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From the Learning Resources Manager

Accessing accurate, credible and suitable sources of information is much more complex for students than it was when many of us were at school. The challenge is no longer just how to find information, but how to refine and limit your results to useful information, verify the information and credibility of sources and not become overwhelmed by the amount of information or misled by misinformation and disinformation (Garrison & Oddone, 2024). Generative AI has added to this complexity. It is well known that Large Language Models can get the facts wrong (Hudson, 2025). Teaching children the Digital Literacy Skills they need to find, filter, verify and ethically use information and AI tools has become an essential part of learning (Merga & Mat Roni, 2025). Our students need to navigate both the information that is directed at them via social media, especially health related information, and the information they actively seek to support their learning (Merga, 2025).

At Concordia we work to embed Digital Information Literacy skills across year levels and subject areas. This year we have placed an emphasis on teaching 'lateral reading' as defined by Caulfield & Wineburg (2023). Lateral reading refers to reading **about** the source/author, checking to see what other sources say about that source or author rather than only what they say about themselves. These lateral reading skills are part of the suite of information literacy skills that students require to verify the credibility of sources and consider the expertise of the person creating the content (Oddone & Merga, 2024.) One of my favourite examples to use with older students is Dr Berg's YouTube Channel. With vertical reading (staying on that page and only considering what the author/source tells you about themselves) students very quickly determine that he is a "Dr" and that he has over 13 Million subscribers on YouTube, impressive right?

Dig a little deeper—do some searching *about* Dr Berg... what are his qualifications? Are they related to nutrition?

To learn more about lateral reading, you may like to watch these videos:

- Lateral Reading
- Online Verification Skills: Introduction
- Online Verification Skills: Investigate the source
- Skill: Check other sources
- Find the original source
- Look for trusted work

Hajnalka Molloy

Learning Resources Manager

Reference List

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From Shark Tank to the Classroom

Our Year 11 Industry and Entrepreneurial Solutions students recently visited the St Peters Campus, where they joined Years 2, 3 and 4 students for a special Product Pitch session led by entrepreneur Bernie Sharrad.

Bernie, who appeared on Channel 10's Shark Tank in 2016, is the creator of CapHat®, a sun protection product that won a Bronze Edison Award for Innovation in New York. During his visit, he shared his journey from idea to award-winning product, offering practical tips and insider advice on turning a concept into a reality.

Students left inspired and armed with knowledge they will use as they prepare to pitch their own products later this year. We thank Bernie for generously sharing his time, experience and passion for innovation with our school community.

Shane Beitz

Design, Technology and Engineering Coordinator

St Peters Campus Reception Chick Hatching Experience

During Weeks 5 and 6, our Reception students had the opportunity to take part in the Henny Penny Hatching program. This hands-on experience allowed the children to observe the life cycle of chicks, starting with eggs in an incubator and ending with fluffy, active chicks in the classroom.

The students watched closely as the eggs began to crack and the chicks slowly emerged. Over the following days, they noticed changes in the chicks' appearance and behaviour, sparking curiosity and lots of questions.

Using their senses, the children documented what they saw, heard and felt. They recorded their observations through drawings, photos, written text and shared conversations. This experience supported their learning in science and inquiry, and encouraged them to think, wonder and explore.

It was an engaging way to connect with nature and learn about living things. We're proud of how the students approached the experience with care and interest, and grateful to Henny Penny Hatching for making it possible.

Laura Benger

Reception Teacher – St Peters Campus

Ava Attends Summer School at Cambridge University

During the three-week holidays in the middle of the year I completed a summer school program at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. There are a wide variety of courses to choose from, but I ended up choosing to study Medical Sciences. This course was very hands-on with practical work, which allowed me to immerse myself in the medical field. Each day was different, but very fulfilling.

What did an average day involve?

A big buffet breakfast was provided each morning where we would grab our trays and eat in the hall. Then we would go to class. For lunches, most days we would go into the town and grab something to eat, and at other times the leaders would organise activities. These activities can range from scavenger hunts to parties and sport tournaments. Dinner was also provided, and more activities would take place afterwards.

Did you make new friends through this experience? What countries were they from?

On the first day especially, it was a bit scary because I was dropped off at a university in a new country by myself. I was left to find my dorm room and all my classes on my own. I became close friends with my roommate. Most people who did the weekly programs were from all over America. There were also a few Australians. Other than that, there were many different cultures spread amongst the group.

Why did you choose to do this?

My sister did this same program two years ago and really enjoyed it. I heard many stories about how much fun she had there and all the special memories she made. I dreamed of doing the same thing once I reached Year 11.

How did this experience change you?

This experience taught me so many things, mostly about being independent and learning how to do things without others' input. I had to manage my time, my workload and making friends. I also wanted to do this while spending my time in town learning and experiencing different things in Cambridge. After doing this program I switched my career focus for life after Year 12. Before the course I wanted to go into nursing but now I have decided I want to do paramedicine. We spent some time talking about trauma accidents and surgery. These classes specifically stood out to me as you had to essentially act as a paramedic. There were also many interesting class activities such as dissection of hearts and the respiratory system and learning how to do stitches.

What advice would you give for someone else considering an opportunity like this?

