

Community

Spring 2024 | Issue 79



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St Peters Campus 2024 Musical: Disney's The Jungle Book KIDS



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 Community is published biannually in Autumn and Spring.
 The reverse side of the mailing sheet can be used for changes of address and opportunities to be involved in the College.

COVER PICTURE
 Reception students Veronica and Dimitri using microscopes, assisted by Year 11 student Lachlan in our Nautilus Centre.

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From the Head of College

Embracing a Future-Focused and Inclusive Education at Concordia College

Recently, the campus Principals and I were grateful for the opportunity to be part of the National Lutheran Principal Conference in Brisbane. Several themes that resonate deeply with the priorities of Lutheran schools were highlighted, with an emphasis on the importance of the following actions:

- + preparing our students for a future shaped by rapid technological advancements
- + fostering inclusivity and awareness of diversity
- + embracing a Christian view of grace.

One of the standout topics was the need for our students to prepare for a digitally supercharged future. As we navigate an era of unprecedented change, it is crucial to equip our students with the skills to thrive in a rapidly changing digital landscape. At Concordia, we are committed to integrating new technologies such as artificial intelligence into the curriculum, as we guide our students in their development as responsible, competent and ethical digital citizens. In so doing, we provide a comprehensive education that prepares our young people for the complexities of the future.

Another significant theme was the importance of inclusivity, with a focus on understanding and embracing diversity. Our school community is dedicated to creating an environment where everyone feels valued, supported and included, regardless of their background or abilities. This involves a strong emphasis on mental health as we work together to ensure a safe and welcoming space for all students.

The principle of Christian grace is fundamental to the ethos of Lutheran schools and was also a central theme of the Conference. We strive to embody grace in our daily interactions at Concordia, promoting a culture of forgiveness, compassion and understanding. Grace is not just about overlooking mistakes; it is about fostering an environment where every individual feels valued and loved, regardless of their imperfections. As a Lutheran school, grace is our foundation for building meaningful relationships and nurturing a supportive community. It teaches our students the importance of empathy, encouraging them to see the world through the lens of kindness and generosity. By embracing grace, we aim to create a compassionate and inclusive environment in which every learner can grow and thrive. This Christian value permeates every aspect of our school life, reminding us of our shared humanity and the boundless love we are called to extend to one another.

As we approach the end of another year, may this love and grace be evident in our celebrations and commemorations, our learning and our leaving, whether that be graduation from Year 12 or heading off on holidays before returning in 2025. As we look ahead to commencing a new school year in the coming months, may we continue forging an extraordinary educational pathway for our students, underpinned by grace, love, kindness, generosity and compassion.

Paul Weinert
Head of College





Principals' Report

Supporting student aspirations from ELC to Year 12 is at the heart of our educational philosophy. Education, like any form of growth, is a journey – and we are privileged to have the opportunity to cultivate a learning ecosystem in which each learner has the input and support they need as they grow to achieve their goals.

From the earliest years, our staff create a nurturing environment that sparks curiosity and a genuine love for learning. Our educators, counsellors and allied health specialists work collaboratively to identify each student's strengths and passions, offering tailored learning experiences, support and resources.

As students advance through the College, they benefit from comprehensive career counselling, academic advice, and a rich array of extracurricular programs designed to enhance their unique skills and passions. Additionally, our College's robust support systems, including allied health specialists and personalised learning opportunities, ensure that every student has the confidence and strategies to pursue their aspirations, laying a solid foundation for lifelong success.

The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) promotes inquiry and the development of deep knowledge, skills and conceptual understanding. Our Primary School students engage with a series of 'central ideas' across each year and have the flexibility to lead related inquiries based on their strengths, passions and goals. This inquiry-based learning fosters curiosity and enables students to make connections across learning areas and take action as a result of their learning. In Year 6, our students present their PYP Exhibition, choosing an area of interest for inquiry, creating their own goals and taking action. They are supported to reach these goals by qualified staff members and dedicated mentors as well as community and industry connections who guide and assist the process.

Students in the Middle School develop a breadth of skills across and within a range of subject disciplines through the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP). The interconnected nature of the curriculum offerings allows them to become:

- + knowledgeable
- + caring
- + principled
- + balanced
- + open-minded
- + risk-takers (otherwise known as courageous learners).
- + thinkers
- + communicators
- + reflective
- + inquirers

All students undertake "The Rite Journey" - a year-long program - in Year 9. This is designed to help students build self-awareness and to acknowledge and celebrate a significant stage in their growth journey as they shift into adulthood. The MYP culminates in an opportunity for students to undertake the Community Project, engaging in a wide range of activities to extend their knowledge and understanding and to develop their skills and attitudes. This assists them in constructing an understanding of themselves as learners, which serves them well as they prepare for their final years of schooling.

In the Senior School, course counsellors work closely with students and their families to proactively assist with personalising a learning program for each student, featuring subjects that support their journey and their goals for future life, study and work. Opportunities to study specific areas of interest beyond the subjects offered during school are available through vocational and university studies, in conjunction with SACE subjects, as students progress towards graduation.

There are many extraordinary opportunities available to students at Concordia College. As Principals, we are committed to continuing to provide a streamlined education from ELC through to Year 12, so that our graduates leave with a quiet but confident sense of who they are, ready to move into their exciting futures.

Paul Bannister

Principal — St John's Campus

Bronwyn Wilson

Principal — St Peters Campus

Penny McKenzie

Principal — Concordia Campus



Ministry

Earlier this year, I was able to teach a unit with some Year 11s that looked at a Christian approach to wellbeing, which included an essay task. It was so pleasing to see how they approached this issue, articulating the contemporary challenges many people face and the way the Christian faith addresses our deepest needs and desires for wellbeing and wholeness. You can read some of their work in the essay excerpts below.

Our spiritual focus at the Concordia Campus this term has built on the topic 'The Way of Wellbeing'. The key image we have used depicts two very different trees and is based on the passage from Jeremiah 17:5-8, where a person who is connected to God and who places their trust in him is like a tree planted by a stream, with leaves that do not wither, and which always produces fruit, even in scorching heat and a year of drought. In this way, we are encouraged and empowered to face any challenge knowing that God is to be our source of life, peace and blessing.

Enjoy the article below and may God bless you to be fruitful in every season of your life!

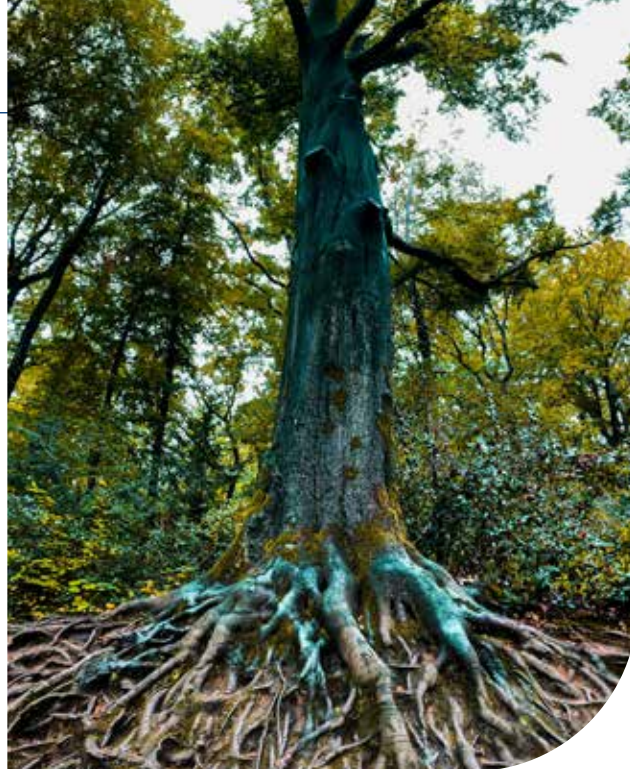
This is what the Lord says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the Lord. That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.

But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

— *Jeremiah 17:5-8*

Dale Gosden

College Pastor



Excerpts from a student essay titled 'A Christian Approach to Wellbeing'

The issue of our time

Since 1995 there has been a large increase in the focus on wellbeing and mental health. This has been vital in gaining a deeper understanding of what this generation of children is going through and why diagnoses around mental health have increased.

While certainly not the only factor, technology seems to have played a significant role in the mental health crisis that is being experienced across the world ... by creating a culture of comparison.

On a positive note, studies show that students with a healthier wellbeing have much to gain: they do better at school by an average of 5%, show improvement in their NAPLAN numeracy scores, have larger numbers of friends, and generally enjoy school more. Apart from the clear personal benefits, schools, as places of learning, have a vested interest in prioritising student wellbeing.

What does 'wellbeing' actually mean?

Wellbeing is a very broad topic with countless definitions, but all of them seem to be based around how a **person thinks and feels about themselves**, their overall **quality of life** and whether they feel like they have a **place where they belong**.

Wellbeing: a spiritual perspective

The concept of wellbeing has a strong focus throughout the Bible, though a word from the Hebrew language, 'Shalom', conveys something that goes even deeper than the term 'wellbeing'. *Shalom* describes something that is complete, something that is whole. Something that is *shalom* is complex, yet complete. In this way ... our wellbeing can be understood as God's work of *shalom* in our lives. Shalom, however, is also a verb, meaning 'to take what's missing and to restore'. If our wellbeing is tested or broken, God seeks to bring his *shalom* to our lives, to restore our wellbeing and make us whole.

