

# Life in the Wilderness

Term 3 Issue #0 | Friday 21 July, 2023

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## A Continuous Journey

**Belinda Arnfield, Principal**

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Welcome to Semester 2. I hope that you had a safe and enjoyable winter break, and that your daughters are feeling refreshed and ready for Term 3.

There are a few staffing changes ahead of the semester that may be relevant to you and your daughter. Head of Sparaxis House, Mrs Julie Grant has returned from long service leave; we thank Ms Marnie Eddington, who acted in this role throughout Term 2. While Mr Matthew Hawkins is on leave this term, the role of Acting SACE (South Australian Certificate of Education) Coordinator will be filled by Mr Tobia Trentin. Head of Outdoor Education, Ms Lauren Walker has commenced maternity leave, so Ms Rosie Smith has stepped into the position of Acting Head of Outdoor Education.

Although we are only halfway through the year, it is at this time that we begin considering options for our students in 2024. Teaching staff have been carefully developing existing and new subjects for the approaching year, and in coming weeks, Years 8 to 12 students and parents will begin receiving communication about 2024 subject selections. Subject information sessions will also be held in the coming weeks.

Once students have indicated their preferences, timetabling will begin. Our class schedules shift to accommodate the students' interests, maximising the opportunities for

girls to pursue their various interests and strengths. This is not always the case in schools and universities, and it is made possible because of the hard work and creative thinking of our timetabling staff.

Soon, our Year 8 girls will undertake subject selection for the first time. We encourage breadth of experience and girls will choose from a wide range of exciting semester options as well as core subjects. Middle School is the time to take risks and develop an understanding of areas not previously explored. By the Senior School years, girls consider the subjects they want to pursue through their SACE. This is why we ensure girls are given a taste of as many subjects and extra-curricular opportunities as possible to make informed decisions.

Our curriculum is deliberately designed to create a continuous journey for all girls which engages and builds upon prior knowledge. This gives all girls a chance to explore, enjoy and problem-solve in every subject area, and extends to developing values, attributes and dispositions. Each year adds building blocks for girls to expand their knowledge in familiar areas, introduce new concepts and grow as global citizens.

An example of this also lies beyond curriculum areas. The Year 6 leadership process provides a similar experience to subject selections—girls consider the areas that make them feel confident, curious and moved to create positive change. Where are they inspired to lead their peers? How can they contribute to the life of the School? Here, we provide intentional structure and guidance for girls to consider how they can be active participants in their journey at Wilderness School, and how they want to give back to their community. We are excited to host a badge assembly for our Semester 2 Junior School leaders next week, to celebrate this step.

We encourage all girls to think carefully about their subject selections, and the subjects that they perform best in, alongside their parents and teachers. What subjects make them excited to come to class? The ones that they are most passionate about will spark their learning in other areas, utilise transferable knowledge and motivate them to dig deep when they encounter obstacles.

I look forward to all that Term 3 will bring, and I am excited to see the girls return on **Wednesday 26 July**.

## Safety Update

In the interest of safety, our girls and families are reminded to be wary of approaches from strangers, especially when they are unaccompanied or travelling to and from school. We ask our girls not to respond if they are approached or offered rides or gifts by strangers.

Girls are encouraged instead to seek the assistance of other nearby adults if they feel

unsafe and should report the event to a trusted adult (parent or school staff member) as soon as possible.

Current advice is to visibly use a mobile phone to call police as this can deter any potential offenders. A formal report can then be made to the closest police station.



EARLY LEARNING

## Development in Every Day

**Rebecca Williamson, Assistant Head of Junior School – Early Years**

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We are very pleased to be welcoming you all back for Term 3 and would like to extend an especially warm welcome to our new girls and their families.

### Changes to our Educational Team

Along with our new families, we are very happy to officially welcome Ms Tania Roscio into the Annie House and Ms Tommie Williams into our Mamie House, both as co-educators. Tania and Tommie are familiar faces for your girls, and they are excited about their new roles.

Ms Sophie Bonner will also be joining the Mamie House team as she undertakes her 35-day placement for her Graduate Certificate of Education. Sophie has already obtained a degree in Primary Education, but she has decided to extend her qualifications (no doubt influenced by your lovely daughters) to include early childhood.

Mrs Pamela McCrea will also be undertaking her placement in the Annie House this term, teaching alongside Miss Danielle Moir, as she works to complete her Bachelor of Early Childhood and Primary Education.

We are incredibly lucky to have such highly skilled, ambitious co-educators in our team and they too are extremely fortunate to have exceptional teachers in each House leading the way.

