

# Life in the Wilderness

Term 4 Issue #2 | Friday 24 November, 2023

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## Growing as a Community

[Belinda Arnfield, Principal](#)

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As we have reached our final newsletter for 2023, I am reflecting upon all the ways our community has enabled our girls to grow and learn throughout the course of this year.

Led by our SRC, the Year 12 cohort modelled Unity and Identity to the whole school, encouraging every person to be championed for their strengths and ideas. This was embraced by all year levels. As girls enjoyed individual successes, they used these achievements to better those around them. There has been an equal measure of sharing skills and learning from others.

From Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards to national STEM championships, Wilderness girls continue to amaze me by the variety of interests, skills and passions they contribute to our school. Our educators have nurtured and guided students to be the best that they can be, encouraging them to seek excellence in all they do.

I believe that one of Wilderness' key strengths is the way we leverage the wisdom of our community, who are so generous with their time. I greatly thank all old scholars and parents who visited our classes, forums and mock interviews throughout the year to share their knowledge. For all other contributions made by parents throughout the year – be it driving boarders to and from sporting events, attending girls' performances or

volunteering at Parents and Friends events – thank you. These acts of kindness make Wilderness thrive.

I thank each of you for being part of our Wilderness community in 2023. We know that for many parents, their child's school is a key place of belonging. I am grateful to each year level's class representatives, as well as our Parents and Friends Association, for continuing to foster this aspect of our community.

As I wish you a wonderful end to the term, I also look forward to seeing you at our end of year events. This past week, the ELC Christmas Concert and Annies Graduation kicked off our annual celebrations. It is always a joy to see the Mamie girls in their iconic angel costumes and have the pleasure of handing out 'diplomas' to the Annies, who have grown so much as learners during their time in the ELC.

We are greatly anticipating 2024 and all that it will bring, including the School's 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Until then, I wish you a safe and restful break following the end of term, and we will look forward to welcoming students back to school on **Tuesday 30 January**.

## Staff Update – Head of Boarding

Following tremendous contribution and achievement in her role as Head of Boarding, Ms Renee Coventry will be moving on from Wilderness to pursue an extraordinary opportunity overseas.

Renee has accepted the prestigious position as International Principal at Haileybury School Tianjin in China. It is a testament to Renee's exceptional leadership, accomplishments and character to be selected for the position, which will allow her to continue to grow personally and professionally. The decision to move on was a difficult one and Renee will be missed greatly.

Please be assured that we will begin recruitment immediately to select another outstanding leader who will bring the same care and innovation to the Boarding House. Renee will continue in the role until mid-February 2024, and we will share further updates promptly.

## Stage 2 Early Years Development Update

When we return in the new year, we look forward to our girls learning in the highly anticipated Early Learning Centre redevelopment. From Term 1 2024, our Mamie and Annie learners will move into the beautifully renovated Number 16 Hawkers Road.

The move means that Stage 2 of our Early Years Development is now set to begin, with the construction of a new Reception to Year 2 learning area to commence in February

2024. To enable construction, our Reception and Year 1 girls will be moving up to the Junior School from the beginning of Term 1 2024. A new play space, being created solely for our Reception – Year 2 learners, will be open from the start of term, including a playground, cubby and sandpit.

Ensuring that our girls' learning, wellbeing and play are incredibly enriching, while building their sense of belonging, remain our highest priorities. Please be assured that the greatest care has been placed on providing a successful transition, with additional details to follow for relevant year levels closer to Term 1.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact the Junior School via [email](#). We look forward to sharing a successful 2024 with you.



EARLY LEARNING

## In the Heart of Reggio Emilia

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

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My recent intensive study tour in Reggio Emilia was a truly incredible experience and one that has deeply enriched my knowledge about quality early childhood education. For some time, the city of Reggio Emilia (situated in Northern Italy, with a population of approximately 170,000 people) has been recognised as one of the best places in the world for early childhood education. The Reggio Emilia approach to education is a unique approach to teaching and learning that was driven by the women of Reggio Emilia after the second world war in a quest to create quality early childhood education.

The biggest question one would ask is, why travel to Reggio Emilia for this learning when we are already inspired by this approach? It was made clear in one of the first lectures that to truly understand this approach to education, one must understand the city and culture on which it was built and continues to serve. This means to understand the historical, social and political context of the place. This approach to education is one that cannot be copied anywhere else in the world; instead, we can be inspired by the principles and apply it within our own contexts. Along with twenty other Australian early childhood educators, I embarked on a journey to understand the city.