As a Christian school, we are uniquely placed to be able to share the hope we have in a world and with a world that is feeling unsettled, uncertain, anxious and fearful. God's connection to us and the peace he seeks to give us prepare us for the challenges we are bound to face in life. Jesus came that we might have life and have it completely, wholly, shalom-ly; life to the full (John 10:10).

Amber, Angus and Jessica (Year 11)

Edited by Pastor Dale



Concordia Youth Retreat

From Friday 30 through to Saturday 31 August, a group of students from Years 7-12 gathered at our Blackwood campus for Concordia's first Youth Retreat! This inaugural retreat offered a unique opportunity for students to deepen their faith in a supportive and encouraging environment.

Looking at what it means to be 'Salt and Light' in the world, we enjoyed times of worship, Bible study, small group discussions and a workshop with Mustard, a program designed to support students navigating their faith at school.

We were also blessed to welcome staff (former and current) from Concordia alongside members of local congregations, tertiary ministry leaders and members of Evangelical Students at the University of Adelaide. This was an incredible opportunity for students to connect with fellow Christians while also discovering opportunities to further explore their faith beyond our school environment.

The weekend was a powerful time of connection, encouragement and spiritual support between students and teachers in our community. Thank you to all those who came along and made this such an incredible retreat!

Georgina (Year 12)

School Captain





Reconciliation

Concordia College remains committed to its reconciliation journey.

In May, our updated Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was approved for publication by Reconciliation Australia. Our RAP now encompasses all three campuses of Concordia College, guiding us as we strengthen cultural awareness, understanding and empathy to take action in the classroom, around the school and within the community.

During National Reconciliation Week, students and staff participated in a range of activities to explore how we can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. Kurna artist Sam Gollan worked with small groups of students to create an amazing artwork representing the Concordia community. This large artwork now hangs in the Fortiter (ELC to Year 12 gymnasium) foyer. Community members also gathered for the unveilings of our Peace Poles. One is located at our Highgate campus near the western side of the oval and the second is at our Blackwood campus near the main student entrance.

An initiative of Rotary Adelaide and Rotary in South Australia, our Peace Poles were donated by grandparent Oliver Clark AO and the Rotary Club of Blackwood facilitated by Peter Geer. The Peace Poles promote peace between nations and bear a peace message in Kurna, English, German and Chinese Mandarin.

Our Primary School campuses have also received two beautiful artworks by Old Concordian Eddie Blitner-Watts (1975) entitled *Guardian of the Land, Seas and Animals*. Eddie is a well-regarded Aboriginal artist from the Ngukurr Community in Naijarlindji Country, Southern Arnhem Land. He uses the styles and subject matter of his traditional country in his work. It was such a pleasure to install two artworks the Old Concordians' Association purchased for the St John's and St Peters campuses. We thank the Old Concordians' Association for this generous donation.

Nancy Wells

Reconciliation Action Plan Coordinator



St John's Campus artwork donated by the Old Concordians' Association



Pictured here is Eddie's son Graeme Watts with St Peters Campus Principal, Bronwyn Wilson, Vice President of the Old Concordians' Association Committee, Josh Martin, and Head of College, Paul Weinert with the St Peters Campus artwork.

Student Learning and Wellbeing

| What comes first – chicken or egg; learning or wellbeing?

What came first - the chicken or the egg? This age-old question has perplexed many for centuries. It is a great example of our preference for circular causality – we prefer to understand the world by pairing things together as causes and effects of each other. In more recent times, a similar paradox is emerging in the education landscape: what comes first – learning or wellbeing?

On one hand, wellbeing is often seen as a prerequisite for effective learning – a student who feels safe, supported and emotionally regulated is more likely to engage productively in learning and achieve higher learning outcomes. On the other hand, learning itself enhances wellbeing – engaging industriously in learning and achieving highly can be intrinsically rewarding and boost senses of purpose and self-efficacy. So, determining which comes first is not a simple exercise and perhaps an indication that they do not display a typically causal relationship – it is not as simple as to say that by doing one, the other will result.

It is more accurate to view learning and wellbeing as having a bidirectional relationship than a causal one. This means that they influence each other mutually and cause an effect in each other. When we view learning and wellbeing in this way, it has powerful implications for how they are approached in schools. In essence, it signals that learning and wellbeing have the potential to lead to either positive or negative feedback loops, where they either continuously enhance, or detract from, each other.

Schools are becoming more conscious of the bidirectional nature of learning and wellbeing. For many years, schools have had systems and processes in place that intervene in the negative feedback loops. However, often more deliberate approaches to promote positive feedback loops are not as evident in these systems and processes.

Concordia College is a school that aims to proactively promote positive learning-wellbeing feedback loops. Our teachers are equally as conscious of planning for environments that are conducive to positive wellbeing outcomes as they are of planning for the delivery of the academic curriculum. More broadly, campuses recognise that a breadth of experiences that sit alongside formal classroom learning is important for the development of young people.

I have previously foreshadowed that Concordia College is developing a Wellbeing Model to sit alongside the Instructional Model, to better facilitate extraordinary learning. As we activate this in 2025, we will be exploring the bidirectionality of learning and wellbeing in greater depth to support our intent to connect, challenge and empower every learner.

Mathew Disher

Director of Learning & Wellbeing ELC-12





Structural Changes for Learning in 2025

As outlined by our Head of College, Paul Weinert, in the Autumn 2024 edition of Concordia Community, the Senior School structure at Concordia College will look different in 2025, with Year 10 moving from the Middle School into the Senior School. This structural change, with its associated alignment of curriculum and timetabling across Years 10 to 12, allows for more flexible pathway options for students to complete their SACE, with easier access to subjects across year levels as well as the addition of new subject offerings. To facilitate these changes, the daily structure of the Concordia Campus timetable will also be adjusted in 2025. More information will be communicated to families regarding these changes as we approach the new school year.

Students at Year 10 want greater opportunities to learn alongside other students with similar learning interests. In addition, they want learning to be facilitated in a way that gives them greater autonomy and agency as well as increased responsibility for managing their learning. We are confident that these strategic changes for learning will bring real benefits for students, and we look forward to seeing our Year 10s thrive as members of the Senior School in 2025 and beyond.

Mathew Disher

Director of Learning & Wellbeing ELC-12

Penny McKenzie

Principal - Concordia Campus

CommuniTea

Our CommuniTea springtime celebration saw families, staff and friends of Concordia enjoying the warmth of our extraordinary community spirit in an all-inclusive gathering on the College Oval.

Live music by our talented students provided a backdrop for the festivities. From food trucks and inflatable amusements through to a rock climbing wall, petting zoo, face painting and more, there was something for everyone.

It was incredible to witness so many community members enjoying time with family and friends at the College on a Friday afternoon, and we look forward to further opportunities to connect in the future.







Book Week

The theme for Book Week 2024 was 'Reading is Magic' and with a vibrant and varied concoction of activities across all three campuses, there were many opportunities for students to be spellbound by the joy of reading.

Our students at St John's Campus and St Peters Campus enjoyed activities such as magic shows, competitions, scavenger hunts, quizzes and crafts. In addition, students at both Primary School campuses heard from visiting authors.

- + Sally Heinrich spoke about her work as an author and an illustrator and allowed students to help her design some creative characters, using their ideas to draw entirely new characters before their eyes.
- + Tania Ingram spoke about her creative process and offered tips on narrative writing, developing characters and crafting compelling plots.
- + Mike Lucas shared his poetry and ran a writer's workshop, teaching poetic devices such as metre, assonance, alliteration, simile, metaphor and onomatopoeia.

On Thursday 22 August, Reception to Year 12 students gathered in Fortiter for our inaugural three-campus Book Week Assembly and Parade, with many parents attending as spectators. Prior to the parade itself, Mr Disher and Mr Schoff (aka Harry Potter and Albert Einstein) performed a

series of experiments, asking the Primary School students the important question – 'is it magic or is it science?' With small explosions and fireballs, elephant toothpaste and more, young minds were well and truly engaged.

Once the parade began, the spectacle was enchanting, with many colourful costumes on display, some of which seemed to have required some fabric-fashioning wizardry to produce! In particular, it was charming to witness the camaraderie that resulted from the melting pot of Middle and Senior School students taking part alongside their Primary School counterparts, thereby creating a unifying community atmosphere. Not to be left out of the fun, many staff also joined the spirit of Book Week, with around 80 dressing in a Where's Wally theme – truly a sight to behold!

We are already looking forward to seeing where Book Week 2025 takes us as we embrace the theme of 'Book an Adventure'.

In the meantime, happy reading!

Hajnalka Molloy

Learning Resources Manager

Nolene Thiele

Resource Manager – St John's Campus

Nicolle Jakube

Primary School Learning Leader – St Peters Campus



ELC and Primary School Highlights

Mylor Adventure Camp

Adventurous activities at Mylor Adventure Camp in the Adelaide Hills provided a perfect platform for Year 5 students from St John's Campus and Year 5/6 students from St Peters Campus to connect on a combined-year-level camp. Students embraced a range of challenges, from low ropes to archery and from bridge building to raft making. The Gaga Ball, flying fox, freshwater investigation and canoeing also provided excellent opportunities for cross-campus collaboration – a wonderful way to start Term 2!



