Concordia Connect

2022 Term 1 Week 4

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From the Head of College

The vision for our new structure is to provide a holistic learning and wellbeing experience for our students that enables them to develop the skills and mindsets that our Unlocking Futures and Wellbeing frameworks have been designed to achieve. Essentially, we wanted to clarify and refocus our structures to enable us to strengthen the integration of our programs in developing the ‘whole student’, an approach that research indicates, if done effectively in schools, can markedly increase the learning performance of students.

In our structure moving forward, we will be aiming to achieve these strengthened student outcomes through the development and facilitation of Year Level Programs. In essence, a Year Level Program is the collective learning outcomes delivered through our curriculum and pastoral frameworks, programs and experiences offered to all students and delivered by teachers at a specific year level. This integrated classroom methodology happens seamlessly in our ELC and Primary School, and there is much we can learn about this deeply relational approach in the Middle and Senior School.

Year Level Leaders will have responsibility for coordinating the Year Level Programs. These programs, also referred to as the horizontal programs, include both curriculum and pastoral programs that are to be delivered by Home Class and year level teaching teams.

Year Level Leaders do not have a Home Class responsibility. Instead, they are released to oversee the Home Class year level teaching team, and the work Home Class teachers do with students.

Our Middle and Senior School Year Level Leaders are as follows:

- Year 7 - Rachel Hogan
- Year 8 - Laura Austin
- Year 9 - Ben Crook
- Year 10 - Rachel Paterson
- Year 11 - Judy Harris
- Year 12 - Adrian Bright

Already we can see the many benefits of these positions, which form the centrepiece of our new College Leadership Structure. Monitoring students holistically is critical, as is partnering with parents in this process. Home Class and subject teachers are the first points of parent contact concerning individual student wellbeing and learning because we believe it is

important for fostering home/College relationships. In many instances, these communications will share or clarify information regarding Home Class matters or subject learning. The open sharing of information between teacher and parent is key to a successful partnership; hence, Year Level Leaders through Home Class teachers will seek to improve communication lines wherever possible.

A parent guide outlining the first points of contact will be distributed soon. The guide is to help families identify which staff member to contact for various queries. Thank you once again for your support in these difficult times, and I hope and pray we can connect soon in person.

Paul Weinert
Head of College

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ELC and Primary School

We are grateful that the vast majority of students and staff are now back on campus and engaging in classroom learning in person rather than via a screen. The school is alive with learning and activity and we now appreciate, in a new way, that which we have taken for granted in the past. We are very grateful for our teachers, staff and parents/carers who have put in an extraordinary effort to adjust to the changes in the COVID-19 guidelines to ensure the safety of our students, the continuity of their learning and support for their wellbeing. We recognise that the impact of COVID-19 is far reaching for families and that it is stressful managing changes in the way we interact and live. Keeping children home from school and supporting their online learning and other activities, whilst managing ‘time’ and technology, is really challenging. It is our hope that we can work together to create a safe, strong and caring community through which our precious children can thrive.

Whilst we understand that human connection provides the foundation for healthy wellbeing, the reality for many families is that their children are spending more time on screens for online for learning, playing and socialising than before. Therefore, the need to set expectations about screen time and online behaviour is **more important than ever**. Having conversations about online safety, setting boundaries, using parent control and supporting children to have healthy habits online are steps we can take to keep our children safe and well.

We encourage you to read the e-Safety Commissioner’s blogposts: COVID-19: an online safety kit for parents and carers and COVID-19: protecting children from online abuse. They contain links to useful, up-to-date resources for young people and parents about maintaining online safety. The eSafety website also has information on developing good habits and supporting kids while they are online. In addition, they have created a document that assists parents to create a family tech agreement for children aged five to eight.

Another excellent resource is Too keen for the screen by Madhavi Nawana Parker. It offers parents and carers appropriate tools to navigate the digital world to ensure healthy screen time for children.

The safety and wellbeing of our students is paramount and we know that their online experiences can have a lasting impact.

We hope this information has been helpful and encourage you to email your classroom teacher, the school counsellor or school leadership team if you have any concerns for your child's learning or wellbeing.

