At your service with a smile!
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The results from our recent biennial parent survey indicate that 90% of our parents would recommend St John's Grammar School to others because they see that the school is:

- Safe, well thought of, holding high expectations of students and staff,
- an excellent learning environment,
- a varied and interesting curriculum,
- serves the needs of students, fair with discipline,
- provides equal educational access and is proactive in ongoing development and improvement.

As one parent wrote:

> Although our child has only had one term at the school we are very happy. Our child is coming home telling us that they love the school, feel safe and secure, is challenged with learning, wants to aim to do the best they can and is able to be themselves in the St John's environment. As parents we cannot ask for more than that.

Our students continue to excel beyond the gates of the school indicating that they have been well taught and are motivated to do their best. Examples this year include:

- 4 Bronze and 1 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Medals
- 2 students selected in the Class of Cabaret
- 1 student selected in the SA Jazz Youth Super Band
- 2 students selected in the Adelaide Youth Orchestra (one is in Year 3)
- 1 student selected for the London International Youth Science Forum
- A student won the Blackwood Rotary Art student section first prize
- Multiple students have been selected for State sporting teams

Our focus is to continue improving in all areas. We are very proud of our achievements in so many areas and delighted with the quality of our teaching staff who facilitate the success of our students. It is lovely that so many of you acknowledge their work.

Our students continue to excel beyond the gates of the school indicating that they have been well taught and are motivated to do their best.

We do have a B4 booklet that provides an overview of the special things about St John’s. If you would like a copy of one of these booklets to enable you to share St John’s with other families outside the school, you could collect one from Reception at either campus.

Cheryl Bauer

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

When Everyone Belongs

Contrary to what some might believe, Christianity is not about conformity. Rather, the “kingdom of God” of which Jesus so often spoke is a community or family in which diversity is not just acceptable but welcome. Different cultures, personalities, interests and languages all speak of the deep, rich complexity of the world God loves.

The theme of the Anglican School’s Service at St Peter’s Cathedral (May 22) was ‘When Everyone Belongs’. The “when” is important, not just to honestly acknowledge that we are not yet perfect in our inclusivity, but to remind us that we aspire to make a world in which this is true.

St John’s students were invited to perform a short dramatic piece that highlighted both the need for change and the hope we have. Their performance was so successful that the Archbishop was moved to invite them to perform at the Anglican Synod Opening Service later this year.

In our world, our country, our State and even our school, people of faith and people of good will work together, attempting to make sure that each person has a place and knows they ‘belong’. This effort reflects the understanding that we are made in ‘the image of God’; that – just as God does - we long for a world in which we can live in peace with each other.

The simplest and hardest part of the chaplain’s role is to keep reminding the school community of the central importance of God’s commandment to “Love one another as I have loved you” (John 15.12). Peace between human beings relies on love, acceptance, inclusion and persistence. There is nothing easy about this but it is the path that leads to abundant life for all people.

I encourage you to pray, in whatever way seems best to you, that St John’s might continue to be known as a community in which everyone belongs. Thank you for the part you already play in your homes and through your love for your children.

Fr Stephen Daughtry
The ANZAC Youth Vigil we attended at Blackwood was a very meaningful service. We laid a wreath to pay our respects to the fallen soldiers who fought to give us the freedom and the society we have today. It was an honour and a privilege to be able to represent St John’s at a service like this. Seeing other schools there as well was great, especially students from local primary schools. The CFS volunteers, St John’s First Aid and Scouts were all keeping vigil throughout the whole night, which was a great way to pay their respects and acknowledge the sacrifices made in all wars involving troops from Australia and New Zealand.

Bailey Hornabrook (Year 8) and Victoria Hetherington (Year 9)

Shrove Tuesday

This year the Property Services team provided pancakes for the Junior Campus on Shrove Tuesday. With their usual good cheer they rolled in the barbecue and all the condiments required for delicious pancakes, much to the delight of all the children and staff.

This will be David Hill’s (R) last pancake day as later in the year he will commence leave that will take him to retirement next February, 50 years since he first started working. David started on the Junior Campus before the Secondary Campus opened, and was always a favourite with the children, much as he is today with a kind word for all he meets. Thanks David, happy retirement!
An Inspector Called and our Year 12 Drama students were on the case......

Our talented Stage 2 Drama class presented an engaging piece of ‘drawing room’ theatre at Urrbrae House on three nights in June.