## Professional Development

To ensure your daughters have an outstanding education, educators at Wilderness are encouraged to continually develop professionally, and consequently, they are offered incredible learning opportunities.

One such opportunity was given to Miss Danielle Moir (Annie House teacher), Mrs Wendy Menzies (Mamie House teacher) and Mrs Liz McCarthy (Head of Junior School) when they attended the 2023 REAIE (Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange) conference in Melbourne at the conclusion of Term 2. This year's conference invited delegates to come together to reconnect with the shared purpose of the Reggio Emilia approach to education with a focus on children's creativity and curiosity. This was a thought-provoking conference which will inspire the development of future projects and continue to deepen and challenge our thinking around creativity and sparking curiosity for a long time to come!

To build upon this, I am incredibly excited to visit Reggio Emilia (in Italy) for an intensive study tour in November. I look forward to sharing more information closer to the time, and again upon my return.

This high-quality professional learning is a key component of the School's mission, which is to be a world leader in girls' education, and we know that it has a significant positive impact on all involved.

## Upcoming Events

**Thursday 24 August**

**Book Week Parade**

**8.40am - 9.00am**

**Gym**

Book Week falls in Week 5 this term, with our annual dress-up parade to be held on **Thursday 24 August**. All girls will be invited to attend the parade, even if this is not your usual day of attendance. This year's theme is 'Read. Grow. Inspire.' Girls are encouraged to consider this when planning their costume for the parade. Watch this space for more information to come about the events planned for Book Week. It is certainly an exciting time, if not a little daunting for us as parents as we plan costumes! Please do not worry though, as we will share ideas with you.

**Tuesday 5 September**

**Father's Day Breakfast**

**8.30am**

**Lower Junior School Lawn**

Please mark the above date and time in your calendars for our annual ELC and Lower

Junior School Father's Day Breakfast. This will be a similar event to our Mother's Day Breakfast earlier in the year, and if you are unable to attend, we encourage you to send someone in your place to enjoy this morning with your daughter.

It is incredible to see how rapidly the year is disappearing, but also exciting to see how quickly and wonderfully your girls are growing and developing. We hope that you have all had lovely holidays and we look forward to hearing all about them when you return from **Wednesday 26 July** onwards.

## Uniform Shop

Please note the following special opening time ahead of Term 3:

Week 1, Term 3: **Tuesday 25 July**, 8.30am – 1.00pm

No Saturday opening.

The Uniform Shop regular opening hours are:

- **Monday: 8.00am to 9.00am**
- **Tuesday: 8.00am to 9.00am and 3.00pm to 4.30pm**
- **Wednesday: 3.00pm to 6.00pm**
- **Thursday: 8.00am to 9.00am**
- **Friday: Closed**

**Meredith Olsson**

Uniform Shop Manager



JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Another Busy Term Ahead

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

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As preparations to commence Term 3 are well underway, I trust you have enjoyed the opportunity for some time, either away or at home, with your families during the winter break. The coming term is another busy one in our Junior School, with a broad range of events such as camps, competitions and excursions to look forward to. Important dates are published on the Parent Portal for your reference, with specific communication about those your daughter will be involved in coming from the relevant staff member preceding the event.

I am delighted that this semester will see a much-anticipated return of our Year 5 and Year 6 Educational Tours to Ballarat and Canberra respectively. This is the first time since the pandemic began that we have been able to attend and I know that the Year 5 and Year 6 teachers are looking forward to once again providing their students with these deeply valuable experiences to enhance and bring to life the girls' learning.

### Learning in Term 3

You would have received the Term 3 overviews for learning at the end of last term and these will be further complemented by weekly communication from your daughters' year level teachers about the upcoming week. These updates will include the planned in-class and home learning, any assessments or due dates, as well as any other important administrative information that you need to be aware of.

## Junior School Assemblies

Due to our shortened Week 1, there will be no Junior School assembly during that week. We will commence with our Semester 2 Junior School SRC Badge Presentation assembly on **Thursday 3 August** at 8.40am in the Gym. Assemblies will then continue weekly at this time moving forward.

## Pick-up Times and Expectations

As you are aware, the school day concludes at 3.25pm and subsequently, this is also the pick-up time. Students attending OSHC in the Lower Junior School are collected from the lawn outside the classrooms and walked up, while students attending in Years 2 – 6 wait in the Junior School Front Office before being taken over to the OSCH room. To support you when occasional and unavoidable situations arise that result in arriving after 3.25pm, we have a yard duty teacher in both areas until 3.50pm to ensure your little girls are safe and supervised.