Michael Paech
Principal - ELC and Primary School

Tamara Martin
ELC and Primary School Counsellor

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Middle and Senior School

With all students back on campus since the start of Week 3, the Middle and Senior School has definitely taken on a different tone and energy level from the first eight days with limited year levels on site. The excitement of the start of Week 3 where the Year 12 students planned and implemented activities to welcome the students in Years 9-11 has given way to a more purposeful learning focus inside and outside the classroom. As much as can be expected in the current climate, school life has resumed with a sense of normality.

Information received from the SA government at the start of Week 4 has also heralded the easing of a number of restrictions to take effect from the beginning of Week 5. This will no doubt add to that sense. From 28 February, we will see the following events and activities able to resume:

- Interschool sporting competitions
- Extra-curricular activities such as choirs, band practice, instrumental lessons
- Formals
- Outdoor assemblies

Spectators will be able to attend outdoor sporting events. However, schools are still asked to limit the number of parents on campus. This will mean that the upcoming Parent Information Evenings will be planned and held online with a shorter, sharp agenda. Please engage in these events and contact relevant staff if you have any concerns you would like to raise. Doing this as early as possible in the school year allows a solution to be developed and implemented before the year progresses too far.

These changes have also allowed us to reschedule a couple of postponed events from Term 1. The Year 12 families were recently notified that the Formal will now be held on Friday 27 May at the InterContinental Hotel. And *Oliver!* The Musical has been confirmed for the period 5-14 June.

These are important events in the annual life of the Concordia community, and we are excited that we have been able to accommodate them in Term 2. More details about both will be

shared in coming weeks.

I can also confirm that we have not remained untouched by COVID-19 within the school community. Luckily, there have been very few cases and the spread within the school community has been limited. This is in stark contrast to the stories being relayed by colleagues in other schools within the state. I want to thank all staff and students for doing their part. Wearing our masks, sanitising our hands, socially distancing, and remaining at home if any symptoms of illness are present are all having an impact.

Every blessing

Dennis Mulherin
Principal - Middle and Senior School

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Q&A with Jennifer Schultz, Reception Teacher

1. Where were you before this and what persuaded you to join Concordia College?

I taught at St. Michael's Lutheran School in Hahndorf for many years. We joined this community when my husband became the pastor at the St. Michael's Lutheran Church and have been so blessed to raise our family in such a beautiful place with such beautiful people. As each other person in my family has spread their wings, I was wondering about different doors opening for me too. A simple conversation with a friend was the beginning of a real sense that God was leading me to try something new.

2. Three words to describe you.

I try to be genuine, empathetic and adventurous.

3. What is your motivation or inspiration in your role?

I am so thankful to have had parents and wonderful role models who have taught me about God and have helped me to grow in my understanding of His activity in our lives. Reading God's word continues to give me great encouragement, inspiration and motivation. I love to learn new things and to build relationships and am so thankful to be working in the Concordia community to be able to do both. Working with young learners is so unpredictable but so fun! I love the constant challenge of working to meet the needs of the students in our care.

4. If you had a superpower, what would it be?

My dream superpower would be to be able to click my heels together and immediately travel to wherever I wish. Of course, I would need some beautiful boots in which to be able to do this, (a little different to Dorothy's shoes in the Wizard of Oz), and to be able to take lots of people with me. I love exploring God's world. There is simply too much to see and do and so many people to do this with!

5. Who would you invite to a dinner party of six guests and why? Alternatively, tell us something you might like to share that we could not possibly know?

My husband Stephen, our two sons and other family members are always great dinner company. We love time to sit, laugh and share. Relationships are very important to me and time to build these is always precious.

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Q&A with Ben Crook, Year 9 Leader, PE and Christian Studies Teacher

1. Where were you before this and what persuaded you to join Concordia College?

I have been teaching at Endeavour College for the last 15 years. I joined the Concordia community as I was interested in a new challenge and liked the direction of the new leadership structure. I am also very excited about The Rite Journey program as a part of Pastoral Care in Year 9.

2. Three words to describe you.

Compassionate, Diligent, Relational.

3. What is your motivation or inspiration in your role?

As a Physical Education teacher, having the opportunity to motivate students to be physically active and to enjoy nature in the process inspires me. As a Year 9 Leader, supporting students to navigate a time of life that can be tricky and watching them build resilience throughout the year inspires me.

