

Life in the Wilderness

Term 1 Issue #1 | Friday 16 February, 2024



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Beginnings, Transitions and Achievements

Belinda Arnfield, Principal

As the early weeks of this new year unfold, it has been wonderful to see our girls return to campus. In particular, we have shared the excitement of our youngest learners as they start their time in our beautiful new Early Learning Centre.

The beginning of any academic year is a time of anticipation and excitement for every student and their families. It is a joy to see our new girls finding their place and making connections, already establishing their part in our school's story and embracing new opportunities alongside our continuing students.

This year, our Year 12 students have embraced their roles as leaders within our school community with remarkable grace and determination. We made time to acknowledge this in our Year 12 Dedication Service earlier this week. Their journey through the years has prepared them for this moment, where they not only focus on their studies but also serve as mentors and role models for our younger students. Watching them lead with compassion, integrity and a sense of purpose is a reminder of the impact of our collective efforts in guiding them through their school years.

As we look forward, we also take a moment to look back and celebrate the achievements of our most recent graduates from the Class of 2023. **Devika Mukherjee** has been

awarded the Tennyson Medal, which honours the top student for English Literary Studies in the SACE graduating class, and **Allegra Kleinig** has received the Australian Institute of Physics Bronze Bragg Medal for the highest result in SACE Stage 2 Physics. We are so proud of these girls for their remarkable accomplishments.

Our school is more than just a place of learning. It is a community where every beginning, every transition and every achievement is celebrated. I am grateful to be part of this journey with you all.

Road Safety

A reminder to please take extra care when dropping off and picking up students. We particularly request that parents do not double park or attempt U-turns on Hawkers Road, or other roads near the School, to prioritise the safety of both pedestrians and other vehicles. We hope all parents will model responsible road safety and show respect to our girls, parents and staff.

Please also remind your daughters to be vigilant when crossing Hawkers Road or Northcote Terrace to access the school grounds – to look up from their phones and remove their headphones/ear buds before crossing the road – to avoid distraction from their surroundings and potential danger.

Thank you for helping to keep our community safe.



EARLY LEARNING

An Inspired Learning Environment

[Rebecca Williamson, Assistant Head of Junior School – Early Years](#)

Inspiration for the architectural and interior design of our learning environment, set within our much-loved home, has been drawn from the Educational Project of Reggio Emilia. Reggio Emilia is a relatively small town in Northern Italy, but one that has a big heart and unwavering commitment to outstanding early childhood education. Each year, educators from around the world gather in the city with the desire to understand the origins and principles of this approach, and then return inspired to apply this to their own contexts. It is made abundantly clear in Reggio, though, that this approach cannot be replicated. We can only be influenced by it, for our context is not the same. Last November, I was incredibly fortunate to join with approximately three hundred other educators from around the world to visit Reggio for a little over a week, to delve into the teachings of this educational approach.

During this study tour, I visited several infant-toddler centres and preschools and there was one school that I will always remember for the way it made me feel. I felt a strong sense of wellbeing, calmness, belonging (as – surprisingly – there was a name tag for a little girl called 'Rebecca'), inspiration, excitement and joy. Even as an adult, I wanted to stay there, play, explore, communicate, make meaning and learn in this environment. It was light-filled, neat and spacious, and had many beautiful plants. The colours were gentle and natural, and there was so much to learn there. The educators were ready and excited about their work—connected to the environment, the children, the families and each other. It was remarkable. I could certainly see why so many educators had been

inspired by this approach.

It is this that inspires what we have created in the architecture and interior design of our incredible new Early Learning Centre. What you see and feel now is the result of the intensive work and collaboration between exceptional professionals and our educational team. We are committed to embracing and following the Reggio principle of 'Environment, Spaces and Relations'—meaning that our learning environment is designed to facilitate communication, collaboration, curiosity and autonomy. Above all else, it will be a place where all who live and learn there feel a deep sense of wellbeing, safety and belonging. I am incredibly grateful to all who have been involved in curating this exceptional environment. I am also in absolute awe and filled with gratitude for the way the educational team and children have moved into this house together and transformed it into a learning 'home'. It has taken an enormous amount of time, care, dedication, commitment and collaboration.

