and venues
Year 11 Agriculture excursion	Tuesday 3 March	Leppington Dairy
Year 10 Parent information night and BBQ	Wednesday 4 March 6-8 pm	PDCH and Marian Clarke Plaza
Junior Cross Country Carnival	Thursday 5 March 12.30-3.30 pm	Senior School campus
Wimbledon at Wahroonga	Friday 6 March 3.30-5.30 pm	Senior School tennis courts
Year 12 assessment block	Monday 9 to Tuesday 17 March	Senior School locations
Senior School Challenge Week	Monday 9 to Tuesday 17 March	Various locations
Year 7 DigiEd claymation workshop	Monday 9 to Tuesday 10 March	iHub
Year 11 RYDA excursion	Tuesday 10 March	RYDA St Ives
Year 10 Canberra excursion	Tuesday 10 to Thursday 12 March	Canberra, ACT
Year 11 Urban Challenge	Wednesday 11 to Friday 13 March	Various locations