Immersion in the culture came easily as I was only too happy to indulge in the delicious pastas and amazing (but small) coffees. However, it was a little trickier to adjust to the afternoon siestas and consequent closing of shops (as I rushed to purchase some presents and keepsakes), along with the late opening of restaurants. Most mornings in

Reggio, once the sun had risen around 7.00am, I commenced my day with a run around the centre of the city. Running through the central piazza was a special experience as it is a beautiful, wide-open space with a spectacular water feature where people gather to connect and collaborate. It was commented to me that the piazza is a place of significance to families because their houses are typically small, so meeting in such a big space is optimal for connection, with many families coming out together on a Sunday afternoon. The infant-toddler centres and preschools embrace this notion of a piazza in their architecture, with each service having their own 'piazza' as a central meeting place to welcome families and come together.

After my run and breakfast, we walked as an Australian group to the Loris Malaguzzi International Centre for lectures. This 20-minute walk each day to the Loris Malaguzzi Centre was referred to as a 'walking assembly', inspired by an educational project conducted with children. In fact, much of the time spent at lunch, before lectures and in the evening was spent unpacking the learning with the group. This was invaluable and an enormous part of the success of this trip.

Some days of learning were from 9.00am until 7.00pm and other days finished late in the afternoon. Within these lectures and small group experiences, I met delegates from all over the world. This was interesting as the questions at the conclusion of each lecture were driven by people making sense of this approach from vastly different contexts. Lectures were all delivered in Italian and interpreted in English, which took quite a bit of concentration.

On two evenings early in the week, we visited schools. Due to changes from the pandemic, we were not permitted to visit during the day. The infant-toddler centres and preschools were beautifully presented with many natural materials, loose parts, lots of plants and documentation of learning lining the walls. There was a kitchen in each service and much emphasis was placed on the educational project including all adults in the learning community, especially the kitchen staff. The food we were offered was exceptional! Whilst we were not allowed to take photos of the schools, I was allowed to take photos of the food (which I did, in the hope that I could replicate it at home). Each service had an atelier, which enables the incorporation of arts within all aspects of learning. Many of us were a little anxious when looking at a remarkably high climbing wall in one of the playgrounds, with no soft fall or risk assessments in sight! The teachers reported that the children knew their limits and they trusted them to make good choices for themselves.

In fact, this trust and belief in the potential and capabilities of young children is fundamental to this educational approach. It is also believed that children express themselves in many ways, hence the 100 languages (which is more than spoken language). There is also enormous value placed on collaboration and participation—collaboration for learning between teachers, between children and with

parents. Considerable time is dedicated to exploring documentation (observational notes) and discussing it together to determine the next steps for learning. Parents are also drawn into this and invited to several evening meetings throughout the year to engage in this learning, with some meetings reported to conclude at 10.00pm!

Social constructivism is at the heart of this approach and is modelled at every stage of learning and in every way. Children are encouraged to hypothesise and share their learning and theories with others to make meaning together. Relationships are placed at the heart of learning.

There is so much more to share and so much more for me to learn, both of which I will do over time. For several participants in my group, it was not their first time in Reggio Emilia, which gives me comfort that this learning will continue and, over time, my understanding will continue to deepen as I work within our setting.

I am incredibly thankful for this opportunity and especially grateful for all who worked to make this happen. It was professionally life changing and I look forward to continuing to bring this experience to life in our ELC.

## ELC Christmas Concert

Please find a selection of photographs from Thursday's ELC Christmas Concert below.











JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Outdoor Education Adventures

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

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As we find ourselves amidst the flurry of activities and events that mark the end of another fulfilling year in our Junior School, I am thrilled to share the excitement and energy that have permeated our campus during this vibrant season.

The last few weeks have been bustling with an array of enriching experiences, from camps and excursions, opportunities to reflect upon the year's learning and the preparations for our highly anticipated end of year events. Each of these form integral parts of our learning programs, fostering growth and camaraderie while building resilience and confidence in our girls.

Our Year 5 Educational Tour to Ballarat and Melbourne, as well as our Year 3 and Year 6 Outdoor Education experiences, featuring a beach camp and bike riding day trips respectively, offered invaluable opportunities for our girls to immerse themselves in hands-on learning experiences beyond the classroom walls. Whether it was exploring the wonders of nature, engaging in team-building activities or delving into cultural and historical discoveries, these adventures enrich knowledge, nurture curiosity and cultivate lifelong memories.

We were delighted to welcome the girls who will be joining our Junior School in 2024 on New Girls' Day last Tuesday. Met at the gate by a set of highly enthusiastic buddies, our new girls joined a Junior School assembly to welcome them. Our Year 2 students led an informative and entertaining assembly item about 'Life in the Junior School', before all

classes returned for an orientation day with their 2024 teachers. We are very much looking forward to our new girls becoming old friends next year.

Simultaneously, our teachers are diligently preparing end of year school reports, taking the opportunity to reflect upon each girl's learning and growth across Semester 2. We look forward to releasing these in the week after school concludes.

