The
Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.



Shining a **light with joy** on our teachers

Mrs Victoria Rennie
Deputy Headmistress

This week, as we celebrate World Teachers' Day, we have taken the opportunity to shine a light on the extraordinary educators who bring learning to life across Abbotsleigh, from our youngest learners in Early Learning through to our Year 12 students.

Every day, our teachers inspire each girl to become the best version of herself. They are educators, mentors and role models who encourage our students to be curious, courageous and ambitious, while helping them discover their individual strengths, interests and sense of purpose. They give generously of their time, expertise and care, encouraging our girls in so many areas.

At our Assembly this week, we paused to reflect on something that sits at the very heart of World Teachers' Day: the profound and lasting difference a teacher can make in the life of a young person.

Margot, our Head Prefect – Duties 2026-2027, captured this beautifully as she introduced a wonderful video prepared by Media and Events Manager Mr Egan, in which students from across the School paid tribute to their teachers and shared messages of gratitude. She reflected that teachers come into our lives at such an important time, during childhood and adolescence, when young people are forming their values, learning to make their own judgements and beginning to understand both themselves and the world around them.

As she reminded us, a great teacher is so much more than someone who teaches a subject. Teachers have the capacity to make young people feel seen and known. They guide them through challenges and offer encouragement, perspective and reassurance when it is needed most. Their influence can remain long after a student leaves the classroom, shaping not only what she knows, but who she becomes.

This message was echoed by our guest speaker, Old Girl and past Head Prefect Caitlin Bogil (Oschadleus, 2019), who spoke warmly about her own time at Abbotsleigh and the teachers who inspired her, challenged her thinking and encouraged her to look beyond academic results to consider the person she wanted to become.

Caitlin invited the girls to consider three different kinds of passion:

- **Head passion:** What makes you curious? What do you want to learn more about?
- **Heart passion:** What do you love doing? What brings you joy and gives you a sense of purpose?
- **Stomach passion:** What lights a fire within you? What matters so deeply that it inspires you to act and make a difference?





Visit the Parent Portal to edit your profile, view the calendar and view parent notices.

Using the analogy of LEGO blocks, Caitlin encouraged the girls to imagine themselves as the architects of their own lives, building their futures one piece at a time through their experiences, choices, relationships, interests and opportunities. Importantly, she reflected that her Abbotsleigh teachers had encouraged her to see herself as far more than an ATAR or a set of academic results. They challenged her to consider a much bigger question: Who are you created to be?

It was a powerful reminder of why teachers matter so deeply. Great teachers awaken curiosity in the head, nurture passion in the heart, and ignite the conviction within us to act. They see possibility in young people, sometimes before young people can see it in themselves, and help them imagine who they might become.

This World Teachers' Day, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our remarkable educators across Early Learning, Junior School and Senior School. Through the voices of our students, the reflections of our Old Girls and the experiences we see in our classrooms every day, we are reminded of the extraordinary privilege and enduring impact of teaching.

To all our teachers, thank you for what you teach, for the way you care, and for the difference you make in the lives of our girls each and every day.

Chaplain

Known and cared for

Rev Sarah Hobba
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

One of the qualities that students often remember most about a great teacher is not what they taught, but how they made them feel. Years later, few people can recall every lesson they sat through, but many can remember the teacher who cared, who not only knew their name but noticed little things like when they were struggling, gave them a confidence boost or even celebrated their successes with them along the way.

This World Teachers' Day, we give thanks for the teachers who invest so deeply in the lives of young people, helping them feel known and cared for.

In Luke's Gospel, when Jesus reached Jericho, he stopped beneath a tree and called out, *'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today'* (Luke 19:5). Zacchaeus was about to learn from Jesus, and while others saw Zacchaeus simply as a traitor tax collector, Jesus saw an individual. Jesus knew Zacchaeus by name and knew the deeper questions and needs of his heart. Through Jesus, Zacchaeus discovered the answers, which were love and acceptance that ultimately led him to repentance and a transformed life.

The Bible tells us that God's knowledge of us is remarkable. Jesus taught that God knows the very number of hairs on our heads (Luke 12:7), and the Psalms speak of God knowing us even before we were born (Psalm 139). We are not lost in a crowd or overlooked among billions of others. We are seen, known and loved by the God who created us.

As we celebrate the teachers who help students feel valued and recognised, we can also be reminded of the God who knows each of us completely and whose love for us never changes.



Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. [2] A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. [3] He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. [4] So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

[5] When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.' [6] So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. [7] All the people saw this and began to mutter, 'He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.'

[8] But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.'

[9] Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. [10] For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.'

Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

Parent Wellbeing Hive – parent wellbeing resources	Available to all parents on the Parent Portal	**Click here** to visit
After Namatjira Richard Dunn Exhibition	Saturday 31 October to Saturday 28 November	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
Music Instrumental Festival	Wednesday 4 November	PDCH, Senior Campus
Sports Awards Evening	Friday 6 November, 5-8 pm	PDCH
Abbotsleigh Dance Festival	Saturday 14 November, 12.30-6.30 pm	Senior School Assembly Hall

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 5 Surf Education excursion	Monday 2 November	Manly Beach
Year 6 Surf Education excursion	Tuesday 3 November	Manly Beach
Year 6 AbbKart Derby	Tuesday 10 November, 1.15-2 pm	
Year 1 Botanic Gardens	Wednesday 11 November	
Year 4 French Breakfast and Kindness Day	Thursday 12 November	Year 4 classrooms
Infants Swimming Carnival	Friday 13 November, 8.20 am-2.20 pm	Senior School Aquatic Centre

SENIOR SCHOOL

Saturday sport	Saturday 31 October	**Click here**
Year 9 Languages incursions	Wednesday 4 November	Various locations
Year 10 Semi-Formal	Thursday 5 November, 6-10.30 pm	Hornsby RSL
Year 12 Prefect afternoon tea	Friday 6 November, 4-6 pm	Year 12 Common Room and Marian Clarke Plaza
Year 10 History Excursion	Monday 9 November	Bondi Junction Synagogue
Years 9-11 Elective Drama Showcase	Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 November, 6-8 pm	Drama Studio
Remembrance Day Assembly	Wednesday 11 November 12.45-1.15 pm	Assembly Hall and PDCH
Year 7 Geography field trip	Thursday 12 November	Bondi Beach
Year 7 History excursion	Thursday 12 November	Chau Chak Wing Museum