JB Priestley’s play is like a ‘whodunnit’ murder mystery with a twist. Set in 1912, the play asks its audience to focus on a wealthy family, the Birlings, and their treatment of those around them. Issues of social class, youth and age, responsibility and avoiding it, cause and effect, the supernatural and social duty are all themes presented and issues still very relevant today.

Strong performances from Isabella Shaw, Andre Chaney, Isabelle Henshall, Zoe Michael, Jackson Dann and Kate Raymond held the audiences in this emotive story and language based piece. Beautiful costume design from Georgia Moore completed the ensemble and the historic home of Peter Waite was the ‘icing on the cake’.

Patrick Penfold
Director
The Year 9 Drama class has been studying Australian Theatre in Semester 1 with a focus on three icon plays; The Currency Lass by Edward Geoghegan (1844), The Summer of the 17th Doll by Ray Lawler (1955) and When the Rain Stops Falling by Andrew Bovell (2008). Students studied the social context, the playwright, key moments, themes and the style of each play and were then given an excerpt to learn, rehearse and present to film. The characterisation for this work used the Russian practitioner Constantin Stanislavski and his famous ‘Method Acting’ process and some of Laban’s actions. The students developed their skills through this process and were able to present believable characters with effective use of gesture, accent, physicality and stagecraft.

The semester was brought to a grand finale with an ‘Ozcars’ Awards night which acknowledges the efforts of our Year 9s and gives parents and friends an opportunity to see their children’s performance skills on the silver screen. Ozcar trophies were awarded to the stronger performances in each excerpt. There was also a People’s Choice Award and Best New Talent Award. According to our distinguished judges, Shawn Kasbergen, Jordon Tomopoulos (2012) and Candice Slingerland, the quality of performances was high and it was very difficult to choose the winners. May I suggest that Drama was the winner on the night and all participants deserved much praise for their fantastic efforts.

Patrick Penfold
Head of Performing Arts
On Sunday 23 June two groups of Year 9 students along with Ms Manning, Mr Penfold, Ms Inwood and Mr Kasbergen left on ‘The Journey’ to Vietnam. All students had worked hard to fundraise to donate to the Thien Phuoc Orphanage, the KOTO organisation which is a cooking and hospitality school for homeless teenagers, and also to help build a house for a local family in the Mekong Delta.

After the long flight via Kuala Lumpur we all arrived safely in Ho Chi Minh, the biggest city in Vietnam. It was quite a culture shock for the majority of students because as soon as we got outside onto the roads we were confronted with fast motorbikes, a huge, noisy city and with so much going on! It was such a different environment and we all wanted to explore the whole city.

The first activity that our group took part in was at KOTO. This is an amazing organisation where the motto “Know One Teach One” is very powerful. We were given a Masterchef challenge and presented
an amazing three course meal with help of the KOTO students. We then spent the following day at the Water Park with the students, and had dinner at their house which was an amazing experience. We grew very close to the KOTO kids and formed a very special bond to each and every one of them.

On the third day of our trip we went to the Orphanage and Cu Chi Tunnels. Thien Phuoc Orphanage specialises in caring for children who suffer from the ongoing effects of Agent Orange. We spent time caring for them, playing with them and feeding them. This was such a rare experience and we made the most of it. The Cu Chi tunnels were very educational as we learned all about the Vietnam War (known as the American War in Vietnam).

Our next adventure was the three hour journey to the Mekong Delta by bus and boat to take part in the House Building Project. It was very strenuous and difficult as we had to lay bricks, mix cement, carry bricks to the construction site and weave leaves for the ceiling of the kitchen. Although it was a struggle, seeing the excited faces of the people we were building the house for was extremely motivating. As we were close to completion, we left the builders to do the finishing touches. The group was extremely proud of what we had achieved.

We then took the bus back to Ho Chi Minh and visited the War Remnants museum where we learnt about the effects of the Vietnam War on the local people. Our journey then continued in Hoi An, where we went to Marble Mountain and enjoyed the great views of China Beach. We spent a day at South China Sea which we reached by riding bicycles. The water was beautiful and very refreshing. We spent the day having fun, enjoying ourselves and just relaxing before we left for Hanoi the next day.

We spent a short amount of time in Hanoi – exploring the city and a tour of the town on electric cars, before we went on the overnight train to Sapa. In Sapa we spent our time hiking throughout the spectacular hills of the Hmong people. We walked for hours each day as the Hmong people followed us so we would buy something that costs 50c Australian! Almost everybody fell over in the muddy mountains - Ms Inwood even fell into rice paddies!

