

# The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

## Journey With Joy' at Abbotsleigh Pre K-12

Mrs Megan Krimmer  
Headmistress

Our wonderful Pre K-12 school community is filled with girls who are curious, creative, courageous, enthusiastic, vibrant and involved. It is both a delight and a privilege to be with the girls every day and to see them grow and develop as they travel on their 'journey with joy', making a positive impact on their world here at school and in the wider community, and aiming to become the best young women they can be.

In order to provide the best possible learning, co-curricular and life experiences for our girls in an exciting and age-appropriate way, our school is organised into four 'schools' – Junior School, Boarding School, Middle School and Senior College – each working together to provide rich and varied experiences that make up the unified 'whole school' that is Abbotsleigh.

Over the next four weeks, each Head of School will provide insights into the unique and fabulous character of their schools. Our series begins this week with an article by Ms Larissa Cameron, our Head of Junior School. I warmly commend to you Ms Cameron's snapshot of our nurturing, vibrant and energetic Junior School.



## Journey With Joy': Joyful and purposeful learning in our Junior School

Ms Larissa Cameron  
Head of Junior School



Abbotsleigh is a remarkable Pre K-12 community. Each day I see girls who are curious, kind, courageous and full of potential; girls who are encouraged to flourish in all aspects of their lives. Across the Junior School, learning is purposeful, relationships are strong, and there is a deep sense of belonging. It is a privilege to work in a school where girls are known, nurtured and challenged to grow with confidence as learners and as people.

Our vision at Abbotsleigh is clear: that our girls love to learn and lead, and are empowered to be independent, collaborative and courageous trailblazers who make a positive difference in the world, now and in the future. This vision is grounded in our Christian values of integrity, respect, compassion, courage and perseverance.

These values guide how we teach, how we learn and how we treat one another. They are lived each day in classrooms, in the playground and beyond, and they remain our anchor as a community.

As the year has progressed, the Junior School has been alive with energy, engagement and purpose. One of the great joys of my role is spending time with the girls throughout the day, greeting them on the footpath in the morning, chatting during playtime, observing learning in classrooms and cheering them on at sport and co-curricular events. In these moments, the joy of learning is unmistakable. The girls' enthusiasm, focus and willingness to try reflect a school culture where they feel safe, valued and supported.



Across the year, this has been evident in the rich learning opportunities offered to our girls. Purposeful classroom teaching, specialist programs, targeted extension and support, flexible groupings and learning enrichment initiatives work together to ensure that each girl is challenged and supported in ways that are responsive to her needs. Learning is not confined to a single moment or subject. It happens through collaboration, reflection, creativity and curiosity, and through authentic opportunities to apply learning in meaningful ways.

Contemporary educational research consistently affirms the importance of these conditions for learning. Scholars such as Martin Seligman (2018-2022) and John Hattie (2008, updated 2023) highlight the close relationship between wellbeing,

engagement and academic growth. More recent work on the Science of Learning and Development, led by Linda Darling-Hammond alongside Pamela Cantor and David Osher (2020-2023), emphasises that positive relationships, emotional safety and a strong sense of belonging are foundational to deep thinking, persistence and the transfer of learning. We are intentional in creating the environments and experiences that allow this to develop and deepen for our girls.

Beyond the classroom, camps, excursions, performances, sporting commitments, service opportunities, leadership experiences and community events play an important role in shaping confidence, empathy and character. These shared experiences strengthen friendships, build independence and create memories that contribute to a joyful and engaging school life.

This year, our Junior School girls were introduced to Abbotsleigh's 2026 Prefect theme, Journey With Joy. As they unpack what this means, the girls are learning that joy is more than a feeling, it is a way of approaching learning, relationships and challenges with gratitude, courage and hope. Whether your daughter is learning to read, navigating friendships, tackling new challenges or discovering her strengths, we want her to know that joy can be found in effort, growth, connection and belonging to a community that walks alongside her.

Strong partnerships remain central to all that we do. Research into school improvement and collective efficacy, including the work of Andy Hargreaves and Michael Fullan (2012) and Hargreaves and O'Connor (2018), emphasises the power of collaboration and shared responsibility. At Abbotsleigh, we see learning as a partnership. Parents bring deep knowledge of their daughters, staff bring professional expertise and care, and the girls bring curiosity, creativity and their unique strengths. When these come together, learning becomes richer, more responsive and more joyful.

Thank you for the many ways you contribute to our community. We know family life is busy, and each family's capacity to be involved will vary. Whether it is attending an event, supporting from the sidelines,



offering encouragement or simply sharing a warm greeting at drop-off or pick-up, every gesture makes a positive difference. Conversations at home also matter. Asking your daughter about gratitude, leadership or kindness reinforces that the values we hold are shared between home and school.