ELC Bush Days

Bush Days are always amazing learning opportunities for our ELC children – a chance to spend a day exploring, collaborating, questioning and playing in nature. Our first Bush Day early in Term 2 saw the four-year-olds from St John's Campus visiting their St Peters Campus peers to explore the natural scrubland at Blackwood. With enjoyment and enthusiasm, they built connections with others and took risks in their nature play. In Term 3, they journeyed to Belair National Park for another immersive opportunity to learn about themselves, the world around them and the way they function in it.

Canberra Trip

Our St John's Campus Year 6s took a tour of our nation's capital to learn about Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy. Highlights included role playing the passing of a bill in the House of Representatives at Parliament House, observing athletes training at the Australian Institute of Sport, and orienteering at the National Arboretum. It was the perfect trip to enrich the students' inquiry into 'How We Organise Ourselves' and they are commended for representing the College with respect, enthusiasm and care for one another.



Studying the Solar System

Our St Peters Campus Year 2s were captivated by the digital dome spectacle of space imagery during their excursion to the Planetarium, exploring the solar system, the orbit of the planets, the moon, the galaxy and star constellations. They also witnessed a multi-sensory movie from National Geographic, providing some fascinating insights into the weather phenomena of our solar system. Later in the term, and slightly closer to home, the students visited Monarto Safari Park to learn about global conservation - and to get a close-up look at some awe-inspiring animals.



Sturt Football Club Visits the ELC

The children at our St John's Campus ELC were visited by Bluey in Term 2 - not the beloved dog from the television series, but the larger-than-life mascot from Sturt Football Club. Bluey helped run a mini-football clinic, sharing some basic techniques and helping students to develop their skills.



Significant Spaces and Places

A cross-campus excursion to Glenthorne National Park-Ityamaaitpinna Yarta Adventure Playground saw Reception students learning about special places and the ways in which we can take care of them. Students also learned about storytelling and how this area holds a special significance for Aboriginal people. Working with Nature Play SA, our students built cubbies, investigated macro invertebrates, observed the environment and recorded their observations in water paintings. The playground equipment was, of course, also a source of great fun – climbing, swinging, crawling, jumping, laughing and storytelling. They had so much fun learning about this significant space that they’d love to go back again!

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Literacy Learning

This year, our Year 3 students took part in National Simultaneous Storytime, listening to Bowerbird Blues by Aura Parker and creating a bower decorated with many blue items they had collected. ELC to Year 2 students at St Peters Campus also read the book and created nests using paper and clay.

The literacy learning continued with students in Years 4 to 9 enjoying a visit from award-winning author Tristan Bancks across two days. Later, 28 Year 5 and 6 students from our Primary School campuses attended the Luminary Lunch in Kent Town, learning about the work of local authors and illustrators in small groups around the lunch table – an inspiring opportunity!



Coco the Wellbeing Dog

Across the last two terms, St John’s Campus students have been preparing to welcome our new Wellbeing Dog, Coco, who will be on site in the near future as part of a program called Dogs Connect. Research shows that the presence of a dog can help lower student anxiety in the classroom. Having a dog at school can also help students develop a sense of responsibility in caring for the dog’s needs and may also help build communication and other skills. We look forward to seeing Coco more over the coming weeks and months.



St Peters Campus Musical: Disney's The Jungle Book KIDS

The St Peters Campus performances of Disney's The Jungle Book KIDS were a resounding success, with students capturing the heartwarming tale of Mowgli, the boy raised by wolves in the jungle with the help of some other animal friends. The musical saw students from Reception to Year 6 shining on stage, performing with excitement, laughter and memorable moments. Pulling together a show of this size and calibre helps students learn much of the curriculum content while also developing discipline, grit, determination, creativity and risk-taking. Congratulations to the students involved for rehearsing, performing and encouraging one another so well throughout the process while also making many unforgettable memories.



The Olympics Come to Concordia

While the Olympic Games were capturing the world's attention, some special guests at our Primary School campuses had our students listening intently as they shared their experiences of their Olympic involvement. At the St Peters Campus, Andrea Chaplin shared about competing in fencing at the 1984 and 1988 Olympic Games. She also brought with her some memorabilia, including Australian team clothing and a torch from the Sydney 2000 Olympics. At the St John's Campus, current parent Haley Tamblin brought along her own Sydney 2000 Olympic torch and memorabilia, sharing about her experience of being a torchbearer for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Torch Relay. It was exciting for St Peters Campus students to hear from a two-time Olympian and for students at both campuses to see Olympic memorabilia up close. To show their support for our 2024 Olympic athletes, St John's Campus students wore the Australian team colours for a day, flooding the campus with green and gold.



Budding Biologists in Reception

St John's Campus Reception students became budding biologists when they visited the Nautilus Centre at Concordia Campus in Term 3. To complement the Reception students' inquiry into living things, a class of Year 11 Biology students shared their knowledge with the Receptions, helping them explore some fascinating specimens in resin, from leaches, bats and snakes to cockroaches, spiders and more. They also used microscopes to take a closer look at the intricacies of living things - a wonderful experience for Primary and Senior School students alike!



Middle School Highlights

Year 9 The Rite Journey Adventure Camp

With excitement, some nerves and letters of encouragement from parents ready to open during their time away, our Year 9 students departed for the Flinders Ranges on The Adventure Camp component of our Concordia - The Rite Journey pastoral care program. The pinnacle event of the program, The Adventure sees students spending several days in the great outdoors, challenging themselves to step out of their comfort zones and try new things while building friendships and taking a significant step forward on their journey to adulthood. The camp centred around the theme of challenges helping us to form identity, resilience and - when experienced together - community.



Sleeping in tents, cooking on camping stoves, rock climbing, mountain biking and hiking in the beautiful natural environment of the Flinders Ranges, our students faced the camp program with amazing endurance, resilience and a willingness to give all aspects of the trip their best shot. Year 9 Leader Ben Crook summarised the experience this way, *"I am sure the students will come away from this camp with a sense of personal achievement and an understanding that trying new things outside of their comfort zones will stretch them and lead to personal growth - a life lesson that we can all hold on to and need to be reminded of constantly."*

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Tristan Bancks Author Visit

During his two-day visit as an Author-in-Residence, speaking to students from Years 4 to 9, our Year 7s and 8s had the extraordinary opportunity to develop their creative writing skills and idea generation strategies through a Writer's Workshop with award-winning author Tristan Bancks. We were very grateful to Tristan for visiting and sharing his expertise with us.



Australian Brain Bee Challenge

A group of Year 10 students participated in the 2024 Australian Brain Bee Challenge, having studied since the end of 2023 to prepare for the national neuroscience competition. Collectively, they answered nearly 10,000 questions in preparation for Round 1 in March, and six of our students were successful in becoming State Finalists. Held at Flinders University in August, the State Final saw 40 students from nine schools competing. This time, our team of six answered over 18,500 questions in preparation, mastering terms like the suprachiasmatic nucleus, the glossopharyngeal and the abducens nerves and neurofibrillary tangles. All students are commended for their efforts and a special congratulations goes to Annabel and Cate, who placed in the top 10 in South Australia.



The Drama Of Love and Lobsters, and much more!

The Drama Department has not slowed down too much since the excitement of the musical in Term 1, with many exciting learning experiences taking place over Terms 2 and 3. Below are a few highlights.

- + Year 7 students learnt about ancient Greek theatre and applied the techniques they had learned to develop their own morality plays.
- + Year 8 students explored storytelling techniques and considered how to make stories appeal to young people. They used this knowledge to present dramatisations of children’s books to our ELC students before producing original *Theatre for Young People* performances, drawing inspiration from local theatre company *Slingsby Presents*. The performances entertained young audience members by incorporating puppetry, shadow play and miniaturisation.
- + Year 9 students studied the performance style of melodrama, finishing the first semester with the production of an original play by Mr Aldo Longobardi, Drama Coordinator, called ‘Of Love and Lobsters’. In Term 3, a full-day masterclass workshop for Year 9 students saw them working with Dr Corinna di Niro, Australia’s leading expert in the Italian Renaissance style of Commedia dell’Arte. Not only was this an incredible opportunity to learn from an expert in this theatrical style, the workshop with our students was also filmed and will become part of an international teaching resource Corinna is producing for Routledge Press.
- + Year 10 students took part in practical workshop with Rachel Burke from the State Theatre Company of South Australia, exploring the naturalistic character development techniques of Constantine Stanislavski.



Year 8s Host ELC Children During Science Week

Our Yangadlitya Library transformed into a scientific exhibition space during National Science Week, with a number of specimens helping students to engage with the theme of 'Species Survival - More Than Just Sustainability'. There were animals, skulls, coral, shells, bones, preserved sharks, shark eggs, whale baleen and other objects. There were chances to observe and ask questions, to explore conservation efforts and to learn about living things and how they survive. A particular highlight of the week was our Year 8 students from Ms Martin's Home Class working with St John's Campus ELC children to help them explore the various items on display and the animals visiting in the library.