However, our work on the curation of this learning environment will not stop here. We are an ambitious, motivated and dedicated team, who are continually aspiring to outstanding outcomes for your daughters. Therefore, you will see this beautiful environment continue to change very slightly every day, as the architecture interacts with the pedagogy. We have an unwavering commitment to being an exceptional place of early education for your daughters; however, this home is also for you, our families, and we welcome your expertise and feedback as we journey through the year together.

To conclude and mark the success of this first step in the creation of our new Early Learning Centre, please join us on **Thursday 22 February** at 5.00pm for our special Housewarming event. We would love to see you there to celebrate this first special milestone together.

Road Safety

A reminder to please take extra care when dropping off and picking up students. We particularly request that parents do not double park or attempt U-turns on Hawkers Road, or other roads near the School, to prioritise the safety of both pedestrians and other vehicles. We hope all parents will model responsible road safety and show respect to our girls, parents and staff.

Please also remind your daughters to be vigilant when crossing Hawkers Road or Northcote Terrace to access the school grounds – to look up from their phones and remove their headphones/ear buds before crossing the road – to avoid distraction from their surroundings and potential danger.

Thank you for helping to keep our community safe.







JUNIOR SCHOOL

Settling into 2024

[Liz McCarthy, Head of Junior School](#)

Reaching the end of Week 3, a sense of having 'settled in' to the new school year is upon us. A familiarity with new teachers, peers, timetables and play spaces has grown and there is truly a feeling of being well on our way with our 2024 learning journey.

With many periods of change and the resulting adjustments, we often spend time pondering what will be different, perhaps more difficult, and certainly working through the complexities that arise from having to operate in new ways. This was certainly the case in the final part of last year and over the summer break, as we prepared to live and work all together in one space from Reception to Year 6 while we eagerly await the completion of our new Lower Junior School learning area. Despite the necessary adjustments and new routines, we have found the most wonderful sense of being together—of our teachers collaborating throughout the day, and our girls connecting and sharing spaces. It has been a timely reminder that while change can feel challenging, and the unknown can perhaps be daunting, new opportunities arise that we would not have otherwise.

Our Year 6 Semester 1 Leadership Group were presented to our Principal, Mrs Belinda Arnfield, in front of their parents, teachers and Junior School peers at their Badge Presentation assembly last week. Undertaking the nomination and election process in November last year, this group of girls finally stepped into their roles this week. They will plan their first round of committee meetings in Week 4 and projects in their individual

areas in the coming semester.

Our new President, **Lila Nassery**, delivered a carefully considered, inclusive and inspirational speech on this day, which I would like to share with you here:

Good morning Mrs Arnfield, Mrs McCarthy, special guests and students.

My name is Lila Nassery, and I am honoured to be your Semester 1 president for 2024. I am so incredibly grateful for this amazing opportunity to display my leadership and I am so excited to work with my team to positively influence our Junior School. What an opportunity awaits us as your 2024 Junior School leadership team! Having our whole Junior School in the one location gives us the ability to foster a greater sense of community. With the Year 6 cohort leading by example, together we can all have the confidence to make a positive impact. As your president this semester, I will support and encourage every single one of you to be true to yourself and make everyone feel welcome in our school community. I promise to lead with passion, and I hope I can make every one of you feel included and welcomed every day.

Thank you.

I am proud to share with you our Semester 1 Junior School SRC Leadership Group.