We ask that you phone the Junior School Front Office if you are running late to enable us to reassure your daughter and for our awareness. However, should there be a consistent or ongoing reason for picking up your daughter(s) later than 3.25pm on one or more days, it is a clear expectation that you book into OSHC or make other arrangements for her collection.

## Book Week Parade

Book Week falls in Week 5 this term, with our annual dress-up parade to be held on **Thursday 24 August**. This year's theme is 'Read. Grow. Inspire.' Girls are encouraged to consider this when planning their costume for the parade. Watch this space for more information to come about the events planned for Book Week from Mrs Katie Silva, our Junior School teacher librarian.

We look forward to welcoming your daughters back to school next **Wednesday 26 July** and to working with you again throughout the term.

## Music Ensemble Timetable

Please note the following [ensemble timetable](#) for Semester 2.

## Term 3 Sport Dates

Please note the following Sport dates for Term 3 in the Junior School:

- SAPSASA Athletics: **Thursday 31 August** (Week 6)

**Ashleigh Young**

Director of Sport and Recreation

## Uniform Shop

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- **Friday: Closed**

**Meredith Olsson**

Uniform Shop Manager



MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Welcome to Term 3

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

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Welcome back for Term 3 to all Middle School families. I hope that you have been able to enjoy some sun over the three-week break and have had the chance to spend some time with your family and friends.

This term, all girls in the Middle School will have new timetables and some new subject teachers. We welcome Ms Scarlett Korner as a teacher of History and Ms Mia Parkin as a teacher of Art and Drama. Welcome back to Mrs Julie Grant, Head of Sparaxis and Teacher of Mathematics, following leave in Term 2. Thank you to Ms Marnie Eddington for her support of the Sparaxis girls as Acting Head of Sparaxis last term.

### Homework Timetables

Girls in the Middle School will receive their Term 3 Homework Timetables at the beginning of term via email. Girls should spend a maximum of 20 minutes on each subject allocated. Girls that have commitments on particular evenings are encouraged to discuss these with their subject teachers and negotiate alternative times they can complete homework.

[Year 7 Homework Timetable](#)

[Year 8 Homework Timetable](#)

[Year 9 Homework Timetable](#)

## Permission to Feel – Year 8 Artemis and Wellbeing

At the start of Term 3, Year 8 students will partake in a new and collaborative unit through Artemis and Form, called “Permission to Feel”. This evidence-based unit is designed to address contemporary issues that impact our young girls’ wellbeing while equipping them with resources to help them navigate through life’s challenges.

The “Permission to Feel” unit highlights the concept of wellbeing through a holistic lens and interrelated framework, which is used to cover a wide range of concepts including perfectionism and procrastination, helpful and balanced thinking and academic resilience. By equipping our Year 8 girls with these social and emotional skills, we aim to prepare them for the social, emotional and academic challenges they may face at school, fostering their academic buoyancy.

The primary objective of this program is to empower our students with the tools they need to navigate the complexities of adolescence and establish a strong foundation for their wellbeing. Through engaging and collaborative activities and discussions, this unit will encourage self-reflection, self-awareness and the development of healthy and adaptive coping mechanisms.

We encourage you to engage with your child during this unit by discussing the concepts covered and supporting their growth in these areas. In addition, we invite you to reach out to us with any questions, concerns or feedback you may have regarding this unit. We value your partnership and involvement in your child’s education and wellbeing.

**Andrew Mittiga**

Acting Head of Cedar House

## Music Ensemble Timetable

Please note the following [ensemble timetable](#) for Semester 2.

## Term 3 Sport Dates

Please note the following Sport dates for Term 3 in the Middle and Senior School:

- Winter Intercol: **Monday 21 August to Monday 28 August** (Week 5/6)
- Middle School/Senior School Athletics Carnival: **Friday 8 September** (Week 7)
- IGSSA Athletics Carnival: **Wednesday 27 September** (Week 10)

**Ashleigh Young**

Director of Sport and Recreation

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**Meredith Olsson**

Uniform Shop Manager

## Le Paris Plage – Term 3 Excursion

Please enjoy this reflection from Year 9 student **Emmy Denys** about their French class excursion to Le Paris Plage.

At the end of last term, the students from Year 9 French were given an opportunity to experience French cuisine. Prior to participating in this excursion, girls prepared by learning vocabulary regarding how to order and ask questions about food. When we arrived at Le Paris Plage, Madame Otina-Griffin greeted the owner in French, where he showed us to our seats and handed out the menu.