Year 9s Become Teachers

As part of a skill acquisition and coaching unit within their Physical Education studies, our Year 9 students had the opportunity to become teachers in Term 3. All Year 9s ran coaching sessions in football, soccer, basketball, volleyball and netball for St John's Campus students - an authentic and engaging learning experience for all involved.



Art and Languages Excursions

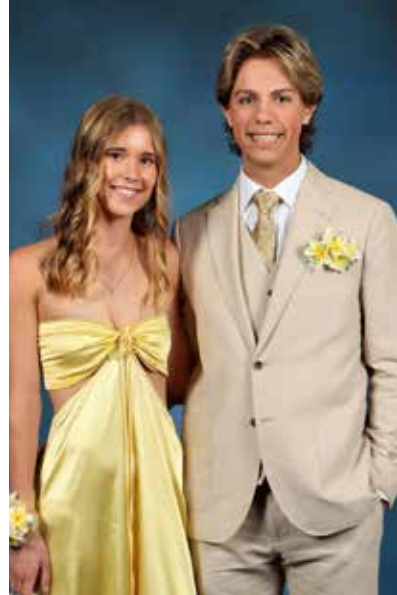
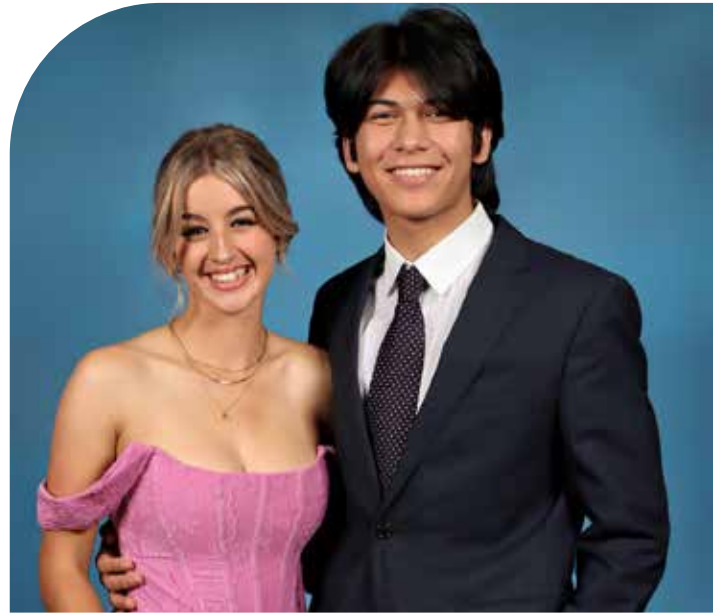
While studying Japanese woodprints and Australian modernist printmakers, Year 9 Art students visited the South Australian Art Gallery to participate in a guided tour of the exhibition 'Misty Mountain, Shining Moon: Japanese Landscapes'. Viewing works from 16th century through to the present day in person and observing the evolving dialogue between artists and nature was a valuable learning experience. Other highlights were Chiharu Shiota's contemporary string installation, 'Absence Embodied' and TeamLab's interactive digital artwork representing the seasons of the year.

Meanwhile, Year 8 German students attended a film screening of 'Das fliegende Klassenzimmer' (The Flying Classroom) as part of the German Film Festival's 'Kino for Kids' program and were able to test their comprehension skills while learning new vocabulary. Chinese students headed to Chinatown and the Central Market, immersing themselves in Chinese culture and practicing their Chinese speaking skills - a wonderful learning experience.

Senior School Highlights

Year 12 Formal

The highly anticipated Year 12 Formal was a sensational celebration for the Class of 2024, with plenty of glamour, excellent food and fun on the dance floor at the National Wine Centre. The students are commended on conducting themselves exceptionally well at this special event, and we thank the Action Leaders for their preparation and the presentation of Formal awards.





Productions, Podcasts and Pitches in Drama

Year 11 and 12 students combined in Term 2 to present Holly Robinson's play 'small', which explored complex themes such as illness, the ethics of medical trials and the courageous act of growing up. They rose to the challenge of this difficult show, producing a thought-provoking and emotionally charged performance. Later, Year 11 students took to the mic after learning about podcasting from Rachel Morrison, a radio personality from JOY FM and Nova in Melbourne. They used their new skills to produce theatre and arts review podcasts in response to a production of Shannon Molloy's memoir play, 'Fourteen'. The students then pitched their own concepts for new autobiographical dramas applying techniques from magical realism, verbatim theatre, epic theatre and physical theatre. The Year 11s have also devised their own original class production, 'Metropolis Now', a mini-musical set in the 2040s in a dystopian Australia. We look forward to seeing this performed next term!

Business Innovation Market Stall

Five weeks of preparation, simulating real-world business operations funded by supportive investors, led to a lunchtime Market Stall featuring products that had been designed, manufactured or improved upon by Year 11 Business Innovation students. Selling their wares - honey crackles, uniquely 'Adelaide' branded T-shirts, laser cut bookmarks, scented beads and more - to lunchtime foot traffic in the Quad gave the students an excellent first-hand experience of being a retailer. While the financial success was mixed, the learning was extremely valuable and the money making was for a good cause, with all profits being donated to charity.



Ethics Olympiad

The national Ethics Olympiad is a competitive yet collaborative tournament in which teams of students develop and articulate standpoints on various ethical issues. Two Year 11 teams from Concordia College took part in this year's event. Across the day, they developed arguments and counter-arguments, answered judges' questions and engaged in critical discussions about how ethics shape decision making and the world in which we live. In the end, both teams scored in the top 50% of schools and received honourable mentions from the judges.



Learning History from an International Expert

Year 12 Modern History students relished a rare opportunity to learn about a difficult subject from an internationally recognised expert in the field. Ms Sarah Levy, Coordinator for Overseas Education and Learning at the Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Studies in Jerusalem, delivered an engaging and interactive presentation to our students while in Australia promoting awareness and study of the Holocaust. Following the lesson, Sarah spoke very positively of the attentiveness and diligence of Concordia students during the presentation and commented on their sensitive and considerate approach to discussing the topic.



Framed Furniture in Design, Technology and Engineering

At the end of Semester 1, the entrance foyer outside the main Reception at Concordia Campus housed beautiful timber-framed furniture items – the products of work from Year 11 Design, Technology and Engineering students. Their teacher, Mr James Divitkos, commented on the high standard of the varied pieces, *“It was wonderful to see the students’ high level of engagement and the impressive quality of their products. Their hard work and the diverse range of projects they completed was a true testament to their skills and dedication.”*

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Ski Trip

During the mid-year holiday break, Senior School students and some dedicated and daring staff took to the slopes around Queenstown, New Zealand, on the 2024 Concordia College Ski Trip. They enjoyed fabulous skiing weather with powder-puff snow, had incredible fun and created memories for a lifetime.

“Over three full days of skiing, our skills saw significant improvement, all while enjoying every moment. The group fully embraced the Queenstown experience, including thrilling rides on the Shotover Jet, eating at the iconic Fergberger and exploring the local shops. Everyone agreed it was an unforgettable experience that will remain a core memory long after school ends.” – Amalia (Year 12)



The World’s Greatest Shave

Proudly supporting the Leukaemia Foundation, a group of six Year 12 boys and two staff volunteered to participate in the World’s Greatest Shave, going under the clippers to raise much-needed funds for this worthy cause. Far surpassing the group’s \$3,000 fundraising goal, the extraordinary generosity of family, friends and community members shone through to raise a total of \$5,894!





Service Learning

In 2024, the College has again been involved in significant partnerships with two of the Lutheran Church's most active service agencies: Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS) and Lutheran Care (LC). This year we have aimed to have our whole College involved in supporting the work they do.

In Term 1, hundreds of students from Reception to Year 12, on all three campuses, were involved in three different walk-a-thons as part of ALWS's 'Walk My Way' initiative. Whether walking around the College oval, doing laps of the Waite Arboretum or tackling the 26km of the Pioneer Women's Trail (from Hahndorf to Beaumont), our students raised over \$25,000. These funds will enable nearly 1,000 refugee children in Kenya and Myanmar to begin an education they might not otherwise have.

In Term 2 we donned warm winter woolly clothes on a non-uniform day and donated thousands of dollars' worth of warm clothing to support Lutheran Care's Winter Appeal. It was amazing to see how many socks, gloves, beanies, jumpers, blankets and jackets (all new) were donated to help the many people in need in South Australia. Congratulations to our Year 12 Student Leaders, who do so much to coordinate and promote these events amongst the student body. We are also very grateful for the generosity of our families, staff and church communities, who step up at every opportunity to give of their time and money to share with people in need, at home and abroad.

At the Concordia Campus, we also supported The Salvation Army at Unley in Term 3, raising awareness and funds to support their work through the Red Shield Appeal. Groups of students took part in a digital doorknock and sleepout, seeking sponsorships and sleeping rough outdoors on Saturday 17 August to raise money for the cause. The following Monday, a number of staff members were doused in icy water during a lunchtime Ice Bucket Challenge, with every \$500 raised meaning another staff member was subjected to the saturation. A competition between the Middle and Senior School Student Leaders, to see who can raise the most money, has become an annual tradition, with the unsuccessful team getting 'dunked'. The Middle School Student Leaders were victorious this year, joyfully drenching their Year 12 counterparts in a fun conclusion to an entertaining event, followed by a performance from our Funk Band.