Additionally, the excitement surrounding our end of year events is palpable. Commencing last night with our beautiful ELC Christmas Concert angels and Annies' Graduation, festivities will continue in Weeks 7 and 8 with our Musical Theatre Club Concert, Ballet Concert, Junior School Prize Giving and Year 6 Graduation Assembly. Last but not least, we look forward with great anticipation to our much-loved Christmas Concert to conclude our year together on the evening of **Friday 8 December**. Each in their own way, these events honour exceptional achievements across all areas of school life, highlighting our girls' talents and efforts; they serve as platforms for celebration and recognition of their dedication and accomplishments.

We understand that this busy period can be both thrilling and demanding for our students, and we commend their unwavering commitment and enthusiasm in embracing each opportunity presented to them.

To our wonderful parents and families, your support and encouragement play a pivotal role in fostering the success and wellbeing of our girls. We deeply appreciate your partnership and care as we work together and we also know that without your support, our celebrations would not be possible. Please be gentle on yourselves as you navigate what I know is such a busy time juggling so many competing priorities!

I wish each of you all the very best as another school year draws to a close and look forward to celebrating together in the coming weeks.

## Congratulations and Farewell

I write to share news for 2024 of two of our much-loved Junior School teachers, Miss Lauren Trenergy and Ms Martes Micallef.

Having taught in a range of capacities at Wilderness over the past six years, most recently as a Year 3 teacher, Martes has been appointed as a teacher at a new school from 2024. Martes has been an instrumental member of the Junior School teaching team, both as a relief and class teacher. She has also been a wonderful support to our Outdoor Education team, assisting on many camps and treks with girls across Junior and Middle School. Martes has been known throughout her time at Wilderness as a supportive, diligent and hard-working teacher whose care extends to all—students, colleagues and families alike. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Martes for all she has given our community and to wish her every blessing as she takes this next step

in her career.

Lauren has been a much-loved Reception teacher at Wilderness for the last two years and I am delighted to share with you that she has been appointed into a new position as our school's Head of Extended Curriculum for 2024. Lauren brings significant experience, knowledge and expertise to this role, where she will oversee inclusive learning across ELC to Year 12. Supporting each of our girls to be the best they can be throughout their educational journey and beyond requires meeting their varying needs at different points along the way, whether through intervention programs, in class support and learning extension. We are very much looking forward to Lauren's leadership in this area and congratulate her on this appointment.

## Year 3 Camp

This term, the Year 3 girls went to Aldinga for their three-day Outdoor Education camp. The girls had an exciting time trying new things, making new friends and learning about themselves.

My favourite activities were when we were going on a bush walk and learning about the bush. I liked it because we got to try bush tucker and we learned how to survive if we were ever stuck with no home in the scrub. – **Madeline KoKo Aung**

My favourite part was meeting Trent, because he is a really good storyteller. It was fun to clay and cook the fish and learn about Aboriginal culture. – **Lily Bolton**

My favourite part was when Trent told us stories. It felt like I was inside the story! It was amazing! – **Lilian Kesselaar**

The thing I learned about myself on camp was that I am brave when I want to be and I think I could use some more quiet time once in a while. – **Aiza Muazzam**

I learned that I like to try new things and that I am a bit of a daredevil. – **Elodie Spernat**

My favourite part of camp was when we cooked the fish because we did it

in clay and I thought it was unique because I have never seen anyone do it like that before, but it tastes really good. I ate the eyeball of the fish! –

**Edwina Jackman**

My favourite part of camp is when I got to be with my friends in the dorms, because when I was scared, they helped me overcome my fear. – **Adele**

**Hannah**

## Year 5 Ballarat Educational Tour

Please enjoy this reflection from our Year 5 students about their educational tour to Sovereign Hill in Ballarat.

### Day 1 – Flying Out

We all arrived at Adelaide Airport and said goodbye to our parents while collecting our boarding passes and checking our suitcases in. After that, we went through security so we could make our way to Gate 21. Once we boarded, we got headphones from a flight attendant and watched TV as our entertainment. When we landed in Melbourne, we got our suitcases and went to the bus, for a one-and-a-half-hour drive, which took us to our hotel in Ballarat! Once we got to our hotel (the Mercure), we got ready to have a delicious dinner! While we were waiting for dinner, some of us watched movies. When we got called for dinner, we ate our delicious food, then after – as a treat – we watched a fantastic movie called Annie! We had to stop halfway through the movie because we had to go to sleep so we would not be tired at Sovereign Hill the next day! – **Katie Vaezi, Isha Wechalekar, Sharanya Reddy, Maim Jibran and Maarisha Emad**

### Day 2 – The First Day Of School

‘Apples, pears, peaches, plums; tell me when your birthday comes!’ sang our voices as we perfectly recited a game of jump rope in our prim and proper white petticoats, wrapped in our capes. It was 14 November 1854, Ma’am was patiently waiting ready for our lesson as we politely lined up in height order, after wonderful morning air. ‘Children should be seen not heard!’ she would declare, as she whipped her cane in a deadly fashion. ‘REPEAT!’ she yelled, and so it began again. – **Alice Gao, Noor Jilaihawi,**

**Saanika Singhal, Leila Nguyen and Jiaxi Huo.**

#### **Day 3 – The Second Day of School**

In the morning, we got dressed into our costumes, which consisted of white pantalettes, a dress, a pinafore and a straw hat. At school, we practised writing in copperplate with ink and fountain pens; later that day, we did some needle work making bookmarks.