Executive

- President – **Lila Nassery**
- Vice President – **Alice Gao**
- Secretary – **Maim Jibran**

Committee Leaders

- Citizenship Representative – **Leona Aquino**
- Environment Representative – **Sharanya Reddy**
- Library Representative – **Isha Wechalekar**

- Media Representative – **Rosie Morgan**
- Peer Support Representative – **Noor Jilaihawi** and **Madison Mason**
- Performing Arts Representative – **Caitlyn Lau**
- Sport Representative – **Emilia Varrichio**
- Student Foundation Representative – **Leila Nguyen**

Year Level Representatives

- Year 2 Representative – **Audrey George**
- Year 3 Representative – **Fatima Muazzam**
- Year 4 Representative – **Scarlett Drew Wallman**
- Year 5 Representative – **Saanika Singhal**

House Captains

- Amaryllis – **Primmy Grewal** and **Ella Cosenza**
- Antholiza – **Cedra Sawad** and **Alana Munt**
- Carob – **Emma Burns** and **Gurnoor Sohi**
- Cedar – **Alina Teng** and **Sophia Lehman**
- Sparaxis – **Adeline Wilson** and **Lily Costoglou**

Road Safety

A reminder to please take extra care when dropping off and picking up students. We particularly request that parents do not double park or attempt U-turns on Hawkers Road, or other roads near the School, to prioritise the safety of both pedestrians and other vehicles. We hope all parents will model responsible road safety and show respect to our girls, parents and staff.

Please also remind your daughters to be vigilant when crossing Hawkers Road or

Northcote Terrace to access the school grounds – to look up from their phones and remove their headphones/ear buds before crossing the road – to avoid distraction from their surroundings and potential danger.

Thank you for helping to keep our community safe.







MIDDLE SCHOOL

Lean In Girls and Leadership

[Rhianon Giles, Head of Middle School](#)

On Tuesday morning, the 2024 Middle School SRC leaders received their badges from Mrs Belinda Arnfield. We congratulate the following Year 9 students on their elections by their peers to the following positions:

- Middle School SRC President – **Gabrielle Chisholm**
- Middle School SRC Vice President – **Manha Abaid**
- Middle School SRC Secretary – **Lola Stradwick**
- Library Representatives – **Saanvi Khanna and Seraphina Sun**
- Music Representatives – **Sarah Mah and Alyra Nguyen**
- Round Square Representatives – **Alexandra Pringle and Addison Raeside**
- Sport Representatives – **Sophie Cardone and Madison Tait**
- Student Foundation Representatives – **Grace Quick and Annabel Wheeler**
- Visual Arts Representatives – **Georgia Haines and Meira Lam.**

Last week, these students started a curriculum focused on girls leadership called Lean

In Girls. We are excited to be part of this inaugural program that involves 10 International Coalition of Girls' Schools member schools and over 300 girls from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States of America. Thank you to Mrs Stephanie Andrews for her facilitation of this curriculum.

Our girls have also had productive meetings with their staff mentors and Senior School SRC counterparts, to discuss goals and initiatives for the year. We look forward to sharing the activities of the Middle School SRC throughout the year.

School Uniform

The Uniform Code and jewellery expectations are described in the front of the School Diary. Students have been reminded this week that if they are not in the correct uniform during the school day or for their PE lessons, this will be reflected in their Form and PE reports respectively. Both Form and PE reports are used in the calculation of Academic Effort Awards.

eSafety

eSafety is Australia's independent regulator for online safety. Previously known as the Children's eSafety Commissioner, eSafety is now at the forefront of the fight against online risks and harms faced by all users. They coordinate online safety education and prevention efforts across Australia, with the cooperation and support of many stakeholders and partners. Their website [eSafety.gov.au](https://esafety.gov.au) provides a wealth of resources and advice so that we can all be better informed about online safety.

Student Achievements

Congratulations to **Manha Abaid** (Year 9), **Evangeline Lee** (Year 8) and **Nidhi Sinhal** (Year 8), who have all won a prize in the 2023 Governor's Civics Awards for Schools and will receive a medallion and certificate at a ceremony at Government House later this month.

