



WILDERNESS  
SCHOOL

ALWAYS  
*True*

2023 SCHOOL  
PERFORMANCE



The following School information is provided in accordance with the Commonwealth Government Accountability requirements under the Schools Assistance Act 2008.

It relates to the 2023 School academic year.

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# 1. SCHOOL INFORMATION

Since its establishment in 1884, Wilderness School has been at the forefront of girls' education.

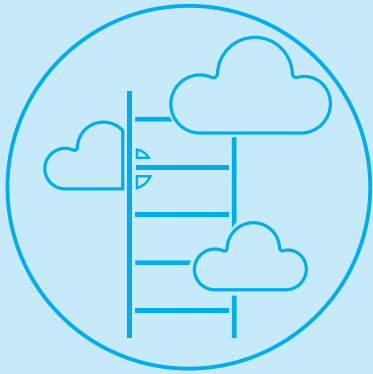
A non-denominational School for girls, with strong Christian family values, from Early Learning to Year 12 and boarding for students Year 7 – 12. Wilderness School understands and nurtures the individual.

Our student population in 2023 comprised of local, rural and interstate pupils as well as international students from mainland China, Hong Kong, and India.

Located in Medindie, five kilometres from the Adelaide Central Business District, our beautiful grounds provide a serene setting for learning.

Wilderness School is a learning community and a community of learners that provides opportunities for girls and teachers to be creative, to interrogate information and to develop critical thinking skills and resourcefulness as well as how to develop and apply their thinking in different contexts.

Research lives in our classrooms and our pedagogy, and our teachers regularly pursue opportunities and explore ways for students to thrive in a complex contemporary world.



## MISSION

To enable each girl to be the best that she can be throughout her life.



## VISION

Wilderness School will be a world leader in girls' education. We will equip each girl to succeed in her personal and professional life.



## VALUES

At Wilderness School we promote, enable and nurture:

### Respectful Relationships

Compassionate, kind, friendly and hospitable girls who form and maintain healthy and fulfilling relationships.

### Adventurous Learning

Creative, independent and collaborative learners who seek excellence and success.

### Responsible Citizenship

Responsible, respectful and generous global citizens and leaders, who act with integrity for a socially just world and a sustainable future for the Earth.

### A True and Courageous Self

Resilient, vibrant and spiritually aware girls, confident in themselves and appreciative of others.







# Learning for Life

The academic curriculum is at the core of our daily activities but life at Wilderness offers so much more.

The extensive co-curriculum is vital because of the enrichment it offers to our girls. It allows them to pursue interests and skills beyond the classroom and engage in a wide variety of activities where they can discover new interests, strengths, make new friends, as well as set and achieve goals. The broad co-curriculum program enhances educational possibilities for all girls and enriches the community life of the School.

# Music co-curricular activities

- » Big Band 1
- » Big Band 2
- » Concert Band
- » Dream Girls
- » Guitar Ensemble
- » Intermediate Flute Ensemble
- » Intermediate String Orchestra
- » Intermediate String Quartet
- » Jazz Choir
- » Jazz Incorporated
- » Junior Band
- » Junior Clarinet Ensemble
- » Junior Concert Choir
- » Junior Dreamers
- » Junior String Orchestra
- » Rock Band
- » Saxophone Quartet
- » Senior Choir
- » Senior Clarinet Ensemble
- » Senior Flute Ensemble
- » Senior String Orchestra
- » Senior String Quartet
- » Symphonic Band
- » Year 4 Band