The inspector arrived at our school and was greeted by our door monitor, who took his hat and cane. He inspected our learning, our terrible housekeeping and, most horrible of all, reduced Ma'am's stipend by half—again!

Later that day, Ma'am took us to see the Red Coat Soldier demonstration, where they fired loud gunshots to mark their victory over the miners. Ma'am also took us to try our hand at gold panning; then, Ms Alison Short and Mrs Katie Chataway let us fly free and buy souvenirs to take back to Adelaide. We ended our day by enjoying the rest of our movie. – **Alessia Wojcik, Abigail McArdle, Adeline Wilson, Chloe Broster, Caitlyn Lau and Cedra Sawad**

#### **Day 4 – Back to Melbourne, then home**

We woke up nice and refreshed, ready to pack for a loooong bus ride into Melbourne. We stopped at Scienceworks, a Science Museum, for a learning rollercoaster! We started by having a snack on the rainbow stairs. Then, we went in and placed some boundaries and went to go have fun. We explored running races, strength activities and then, after an hour of having fun, we got ready for an exciting show full of energy and fun. After the show, we had pizza and, when we were ready, we went back in for another hour or so, before hopping back on the bus to head to the airport. The flight back home felt so long, but fast at the same time. We landed to see all of our happy parents' faces as we leapt into their warm arms. – **Mia Gordon, Scarlett Drew Wallman, Angie Georgiou, Kensi Howland and Sophia Lehman**











MIDDLE SCHOOL

## New Girls' Day

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

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Last Friday, we welcomed all the 2024 Year 7s to the Middle School with a morning of activities, House meetings and a valuable Q&A session run by the Middle School SRC. On Monday, we then welcomed the remainder of the new Year 8 and 9 Middle School girls for the start of their transition into Middle School life at Wilderness. We hope that all our new students are looking forward to joining the Wilderness community next year and had a wonderful time meeting their buddies, other students and staff.

Here are some of the similes shared by the 2024 Year 7 girls following their Maths Escape Room Activity:

Math is like ... the universe. There are infinite ways to solve problems and go about finding different solutions.

Math is like ... an ethical problem. Is there really only one way?

Math is like ... when the sun comes out on a rainy day.

Math is like ... a big adventure. You have to experience each step along the way.

## Chinatown Excursions

Over the past two weeks, the Year 8 and 9 Chinese students have all visited Chinatown.

The Year 9 students completed an "Amazing Race" and celebrated with dumplings at the end.

The bustling streets of Chinatown became a vibrant classroom for two Year 9 Chinese classes on an unforgettable excursion last Friday. The students embarked on an exhilarating adventure, participating in an amazing race that combined cultural exploration with language learning. Armed with clues, we navigated through the maze of Dumpling King, Hong Kong Supermarket, Chatime and more.

The challenges were as diverse as the surroundings, requiring us to order a meal in Mandarin and provide thoughtful ratings, showcasing our language proficiency and culinary discernment. Along the journey, we discovered hidden gems of Chinatown and eagerly explored new bubble tea shops whilst expanding our palate with exotic flavours.

Adding a modern touch to the excursion, we documented our escapades through video, capturing the essence of our cultural immersion. The vibrant tapestry of Chinatown served not only as a backdrop for language practice, but also as a rich canvas for fostering teamwork and cultural appreciation.

This immersive excursion left an indelible mark on us, blending education with excitement and creating lasting memories of a day filled with exploration, collaboration and the joy of discovering the cultural treasures of Chinatown. Thank you Mrs Tansy Chen and Ms Angela Sciberras-Xiong for organising this unforgettable experience. – **Caitlin Hardin**

The Year 8 students completed a scavenger hunt in Chinese and enjoyed lunch after it was completed.

Rushing around the packed streets of Chinatown, camera in one hand, envelope in the other. Teammates gather around as you crack open the sealed envelope, revealing the clue inside. It is in Chinese characters, which you skilfully translated in earlier classes. You read the pinyin, speaking every word with confidence, smiling into the camera. Everyone understands you as they all run to the next destination. While this sounds

like an action movie, it is actually a Chinese excursion!