I look forward to the continued growth, learning and joy that lies ahead for every girl.



*'And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, but encouraging one another.'*

*Hebrews 10:24*



# Chaplain

## Journey: God makes a way

Rev Sarah Hobba  
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

Junior School Chapel this week took us on the journey of the Hebrews as God led them out of Egypt. We explored the dramatic event when they found themselves stuck between the Red Sea in front of them and Pharaoh's army closing in behind. Fear and uncertainty would have been very real, but God showed His power by making a way to rescue them. He sent a strong wind to part the sea, allowing the Hebrews to walk through on dry ground. What seemed like the end of the journey became a powerful story of God's rescue.

With the help of our regular visiting puppet, Trevor, we also reflected on how God protected the Hebrews by placing a cloud between them and the Egyptian army, shielding them from danger. This story connects beautifully with our Prefect theme, 'Journey With Joy'. Even when the journey is confusing, frightening, or we feel stuck, God is present, guiding, protecting and making a way forward. True joy is not found in an easy

journey but in trusting that, through the great rescue God has given us in Jesus, He walks with us every step of the way, turning obstacles into growth in faith and hope.

<sup>1</sup> *Descendants of Jacob, I, the Lord, created you and formed your nation.*

*Don't be afraid. I have rescued you. I have called you by name; now you belong to me.*

<sup>2</sup> *When you cross deep rivers, I will be with you, and you won't drown.*

*When you walk through fire, you won't be burned or scorched by the flames.*

<sup>3</sup> *I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, the God who saves you.*

**Isaiah 43:1-3a (CEV)**

# Upcoming events

## WHOLE SCHOOL

<b>Parent Wellbeing Hive - parent wellbeing resources</b>	Available to all parents on the Parent Portal	<b>Click here</b> to visit
<b>Pacific Highway pedestrian overpass overnight closure</b>	Tuesday 28 April to Friday 31 July 9 pm-5 am	15 temporary overnight closures to complete work on pedestrian overpass
<b>Juno Gemes exhibition</b>	Friday 8 May to Wednesday 3 June	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
<b>Mother's Day</b>	Sunday 10 May	
<b>AMEB Music Examination period</b>	Monday 11 to Saturday 16 May	SS Music Department
<b>Boarding Expo</b>	Friday 15 to Saturday 16 May	Dubbo
<b>K-12 Mother Daughter Dinner</b>	Friday 15 May 6.30-9.30 pm	Miramare Gardens
<b>APA Trivia Night</b>	Saturday 23 May 7-11 pm	SS Gymnasium

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

<b>Charlotte Barkla author visit – Years 2-3</b>	Monday 11 May 9.15-10.45 am	JS Auditorium
<b>Year 4 Judith Krause parent evening</b>	Monday 11 May 7-8.30 pm	JS Auditorium
<b>Year 1 Vaucluse House excursion</b>	Wednesday 13 May	Vaucluse
<b>Years 5-6 da Vinci Decathlon</b>	Thursday 14 May	Knox Grammar School
<b>Year 5 IPSHA debate vs The King's School</b>	Friday 15 May 1-2.30 pm	JS Auditorium

## SENIOR SCHOOL

<b>Saturday sport</b>	Saturday 16 May	<b>Click here</b> for times and venues
<b>Year 12 music performance</b>	Sunday 10 May 11 am-4.30 pm	Galston Uniting Church
<b>Boarders Week</b>	Monday 11 to Friday 15 May	
<b>Boarder Chapel</b>	Monday 11 May 5.30-6.30 pm	Chapel
<b>Years 7-8 da Vinci Decathlon</b>	Tuesday 12 May	Knox Grammar School
<b>IGSA Archdale Debating – round 1</b>	Tuesday 12 May 4-8 pm	Various school locations
<b>Years 9-11 da Vinci Decathlon</b>	Wednesday 13 May	Knox Grammar School
<b>Year 9 Parent Teacher night</b>	Wednesday 13 May 3.30-8.30 pm	Online
<b>Years 9-10 UNSW Museum of Disease excursion</b>	Thursday 14 May	UNSW
<b>Shakespeare regional carnival</b>	Thursday 14 May 4-9 pm	Assembly Hall/PDCH
<b>Year 11 Earth Science excursion</b>	Friday 15 May 11 am-12.45 pm	The Glade
<b>Year 10 Work Experience</b>	Monday 18 to Friday 22 May	
<b>Years 8-9 Somerset Camp</b>	Monday 18 to Thursday 21 May	Colo River
<b>IGSA Archdale Debating – round 2</b>	Tuesday 19 May 4-8 pm	Various school locations