# Beyond the classroom activities

- » Anglicare Foster Care Program
  - » Australian Mathematics Competition
  - » Ballet
  - » Bebras Australia Computational Thinking Challenge
  - » Bike Ed
  - » CREST Awards (CSIRO)
  - » Chess
  - » Code Camp
  - » Coding Club
  - » Cyber Safety
  - » Da Vinci Decathlon
  - » Debating
  - » Duke of Edinburgh Award Program
  - » Ethics Olympiad
  - » EVATT United Nations SA Youth
  - » 'Girl Up' Club
  - » Grok Cyber Live
  - » IPSHA Poetry Competition
  - » Meet the Writers
  - » Mind Lab Olympics
  - » MTA Car Service Sessions - Andrew Parker
  - » Musical Theatre Club
  - » National Youth Science Forum (Rotary)
  - » Nepal Trek
  - » Oliphant Science Awards
  - » Outdoor Education
  - » OzClo Computational Linguistics
  - » Pathways Week
  - » Paul Dillon - Drug and Alcohol Research Training Australia
  - » Philosothon
  - » Poetry and Literature Club
  - » RAA Street Smart
  - » Rostrum Voice of Youth
  - » Round Square Exchange Program
  - » Round Square International Conference
  - » Save a Life Australia - Driver Education Program
  - » SONY Camp
  - » SUBS in Schools Competition
  - » Tournament of Minds
  - » Write a Book in a Day
  - » Young Achievers
- Junior School:**
- » Nature Play
  - » Adventures into Language and Bike Riding
  - » Ballarat Educational Tour
  - » Canberra Educational Tour
  - » Gymnastics
- Middle School:**
- » Bushwalking
  - » Orienteering
  - » Kayaking
  - » REALISE Extended Stay Residential Program
  - » Sailing
  - » Surfing
  - » High Ropes
  - » Rock-climbing
  - » Camping

# Committees

These are all additions to the curriculum which offers a wide range of opportunities both within and outside the classroom. Lunch time clubs cater for interests as diverse as chess, writing, the environment, debating, junior theatre, private music lessons and community service.

- » Careers Committee
- » Digital Technology Committee
- » Environment Club
- » 'Girl Up' Club
- » House Committee
- » International Students Committee
- » Library Committee
- » Media Team
- » Music Committee
- » Performing Arts Committee
- » Peer Support Committee
- » Round Square Committee
- » Sport Committee
- » Student Foundation Committee
- » Form Representatives
- » Year 12 Committee

# Sports participation

Our extensive Sports program also provides opportunities for personal development. We encourage every girl to participate at a level appropriate to her ability and to evaluate her performance both at a personal and team level. Sport allows our students, whether captain or team player, to develop qualities of commitment, teamwork and competitiveness as well as a positive attitude to personal fitness.

- » Athletics
- » Australian Rules Football
- » Badminton
- » Basketball
- » Cricket
- » Cross Country
- » Hockey
- » IGSSA Representative Teams
- » Lacrosse
- » Minkey
- » Multisport
- » Netball
- » Netta
- » Rowing
- » SAPSASA Representative Teams
- » SSSSA Sport Competitions
- » Soccer
- » Swimming
- » Tennis
- » Touch Football
- » Volleyball
- » Water Polo





## Leadership for Life

At Wilderness we prepare girls for the leadership opportunities that they will encounter in life. All students are encouraged to take up leadership roles throughout their time here.

Formal student leadership is encouraged through class representation, the House system and student committees in the Junior, Middle and Senior Schools.

## We believe that effective student leadership includes a broad range of experiences for all girls.

We aim to build the understandings and skills of leadership through the curriculum and the many, varied activities of School life in order to assist girls to become respected leaders who act with integrity and model ethical behaviour. In this way students develop their individual capacity to lead and influence others in a responsible manner.

Learning to lead is integral to a Wilderness education, preparing girls for full participation as responsible citizens in an increasingly globalised society.

Our hope is that our students will have the personal attributes to lead at any level, both wisely and with compassion. Opportunities arise on a daily basis for girls to take leadership roles in class. Subject teachers encourage girls to build on these.



# Student leadership opportunities

- » Alliance of Girls' Schools Student Leadership Conference
- » Boarding House Captains
- » Boarding Prefects
- » Buddy Program
- » Careers Committee
- » Creative Arts Representatives
- » Community Service Representatives
- » Debating Coaching
- » Digital Technology Representative
- » Environment Representatives
- » Events and PR Representatives
- » 'Girl Up' Club / Committee
- » Glee Competition
- » Group Dynamics
- » GRIP Leadership Conference
- » House Birthday Coordinator
- » House and Sport Captains
- » House Committees
- » International Student Ambassador Program
- » Junior Student Representative Council (SRC)
- » Leadership workshops
- » Media and Magazine Representative
- » Middle Student Representative Council (SRC)
- » Music Captains
- » Music Ensemble Leaders
- » Poetry Representative
- » Round Square School Ambassadors
- » Round Square Committee
- » Sports Representative
- » Student Foundation Representatives
- » Student IT Committee
- » Student Media Team
- » SRC Executive Committee
- » Student led assemblies and presentations
- » Team Captains and Junior Coaches
- » Year Level and Form Representatives
- » Year 10 Leadership Day
- » Year 10 Pathways Week
- » Year 11 Leadership Days