Our amazing race took place in Chinatown, and girls from both Mr Brad Waller and Ms Tansy Chen's classes participated. The clues were given to us one at a time in earlier lessons to decipher, which was harder than it sounds as we could only use a Chinese dictionary (sorry, no Google Translate here!). The clues ranged from ordering a meal in Chinese, to counting how many teeth the lion had!

Once the day of our excursion finally came, we all hopped off the bus and started our journey. After our clues were completed and the race was won, we were free to roam! We visited Chatime, Breadtop, Millionlife and many more exciting stores. Lunch was a huge highlight for me as my fried pork dumplings came out hot, fresh and delicious. This experience was very valuable and really helped me practise confidently speaking Chinese in a public setting. – **Bella Pasin**

## Sporting Achievements

Congratulations to **Bella Pasin** (Year 8), who has been selected by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) for its Team Future Athlete Categorisation for 2024. The AIS program identifies Australian athletes with the capability of delivering high performance outcomes in future Olympic Games. Bella is currently the highest ranked South Australian rhythmic gymnast in her age division, and she will be attending training camps at the AIS in Canberra next year.

## Middle School 2024 SRC

The process for electing the next Middle School SRC is well underway. The current Middle School SRC spoke to the Year 8 students about each of the positions available and the responsibilities and initiatives they have been part of this year. It is hoped that this will help girls decide if they would like to nominate for positions and have any questions about the process answered. Applications have now been submitted and next week, the girls who have nominated themselves will have a chance to give a speech before voting occurs during Form.

We look forward to announcing the names of the successful candidates to the girls and the presentation of their badges at the first Middle School Assembly next year.

## Changes to Camp Preferences

Thank you to the families who completed the online form to inform the School of potential clashes with their commitments and the Year 8 Camp and Year 9 REALISE experiences. Please email [Dr Rhiannon Giles](#) over the Christmas holidays if there are any changes that need to be made to earlier preferences. Changes to core groups at the beginning of the year will be incredibly challenging, so it is best that any changes are made before timetables are distributed at the start of the 2024 academic year.

## Conversations about Vaping

Parents looking for information and resources to have conversations with young people about vaping are encouraged to look through those available on the [Quit Victoria website](#).

## Year 9 Antholiza

Congratulations to the Year 9 Antholiza Form, who did an excellent job creating "Welcome to your Home" care baskets for Anglicare as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

## Cedar House Birthday Celebrations and CREWS

Cedar House celebrated 16<sup>th</sup> Birthdays in 2023 with a competition to design a '16<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cake'. From intricate decorations to innovative flavours, this creative – and delicious - competition encouraged students to connect with their peers and showcase their artistic talents and culinary skills as they designed the most imaginative and delectable birthday cakes.

2024 Cedar House Captains **Lulu Detmold Cox** and **Grace Dixon** (Year 11) have launched an exciting initiative in House called CREWS. This initiative groups girls in Cedar House from Years 7–12 in a crew for House activities, fostering greater connection, support and friendships between year levels. The first activity saw crews compete against each other to construct the tallest marshmallow tower!

**Andrew Mittiga**

Acting Head of Cedar House

## REALISE

Core Group 4 were treated with lovely weather throughout the three weeks of their REALISE experience to end their Year 9 journey. The girls were faced with daily challenges, building resilience and strengthening relationships with their peers. Some

key highlights within the program include the two beautiful balmy days spent rock climbing at Dyuritte (Mt Arapiles) in Victoria where all students pushed themselves outside of their comfort zones, braving a fear of heights and excelling in teamwork skills and cooperation.

Our expedition changed slightly due to winds on the Coorong; however, the girls adapted to this well and spent one day walking on the Nukan Kugan Hike and camping at 42 Mile Crossing, followed by a day paddling on the Murray River near Wellington and Taillem Bend, spending the night near the boat ramp at Hooded Plover and Malleefowl campground. For the final day of expedition, the Coorong calmed enough for us to enjoy a beautiful, glassy paddle across to the dunes on the Young Husband Peninsula for lunch.

Overall, during the three weeks, the girls developed their knowledge about themselves, others and the environment, and demonstrated growth, independence and resilience.

**Kate Woodbridge**

Teacher of Outdoor Education













SENIOR SCHOOL

## End of Year Exams

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

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Last week, our Year 12s completed their final SACE external exams. All girls are to be congratulated on the way they approached their final exam block with focus and commitment. Mr Matthew Hawkins is thanked for his coordination of the exams, as are Ms Judy Thurgood, Mrs Bess Smith, Mrs Lina Rogers and Mrs Assunta Fusco for their calm and efficient supervision of all exams.

On Monday this week, we welcomed all new Senior School girls, who will be starting at Wilderness in 2024, to the School. The girls enjoyed a morning of Science activities with their buddies and also met with key staff to begin their preparation for next year. Mrs Maria Criaris and Mr Tobia Trentin are thanked for their coordination of the Science activities for all girls.