It was such a different environment and we all wanted to explore the whole city.

Once we had finished in Sapa we took the overnight train back to Hanoi where we visited the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum. We then came to the realisation that it was the end of the trip and that we were flying back to Australia the next day! We had a dinner to celebrate our amazing journey and we are all very grateful of the experiences we had - ones we will never forget!

Rebecca Christie
Year 9
Middle School Camps

The 2013 Middle School Camps again gave the opportunity for students and teachers alike to develop positive relationships within the St John’s Grammar community.

The Year 7s and 9s were involved in aquatic based camps during week 6 of Term 1 and the Year 8 group bushwalked in Kuitpo Forest during week 3 of Term 2. The students were involved in an array of activities including surfing, problem solving, Aboriginal dot painting, rock climbing and canoeing.

The camps aim to build up student knowledge of the outdoors and develop lifelong skills through challenging experiences.

Paul Travis
Outdoor Ed Co-ordinator
The da Vinci Decathlon

St John’s Middle School was invited to nominate a team to enter the new da Vinci Decathalon competition, which St Peter’s Girls School was running. The June event was designed to challenge and stimulate the thinking of able students and this certainly proved to be our students’ experience!

Students worked entirely alone in their group and had to rely on pulling together and using each other’s strengths.

Eight students arrived at St Peter’s early, having spent the previous week working through past examples of challenges similar to those the students would face on the day, nervous and filled with trepidation. The activities during the course of the day were varied and interesting and included: science, philosophy, English, maths, engineering, art and poetry, code breaking, cartography and general knowledge. Our group did particularly well, winning two categories – cartography and code breaking! They were very excited both when the results were shared on the day and also when they received their certificates back in school at an assembly.

It was a very worthwhile undertaking and we are hoping that St Peter’s Girls make it a regular event on the school calendar. Students worked entirely alone in their group and had to rely on pulling together and using each other’s strengths. I thoroughly enjoyed supporting them and also enjoyed the opportunity to take part myself, as a marker in the engineering and art and poetry challenges.

Claire Nicholls
Head of Extension Programs

Grandma’s Statue

When Charlotte was in Monti she asked her grandma if she could bring in Grandma’s statue. She said that it reminded her of the eagle that belongs to St John’s. The children were looking at the wooden statue and realised that it was the same as the badges on their Monti uniforms. There was lots of discussion about the eagle soaring and the school and the badge and their relationships to each other.
Halstead continue winning streak

The 2013 Senior School Athletics Carnival saw Halstead extend their winning streak to 9 straight years. It was a fantastic effort from all students in the hot conditions but Halstead was the overall winner by the narrowest of margins ahead of Prince. Well done Halstead, there were some outstanding individual and team efforts throughout the day. Let’s make it a winning decade in 2014! A special mention goes to the Halstead House Captains for their fantastic organisation.

Paul Travis
Head of Halstead

Secondary Schools Cycling Tour 2013

A relatively small team of 8 represented the school at this year’s tour. For half the team this year’s race was their first foray into competitive cycling and an emphasis was on enjoying the experience and trying their best.

Day 1 events were held at McLaren Vale in blustery conditions and all competitors put in a great effort, and in the Individual Time Trial the team achieved some good results. Afternoon Road Races ranged in distance from 17km for D grade boys to 71km for the A graders. After a well-earned overnight rest the team backed up on Friday down at Sellicks Beach for the final two events of the tour. An early start saw a few bleary eyes but once racing got underway all put on their race faces and went to work.

All students dug deep in windy conditions to battle adversaries around a very difficult circuit in the Criterion. During presentations Victoria Hetherington was recognised by Cycling Australia scouts and provided with some great opportunities to try out Track Cycling and compete in Cycling Australia sanctioned races throughout the year. Overall the school was once again victorious, with true grit and determination outweighing numbers from other schools.

A very successful tour in the end!

Riccardo Rosadoni
Head of Cycling
Since joining Tennis Australia’s 'MLC Tennis Hot Shots National Schools Partnership Program' at the end of 2012, Hot Shots mini tennis has taken off in the Junior School.

Hot Shots Tennis allows primary school students the opportunity to play modified tennis with easy to use equipment. Smaller courts, shorter racquets and lower compression balls that don’t bounce over young children’s heads are some of the modifications made to ensure success in the game of tennis is achievable for primary students.