The crêperie was a true French affair with comfortable chairs and the aroma of crêpes. Once we had selected our meal, Mademoiselle Rossi guided us to the ordering station. To order our meals, we said 'Bonjour' to the waitress and picked our favourites from the menu. Service at Le Paris Plage was excellent, as within approximately five minutes of ordering we

received our meals. The savoury galettes were full of flavour and texture, but the sweet crêpes blew everyone away—especially since we were looking for a sweet treat to end the term! Even the presentation of each dish was superb, from an egg in the centre of a savoury galette, to a sweet cloud of whipped cream topped with chocolate sauce and strawberries. After leaving Le Paris Plage, Year 9 French students arrived at Wilderness School wanting to go back!

Le Paris Plage was definitely a great experience, it is highly recommended for future meals. Thank you to Madame Otina-Griffin and Mademoiselle Rossi for organising this excursion, and the staff at Le Paris Plage for welcoming and assisting us we are forever grateful!

## I Am Who I Am – Chinese Film Excursion

Please enjoy this reflection from Year 8 student, **Lola Stradwick** about their Chinese class excursion to the cinemas.

On Thursday of Week 9, Term 2, the Year 8 Chinese classes saw the Chinese animation I Am What I Am at Prospect Cinemas.

The film was about a small boy called Ah Zhen. He developed a passion for lion dancing in the hope of being able to see his parents, who were away working in Guang Zhou. This movie gave us insight into families that are struggling with poverty and the sacrifices they have to make in order to just put food on the table. It also gave our class insight into what lion dancing really is and its significance in Chinese culture.

The movie also had many recognisable Chinese characters. It was spoken in Chinese, which required us to read the subtitles and allowed us to see how these characters were put into everyday sentences. The movie experience improved our Chinese skills by enabling us to look for the characters we did not know and try to work out the meaning from the context of the rest of the sentence.

Overall, the movie excursion improved our Chinese while spending time

with our friends and classmates and enjoying the entertainment of the film.





SENIOR SCHOOL

## The Premiership Quarter

[Ben Manifold, Head of Senior School](#)

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I hope you have had a wonderful mid-year break with your daughter(s). It has been a busy break for a number of the Senior School girls who had the opportunity to hike the Jatbula Trail in the Northern Territory. The Jatbula Trail is a remote six-day, one way walk, departing from Nitmiluk Gorge, traversing the western edge of the Arnhem Land escarpment and finishing at Edith Falls. I thank the Outdoor Education Staff, in particular Miss Rosie Smith and Ms Kate Woodbridge for leading the two trips that took place during the break.

At the end of last term, I spoke to the girls about Term 3 being the 'Premiership Quarter' as they head towards their final exams in early November. While Term 3 is always a busy time for the whole school community, the importance of keeping up with assessment tasks and communicating with teachers cannot be underestimated for all Senior School girls.

In preparation for Term 3, please note the following arrangements and diarise important dates that are relevant to you. A list of key dates for Term 3 in the Senior School are now available on SEQTA Engage. Please note that Term 3 will start for Year 12s on **Monday 26 July** when they will begin their Trial Exams. The dress for the exams will be their winter school uniform. The rest of the School will return on **Wednesday 26 July**.

## Year 12 Combined Tertiary Information Night

On **Tuesday 1 August**, the Year 12 Combined Tertiary Information night will be held at St Peter's College at 6.00pm. All Year 12 students and their parents are encouraged to attend this evening, where information about applying for university through SATAC (South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre) will be covered and university representatives will be present to field questions about specific courses.

## 2024 Subject Selection

From Week 2 of Term 3, we will begin the process of talking through the subject selection process for 2024 with Year 10 and Year 11 girls, through subject information seminars.

Parents of Year 10 students are encouraged to attend the SACE Information Session on **Monday 7 August** in Hender Hall at 6.00pm. Year 11 parents will be invited to one-on-one subject selection sessions in Learning Commons on **Thursday 10 August** from 4.00pm – 7.00pm. More information will be sent to all parents about booking a time to discuss Year 12 Subject Selection for 2024.

## Student Absence

A reminder that all girls are expected to be in their Form room by 8.30am. They should arrive by 8.20am at the latest so that they can prepare for the day. Regular attendance and timely arrival at school and lessons 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 the Head of House, who will inform the girl's Form teachers and subject teachers.

Every effort should be made to arrange medical and dental appointments out 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 on their return.

## Road Safety

All Senior School girls are reminded that they must cross at the pedestrian crossing at all times and check both ways carefully 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.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

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