# Responsible Citizens

All our students take part in our Community Service program. Girls are not only encouraged to feel connected to their immediate community, but we believe it is also important for our students to feel part of, and a responsibility towards, the greater community. It is important for them to broaden their horizons.

# Community service programs supported

- » Anglicare Fun in the Wilderness Program for Vulnerable Children (Care Packages for Foster Carers and Move-in Packages for Vulnerable Young Adults)
- » Arthritis SA
- » Bahadure School - Nepal
- » BIO-R Planting Festival
- » Buddy Program
- » Cancer Council
- » City to Bay Fun Run
- » Duke of Edinburgh Award Program
- » Girl Up – United Nations Foundation
- » Mother’s Day Classic – BreastCancer Awareness Walk
- » Nepal Boarding House Fund
- » Local ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day Services
- » Reconciliation Week
- » Remembrance Day Service
- » Rotary Seed Propagation
- » Samaritan’s Purse
- » Smith Family
- » Sony Foundation Children’s Holiday Camp
- » St Vincent de Paul
- » Student2Student Buddy Reading Program
- » Traffic Monitoring with SAPOL
- » Treasure Boxes
- » Variety Children’s Foundation Picnics
- » Wilderness in Nepal: Walk Everest in a Day
- » Wrap with Love

# Global Citizens

Our girls learn that they are citizens of the world. The many international experiences offered to our students provide a passport for their global learning and opportunities to be connected globally.

Every year Wilderness offers overseas trips and exchange programs which enhance global competencies. Our students can practise a foreign language they have learned and experience different cultures firsthand.

In 2023, we successfully launched our international exchange program with 2 students going on exchange to South Africa and USA. We also hosted 2 students from the UK and South Africa. A group of 6 Year 8 students travelled to Whanganui, New Zealand to participate in a regional Round Square conference with a focus on Leadership and Service.



# 2. TEACHER STANDARDS AND QUALIFICATIONS

Wilderness is a learning community, providing opportunities for girls and teachers to be creative, to question and to develop skills of critical thinking, resourcefulness, reflection and risk-taking.

We believe in lifelong learning and have a strong commitment in providing generous opportunities for staff to participate in a wide variety of professional development.

## Teacher Qualifications

A complete list of teacher qualifications is available at the front of the 2023 Semper Verus yearbook.

The teaching staff at Wilderness School are highly qualified and possess qualifications including Doctorates, Bachelor and Masters Degrees, Graduate Diplomas, Diplomas and Certificates.

Of our teaching staff:

- 15% with 4 or more professional qualifications
- 17% with 3 professional qualifications
- 48% with 2 professional qualifications
- 20% with 1 professional qualification

At Wilderness we are a community of learners. Our staff participate in ongoing professional development which enables them to continue to be leaders within their educational disciplines.



## Some of their professional development opportunities included the following:

- Aboriginal Immersion program
- ACHPER
- Accesslt South Australia
- AHOMINGS
- Assessment Design
- Assessment Moderation
- ACEL Conference Adelaide
- Australian Association of Teachers of English National Conference
- BETA SA
- Career Development Australia National Conference
- Certificate in Gifted Education
- Coaching for Learning Impact
- Differentiation
- Edutech EdVal Training
- Effective Assessment Design
- ATSSA Conference
- Hourglass Programming Approach
- Flinders University Day
- Geography Teachers Association of South Australia Annual Conference
- Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum
- HTASA State Conference
- ICT Management and Leadership
- Kurna Language
- Leading Change Leading Data Informed Change Learning vs Performance Modes
- Managing People
- Master of Education
- Master of Business Administration
- Microsoft Power Applications
- Moderation of Standards Training
- NAPLAN: Exploring the Analysis Tool
- National Education Summit: Libraries
- New Metrics - Melbourne Univeristy
- Oxford Scenario Planning
- Return to Work - Workcover
- Round Square Forum
- Rubric Writing
- SACE Forums
- SACE Leaders Conference
- SACE Renewal Panels
- SAFTA Conference
- SASTA
- School Box
- Seven Steps Writing
- SHINE
- SLASA Conference
- STEM in Education Conference
- South Australian English Teachers Association Annual Conference
- Supporting Writers at Risk
- The Science of Language and Reading
- Version 9 Australian Curriculum
- VET Conferences and Meet Ups
- Young Mental Health
- Wheel Throwing - Jam Factory

