

Life in the Wilderness

Term 2 Issue #0 | Wednesday 19 April, 2023



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Sharing Staffing Announcements for Term 2

Belinda Arnfield, Principal

I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful holiday break. We are excited to welcome back students and parents alike for Term 2 in a few days' time. Before the term commences, we have some staffing updates to share.

Congratulations to Ms Marnie Eddington, who has been appointed as Acting Head of Sparaxis House for Term 2 whilst Mrs Julie Grant is on Long Service Leave. Marnie has been a member of Wilderness staff since 2020, teaching and mentoring our girls across various year levels in Physical Education, Sport Science, Artemis and as a Form teacher. Ms Eddington is passionate about each student's wellbeing and helping them reach their full potential whilst living happy and fulfilling lives. She is a passionate, caring and kind person and we are pleased she will be stepping into this important pastoral role where our girls will feel safe, supported and nurtured.

We welcome Mr Jason Forrest to our staff team, who will be teaching Drama and Media. Jason has 25 years' experience as a Performing Arts and Media educator globally. During this time, Jason has directed and produced numerous theatre productions with primary and high school-aged students across a range of sectors, including a number of girls schools. Most recently, Jason completed his Graduate Certificate in Journalism and has

continued to explore his interest in Creative Arts through the completion of radio, film and podcasting courses. He has especially applied his skills, experience and knowledge to the teaching of film analysis and production, most recently in Adelaide as Head of Drama and Film at Pembroke School. Jason's long and varied career in the Performing Arts as a leader, teacher, mentor, director and performer is testament to his creative drive, which is led by his desire to provide young people with the necessary tools to prepare for pathways in the Arts and Creative Industries. We welcome him to Wilderness.

We gladly welcome back our Head of Art Mrs Brooke Porter, after a term of long service leave, and sincerely thank Mrs Lindy Neilson for acting in this role in Term 1. We are pleased to retain Lindy's expertise in a teaching capacity this term. There are several exciting projects happening right now in our Art department – headlined by our Artist in Residence program, and a collaboration with the Outdoor Education team at REALISE – and it is an asset to have these talented, experienced educators guiding our girls to express themselves creatively.

In fact, each member of our staff teams brings something unique to the table; their expertise, care and skills contribute to the exceptional teaching we can offer our students. The wellbeing and growth of our staff is important to us and is carefully overseen by our Director of Leadership and Human Potential, Mrs Heather de Blasio and Director of Learning and Teaching, Mr Brad Snell. Just as our teachers build relationships with students to bring out their best, our staff collaborate for the betterment of the School.

Our mission is 'to enable every girl to be the best she can be throughout her life' and this inspires us to deliver an outstanding education for your daughters.

We look forward to resuming learning for our staff and students in a matter of days. Enjoy the remaining break together with your daughters, and we will see you soon on **Wednesday 26 April.**



EARLY LEARNING

Ready to Return to the ELC

Rebecca Williamson, Assistant Head of Junior School – Early Years

We hope that your girls have had a wonderful holiday and are refreshed and ready to commence Term 2. With this, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new families who are joining us this term. We know that you will very quickly feel right at home in our Early Learning Centre.

As with every term, there are several important dates and reminders we would like you to know ahead of time.

Immunisation History Statements

When you enrol in our service, and again when your daughter turns four, we are required by law to obtain a copy of her immunisation history statement. Over the holidays, some of you will have received a request from me to forward an updated immunisation history statement for your daughter. It is vitally important for continued enrolment that you comply with this request. Thank you to those of you who have already sent this to me.

The Act states:

- an early childhood service must not enrol a child if all immunisation requirements are not met
- a child cannot attend, or continue to attend, an early childhood service if all

immunisation requirements are not met

- early childhood services must keep a current copy of an approved immunisation record for each child enrolled in, or attending that service
- approved immunisation records must be supplied by parents/guardians to the early childhood service at specified times.

For more information, please consult [Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Carers](#).

Mother's Day Breakfast

The date of **Tuesday 16 May** from 8.00am to 8.30am marks the time for our very special Mother's Day Breakfast. Everyone is invited to attend, even if this is not your daughter's normal day of attendance. If you are unable to attend, you are most welcome to send someone in your place to be with your daughter on the day. In the past, grandmothers, dads, aunts and other family members have all stepped in when mums could not attend. Siblings can also participate in this special event.

Important To Note – Dads And Family Members: Our girls will make a little gift and card for their mothers at school, but we will save this to present to our much-loved mums at the breakfast, which is after Mother's Day on Sunday 14 May, so you may still need to organise presents on the Sunday.

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge Production

As previously mentioned on Seesaw, we are thrilled to announce that we have purchased tickets for our ELC girls to visit the Space Theatre on **Thursday 18 May**, to see the production of Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge. More information will be sent to you soon with an invitation and a link to RSVP for your daughter. We will also be requesting the help of those of you with Working with Children Checks to support us to meet our ratios for this special event.