Jessica Mah (Year 7), one of our Middle School SRC Music Representatives, performed at the AMEB SA & NT December 2023 Showcase Concert late last year. She performed 'Blowin' Blue' by P. Harris, a Grade 6 Flute item.

Jacey Anand (Year 8) has been invited to perform at the Star Prize Festival in Royal Albert Hall, London later this year. We look forward to hearing all about Jacey's performance in such a prestigious music venue.

Road Safety

A reminder to please take extra care when dropping off and picking up students. We particularly request that parents do not double park or attempt U-turns on Hawkers Road, or other roads near the School, to prioritise the safety of both pedestrians and other vehicles. We hope all parents will model responsible road safety and show respect to our girls, parents and staff.

Please also remind your daughters to be vigilant when crossing Hawkers Road or Northcote Terrace to access the school grounds – to look up from their phones and remove their headphones/ear buds before crossing the road – to avoid distraction from their surroundings and potential danger.

Thank you for helping to keep our community safe.







SENIOR SCHOOL

Glitz and Glamour

[Kate Hanson, Head of Senior School](#)

The Senior School has been full of events since the girls arrived back. In considering the role of our Senior girls, I have been speaking with them about the importance of holding the space between the past and the future. It is our responsibility to uphold the values of our past so that the girls of the future may also enjoy and experience all that the School has to offer.

We consider our values and how we can show our connection with our community through a variety of ways. One of these daily ways can be upholding our standards when it comes to uniforms. In other ways, we leave our legacy through the shared events and activities that we hold. When we look at the accomplishments of recent old scholars, we think of successes such as the 2023 Tennyson Medal for English Literature winner, **Devika Mukherjee** (2023) and the Physics Bronze Bragg Medal winner, **Allegra Kleinig** (2023). Along with our other merit recipients, these girls have made our community incredibly proud.

As we move into the new year, we will be revisiting our daily expectations regarding uniform, but alongside this, the values, learning and events that make Wilderness such a special place. Some of our recent special events already held this year have included the following.

Year 11 and 12 Formal

The Year 11 and 12 Formal was held at the National Wine Centre. The theme, Glitz and Glamour, was evident throughout the event, with beautiful decorations and outfits. The girls enjoyed perfect weather, with dancing in the outdoor courtyard a highlight. The formal committee, led by Year 12 Representative, **Demi Moutos**, are congratulated on a wonderful event.

Year 12 Camp

Last weekend, the Year 12 girls enjoyed a weekend of bonding and friendship. Led by our SRC representatives, the girls enjoyed escape rooms, an Amazing Race challenge in the city, a quiz night, a sleepover and a visit to The Big Wedgie. Along with the girls, I am incredibly grateful to our many staff volunteers who made this weekend a success.

Dedication Service

Thank you to those who were able to attend our Dedication Service on Monday. As the Year 12s commence this year, we recognise the leadership that all Year 12s give and we support them in their final year of schooling.

School Uniform

The Uniform Code, makeup/nails and jewellery expectations are described in the front of the School Diary. Students have been reminded this week that if they are not in the correct uniform during the school day or for their PE lessons, this will be reflected in their Form and PE reports. Both Form and PE reports are used in the calculation of Academic Effort Awards.

Road Safety

A reminder to please take extra care when dropping off and picking up students. We particularly request that parents do not double park or attempt U-turns on Hawkers Road, or other roads near the School, to prioritise the safety of both pedestrians and other vehicles. We hope all parents will model responsible road safety and show respect to our girls, parents and staff.

Please also remind your daughters to be vigilant when crossing Hawkers Road or Northcote Terrace to access the school grounds – to look up from their phones and remove their headphones/ear buds before crossing the road – to avoid distraction from their surroundings and potential danger.

Thank you for helping to keep our community safe.











BOARDING

Pool Parties

Bronwen Pluck, Acting Head of Boarding

It was delightful to see our girls get together with boarders from other schools last Friday evening. We had a group of the Junior girls head to Seymour College and a group of Senior girls head to Pembroke School for their pool parties. We are looking forward to hosting an interschool event at Wilderness later in the year.