# 3. WORKFORCE COMPOSITION

In 2023, there was a range of staff employed by the School to support each girl to be the best she can be.

- » 89 teachers (including the Principal), 36 of whom hold senior leadership roles
- » 26 peripatetic Music staff
- » 2 student counsellors
- » 1 Director of Learning and Teaching
- » 1 Careers Counsellor
- » 1 Careers Assistant
- » 1 International Student Coordinator
- » 2 Health Officers

Wilderness School teaching staff have current Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect - Education and Care Training, First Aid Certificates and a Working With Children Check.





# 4. STUDENT ATTENDANCE RECORDS

The average rate for student attendance across the School was consistently high.

For students in Years 1 - 10 the average attendance rate was 92.5%.

Parents receive a SMS message if a girl is unaccountably absent.

# 5. JUNIOR AND MIDDLE SCHOOL OUTCOMES

## Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

Wilderness School is committed to maximising student outcomes by providing innovative and responsive academic programs that meet the needs of all our girls. This section highlights some of the outcomes that demonstrate the success of Wilderness students across the curriculum.

Wilderness is a non-selective School that welcomes students with diverse learning needs and abilities. The literacy and numeracy difficulties experienced by a small number of students are well understood and are addressed with individual learning plans.



# 2023 School Proficiency level

## READING

	Total number of students	School Proficiency level	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	39	Strong	0	0	2
Year 5	48	Strong	0	0	1
Year 7	69	Exceeding	0	0	1
Year 9	92	Strong	1	0	3

## WRITING

	Total number of students	School Proficiency level	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	37	Strong	2	0	2
Year 5	48	Strong	0	0	1
Year 7	69	Strong	0	0	1
Year 9	90	Strong	3	0	3



## SPELLING

	Total number of students	School Proficiency level	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	37	Strong	0	0	2
Year 5	48	Strong	0	0	1
Year 7	69	Exceeding	0	0	1
Year 9	93	Strong	0	0	3

## GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION

	Total number of students	School Proficiency level	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	32	Strong	0	0	2
Year 5	48	Strong	0	0	1
Year 7	69	Strong	0	0	1
Year 9	93	Strong	0	0	3

## NUMERACY

	Total number of students	School Proficiency level	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	39	Strong	0	0	2
Year 5	48	Strong	0	0	1
Year 7	69	Strong	0	0	1
Year 9	93	Strong	1	0	2



# 5. SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL OUTCOMES

Once again our students have achieved excellent results. There were 93 girls who applied for the ATAR this year.

Of the cohort 68% were placed in the top 10%, with 44% in the top 5% and 20% in the top 1% of Year 12 students. The median ATAR achieved was 93.6.

The position of Dux was shared by Devika Mukherjee and Allegra Kleinig who attained an ATAR of 99.95.

Chenuli Basnayake, Jessica Craig and Devika Mukherjee were selected for the highest accolade of the SACE, The Governor of

South Australia Commendation Excellence Award, which recognises overall excellence in the SACE.

We are pleased to advise that Devika Mukherjee achieved six Merits and Chenuli Basnayake five Merits.

There were 81 merit listings.

These are wonderful results, and our students can be justifiably proud, as can their teachers.