Some advice I would give is to make the most of all the activities the organisers provide. They

are optional to go to, but it is where I spent most of my time. It sounds boring going to a tennis tournament or a water fight but spending that time with the friends I made there was one of the highlights of my trip.

Ava (11AMOF)

To learn about this program and other overseas study opportunities contact: [Emma Rieger, Enrichment and Extended Learning](#)

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Student Forum Visits St Peters Campus

On Wednesday 3 September, Concordia Campus's Forum representatives from Years 7–12 travelled to visit our St Peters Campus at Blackwood for a morning of activities, learning and fun.

To begin, the Forum representatives ran a short devotion on creativity before spreading out around the school to run balloon games, colouring in, Father's Day cards, Just Dance, newspaper hockey and lots of other fun activities both in and out of the classroom.

Both the Concordia Campus and St Peters Campus students had a great time and are cannot wait for further opportunities to spend time together and connect across all three campuses.

A huge thank you to all of our Forum students who made the day possible, especially our Year 12 leaders for running the day, along with Mrs Spargo and Mr Wood, who support the Student Forum and ensured the day went smoothly.

Madeleine (12CHEL)

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Enrichment and Extended Learning News

Fantasy Map Competition

This year the Children's Book Council of Australia turned 80, and what better way to celebrate than with this year's Book Week theme: "Book an Adventure". At our school, the journey began at the start of the year! Through the 26 Book Challenge, students have been voyaging across continents, sailing through stories and collecting passport stamps each time they close the cover on a new book from a specific challenge category.

The adventure doesn't stop there... We have invited Year 7 and 8 students to set sail on their own Fantasy Map Creation Quest. The challenge: to dream up a magical island and bring it to life in creative writing, describing characters and landscapes from their island. The most enchanting maps and tales will be sent off to an interschool competition, where treasure (in the

form of prizes) awaits the winners. To help guide the way, one of our own Book Council members has sketched a fantasy map to inspire brave cartographers. It is pictured here.

All entries must be delivered to Mrs Rieger or the library by Friday 12 September.

OZHARVEST Fight Food Waste Design Competition

Every year, 2.5 million tonnes of food are wasted from homes across Australia. Wasting food wastes resources: water, land, energy and money. It also contributes to climate change as food in landfills produces methane, a toxic greenhouse gas that damages the environment. OzHarvest's *Use It Up* campaign is a behaviour change campaign backed by research, encouraging people to waste less and save money by using up food they already have at home. The Use It Up Tape acts as a visual reminder to use up your food.

Students may like to enter a competition to design an eye-catching poster and packaging for the Use It Up Tape. Winning designs will be featured on limited-edition Use It Up Tape packaging distributed to schools nationwide in 2026.

This competition is open to both primary and high school students, with a winner and a state/territory finalist for both. The competition closes on September 22, 2025. [Learn more here.](#)

Emma Rieger

Enrichment and Extended Learning

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Receptions from St Peters Campus Visit Cleland Wildlife Park

The St Peters Campus Reception students recently enjoyed a wonderful day at Cleland Wildlife Park. Guided by Carrie, our wildlife keeper, the children explored the fascinating world of native Australian animals. They learned how to classify animals into groups such as marsupials, invertebrates, mammals, warm-blooded and cold-blooded animals.

A highlight of the day was the opportunity to get up close with koalas, kangaroos and wallabies. The children interacted with the animals with care and respect, showing curiosity while feeding, patting and observing them in their natural surroundings.

This excursion supported our current Unit of Inquiry: How the World Works, where students are investigating the external features of animals and how these help them to survive. By asking questions, classifying animals and carefully observing their features and behaviours, the children were developing the skills needed to work scientifically. The hands-on experience encouraged them to think like scientists—making connections, sharing ideas and building deeper understandings through real-world exploration.

Laura Benger

Road Safety and Wheels Day at St John's Campus ELC

On Tuesday 26 August, Senior Constable Nicholas Lomman visited the ELC to talk to the children about road safety. He covered a range of important topics, including safe places to play, how to cross the road safely, passenger and bike safety, using public transport, and when to call Triple Zero.

We were also introduced to Jeff the Road Safety Dog, who helped us learn the four key steps for crossing the road safely:

1. Stop
2. Look
3. Listen
4. Think

The children also enjoyed learning about police uniforms and some of the special equipment officers use as part of their job.

The fun continued with our exciting Wheels Day! Everyone was invited to bring in their bikes or scooters and we headed over to the tennis courts for a fun day of riding and play.

Claire Oakley

ELC Educator – St John's Campus

Mitcham Council Arbor Day Tree Planting at St Peters Campus

On Monday 1 September, our students joined members of the Mitcham Council for a special Arbor Day tree planting morning in the reserve near our school. Together, they planted a variety of native trees that will not only beautify the area but will also support local wildlife and the environment for years to come.

As a Lutheran school it is important for us to be of service to our community, and this opportunity offered us a chance to provide some help in making sure the natural environment is being cared for, to ensure our local ecosystem continues to flourish.

It was a wonderful hands-on experience that gave students the opportunity to learn about the importance of caring for our natural surroundings, while also contributing to the health of our local community spaces. We are grateful to Mitcham Council for partnering with us and look forward to watching the trees grow to play an important role in our community in the years ahead.

Matthew Webster

Year 5/6 Teacher – St Peters Campus

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