Through Service Learning and fundraising activities, our students learn a great deal about inequality in the world and about how each of us is called to respond in compassion, serving others wherever they are. We are thankful also to ALWS and LC for providing us with guest speakers and resources to enhance the learning for our young people, to make them more aware of the world around them and how they can make a positive difference.

Mark Rathjen
College Chaplain



Sports Highlights

The winter sport season sees many students competing in a large number of teams across a variety of sports each year, and 2024 has been no exception. Here are some highlights across a range of sports.



- + A squad of 27 students from Years 4 to 6 competed in the Sapsasa Adelaide South East cross country event. We were delighted to have two students – Elsa (Year 5) and Elliot (Year 5) finish third in their category, earning the right to compete at the State Cross Country Championships at Oakbank alongside Henson (Year 6) and Zoey (Year 6), who also qualified.
- + Our Open A and Middle A boys’ basketball teams both had excellent seasons, earning a place in the Sports Association for Adelaide Schools (SAAS) grand finals in their respective divisions. Congratulations to our Middle A boys on winning a third consecutive championship – a truly extraordinary achievement! In the Open A game, the result didn’t go our way, but the grand final appearance qualified us for the quarter-final stage of the Division 1 statewide knockout competition. The subsequent journey to Keith unfortunately resulted in a close loss. Despite the result, the boys are congratulated on making it through to this late stage of the competition. On an individual level, we also congratulate Paddy (Year 12) and Luke (Year 10) on being named in the eight-person ‘all star’ SAAS Team of the Year.
- + Our Year 8A and Year 9A girls’ netball teams played well in the minor rounds and qualified for the Independent Girls Schools Sports Association (IGSSA) grand finals. Both teams were narrowly defeated but are congratulated on great seasons.
- + After entering the Division 2 statewide knockout competition for the first time, the Senior girls’ football team had a great run through to the second round. They did not progress to the grand final, but are commended for their efforts.
- + The Year 7/8 girls’ basketball team finished third in the Division 1 statewide competition from the eight teams that made it through to the grand final day on Tuesday 25 June.
- + The Senior girls’ basketball team progressed to the second round of the Division 1 statewide knockout competition, a three-team round robin. Despite a convincing win, the girls missed going to the third round after a narrow loss in their second game.
- + The Year 9/10 boys made it to the grand final day of the Division 1 statewide knockout volleyball competition, finishing fourth – a great effort.
- + At the Volleyball SA Schools Cup competition, our Open boys’ team won gold in Division 1 and our girls’ team earned a bronze medal in the Honours division (the highest division of the competition).
- + Our Concordia Racing Pedal Prix teams have continued to put in some excellent times on the track at their races over the last two terms, and we thank all students and their families who have been part of this season of racing.



In particular, we congratulate the students in Shockwave (S2) and Costa (S3), who between them have achieved four top ten finishes this year. After the 24-hour race, Shockwave and Costa finished 11th in their categories and fifth overall for the season – a great result!

- + In September, 48 students from our St John's Campus participated in the Adelaide South East Sapsasa athletics event. Our students' dedication and teamwork were evident, resulting in impressive performances with Concordia finishing second overall. Congratulations to Wesley (Year 6), Elliot (Year 5), and Jaco (Year 5), who were selected to represent the district at the State Athletics carnival.
- + A total of nine students were selected in Adelaide South East district Sapsasa netball, soccer, football and hockey teams: Camdyn (Year 5 – netball), Zoey (Year 6 – netball), Jax (Year 5 – netball), Henson (Year 6 – soccer), Olivia (Year 6 – soccer), Annabel (Year 6 – soccer), Charlie (Year 6 – football), Luca (Year 6 – football), Jax (Year 5 – football) and Oscar (Year 5 – hockey).
- + Our Year 5/6 girls' basketball team finished first in their pool for the qualifying rounds of the School Sport SA Statewide Basketball competition. They will play in the State Finals in Term 4.



- + Our girls' sports captains recently attended an awards breakfast. Ava (Year 12) was nominated for the IGSSA Sportsperson of the Year award, for her involvement in state and College volleyball. An Ashleigh Young award for ongoing contribution to IGSSA sport was awarded to Issy (Year 12). Well done to both girls for their outstanding involvement in girls' sport.
- + Our Year 9/10 girls' knockout basketball team won two of the three games in the first round of the competition. They will compete in the second round in Term 4.



Music Highlights

From performing for friends and family, to representing the College in the Generations in Jazz and Australian Band and Orchestra Directors' Association (ABODA) Festival music competitions, our Music students have had many opportunities to use their musical gifts over the last two terms. Below is a summary of highlights.

- + At **Generations in Jazz**, Big Band 1, Big Band 2, Mattson Jazz Choir, McKenzie Jazz Choir and Prelude Jazz Choir represented the College brilliantly, with their commitment and energy shining through. We were delighted to come away with some fantastic results:
 - + Division 1 Large Vocal Ensemble: 2nd Place (Mattson Jazz Choir)
 - + Division 2 Large Vocal Ensemble: 24th Place (McKenzie Jazz Choir)
 - + Division 3 Large Vocal Ensemble: 7th Place (Prelude Jazz Choir)
 - + Division 2.2 Stage Band: 2nd Place (Big Band 1)
 - + Division 4.2 Stage Band: 12th Place (Big Band 2)
 - + Mattson Jazz Alto section was selected to be in the 'Super Choir' – congratulations to Ella (Year 12), Elysia (Year 11), Amali (Year 10), Coco (Year 12), Matilda (Year 11) and Matilda (Year 12)
 - + Marco (Year 10), Macy (Year 12) and Peter (Year 11) were selected to be in the Division 2 Super Band (on Trumpet 2, Trombone 2 and Alto Saxophone respectively). Marco was also named as Trombone 4 in the Division 4 Super Band
 - + Bianca (Year 12) was chosen as one of four students to have improvised solos at the massed choir workshop.
- + The **Harmony in the Chapel** concert on Friday 10 May included performances by our Concert Band, Piano Trio, McKenzie Jazz Choir, Clarinet Quartet, Jude (Year 11) and Rafael (Year 11), Flute Quartet and String Ensemble. Present in the audience were a number of Old Concordians who began at the College 70+ years ago. It was wonderful to share the gift of music with them.
- + **String Soiree**, an evening concert in the Chapel, featured our Chamber Strings, Einheit String Quartet, St John's Campus String Ensemble, Cello Ensemble, Jude (Year 11) and Rafael (Year 11), Animato Quartet, Heilig Quartet and String Ensemble. Involving students from Year 1 through to Year 12, the concert was a fantastic opportunity for the talents of our string students to shine as they played repertoire from classical to modern, including 'Gabriel's Oboe' from the movie 'The Mission', featuring Lani (Year 9) on oboe.
- + A special vocal concert, aptly named **Voices of Concordia**, comprised performances from our Year 9 Choir, Prelude Jazz Choir, St John's Campus Vocal Ensemble, Year 7/8 Choir, McKenzie Jazz Choir, Big Band 1, Testosterphones, Mattson Jazz Choir, Senior Choir and over 20 soloists. It was a superb evening showcasing many of our very talented vocalists from Years 5-12.

- + **A Celebration of Wind, Brass and Percussion** was held in the Chapel on Friday 9 August. Our Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, St John's Campus Concert Band, Brass Ensemble, Flute Ensemble, Clarinet Quartet, Flute Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble – 100 students in all – performed to an appreciative audience, with Concert Band having the opportunity to share their ABODA works with family and friends.
- + At the **ABODA Festival**, our String Ensemble, Chamber Strings, Concert Band, Orchestra, Big Band 1 and Big Band 2 all performed and achieved some great results:
 - + **Chamber Strings:** Intermediate String Ensemble – Silver
 - + **String Ensemble:** Advanced String Ensemble – Gold
 - + **Orchestra:** Open Orchestra – Gold and Section Winner
 - + **Big Band 2:** Novice Big Band – Gold
 - + **Big Band 1:** Advanced Stage Band – Silver
 - + **Concert Band:** Advanced Concert Band – Gold and Section Winner
- + **We were extremely fortunate to be visited by the Australian String Quartet (ASQ)** on Tuesday 27 August. The four members of the ASQ ran small-group workshops with members of our String Ensemble and Chamber Strings. They then gave a short performance followed by a question-and-answer time. Finally, the ASQ sat in on our String Ensemble's after-school rehearsal, playing along with our students and offering feedback and advice as they rehearsed sections of Holst's St Paul's Suite – an invaluable experience!
- + On Tuesday 3 September, Big Band 1, led by Tom Voss, were guest performers at **Southern Jazz Club**.
- + Our annual music showcase, **Concordia in Concert**, saw approximately 250 musicians from all three campuses involved in an extraordinary celebration of music. Annual music awards were presented and we congratulate the following award recipients:
 - + **Mike Stewart Memorial Award:** Hayden (Year 12)
 - + **Living Choice Community Award:** Macy (Year 12)
 - + **Peter Schmidt Music Award:** Bianca (Year 12) and Daniel (Year 12)
 - + **Concert Band Award** *sponsored by the Phillips Family:* Ella (Year 12)



Community Events

Terms 2 and 3 have been a whirlwind of activity, filled with moments that have truly brought our immediate and extended communities closer together.