4. If you had a superpower, what would it be?

My superpower would be being able to fly. I think I may have watched Superman too many times in my youth, but it has always fascinated me, and I would love to be able to do it.

5. Who would you invite to a dinner party of six guests and why? Alternatively, tell us something you might like to share that we could not possibly know?

Something you may not know about me already is that my seven-year-old son, Ollie, is a better swimmer than me, and my four-year-old daughter, Chloe, is not far behind!

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Fresh Produce from the ELC Garden

The children from the Early Learning Centre were delighted to discover the fresh tomatoes and basil that they had planted in their garden had ripened and were ready for picking.

Together they harvested the produce, chopped and prepared it and made some delicious bruschetta. We then enjoyed eating it together at lunchtime. When children grow and harvest their own produce they are forming positive food habits for life.

Mrs Sarah Neill
ELC Coordinator

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The Mustard Seed Family Project

This year, a small group of Year 8 students have created a service activity to support The Mustard Seed Family Project. Mustard Seed is a small family-run café business that, on the side, provides meals for individuals and families in need. One of their main income streams to enable this initiative is to use the 10c refund from recyclable bottles and cans. Our Year 8s, supported by Year 12 mentors, are organising a College-wide system for collecting all the 10c containers that we use at school. The money from the refunds will go to Mustard Seed to support their special project.

We will soon have designated yellow bins dotted around the Middle and Senior School to use for this. On our non-uniform day last Friday, students were asked to bring in a 10c container and a $2.00 donation. We raised over $1000, which will be our first monetary gift for Mustard Seed. The Year 8s' goal is for all of our 10c containers be collected in an ongoing, organised way at the College and that the simple act of dropping an empty bottle into the yellow bins will culminate in many meals, for many needy people, for many years. These students are also learning more about Mustard Seed's work and will be sharing this widely with the student body and parents. They are to be commended for their initiative and care for others.

A special thanks to Ms Martin, Mr Eden and the maintenance team for helping these students to bring their idea to life. We hope to share more on this initiative in the weeks ahead.

Mark Rathjen
College Chaplain

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Redevelopment Update

Our ELC and Primary School redevelopment has been steadily moving ahead in recent weeks, with some exciting developments and huge changes occurring to the physical landscape. Following is a quick summary.

Early Learning Centre

- Internal demolition completed
- Commencing with partition walls and flooring

- The exterior now shows an area where a large window will be installed as part of new staff office spaces on the first floor

Three-storey building (Resource Centre and classrooms)

- Ground floor concrete foundations have been poured
- Precast installation of the lift shaft and stairwell
- Form work is being done, ready for the next concrete pour
- The playground between the Year 2/3 classrooms and the three-storey building has been removed ready for landscaping to commence

These are exciting steps along the road to what will be wonderful new and improved facilities, catering for an increased number of students in ELC to Year 6 in future years.

We look forward to providing regular updates as the build continues.

Sally Staggs
Risk and Operations Manager ELC-12

A collage showing some of the recent work taking place on our ELC to Year 6 Redevelopment
The lift shaft and stairwell for the new three-storey Resource Centre and classroom facility
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Supporting our ELC to Year 6 Students

Our much-needed ELC and Primary School redevelopment is now well underway.

A beautiful, bespoke artwork will be the highlight of the entrance to the new Hall, and we are presenting the opportunity for our community members to be a part of this exciting installation.

Thank you to those that have already joined us in this project, your support is truly appreciated.

If you haven't yet, please consider making a tax-deductible one-off contribution of $2,500 or a pledge of this amount to be paid in instalments over up to three years. Donors contributing $2,500 or more will have their family or business name included within the artwork and be a part of the unveiling celebration upon completion.

To donate any amount or to have your name included in the artwork, please make an online payment.

For more information, phone Sally Staggs, Risk and Operations Manager (08 8273 0423) or Sue Spry, Donor Relations Manager (8291 9339).