Next week, Year 10 and 11 girls will begin their Semester 2 Exams on Monday. These are important practice for future SACE Stage 2 exams that the girls will undertake in Year 12. If girls wish to remain at school during the exam block, instead of returning home to study, the Learning Commons will be open for their use during the day.

Finally, a reminder to all girls in the Senior School that they will be expected to attend the Advent Service on **Monday 4 December** at St Peter's Cathedral at 6.00pm. Speech Night will be held on **Tuesday 5 December** at 6.00pm, with a rehearsal for all Year 12s and prize winners from 10.45am to 1.00pm. The dress for both of these important end of year functions will be summer uniform with blazer and white ribbon. If your daughter is

not able to attend the Advent Service or Speech Night, the request to be absent need to be shared with the Principal, Mrs Belinda Arnfield via [email](#).

The final week of school (**Monday 4 December to Friday 8 December**) is important for all Year 10 and 11 girls. Year 10s will complete a Science minimester and the Year 11s will also undertake a range of activities which will help them with their preparation for Year 12 in 2024. Year 10 and 11 girls who are not prize winners will not be required to attend school on **Tuesday 5 December** during the day. The last day of school will enable Year 10 and 11 girls to meet with their Year 11 and 12 subject teachers for 2024.



BOARDING

## 2024 Emerging Leaders

[Renee Coventry, Head of Boarding](#)

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More than 40 boarders who have been appointed to leadership positions within their respective schools for 2024 met here at Wilderness for a Boarding Student Leadership Gathering. This idea – initiated by our boarding captains, **Tessa Paterson** and **Edwina Marshman** (Year 11) – was an opportunity for boarders across Adelaide to come together and share their ideas, challenges and opportunities with one another in the hope to work more closely together throughout 2024.

It was wonderful to have such a positive response to this event, hosted by Wilderness, with eleven schools in attendance. Many boarding staff who joined these students commented on the positive energy that filled the room on the night and the buzz that followed them home following the event.

There is intention for this group to reconvene early in 2024, with a subsequent gathering proposed to be held at Scotch College. I am grateful to our boarding captains for being true and courageous in this initiative and look forward to seeing it develop further.

## Welcome to New Girls

This week, we were delighted to welcome new girls to the Boarding House for our New Girls' Sleepover ahead of New Girls' Day today. Amidst the nerves and excitement of our new girls, it was lovely to see the calm, kind and gentle welcome extended by our existing

boarders who joined in activities including a scavenger hunt, volleyball and shared supper on the lawn. A big thank you to Tessa and Edwina for their support in coordinating the activities and to our Boarding staff for ensuring a warm welcome to our visiting parents and girls.

## Lights Out

The Australian Boarding Schools Association publish the Lights Out journal three times a year. In the latest edition, the Boarders' Fashion Parade has been featured along with our artistic friend, Holly Geyer as the cover girl. It was a pleasure to gather information from Dr Sally Nobbs and former Head of Boarding Rosie Broderick to assist with putting this article together. For those of you who would like to have a read of the article, please use this [link](#) for the online copy of the journal.







SPORT

## Junior School Swimming Carnival

[Ashleigh Young, Director of Sport and Recreation](#)

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This week, sport ends for our girls in 2023. We thank all the girls who participated, and the support staff and coaches who worked tirelessly to bring the program together. We look forward to seeing what 2024 brings for Wildy Sport!

### Junior School Swimming Carnival

On Friday 3 November, the Years 3–6 girls travelled to the Adelaide Aquatic Centre for a day of fun and colour at the annual Junior Swimming Carnival. Congratulations to Antholiza for winning the overall GA Black Shield. Cedar took home the Bowen Shield for the most points in team games, and Carob won the House Spirit Cup.

#### GA Black Shield for Overall House Points

1. Antholiza (2320 Points)
2. Cedar (2241 Points)
3. Carob (1792 Points)
4. Sparaxis (1750 Points)
5. Amaryllis (1300 Points)

## **Bowen Shield for Team Games**

- Cedar (740 Points)

## **Highest Individual Aggregate Score (Years 5-6)**

- **Emilia Varricchio** (Year 5, 200 points)

## **Championship Winners**

### **Year 3**

1. Medallion – **Niamh Pudney** (194 Points)
2. Certificate – **Lily Bolton** (190 Points)
3. Certificate – **Mishty Patel** (154 Points)

### **Year 4**

1. Medallion – **Mitakshi Gupta** (196 Points)
2. Certificate – **Mia Zhou** (192 Points)
3. Certificate – **Vasiliki Natsias** (140 Points)

### **Year 5**

1. Medallion – **Emilia Varricchio** (200 Points)
2. Certificate – **Emma Burns** (192 Points)
3. Certificate – **Alana Munt** (184 Points)