One of the crowning events of the past two terms was undoubtedly our P&F Quiz Night. Thanks to the tireless efforts of a dedicated group of parents, we raised over \$19,000—funds that will go directly towards vital College projects.

We also hosted a deeply meaningful Prayer Breakfast, where our ELC to Year 12 parents, caregivers and members of the St John’s and St Peters Lutheran church communities gathered to deepen their understanding of spiritual life at our College. This was a powerful moment to collectively pray for our students, teachers, mentors and families.

Our annual Mother’s and Father’s Day Breakfasts were heartwarming successes, with students, parents, grandparents and special friends coming together to celebrate these important occasions. The accompanying Mother’s and Father’s Day Market Stalls at St John’s Campus added an extra layer of joy, as students experienced the delight of choosing gifts for their loved ones.

Grandparents and Special Friends’ Day events were another highlight, with students from our St John’s and St Peters campuses proudly welcoming special guests to their learning spaces. The three days were filled with fun and creative activities, inspiring Chapel presentations and, of course, a delicious morning or afternoon tea.

Each term has also kicked off with a coffee morning after drop-off, providing parents with the perfect way to ease into the day. These informal gatherings have been a wonderful opportunity for parents and staff to connect over a cup of coffee in a relaxed setting.

Our Class Connectors have been just as busy, hosting over 25 parent and family events across the terms, further strengthening the bonds within our community.

The other pinnacle event of the last two terms was our CommuniTea event for the entire College community, held on the Oval at our Highgate campuses. You can read more about CommuniTea on pages 11 and 12 – it was truly an incredible evening of fun, food, friendship and community spirit!

Building a connected school community is essential to fostering a sense of belonging and enhancing the overall experience for everyone involved. We are immensely grateful for the regular, meaningful interactions that make this possible.

Angela Warrick
Engagement and Events Manager





Staff Profiles

- Getting to know



Carla Bigioli

Dance and Drama Teacher
– St John's Campus

+ Three words to describe you.

Passionate, bubbly, authentic.

+ What motivates/inspires you in your role?

I have already seen such exhilarating passion and magic within the students here at Concordia College. I love inspiring students to express themselves through dance, movement, speech, music, character and most importantly stories. The arts are to be seen, heard and valued. Students at Concordia College have inspired me to explore more parts of my creativity in Dance and Drama.

+ If you were asked to compare your personality to a kitchen utensil, which one would you choose and why?

I believe a whisk resonates with me because I bring a light, positive energy to all parts of my life. Just like whisking sugar and egg whites makes a delicious meringue, I also love being fully immersed in something while enjoying the process of creation.



Daniel Halman

Year 3 Teacher
– St John's Campus

+ Three words to describe you.

Organised, thoughtful, caring.

+ What motivates/inspires you in your role?

I am motivated by the positive impact on student wellbeing and development I can have as a teacher, especially as this is such a formative stage in their lives. Coming from a psychology study background, I am passionate about equipping students with emotional literacy, calming strategies and healthy self-worth and belief in themselves. This allows students to engage fully with challenging academic learning in a supportive environment. I am also inspired regularly by the growth, kindness and brilliant ideas that I see in students. Hearing students' jokes, awe at the world, or ideas for a new invention to help the world, gives me great hope for the future.

+ If you were a Disney character, which one would you be and why?

I would be Pascal the chameleon from 'Tangled'. I feel like some of the qualities Pascal has like being quiet initially, having a fun side, being curious and going along for the ride with other people's adventures are all aspects I can see reflected in me. He is also just very cute and steals the scenes he is in, and how cool would it be to be a chameleon?

now you...



Jane Peplow

Pastoral Care Worker
– St Peters Campus

+ Three words to describe you.

Friendly, approachable, compassionate.

+ What motivates/inspires you in your role?

Children are so precious and for them to thrive they need to feel loved and secure in their environment. I feel so blessed to be in the role of Pastoral Care Worker at St Peters Campus where my main focus is the children's wellbeing.

+ If you had to write a book, of any genre, for publication in mid-2025, what sort of book would you write and why?

I would write a comedy book for teenagers titled 'How did people survive before mobile phones?' because teenagers have never known a world without immediate access to mobile phones. It would be a fun way of teaching them the benefits of being 'offline'.



Matthew Webster

Year 5/6 Teacher
– St Peters Campus

+ Three words to describe you.

Caring, adaptable, fun.

+ What motivates/inspires you in your role?

The amazing educators I was fortunate to have worked with as a student have had a lasting impact on me, some of whom have become family friends over the years. To replicate this in fostering a love of learning in the young people with whom I work, to learn for learning's sake, is a big motivator.

+ If you were asked to compare your personality to a kitchen utensil, which one would you choose and why?

I would say I'm like a spatula — flexible, always ready to flip a situation around, and occasionally known to scrape by in tough spots, but I keep everything from sticking too much!



Staff Profiles



Kellie Rich

Head of Music Performance ELC-12
– Concordia Campus

- + **Three words to describe you.**
Organised, resilient, compassionate.
- + **What motivates/inspires you in your role?**
The students motivate and inspire me. To be able to see them commit and enjoy their music and succeed through rehearsing and performing is a real source of motivation and inspiration. The courage and skill it takes for them to perform as soloists and in ensembles can only be understood if you have tried it.
- + **If you were a Disney character, which one would you be and why?**
I would be Elsa from Frozen – I am a little introverted and reserved until you get to know me. I like to be creative and problem solve, and will support people in any way I can when needed.



Daniel Lynch

Drama Teacher
– Concordia Campus

- + **Three words to describe you.**
Dedicated, organised, light-hearted.
- + **What motivates/inspires you in your role?**
Drama has the power to change people’s lives - whether that is a young person making connections with their peers and discovering their passion and identity (super important with teenagers today!), or an audience member having their perspectives challenged and emotions provoked. The joy when a young person tells me, years after they have finished learning with me, that what we did in Drama changed who they are inspires me to continue each day with my current students.
- + **If you had to write a book, of any genre, for publication in mid-2025, what sort of book would you write and why?**
Outside of school I run a trampoline gymnastics club, and I recently wrote a compendium for coaches on how to teach each skill in the sport. If I had the chance, I think writing a manual for new Drama teachers that runs them through a ‘Drama 101’ with curriculum ideas, teaching strategies and other useful tips would be both intellectually nourishing for me and, maybe, helpful for others!

- Getting to know you...

Giving Day

We are very proud of the wonderful Concordia spirit shown by our community. By working together, we can achieve outstanding outcomes for our students. Much of what we see and experience at Concordia today has been made possible through the generosity and belief of current and past parents, grandparents, staff, Old Concordians and other community members. We are grateful for all of these contributions to the College over many years.

We are especially thankful for the way in which our community recently came together in support of the College by giving generously to our 2024 Giving Day.

Lead donors made it possible to double all donations made on Giving Day, and together we achieved a total of \$115,000. We have also received some further generous donations that add to the total and will all go towards supporting the Foundation and Indigenous scholarships and the extraordinary facilities our students enjoy.

From all of us at Concordia - *thank you!*

Sue Kleinig

Donor Relations Manager



Heritage Centre

Were you there...? Have you heard...? Do you remember...?
In this article 'From the Archives' we share some memorable moments and interesting snippets from across the College's history.



1952 St John's Campus

1923

On Thursday 6 December, the Headmaster's residence was opened on Cheltenham Street in the College grounds. After 1973, when the last headmaster (Rev T Reuther) moved out, it was remodelled to become the Music Centre. In 1989 it was demolished, making way for the new Chapel and Music complex.

1927

This was a very important year for Concordia. After years of negotiation, girls were permitted to enrol. Enrolment numbers reached 99, with 19 girls and 80 boys.

1936

A turf cricket pitch and lawn tennis court were completed because the uneven asphalt cricket pitch and lack of a lawn court impaired the College teams' chances of advancement. Students were thrilled when the Old Boys' Association donated 20 pounds and started on this student-initiated project.

1942

Described by the Principal, Professor Hamann, as 'annus mirabilis' (an amazing year), 1942 was the year in which the army took possession of Concordia's Highgate site for military purposes, as Convalescent Depot No. 108. Hasty arrangements were made for the housing of male boarders and the removal of furniture. Concordia's temporary home was Excelsior Hall at the rear of Bethlehem Church on Flinders Street. The College site was handed back by the army after a couple of months and large army vehicles transported the furniture back to the College.

1945

On Wednesday 7 February, the new girls' hostel at 176 Wattle Street was officially opened and dedicated. The larger building was greatly appreciated by the 44 boarders and staff.

1952

St John's Lutheran School opened on Highgate Street, across the oval from Concordia College, in February 1952. The building was completed mainly by volunteers and cost about £3,000. It consisted of a steel frame with walls of compressed straw coated with cement. Some readers may remember Miss Doecke, pictured with the first students.

1952

The Brown & Gold contained an editorial that highlighted the effect that the passing of King George VI had on Concordia and its students, and their hope that God would guide the new Queen, Elizabeth II.