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Maintaining a Safe Learning Community

At Concordia, the safety of our students, staff and wider College community is our highest priority. In order to provide a safe working and learning environment for our students and staff, we ensure that:

- all staff undertake regular first aid training through a trusted training organisation
- defibrillators are available at the following locations around the College
    - Primary School - near the School Office
    - Middle and Senior School - in the Student Services Office
    - Middle and Senior School's Murtoa building - on the wall near M83
    - Chapel Narthex - near the Kitchen
    - Gymnasium foyer
- staff are trained in the use of defibrillators as part of their first aid training, and the College ensures they are maintained
- key staff have senior first aid training qualifications
- students are educated on responsible behaviour and looking out for one another.

We are blessed to work and learn as part of such an amazing College from ELC to Year 12, and remain committed to ensuring the safety of all members of our community.

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OSHC Update

Together we have been busy celebrating the end of 2021 and welcoming new beginnings for 2022 with a fun December/January Vacation Care Program.

We were excited to welcome back many of our Vacation Care families and saw great friendships form over this period.

In December, we were lucky to be able to visit many of our favourite excursion destinations around Adelaide, as well as some new ones.

Unfortunately, excursions were withdrawn in January. Whilst this provided some programming challenges, our educators were given the chance to come up with enjoyable incursion activities. We were thrilled with the team’s response and the wider support from our families.

With such a different beginning to our year, we have really taken the time to appreciate and be grateful for what we have and the opportunities we can make.

We have offered some further ‘Special Care Days’ on Wednesdays to our Reception families. Being able to have the Receptions here for the full day has been fantastic. We were pleased to be able to offer this service in light of current circumstances. ‘Special Care Days’ allow the staff and students to establish new relationships in a calmer, quieter environment. We are thrilled to be seeing the Receptions come out of their shells.

We are beginning our preparation for our up-and-coming Vacation Care as it quickly approaches and are hoping to see many familiar and new faces in the coming months.

Jenny Wei
OSHC Director

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E-Scooter Trial in the City of Unley

The College was recently advised by the City of Unley that they will be trialling e-scooters as a form of shared mobility device from 14 February 2022 until 15 August 2022 (six months), with a possible extension to March 2023 (12 months). You may, therefore, start to see e-scooters around the local area. Please note the following details about the trial:

- Only e-scooters operated by approved operators (Neuron and Beam) are permitted in the trial area
- Personal e-scooters are still illegal for use on public roads/footpaths in SA
- According to SA road rules, users of e-scooters must be over 18 years of age and wear a helmet that is securely fitted
    - Users will be advised of the risks and applicable insurances and asked to confirm that they are over 18 years of age and wearing a helmet prior to commencing an e-scooter ride
    - If users are not over 18 and/or not wearing a helmet, users may not be covered by insurance and will be liable for any incident.

The City of Unley have provided answers to Frequently Asked Questions on their website.

If you have any concerns regarding poorly parked e-scooters, user behaviour, and collisions, accidents or injuries associated with e-scooters adjacent or within the school grounds, please contact:

Neuron Customer Support Line (orange)
08 7444 4676
adelaidecbdsupport@neuron.sg
Visit the Neuron website

Beam Customer Support Line (purple)
08 7079 0518
teamsupportaus@ridebeam.com
Visit the Beam website

The City of Unley can respond to feedback and questions regarding the e-scooter permits on 8372 5111 or pobox2@unley.sa.gov.au

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Parenting Resources

Fullarton Park Community Centre is presenting two parenting sessions with Mark Le Messurier, 2022 South Australian Senior of the Year, in the month of March, which may be of interest to families.

On **Wednesday 16 March**, Mark will host a discussion group on the topic of 'Family, Parenting and Childrearing'. Bookings are essential due to COVID-19 guidelines. Numbers will be limited. Please advise the Centre if you are unable to attend as there may be a wait list. QR Code check-in and masks apply.

Download a flyer for more information. | To register, phone 8372 5180 or email Pam Dale at the City of Unley.

On **Monday 28 March**, Mark will present a free seminar on the topic of 'Dealing with Big Feelings'. Bookings are essential due to COVID-19 guidelines. Numbers will be limited. Please advise if you are unable to attend as there may be a wait list. QR Code check-in and masks apply.

Download a flyer for more information. | To register, phone 8372 5180 or email Pam Dale at the City of Unley.