On Sunday afternoon, a group of girls travelled together to visit the Glenelg Markets. The girls were able to enjoy a wander around Glenelg and the markets, plus a stop at Yochi for a frozen yoghurt.

Lunar New Year

Our international girls joined International Student Coordinator Vivian Han on Friday night for an evening celebration. Together, they shared Chinese foods, crafts and games. We would like to extend to all our families a Happy Chinese New Year.

This year, we welcome the Year of the Dragon! In Chinese Culture, the dragon represents authority, prosperity and good fortune. Those who were born in the year of the dragon are known for their captivating demeanour, distinct personality and strong leadership abilities. The dragon represents good luck, strength and health. Those who turn 12, 24, 36, 48, 60, 72 and 84 in 2024 are likely to be dragons in the Chinese zodiac. Traditionally in China, it is good luck to wear red clothing throughout the year of your zodiac.





MUSIC

Music Talent on Showcase

[Anna Lenartowicz, Head of Music](#)

AMEB Student Achievements

At the conclusion of 2023, **Jessica Mah** (Year 7), performed at the AMEB SA & NT Showcase Concert on Sunday 10 December at Elder Hall, University of Adelaide.

Students invited to perform in this concert are those who:

- passed an AMEB practical exam this year (Grade 4 and above)
- were nominated by their examiner as a student who demonstrated an ability (under exam conditions) to display an engaging, polished and commanding performance of one of their exam pieces
- were selected by the program director and accepted an invitation to perform.

Jessica performed 'Blowin' Blue' by P. Harris, a Grade 6 Flute item and was accompanied by her sister **Sarah Mah** (Year 9).

I have also been notified that **Yilin (Ella) Gu** (Year 8) has been nominated to perform at this same concert coming up in April. Congratulations to both Jess and Yilin!

Music News

We would like to congratulate Ms Cassie Pope, who over the holiday break gave birth to a little girl, Adelaide Pope Davis on Tuesday 16 January. We are pleased to hear Cassie and her partner Gareth have settled in nicely at home, and we are awaiting a school visit very soon!

Our wonderful Music Assistant, Mrs Carolyn Tasker has moved departments at Wilderness and is now the PA to the Head of Junior School, Mrs Liz McCarthy. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Carolyn on behalf of all the Music staff, tutors, students and parents, for her tireless work over the years, assisting our busy Music department.

I am most pleased to announce that we have found a wonderful replacement in Ms Renee Lott, who joined us only last week. She has jumped in the deep end and has already started to make a great impact. Renee can be contacted [via email](#) and alongside myself, she is also the person at the other end of the [Music Office email](#).

Ensemble Rehearsal Schedule

All of our Music ensembles have commenced rehearsals. You can access the Ensemble Schedule [here](#). A more detailed Junior Music Schedule can also be accessed [here](#).

If your daughter is keen on being involved in any of our ensembles, they can email Ms Paige York (Ms York is replacing Ms Pope on maternity leave, and also assisting as the Ensemble Coordinator in 2024), or they can pop up to the Music Office at any time to speak to one of the Music staff.

Music Concerts and Events 2024

2024 is going to be a busy one for the Music Department! All of our favourite events will be back—Grooves On The Green later in Term 1, then Generations In Jazz, Jazz at The Gov and our first Music Tour in five years is taking place in June!

Please see [here](#) for a more detailed list of this year's events. Please take note of any dates that may involve you daughter; we will send out more detailed information for each event as they come closer.





GLOBAL LEARNING

Reflections from the Round Square Conference

[Stephanie Andrews, Head of Global Learning](#)

‘If you are called to lead, you are invited to serve.’

On Sunday 3 December 2023, six excited Year 8 students **Annika Ganesh, Manha Abaid, Gabby Chisholm, Addison Raeside, Bella Nguyen** and **Ava Cabot** boarded a plane to New Zealand and embarked on a life changing journey, attending the 2023 Junior Round Square Conference at Whanganui Collegiate School.