For more information, please visit [Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge](#).

Gumboots

You will soon receive a message from the ELC teachers requesting that your daughter brings a pair of gumboots to leave at school for outside wet play. This weekend might be a good opportunity to check the size of the boots you have and to pop a clear label

on them.

Playground Equipment and ELC Play Spaces After School

Please note that children are not permitted to play in the ELC play spaces or on the Lower Junior School play equipment after school. We love to see the sense of community that is formed around the equipment after school, but for safety and supervision reasons, we are unfortunately unable to allow this to happen.

Both you and I know that this is not a fun rule to enforce as a parent or teacher, so let's all work together so that the children quickly learn that this is not an option for anyone, and we will all have a happier afternoon.

We thank you for your support as we work to achieve all of the above. Our Early Learning Centre is a very special community, and we treasure the wonderful partnerships we have with our families. We look forward to seeing you on your daughter's first day back on or after **Wednesday 26 April**.



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Back to the Junior School Gates

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

As you read this, I trust you have each enjoyed a wonderful term break, hopefully with some time to relax and enjoy being with those dearest to you. We are very much looking forward to welcoming the girls back as we commence Term 2. Our teachers have planned and are ready to implement an engaging and rigorous learning program for their classes.

A reminder that the first day of term will be **Wednesday 26 April**. Staff will be gathering for professional learning on Monday 24 April, followed by the Anzac Day public holiday on Tuesday. Our Year 6 SRC Executive will be accompanying me to the Walkerville Dawn Service at the Memorial Rose Garden on Anzac Day, where they will lay a wreath in honour of our fallen service men and women.

The first two weeks of Term 2 are our uniform change over period, where students can wear either their summer or winter uniform. Girls must wear either the summer or winter uniform in its entirety (not 'mix and match') during this period, with full winter uniform required by **Monday 9 May** (Week 3).

Our important dates for the Junior School have been included in this week's publication, however I am pleased to inform you that we will be releasing the important dates for the remainder of 2023 in the coming weeks. These will be available in the Parent Portal, and include a comprehensive list of upcoming camps, concerts, transition days and carnivals. As you would appreciate, there will be various opportunities for our girls across the year

that we are not aware of in advance; these will be communicated with you if and as they arise on a year level basis.

While it seems like a long time ago now, our Junior School Sports Day (held at the end of Term 1) was a successful, well-attended and joyous event for our girls. We were blessed with wonderful weather which made competing in and viewing the range of competitive and novelty events throughout the day all that much better. We look forward to another day of sporting celebration and team spirit when we come together for our Years 3-6 Swimming Carnival in Term 4.

Please enjoy the last few days of the school holidays; stay safe, enjoy being together and the Junior School staff and I will be eagerly waiting at the Lower and Upper Junior School gates for your girls' return next Wednesday.







MIDDLE SCHOOL

Camping Adventures Await

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

Welcome back to Term 2. Best wishes to the Year 8 girls (Core Groups 1 and 2) who will leave for their Outdoor Education camp and the Year 9 Girls from Core Group 2 who will leave for REALISE this weekend. I am looking forward to seeing you all on Sunday morning.

Staffing News

We warmly welcome Mr Jason Forrest to the Wilderness community, who will be teaching Media and Drama. Jason will also be the Form teacher for 7 Antholiza, following the resignation of Miss Brittany Neeb at the end of Term 1. We welcome Mrs Brooke Porter back from leave and we are excited that Mrs Lindy Neilson is able to continue to teach Art with us.

Mrs Julie Grant will be on leave this term. As such, Miss Marnie Eddington will be the Acting Head of Sparaxis House and Ms Kaye Mason will teach Julie's Mathematics classes.

For the first two weeks, Miss Cathy Went and Ms Emily Lewis will be on leave—there will be some familiar faces to our students, Ms Meggie Murdoch and Ms Judy Thurgood, who will be teaching their History and Language and Learning classes over this time.

Winter Uniform

A reminder to girls and families that winter uniform is worn during Terms 2 and 3. Girls may choose to wear either their summer or winter uniforms in the first two weeks of Term 2 and Term 4 and the last two weeks of Term 1 and Term 3. It is expected that girls wearing summer uniform will wear their hat to and from school.

The blazer or summer dress should be the outer garment worn to and from school, not the jumper. Girls are reminded that they should change for PE lessons at school and not wear PE uniform all day. Their uniform guidelines can be found in the student diary.

Do not forget that you can purchase uniforms online using the [Wilderness Flexischools app or website](#). The Uniform Shop will have extended trading hours on **Monday 24 April** from 8.30am to 4.00pm, for any last-minute requirements, and will return to normal opening hours for the rest of the term. For further information, please refer to the Uniform Shop [article](#).