# 2023 Accolades

WILDERNESS  
STUDENTS ACHIEVED

# 81 MERIT LISTINGS

IN THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

- Activating Identities and Futures
- Biology
- Business Innovation
- Chemistry
- Drama
- English
- English Literary Studies
- General Mathematics
- Geography
- Industry and Entrepreneurial Solutions
- Information Processing and Publishing
- Legal Studies
- Mathematical Methods
- Philosophy
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Research Project B
- Specialist Mathematics
- Workplace Practices

OF THE COHORT:

**20%**

**20% OF OUR YEAR 12 STUDENTS WERE PLACED IN THE TOP 1% NATIONALLY**

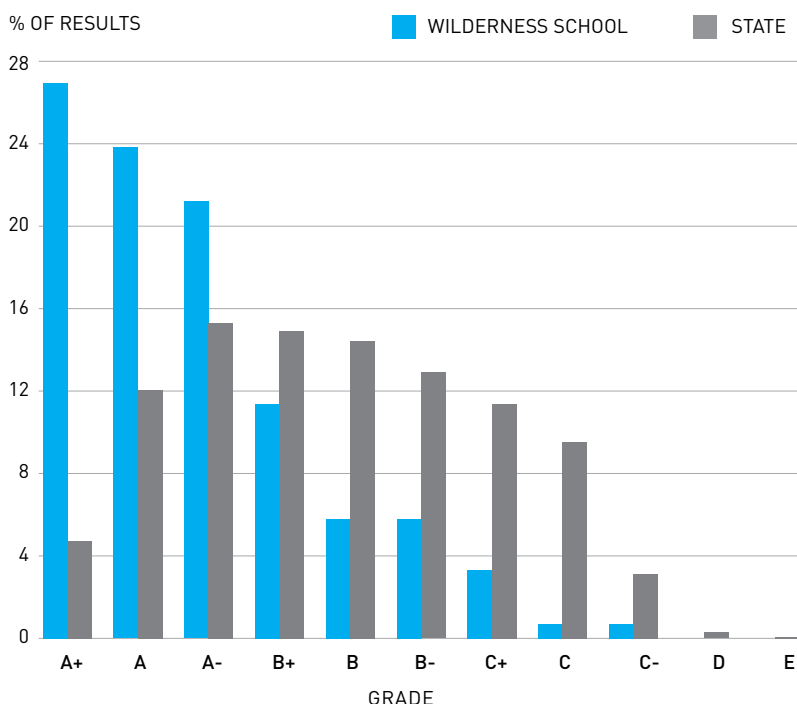
**44%**

**44% OF OUR YEAR 12 STUDENTS WERE PLACED IN THE TOP 5% NATIONALLY**

**68%**

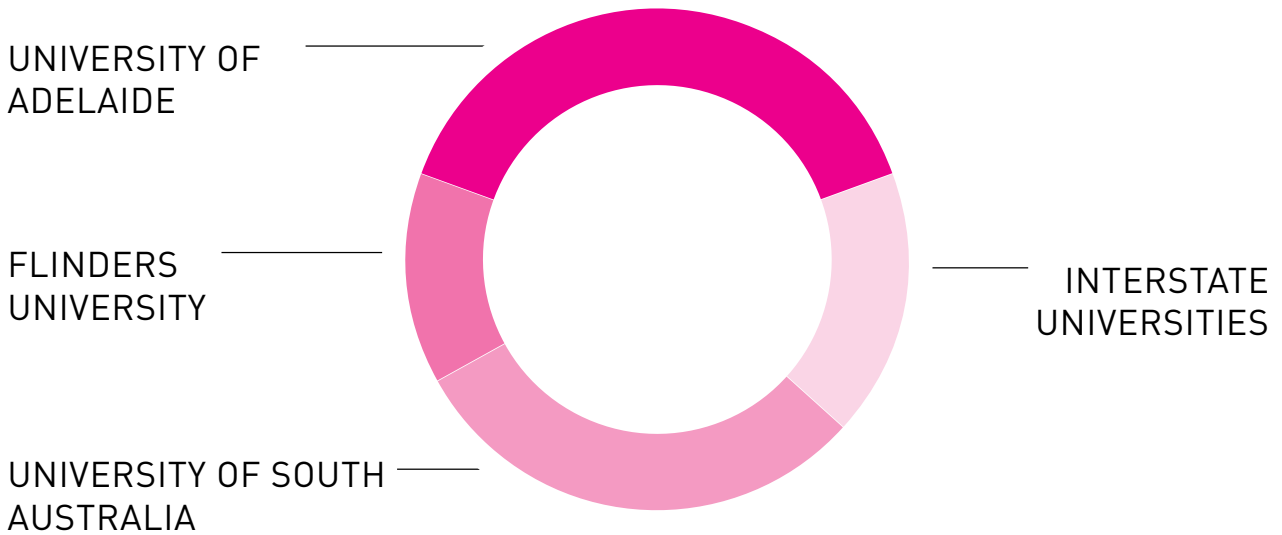