### **Year 6**

1. Medallion – **Ivy Dowd** (192 Points)

2. Certificate – **Grace Tully** (190 Points)
3. Certificate – **Hazel Newman** (148 Points)

### Open 100m Championship

- **Emilia Varricchio** (Year 5, 1:14.24)

### New Records

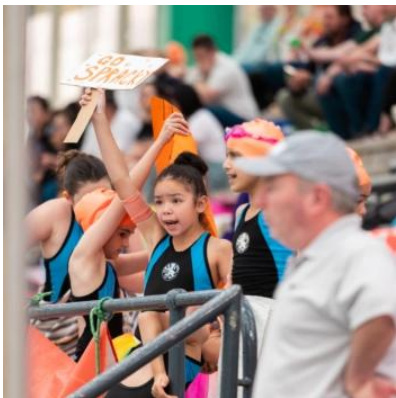
- Year 5 50m Freestyle: **Emilia Varricchio** (Year 5, 34.40s)
- Year 5 50m Butterfly: **Emilia Varricchio** (Year 5, 40.22s)

## Sport Nominations Reminder

A reminder that 2024 Sport nominations are now open to all students through Clipboard. These nominations will be open until **Friday 1 December**. If you have any questions regarding selections, please contact the [Sport Office](#). If you are having login troubles, please contact [the Hive](#).











MUSIC

## Instrumental Concerts

[Anna Lenartowicz, Head of Music](#)

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Across four nights in Week 5, the Michell Music Centre came alive with three concerts all occurring at once, with our students showcasing their many musical talents. It was a delight to see and hear so many of our students being brave and courageous in their musical learning, taking a risk and performing their music that they have been working on across the year. It takes real determination and grit to perform in front of parents and peers, and all of our girls are to be congratulated on their efforts and achievements; not only last week, but across the year in their instrumental lessons.

I would like to sincerely thank Ms Ann Vanlint, Mr Dave Goodwin and Mrs Vanessa Abela for accompanying many of our students across the nights, and a heartfelt thankyou to all of our instrumental tutors who have given much time, effort and encouragement into supporting the girls for these events.

To all the parents who came along, I also thank you for providing musical education as an opportunity for your daughters at Wilderness. There are so many benefits to learning an instrument, with the joy and love for music shining through each and every girl who played last week.

### Student Achievement

Earlier this year, we congratulated **Sarah Mah** (Year 8) on her incredible success in the

Piano Eisteddfods (Sarah placed first in two entered sections). Sarah has continued her successful year by passing her Certificate of Performance exam, receiving an A+! (The Certificate level of the AMEB follows Grade 8 and precedes the Associate level of Piano, which is a university-level study of music.) This is a phenomenal achievement, especially as Sarah is only completing her Grade 8 schooling. Well done, Sarah.

## Upcoming End of Year Events – Music

We have a busy two-week period ahead of us in the Music Department—they do call it the silly season! Please [view this list of the events and rehearsals](#) taking place and which ensembles are involved. There has been further information regarding the Advent Service sent out, as this event is offsite and after hours.







MEDIA

## Wildy Film Festival

[Jason Forrest, Teacher of Media and Drama](#)

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Showcasing and celebrating the work of our Year 9 Film & Animation and Year 10 Certificate III Screen & Media students, this year's Wildy Film Festival will be held at The Mercury X Cinema on **Thursday 7 December** at 7.00pm. Featuring 10 short films across three film classes, the festival includes an eclectic array of cinematic modes and thought-provoking pieces where students have responded to a range of themes and stimuli.

Our Guest Speaker on the night will be Dr Josh McCarthy, Senior Lecturer of Visual Effects at the University of South Australia.

Tickets are available via [TryBooking](#).

Please view the poster [here](#).

We look forward to seeing you there!



PHILANTHROPY

## Please Support the 2023 Wilderness Christmas Appeal

[Lisa Taplin, Head of Advancement](#)

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We are thrilled to see the annual Christmas tree on Memorial Lawn once again as we look forward to the festive season and prepare with our families and friends.

While we reflect with gratitude on all of the things in our lives we are thankful for, there are those for whom Christmas can be difficult, particularly if they are separated from their families. For this year's [Christmas Appeal](#), we are proud to be donating items to women in need by supporting Catherine House once again.

Many women in our community suffer homelessness and family breakdown. One way we can contribute to individual wellbeing is to donate a gift card that offers the dignity of choice or an opportunity to take part in the tradition of gift-giving by enabling her to buy a present for her child.

Gift cards in \$25 denominations from Coles Myer, Woolworths, Target, Big W and Kmart are greatly appreciated.

Alternatively, if you would prefer to give a present, the following items would be welcomed:

- Perfume

- Journal/Pen
- Boxed chocolates
- Hand cream
- Lip balm
- Reusable coffee cups
- Moisturiser
- Christmas biscuits.