Cedar Birthday Celebrations

Please enjoy this reflection from Cedar House Captains, **Mia Heywood-Smith** and **Sienna Grech** (Year 12) who organised some birthday fun for the Middle School Cedar girls:

To commemorate birthday celebrations in Cedar House this year, we have decided to group a collection of year levels into a fun theme that represents their ages. Last term, a slumber party-themed birthday celebration was held for girls turning 12, 13 or 14. The birthday girls and their friends enjoyed a cosy and exciting morning of bonding and celebration filled with fun activities, including biscuit decorating and Barbie Life in the Dreamhouse!

Important Dates

In preparation for Term 2, a list of key dates for Term 2 in the Middle School is now available on SEQTA Engage, and Semester 2 dates for 2023 will be added in the coming weeks. Please note that due to the Anzac Day public holiday on **Tuesday 25 April**, Term 2 will start on **Wednesday 26 April** for all girls.

Parent Teacher Interviews

At the end of Term 1, you received the Term 1 Academic Report for your daughter. A reminder that Parent Teacher Interviews for both the Middle and Senior School will

take place on **Wednesday 26 April** and **Tuesday 2 May** from **3.45pm to 8.30pm** to meet with your daughter's teachers. To book an appointment, please follow the directions supplied by email during the last week of Term 1 to access Parent Teacher Online.





SENIOR SCHOOL

Important Information for Term 2

Ben Manifold, Head of Senior School

I hope you have had a wonderful Easter break with your daughter and have been able to enjoy some down time from the busyness of everyday life. In preparation for Term 2, please note the following arrangements and diarise important dates that are relevant to you. A list of key dates for Term 2 in the Senior School is now available on SEQTA Engage, and comprehensive Semester 2 dates for 2023 will be added in the coming weeks. Please note that due to the Anzac Day public holiday on **Tuesday 25 April**, Term 2 will start on **Wednesday 26 April** for all girls.

Parent Teacher Interviews

At the end of Term 1, you received the Term 1 Academic Report for your daughter. A reminder that Parent Teacher Interviews for both the Middle and Senior School will take place on **Wednesday 26 April** and **Tuesday 2 May from 3.45pm to 8.30pm** to meet with your daughter's teachers. To book an appointment, please follow the directions supplied by email during the last week of Term 1 to access Parent Teacher Online.

Uniform

All girls will move into their winter uniform over the first two weeks of Term 2. The winter uniform consists of the Wilderness blazer, winter blouse and tie, skirt and black school

shoes with knee length chocolate brown socks or tights. The School blazer must always be worn to and from school with the winter uniform.

Middle and Senior School girls may not arrive in the morning or leave school at the end of the day in PE uniform, except when they have sport practice before or after school. If girls have PE after recess and sport practice after school, they may change into their PE uniform at recess and remain in their sport uniform for the rest of the day.

For further information, please refer to the Uniform Ship [article](#).

Health Centre

As we move towards Winter, a reminder that girls may not make arrangements to go home when sick without consulting staff in the Health Centre. If your daughter needs to be picked up due to illness, the Health Centre Nurse will contact you.

Student Absence

A reminder that all girls are expected to be in their Form room by 8.30am. They are expected to arrive by 8.20am at the latest so that they can prepare for the day. Regular attendance and timely arrival at school and lessons will assist the girls to maximise their learning potential and interpersonal relationships.

If your daughter is going to be absent for a day or more for reasons other than illness, permission must be requested in advance from the appropriate Head of School. This applies to boarders as well as day girls. The Head of School will inform their Head of House, who will inform the girl's Form teacher and subject teachers.

Every effort should be made to arrange medical and dental appointments outside of school hours. However, if this proves impossible, an explanation should be sent in advance via the Student Absentee Form on SEQTA Engage. Girls will not be dismissed from school without submission of this explanation. Any girl leaving school for any reason during the day must sign out at the Front Office and sign in upon their return.

Road Safety

All Senior School girls are reminded that they must cross at the pedestrian crossings at all times and carefully check both ways before stepping out onto the road. Parents driving around the School are asked to be vigilant and not complete U-turns on Hawkers Road close to the pedestrian crossing.

I look forward to seeing you at the Parent Teacher Interviews over the coming weeks and thank you for your ongoing support.



UNIFORM SHOP

Uniform Reminder and Shop Opening Hours

[Meredith Olsson, Uniform Shop Manager](#)

Winter uniform is worn in Terms 2 and 3, however, girls may choose to wear their summer or winter uniform in the first two weeks of Term 2 during the change-over period. Winter uniform must be worn from Week 3. Please consult the [Uniform handbook](#) for further explanation regarding the requirements for each year level.

There are two special openings at the Uniform Shop in the coming week to organise uniform fittings, outside of the regular shop hours listed below.

- **Monday 24 April:** 8.30am to 4.00pm
- **Saturday 29 April:** 8.30am to 12.00pm noon

Regular Term Opening Hours

Monday: 8.00am – 9.00am

Tuesday: 8.00am – 9.00am and 3.00pm – 4.30pm

Wednesday: 3.00pm – 6.00pm

Thursday: 8.00am – 9.00am

Friday: Closed