**68% OF OUR YEAR 12 STUDENTS WERE PLACED IN THE TOP 10% NATIONALLY**

## 2023 GRADE DISTRIBUTION

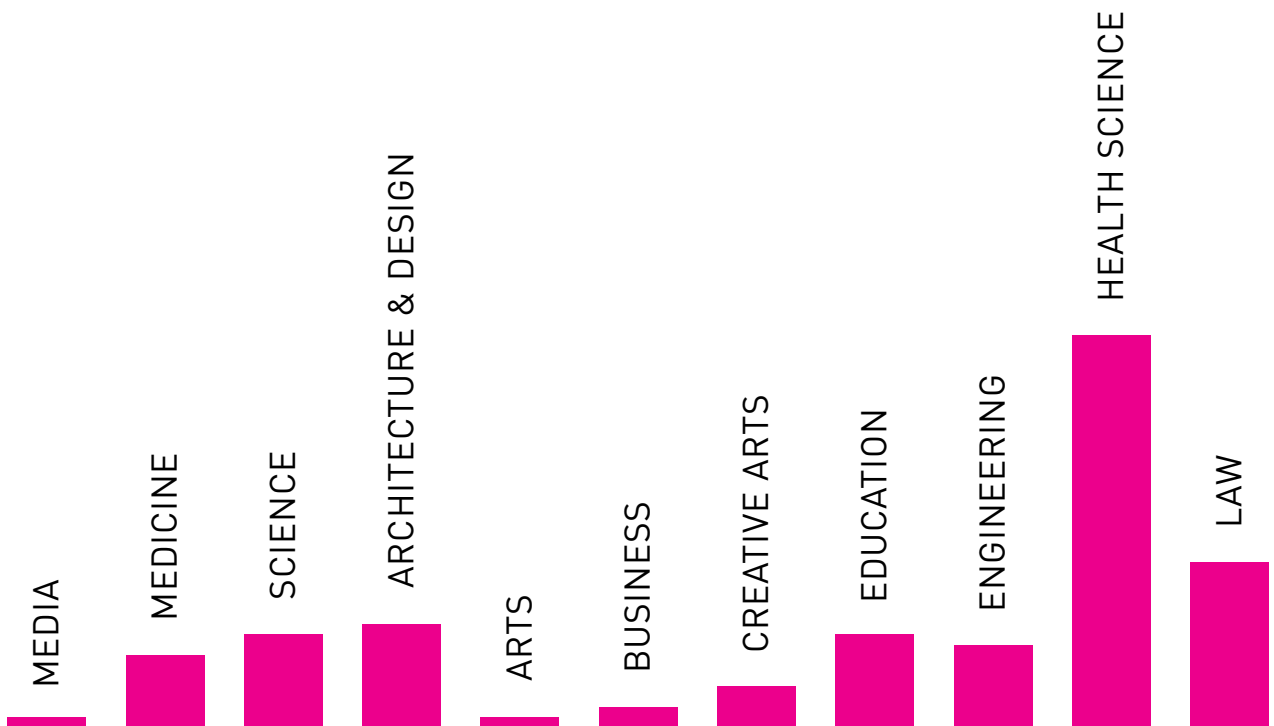


# Post school destinations

## 2024 UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS



## 2024 FIELDS OF EDUCATION



# 6. PARENT, STUDENT AND TEACHER SATISFACTION

It is evident through our high retention of staff and students and the overall feedback given by parents and students at various times throughout the year that there is a high level of satisfaction within our community at Wilderness.

At the end of the 2023 academic year 93.25% of teaching staff were retained. The reasons for leaving were one resignation and five contracts concluding.





WILDERNESS  
SCHOOL

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