Some year levels have experienced Hot Shots Tennis in PE lessons with our local club coach, Helen Rice. Since the provision of a grant from Tennis Australia, which saw the line-marking of four Hot Shots Tennis Courts on our existing asphalt netball court, all Junior School students now have the option of playing Hot Shots Tennis at recess and lunch times.

Ben Cleggett

Ben Cleggett was one of three SA teachers invited to attend the MLC Hot Shots conference at the Australian Open in Melbourne in January 2013. Tennis Australia flew him over, took him to the tennis, with some meetings, briefings and practical sessions thrown in too. Here he is, pumped and having a hit on Hisense Arena at the Australian Open! Where are the crowds?

Hayden Browne, Year 10 and seen here with his sister Ellen being pulled by Tink, has been awarded a Youth Development Scholarship to further his Driving prowess.
A SPECIAL VISIT

What an amazing afternoon we had at Preschool today. For some time, the Preschoolers have been fascinated and eager to don our pale blue “Police shirts” entering into various role-play scenarios - setting up Police Stations and creating Police cars, before returning to hunt for so called “robbers” and “baddies”. Whilst privy to many and varied conversations around “What Police Officers do”, it seemed that our Preschoolers tended to revert back to the same images time and again. So you can imagine our pleasure and excitement when Senior Constable Steven White (Joshua’s Dad) offered to bring in a police car for the children to experience up close and in real life.............

So this afternoon joined by the Monti children we were in for a great adventure as two men dressed in navy uniforms arrived in a very important police car and came through the Preschool front door.

Police visit the ELC

What an amazing afternoon we had at Preschool today. For some time, the Preschoolers have been fascinated and eager to don our pale blue “Police shirts” entering into various role-play scenarios - setting up Police Stations and creating Police cars, before returning to hunt for so called “robbers” and “baddies”. Whilst privy to many and varied conversations around “What Police Officers do”, it seemed that our Preschoolers tended to revert back to the same images time and again. So you can imagine our pleasure and excitement when Senior Constable Steven White (Joshua’s Dad) offered to bring in a police car for the children to experience up close and in real life.............

So this afternoon joined by the Monti children we were in for a great adventure as two men dressed in navy uniforms arrived in a very important police car and came through the Preschool front door.

After greeting Senior Constable “Steven” and Senior Constable “John”, we sat ready to listen and share some very important information.

Firstly we learnt about the new Police Uniform that had changed from the pale blue shirts to the new navy ones and that Police wear different styles of hats according to the weather. We had such fun passing around the different hats and trying them on.....

We discovered what Police wear on their belts as part of their uniform - guns with bullets (this made a few eyes get rounder!!), hand cuffs, a fold-out bludgeon, a spray for eyes and the all important radio. The children really enjoyed trying on the rather heavy bullet proof vests that had been brought along, discovering that they were made of Kevlar.

There was time to talk about the things that Police do......helping with traffic and car accidents, finding lost
children, riding police horses, even giving out speeding tickets. As well as the important reminder about what to do when you get lost or separated from your parents. There was a great response from all when asked what is the number you call when you want Police....000 was the unanimous reply!!!

It was also reassuring to hear the children share their awareness about strangers, a timely reminder in regards to “Stranger Danger”.

However, it was with even greater excitement that we ventured out into the car park to see the Police car. The children eagerly gathered around delighting in hearing Steve’s voice over the speaker as he announced “everyone behind the yellow line”. Obligingly the children all checked their toes before eagerly awaiting their turn to climb into the police car sitting both in the front and the back. There were squeals of laughter as the children pushed the various buttons inside the car - turning on and off lights, sirens and beeping the horns whilst those on the outside covered their ears.....what a fabulous commotion!!

Once everyone had had a turn we ventured inside once again with Steven while John waited in the car ready to respond to the children as they had a turn talking on the radio.

Before bidding farewell our Police friends kindly handed out a special activity book, hat, stickers and special car to all of the children. It truly was a sensational afternoon and a very memorable way for the children to spend their last afternoon here at Preschool.

Sue Cullen and Kate Burns
Preschool staff

Junior School Leaders

Student leaders for 2013 Ben Ransom, Jordi Harbridge-Marks, Jake Losasso and Jordan Murray attended a local community forum in March with special guest speaker The Hon Tony Abbott MHR. It was a great experience for the student leaders to be able to join with our community, listen to discussions and share ideas. Each of our student leaders had prepared questions based on their own class discussions regarding local and national issues, and Jake was thrilled to be selected to ask his in the forum. Jake also won the door prize and was presented with a signed copy of “A Strong Australia” written by Tony Abbott.