1960

Concordia held its inaugural Swimming Carnival at the Adelaide City Baths on King William Street. Apart from individual and House competition, Miss Dale Krieg, the first female Olympian from South Australia, gave a demonstration swim.

1961

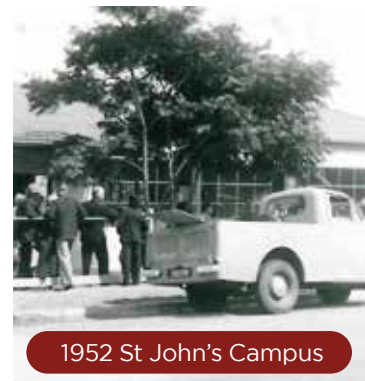
Leaving Class contributed to Saturday night entertainment for boarders with a performance of the Gilbert and Sullivan one-act comic opera 'Trial by Jury'. Mr Vic Georg and Miss Coral Zweck assisted with the very successful production.

1970

A group of Concordia students set off on a promotional tour known as 'Concordia Today'. They toured through country South Australia presenting aspects of College life through displays of student work, choir performances and presentations.



1945 Girls' Hostel



1952 St John's Campus



1982 Sketch of Girl Boarders

1982

A sketch by Gae Mestros of the 20 girl boarders at Concordia in 1982 pictures Mrs Reimers, the well-loved housemother, as the shepherd of the “flock” of girls.

1987

Carnival Day on Saturday 14 March held many attractions. In addition to the usual stalls and sideshows there were demonstrations of judo and trampolining, plus a very popular Chair-o-Plane. Many students and staff seized the opportunity to wield a sledgehammer and add to the destruction of a written-off car – an unusual recreational activity!

1990

The foundation stone of the new Chapel was unveiled by Rev David Paech. The facility was completed later in the year and officially opened on Sunday 2 September.

1991

During a particularly cold snap, hail was so heavy it was deafening in the classrooms and so thick it looked like snow in the Quad. Students made the most of the unusual weather event and headed outside to get a closer look.

1995

During the '90s, Concordia entered teams in the Bonnetts Interschool Equestrian Competition. The 1995 team found that, unfortunately, horse riding leads to accidents, but the remaining four from an initial team of 10 still came third in the ‘teams’ event and brought home the green ribbon!

2015

This year marked the 125th anniversary of Concordia College. On Sunday 24 May the College celebrated with a commemoration service. Many past and present Concordia community members attended, including Principals. There was also a performance of a Commemorative Song, commissioned especially for the occasion.



1987 Carnival Day

2016

Concordia College and St John’s Lutheran School amalgamated, forming an ELC to Year 12 College. An Amalgamation Celebration Service was held in the Quad in Term 1 to mark this new era.

2017

Concordia had great success at Generations in Jazz, an annual event in Mount Gambier. Following the event, the College was visited by renowned jazz virtuoso James Morrison, who came to Concordia to work with the very talented and excited students in Big Bands 1 and 2.

2017

Our current Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) facility - the Nautilus Centre - was opened on Monday 30 October by His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia. Mathematical, scientific and artistic principles, such as the Fibonacci series, are demonstrated in the building’s design and construction.

2023

St Peters Lutheran School at Blackwood became a third campus of Concordia College, following an official amalgamation. Concordia now comprises around 1,400 students with two ELC and Primary School campuses and one Middle and Senior School campus.

2023

On Friday 15 September, the College’s new Fortiter Gymnasium and St John’s Campus Wirrkuta Trruku Activity Hall were officially opened by Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, as part of a large-scale community celebration event held on the College Oval.



2015 125th Anniversary



1990 Chapel Foundation Stone

Old Concordians' Association

From the President

The Old Concordians' Association Committee has gained a few new members lately, which is exciting and will bring some fresh ideas to our programs. Together we are focused on the large task of engaging Old Concordians. This includes planning a comprehensive program of reunions and events to provide a variety of ways to connect with each other and Concordia, as well as serving the wider College community.

It has been exciting to see the large numbers of Old Concordians that have attended our events this year, and we are especially looking forward to heading interstate to Canberra for a reunion in the coming weeks. There are also still a number of milestone reunions remaining in 2024, and we are excited to welcome the Class of 2004 (20 Year), Class of 2014 (10 Year) and Class of 2019 (5 Year) groups to the College. Happy reading!

Matt Bruening

President – Old Concordians' Association
alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au



*Old Concordians' Association Committee
Absent: Matt Bruening and Jodie Escott*

Old Concordians Blazing a Trail

| Elissa Doherty, Class of 1994, Freelance Journalist

Tell us about where life has taken you since leaving Concordia...

I realised two long-held dreams after leaving Concordia - to become a journalist and to work in the international aid sector. I was fortunate to embark on an 18-year career as a print journalist, starting at Messenger Newspapers and the Sunday Mail in Adelaide before moving to Melbourne as a reporter for the Herald Sun. I've stayed in Victoria ever since, and set up a freelance writing/media relations business in 2017 writing for titles including BBC Australia, The Age, The Sydney Morning Herald and The New Daily. As I was no longer required to be in a newsroom, I took my laptop on the road and worked from Bali, Europe and the UK.





It felt surreal to be filing a real estate story from a train in Portugal or writing about Sudanese families in Melbourne from a shady courtyard on Hydra, Greece.

An opportunity to work in the media and communications team at World Vision Australia came knocking, and I did a happy dance in my lounge room when I was offered the role! From the time I was a teenager, I had always been connected to World Vision, be it through child sponsorship, the 40 Hour Famine or awareness-raising talks at my church. Working for an organisation that strives to make a difference in the lives of the world's most vulnerable was another dream come true.

These days, I am living on Victoria's Surf Coast where I run an Airbnb, write freelance news and feature stories, and work for a media and communications agency.

What inspires you as a woman and a journalist?

It may sound idealistic, but I'm driven by a desire to try to change lives for the better. I wrote about celebrities and TV shows when I first started at the Sunday Mail, and while it was fun, I didn't find it satisfying.

I moved into rounds including social issues, domestic violence and health reporting, where I could use my journalism skills and platform to try to make a little difference in the world. Every now and then, I was able to do so, such as being part of a campaign for the government to shine a light on domestic violence or through stories that contributed to the federal government granting the dying wish of a young international student for his family to visit him from Pakistan in his final days.

Tell us about some of your favourite assignments as a journalist.

Travelling twice to Ukraine with World Vision staff when the full-scale war erupted was a career highlight. We crossed the border by foot from Romania - beckoned by a cheery "Welcome to Ukraine" sign - and were whisked into a crumbling bunker. The air raid alarm had sounded, and the meeting we had scheduled with colleagues was forced underground. We received a security briefing in a dimly lit room and tried to respond to emails with a weak wi-fi signal. I soon discovered that the locals had maps of the fancy bunkers around town... and that working in bunkers had become the norm for World Vision staff.

The reality of the war hit home when I heard that a missile had killed the father of two darling little boys I met that week. We had thrown a pizza party for them and their friends at one of the child-friendly spaces World Vision runs, called a Happy Bubble. The kids had been so happy that day. It was utterly devastating.

On a lighter note, as a News Corp reporter, I was thrown into many challenging scenarios to write up as "first person" pieces. Among them were auditioning for Australian Idol (I can't sing), living in a car for a week to document the realities homeless families were enduring, and even signing up with the Church of Scientology for a week for a story. It was rarely dull! Not to mention travelling to Los Angeles a few times on the dime of the big Hollywood studios, to interview stars including Henry Winkler (the Fonze - he was a true gentleman), Charlie and Martin Sheen, the cast of The OC and the Gilmore Girls.

What are your fondest (or funniest) memories of being at Concordia College?

- + The writing advice from one of my favourite teachers, Mr Schoff, has stuck with me to this day: "Keep It Simple Stupid". It held me in good stead for a career in journalism too!
- + On my first day at Concordia in Year 11, I discovered a strange bathroom ritual. Without fail, the girls would always press the hand dryer when they walked in.
- + My Year 12 Biology teacher, Mrs Roediger, brought the subject to life for me. Plus, there's no forgetting the day she unceremoniously dumped a bag of dead mice on the counter for us to dissect.
- + One thing I don't remember very fondly about my Concordia days is the uniforms. Brown and gold were not my best colours.

What advice would you give to current students?

Dream big! If I had listened to the countless people who told me it was near-impossible to get into journalism, I never would have pursued a career in it. I would also tell my younger self that my future career is not set in stone at 16 or 17. As the media world evolves, I am now looking at different options for my next chapter.

| Angus McFeat, Class of 2019, Artist

What inspires you as an artist?

As I have grown artistically after attending Concordia, I have discovered that my inspiration is rooted in the relationship between shapes and how shapes can come together to create new forms, like a code or a jigsaw puzzle. I have been able to explore shape and form in different ways throughout ceramics, sculpture and painting.

In sculpture and painting my interests have always been surrounding the human body/ experience. Using abstract shapes to create humanoid forms, for me, successfully translates the reality of the human experience better than traditional sculpture techniques. I believe abstraction better conveys the unique complexities/experiences that make us who we are as individuals.