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Diary Dates

ELC and Primary School

March	
Wednesday 2	College Tour - ELC-Year 6, 9.15am
Thursday 3	Year 1-5 Parent/Teacher Interviews (online via Teams)
Wednesday 9	College Tour - ELC-Year 6, 9.15am Year 1-5 Parent/Teacher Interviews (online via Teams)
Monday 14	Adelaide Cup Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 16	College Tour - ELC-Year 6, 9.15am
Wed 16 - Fri 18	Year 5 Camp (TBC)
Mon 21 - Wed 23	Year 4 Camp (TBC)
Wednesday 23	College Tour - ELC-Year 6, 9.15am

Friday 25	Reception to Year 6 Sports Day, Concordia College Oval (finishes at 12.30pm)
Wednesday 30	College Tour - ELC-Year 6, 9.15am Reception Getting to Know You Chats and Year 6 Three-way Conferences
April	
Sunday 3	Year 1 and Year 6 School Service (online)
Wednesday 6	College Tour - ELC-Year 6, 9.15am
Thursday 7	Reception Getting to Know You Chats and Year 6 Three-way Conferences
Wednesday 13	College Tour - ELC-Year 6, 9.15am
Thursday 14	Maundy Thursday Term 1 concludes, Primary School students dismissed at 1pm

Middle and Senior School

February	
Saturday 26	Senior School representatives serving at The Collective of St Mary Magdalene Drop-in Centre
March	
Tuesday 1	College Tour - Years 7-12, 9.15am
Tuesday 8	College Tour - Years 7-12, 9.15am
Friday 11	Year 9 Calling Ceremony (TBC) International Women's Day Breakfast in The Suaviter
Tuesday 15	Year 8 Vaccinations Middle and Senior School Tour, 9.15am
Thursday 17	Middle and Senior School Sports Day, SA Athletics Stadium
Tuesday 22	College Tour - Years 7-12, 9.15am
Saturday 26	Pedal Prix in Mount Gambier
Tuesday 29	College Tour - Years 7-12, 9.15am
April	
Tuesday 5	College Tour - Years 7-12, 9.15am
Tuesday 12	College Tour - Years 7-12, 9.15am
Thursday 14	Maundy Thursday Term 1 concludes, Middle and Senior School students dismissed at 1pm

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The School Shop

General trading – no appointment required. Physical distancing rules still apply. We thank you for your patience during this time.

- Mondays: 8am - 4pm
- Wednesdays: 12.30pm - 4pm
- Thursdays: 12.30pm - 6pm
- **Public Holidays - Closed**

Email orders are also welcome and purchases may be collected from The School Shop during opening hours. Please email: schoolshop@concordia.sa.edu.au and include:

- your child's name and year level
- size
- your contact details

The School Shop staff will contact you for payment and advise when your order is available to collect.

Sport Orders

If you have not been able to payments and and finalise your order by 4pm on Thursday 24 February, please email The School Shop.

Uniform Orders

We still have a number of uniform orders ready for collection. Students in Years 7-12 have been emailed advice to collect their order. Parents have been emailed for students in ELC-Year 6.

Secondhand Clothing

If you have uniforms you no longer need, they may be donated or sold on consignment in The School Shop (click to download a secondhand uniforms consignment form).

Please note:

- Blazers and winter skirts/pinafores must be dry cleaned with a receipt attached.
- Jumpers must be washed using a wool wash detergent.
- All other items must be in good condition, stains removed, washed and ironed ready for sale.
- Summer hats must be hand washed.
- Any uniform items in need of repair e.g. broken zips, seams unstitched, missing buttons, etc. must be repaired prior to acceptance for sale. Buttons are sold in The School Shop.
- Garments presented on hangers are preferred.
- Old logo and discontinued styles – uniforms with the old school logo and discontinued styles are no longer saleable in The School Shop but can be dropped off for overseas charity donation.

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Public Notices & Events

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  Download a flyer for more information. | To register, phone 8372 5180 or email Pam Dale at the City of Unley.
- **The City of Unley** is running a free program called Mapping the Family for older people and their families to create art, poetry and memory books. Participants receive free workshops with artist James Parker and writer Amelia Walker. This November, they will present an exhibition promoting positive representations of growing older. Exhibition participation is optional. For more information, email poetryisdangerous@gmail.com and arty@jameswparker.com.au

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