Melissa Threadgold

It was a great experience for the student leaders to be able to join with our community, listen to discussions and share ideas.
1. Joseph Noble (2007) and Emily Dickson (2006) graduated from ADFA in the same ceremony in December 2012. Joe completed his 3 year degree and is now an Air Combat Officer and will be posted anywhere in Australia to complete his navigator course. Emily will attend Duntroon as a Staff Cadet at Royal Military College completing her military training and will then be posted as a Lieutenant.


3. Nichola Shaw (2003) and Piers Duggan (2003) were married in December, seen here with her parents Mark and Judy

4. James Baker (2007) was successful in his application for a Prime Ministers Australia Asia Award, which is recognised as the “Asian Equivalent” of the Rhodes Scholarship. In August he will complete his honours, in Indonesian Studies studying disability rights in Indonesia, before completing an internship with the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs which is responsible for implementing these rights.

5. Nick Mitchell (2009) has been in Washington DC, Capitol Hill, working in a Congressman’s office as one of five Flinders Uni students who were accepted into the ‘Washington Internship Program’. Nick had some amazing experiences, and this photo shows one of them. He was giving a speech on behalf of Flinders University Interns at the Australian Embassy with our US Ambassador, Mr Kim Beazley, looking on.

6. Alice (Weekes 2004) and Tom Cornish (2004) are proud parents of Isla Paige, born 7 June. Staff member Michael Cornish is thrilled to have a grand-daughter!

7. After their wedding earlier this year at Aggie’s Opp Shop Bethanie (Lambert 2006) and Ben Coggins (2006) are delighted with the arrival of Lola Elizabeth May on 2 August.

8. Maddie Cameron (2011) was been selected in the 2013 Australian U19 Women’s Softball Team to compete at the ISF (International Softball Federation) X Junior Women’s World Championship in Ontario Canada in July. Australia came 3 out of 16 countries, receiving bronze medal, Japan won gold and USA silver.

2. Bu Megan Thomas (Woodger 2002) was farewelled at a Junior School assembly at the end of Term 2 to prepare for her baby’s arrival.

3. At the end of Term 2 Maree Jolly retired after 10 years as the Head of Library Services and 44 years in the teaching profession. David Rawnsley, Persia Kotsaris (2012) and Alex Michelson, Year 12, all made farewell speeches.

4. Robyn Pfitzner also retired after 5 years as the assistant in the ELC. She is pictured here with Preschool staff Kate Burns and Sue Cullen.

5. Jo Zhang and Izaac, Tamsyn Voysey and Zachary, Leah Wardle and Evie, Isabelle Wilson and Sophia, Natalie McKenzie and Jasmine.
It has been an interesting first half of the year for the P&F. As has happened for several years now, we started off with New Parent Welcome drinks for both the Junior and Secondary Campuses. These events were well attended and it really is a great way to get to know other parents as well as P&F committee and senior staff.

Also early in the year the St John’s Golf Day was held at the Blackwood Golf Course in March. The new format involving an afternoon start with dinner to follow worked very well and it was amazing to me how many different prizes can be given out for playing the game!

The next activities to occupy the committee were the Mums and Dads Dinners, both held at the Edinburgh Hotel on separate nights in May. These were quite different events in that the dads felt they needed a guest speaker, while the mums felt no need for that at all! It was great to have the time to catch up with each other!

As well as both major and minor events, the P&F also raises funds through the selling of Entertainment Books and the People’s Choice Community Raffle. The Raffle in particular is a great fund-raiser as we get 100% of all the tickets sold returned to the school as profit!

In the coming months there will be a few other events designed to keep parents and families entertained. These include a Rock ‘n’ Roll night in August featuring the fabulous staff band The Edjukators, an Art Show in September showcasing some truly fantastic artwork by Junior School students and a Day on the Green Spring Fair on 27 October. This will be a major fund-raising event and promises to be a wonderful day out for the whole community.

The St John’s Parents and Friends Association is an organisation dedicated to raising friends and funds in order for our school community to be the best it can be. I hope you have been able (or will be able) to attend and enjoy one or more of our events and activities.

Jan Porter
Chair