As for ceramics, I like to keep my works functional. So, finding the right balance of shape/ form and functionality, without sacrificing one or the other, is the most challenge part. The use of shape to create engaging forms has allowed me to artistically translate my ideas years after leaving the Concordia Art room.



Where do you show/sell your artworks?

I've been lucky enough to exhibit my sculptural artworks in various exhibitions around Melbourne, the most recent one being the "Collective: Where Strength Lies" Exhibition at Honey Bones Gallery close to Lygon Street. I am constantly on the lookout for any artist callouts that come my way and a good chunk of my mornings are spent applying for these gallery spaces.

I have also been able to stock my functional ceramic wares in cafés and gallery shops, both in Melbourne and Adelaide. However, most of my sales happen through my Instagram page called DIDS, which is where I'm most active as I post regular reels and updates.

What are your fondest (or funniest) memories of being at Concordia College?

Naturally, my fondest memories of Concordia would have to be inside the Art room. I spent most of my recess and lunch times in there during my later years, frantically completing Art portfolios before they were due, and of course gossiping with friends. The Art room was such a welcoming and calming space that it attracted lots of "non-Art" students to come in during free lessons, to knuckle down and get their Biology homework done or give their English presentation its final touches. The friends I made inside the Art room remain my rocks in the constant stream of life. They have been there through my ups and downs both during my time at Concordia and since finishing at school.

What advice would you give to current students?

The one piece of advice I would give to students would be to make art! I cannot express the importance of having a healthy outlet to translate your emotions and feelings. During my adolescence I struggled with finding outlets to express what I was thinking and feeling, because like many kids I had trouble verbalising what I felt; I still do to this day. Creating silly doodles in the margins of books or sketching out sculptures or pottery ideas allowed me to escape my environment temporarily and ground myself.

Generations of Old Concordians

Current student Adeline Taylor is a fourth-generation Concordian. We spoke to her mum, Daria Taylor (Class of 1991), about their family's history with Concordia College.

You are a third-generation Old Concordian, and now your daughter Adeline is the fourth-generation of your family to attend Concordia - why choose Concordia College for your family?

For our family, in each generation there has been a different reason to attend Concordia. For my grandfather and mother, they were from the country, so to get a better-quality secondary education they had to go to a city boarding school. As they were Lutheran, Concordia was the school of choice and many of their family and friends followed the same path. For my father, he had always planned to go into the ministry, so Concordia was a stepping stone towards that goal. For myself, my family moved back to Adelaide from Western Australia at the beginning of the year in which I was completing Year 12. My parents both had fond memories of Concordia and, even though it was across town from where we lived, they decided it would be a good option for my final year of schooling. For my own children I chose Concordia as I also had good memories of my time here and I knew it as a smaller, friendly school with a focus on Music and Drama, which are things my daughter enjoys. The fact that she would be the fourth generation to attend also factored into our decision, as that sense of family and community connection was something my husband and I were looking for after living in the United States of America for over 15 years.

What values are instilled in your family from your education at Concordia?

I think Concordia's values and my family's values are well aligned. They include the importance of maintaining a connection to a faith-based community, of being a contributing member of your community, and recognising the value of ongoing education as well as non-academic pursuits and experiences.

What is your fondest (or funniest) memory of being at Concordia?

When I was at Concordia, I really enjoyed being part of the musical 'Annie Get your Gun'. Singing and dancing and everyone working together to make something amazing – it was a wonderful experience.

What is different today at Concordia from when you (or your father) were at school?

I think Concordia has changed a lot in the past decade or so – new facilities and new ways of teaching. There is also an even larger focus on providing lots of different opportunities for students to partake in and discover what interests them.

Family Members at Concordia

- + Current Student – Adeline Taylor
- + Mother – Daria Taylor (Schulze) (Class of 1991)
- + Grandmother – Golda Schulze (Scholz, Class of 1962)
- + Grandfather – David Schulze (Class of 1958)
- + Great-grandfather – Dick Scholz (Class of 1932)



Sporting Clubs

| Get Involved!

The current Old Concordian sporting clubs are a fun and easy way to get involved in activities with other Old Concordians. For information about joining an existing Old Concordians' Association sports club, please contact alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au and we will direct your correspondence to the relevant Club Coordinator listed below:

- + Basketball Club, Tristan Prentice
- + Cricket Club, Troy Pincin
- + Netball Club, Chrissy Barnard
- + Pedal Prix Club, Derek Harris
- + Soccer Club, Cameron Basnec
- + Volleyball Club, Emma Whyte

The Old Concordians financially support the setup and running costs of our sports clubs. If you are interested in starting a sports club or special interest group for Old Concordians, we encourage you to contact the Alumni Manager, Sue Kleinig (email alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au).



Netball Club



Basketball Club

Weddings



Nicole Keen (Smith 2015)
and Travis Keen
 on 16 September 2023

Back Row L-R: Eloise Quinn-Valentine (2015), Sophia Browne, Anastasia Ferguson (2015), Nicole Keen (Smith 2015), Travis Keen, Mathew Telford, Tylen Spilsbury, Nathan Pinchbeck
Front Row L-R: Amelia Swift, Annabelle Swift, Adrian Smith, Spencer Smith

Births



Brooke Flew (Klingberg 2013)
and Alistair Flew (2013)

a daughter Mabel Flew
 on 22 December 2023

In Memoriam

Concordia has learnt of the following deaths in our community. We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of these Old Concordians.

McDonald, Aileen (Cheney 1961)

on 8 January 2022

Tiley, Kevin (1951)

on 2 May 2023

Fox, Jaan (1980)

on 5 May 2023

Mattner, Shirley (Nuske 1958)

on 1 October 2023

Sefton, Mark (1960)

on 18 October 2023

Schuster, Marilyn (1971)

on 9 November 2023

Koch, Rev Euan (1949)

on 7 December 2023

Kretschmer, Valda (Payne 1943)

on 24 December 2023

Cramer, Lois (Hotker 1949)

on 28 December 2023

Uebergang, Lorna (Grosser 1940)

on 20 March 2024

Sickerdick, Kurt (1949)

on 25 April 2024

Adam, Pamela (Eckermann 1954)

on 24 May 2024

Kuebenk, Dudley (1947)

on 16 July 2024

Schubert, Richard (1956)

on 21 July 2024



**If it's important to you,
it's important to us!**

We love hearing from Old Concordians of all ages, both near and far, so please do get in touch to share stories, milestones and any news, or simply to update your contact details.

Visit our website
concordia.sa.edu.au/community/old-concordians/stay-in-touch/
or phone Sue Kleinig, Alumni Manager, on 08 8291 9339.

Interested in joining the Old Concordians' Association Committee?

We would love to hear from you!
Please contact the Alumni Manager, Sue Kleinig, for more information - alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au

**Have your contact
details changed?**

If the details we have for you are incorrect, please contact us on 08 8272 0444 or mail@concordia.sa.edu.au

**Would you prefer
a digital copy?**

If you currently receive a printed copy and would prefer a digital copy of future editions, please email community@concordia.sa.edu.au with the subject line "Digital Copy Please"

Latest Reunions and Events



70+ Harmony in the Chapel
Friday 10 May 2024



Class of 1974 - 50 Year Reunion
Friday 17 May 2024



Class of 1984 - 40 Year Reunion
Friday 21 June 2024



Class of 1994 - 30 Year Reunion
Friday 16 August 2024



Port Lincoln Reunion
Sunday 8 September 2024



60+ Brown and Gold Lunch
Thursday 19 September 2024

Spring 2024 Issue 79

Diary Dates

Partners welcome to join our events.

CANBERRA REUNION

Friday 25 October 2024, 6pm

The Howling Moon Canberra Rex Hotel Rooftop Bar
Tickets: \$40 per person // Drinks and grazing table
Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CTUCW

CLASS OF 2004, 20 YEAR REUNION

Friday 1 November 2024, 6-8pm

Art Courtyard, Concordia College
Tickets: \$30 per adult, free for children //
Drinks, finger food and a College tour
Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CNVCO

CLASS OF 2014, 10 YEAR REUNION

Friday 15 November 2024, 6pm

Cremorne Garden Courtyard, 207 Unley Road, Unley
Tickets: \$25 per person //
Canapés and a complimentary drink on arrival
Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CNVCF

CLASS OF 2019, 5 YEAR REUNION

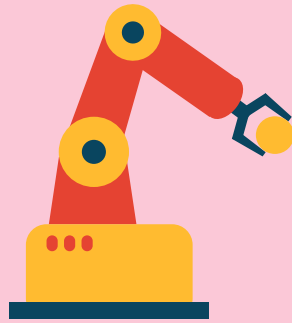
Friday 29 November 2024, 6pm

Cremorne Garden Courtyard, 207 Unley Road, Unley
Tickets: \$25 per person //
Canapés and a complimentary drink on arrival
Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CNVBS



LAUNCHPAD

2024



A showcase of student creativity and learning.



Tuesday
19 November
3.30-5.30pm



你好!



All Welcome



extraordinary



Fortiter

ELC - Year 12 Gymnasium





CONCORDIA
COLLEGE

Carol Service

9 December 2024

College Chapel

7.00-8.15pm

Come and celebrate the Advent season as we look to the coming of Christ. This is a wonderful opportunity to give thanks for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and for the gifts He has so freely bestowed upon us.

extraordinary