Girls in Mamies, Annies and the Junior School can place their **unwrapped** gift or gift card in the box provided in their classroom. Middle and Senior School students can bring their items on any Wednesday and place them in the box provided in their Form room prior to **Wednesday 6 December 2023** (which is their final House day before the end of the term).

Everyone deserves to feel valued and cared for. Let's share the spirit of Christmas with the community during this season through our abundant demonstration of support.

As always, we are very grateful to the Petrucco family, whose kindness continues the Wilderness Christmas tree tradition through their generous gift to our community.





CAREERS CORNER

## Careers Corner

[Caroline Palmer, Careers Counsellor](#)

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### Important Dates for our Year 12 Cohort

**Monday 18 December:** Year 12 ATAR release date

- Students can access this by logging onto [Students Online](#) from 8.30am.
- To have this all go smoothly on release day, it is best for students to log in to their Students Online account before this date to check their account is working and they can recall their password.

**Wednesday 20 December:** UniSA 'Offer of Certainty' sent to notify UniSA applicants that they will receive an offer to their nominated course.

**Wednesday 3 January:** Students can make changes to their preferences on SATAC until this date.

Universities have Future Student Offices that can offer one-on-one advice to applicants. There can also be information sessions to help with student queries at this time, and at offer time. For example, [UniSA degree course information sessions](#) run throughout November and December.

**Thursday 11 January:** First round offers will be emailed by 9.00am.

**Monday 15 January:** Year 12 Destination Survey sent to 2023 graduates – please click link

to respond.

**Wednesday 24 January** (and each Tuesday and Thursday till **Thursday 14 March**): Further offer rounds.

Refer to [SATAC](#) for the full account of relevant dates.

Key dates for other states can be found on the relevant Tertiary Application Centre websites:

- Victoria: [VTAC](#)
- New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory: [UAC](#)
- Queensland: [QTAC](#)
- Western Australia: [TISC](#)
- Tasmania: [TASC](#).

**Monday 19 February:** University orientation and classes begin.

## Is Your Daughter Interested In Studying at a Top US or UK University?

Crimson Education invites your daughter to a free lunchtime session in Mathematics Room 7 with a US/UK application advisor. Hear all about the necessary steps it takes to make it into a top university like Stanford, Oxford, MIT and more, as well as how to improve your daughter's chances of gaining an admission of her own.

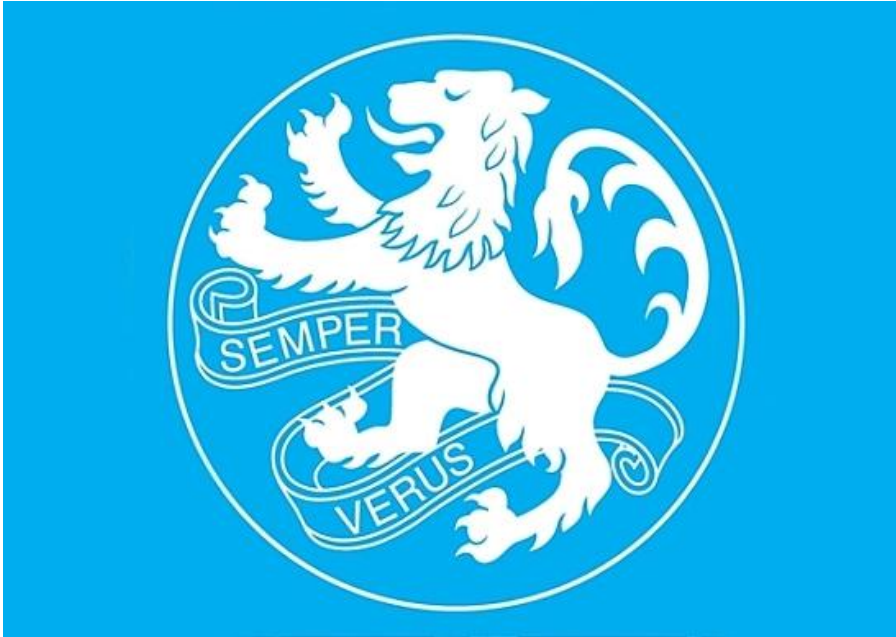
This special event will be free for Wilderness School students and we will host a Q&A session at the end, where your daughter can ask any questions she has about the process directly.

**Wednesday 29 November**

**1.05pm – 1.55pm**

**Mathematics Room 7**

If your daughter would like to join, please [email](#) Ms Caroline Palmer to RSVP.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

## Acknowledgement

[Belinda Arnfield, Principal](#)

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We wish to acknowledge the State Government for providing funds to our School, for the upgrade of the Whole School Fire Safety system.