The conference theme focused on the Round Square IDEALS of Leadership and Service with the following quote by Wayne Brown, Headmaster of Whanganui Collegiate School – “If service is below you, leadership is beyond you” – resonating with us all. We heard from leaders in their respective fields such as Andrew Tripe (Mayor of Whanganui), Mark Crystal (Rangitikei Rivers Catchment Collective) and Rachel Maia (New Zealand’s top para-climber), learning about leadership from a completely different lens by delving into how versatile leadership and service can be, and how even a small act of service can go a long way. The speakers addressed leadership qualities such as being empathetic, being more culturally aware and always striving for feedback.

Rachel Maia’s talk about her perseverance and courage to pursue her passion for climbing despite the excruciating pain of a shattered foot was inspirational. She spoke about her dedication to her sport and the sacrifices she made, as well as the support she received from her three children, which were pivotal to her placing second in the 2022 World Cup and third in the 2023 World Championships. We were inspired by her drive and

perseverance, being essential qualities of a leader.

The IDEALS of Internationalism, Democracy, Environmentalism and Adventure also featured throughout the conference. Our activity groups were made up of students from every corner of the globe, such as India, Canada, Bermuda and USA, allowing us to share perspectives and broaden our understanding of the world by exploring Internationalism and learning about cultures. Throughout this trip, we fostered bonds with these students, developing our friendship-making skills, while experiencing different cultures and backgrounds.

On Service Day, Environmentalism was at the forefront as we helped with revegetating an area of native land in a rural community. Finally, Adventure was an underlying theme throughout the conference, but particularly in the Makahika outdoor pursuits session, where we developed our resilience and grit through high ropes challenges and orienteering. Connecting to the Wilderness School value of Adventurous Learning, we learned to face our fears and navigate tough challenges.

Learning about the cultural teachings of the Māori people developed our respect for a new and diverse culture. We learned some Māori language such as numbers, colours and dance moves through fun games led by Māori leaders, and gained insight into cultural practices and their interpretation of the land. Learning about Māori martial arts taught us respect for the land we were standing on and knowledge about regulating our emotions, as the leaders interpreted the traditional symbolism for various poses including the ability to ground ourselves within the environment around us. It was enlightening to learn about the similarities with the Australian Indigenous Dreamtime stories.

This trip was a life changing experience and we are excited to apply our newfound knowledge within our school environment and our personal communities, and to share the stories and cultural experiences we enjoyed during this experience with everyone.

Gabrielle Chisholm, Annika Ganesh and Manha Abaid

Year 9







COMMUNITY

Walk Everest in a Day!

[Rosie Smith, Acting Head of Outdoor Education](#)

The Years 10 to 12 students who are attending the Nepal Trek in 2024 are working with Wilderness in Nepal (WIN) to organise a fundraiser called 'Walk Everest in a Day' at Belair National Park.

The 8,848m walk (8.84km) through Belair National Park matches the height of Mount Everest. Check your progress against significant peaks around the world and when you reach the "summit" of Mount Everest, relax at the Main Oval with a hot drink and food which will be available for purchase. There will be a raffle with prizes donated by Wilderness community members.

The funds raised will support the Health Post at Bhaduaire School and the community. It would be amazing to see as many Wilderness girls and families at this event to support our friends in Nepal.

Sunday 24 March

Walk commences at 9.30am (arrive at 9.15am)

Belair National Park Main Oval

\$15 per student and \$30 per adult

[Book Your Tickets via TryBooking](#)

Following booking with the above link, you will receive further information about the event from WIN in the lead up to the event.

Students can also seek sponsorship from friends and families to complete the walk to help raise additional funds. There will be a prize for the student who raises the most funds. To receive a sponsorship card, please email Ms [Rosie Smith](#).

We look forward seeing you to enjoy walking through one of Adelaide's beautiful national parks for a great cause.

