Concordia Connect

2025 Term 4 Week 6

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From the College Chaplain

I love the drive down from the hills into Highgate at this time of year. As December nears, our streets and gardens become a haze of glorious soft purple as the Jacaranda trees release their delicate blossoms. Soon after, Agapanthus flowers, with their crowns of violet petals appear all over. This vibrant purple heralds a long-awaited South Australian summer.

Purple is a significant colour for Christians at this time of year too. Purple is the colour of the season of Advent—the four-week time of preparation for Christmas. Purple for Advent is well chosen. In the ancient world it was the colour of royalty; rare, expensive, reserved for kings. When the church clothes its altars and candles in purple during Advent, it is making a bold declaration: the King is coming! Not a political ruler, not a temporary leader, but the true King—Jesus, the promised Messiah.

As the trees make their announcement of Summer’s arrival, Advent also offers a spiritual announcement: prepare your hearts—Jesus the King is near.

The people of Israel waited centuries for this King. They clung to God’s promises through exile,

oppression, silence and longing. Prophets like Isaiah spoke hope into their weary hearts: *“A king will reign in righteousness… a child will be born… and he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”* (Isaiah 9:6-7)

Their waiting was not empty, and neither is ours. In Jesus, their hopes and ours burst into bloom. He comes with everything our hearts hunger for; hope, peace, joy and love.

As we see the floral purples emerge, creation itself seems to join the church’s quiet whisper: “Get ready. The King is coming.” Advent invites us to slow down, to look for the signs of God at work, and to prepare room in our own lives for Christ once again.

May this Advent season draw our eyes to the purple signs of hope around us—the blossoms, the candles, the Scriptures and the promises. May they lead us again to the feet of the One who comes as King—Jesus, the Saviour, the Prince of Peace.

Mark Rathjen
College Chaplain

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Year 12 Design, Technology and Engineering 2025

Our Year 12 Design, Technology and Engineering students truly raised the bar this year. Both classes delivered exceptional projects that combined creativity, technical skill and innovation. It was a privilege to guide one of the groups, alongside Mr Divitkos who led his first Year 12 class with outstanding success. The results speak volumes about the talent and effort of our students. Well done!

Shane Beitz
Design, Technology and Engineering Coordinator

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St Peters Campus Reception Students Visit Glenthorne National Park

On Tuesday 11 November, the St Peters Campus Reception students enjoyed an exciting excursion to Glenthorne National Park, connecting beautifully with our current Unit of Inquiry: '*People connect to places and share celebrations in different ways*'. This experience allowed us to explore how a single place can serve many purposes and undergo significant changes over time.

Under the guidance of Anni from Nature Play SA, we discovered Glenthorne’s fascinating history. Once a working farm, it later became a military training camp, then a CSIRO environmental research site, and today it thrives as a national park. This journey through time helped students understand how places evolve and adapt to meet different needs.

To deepen our connection with nature, we participated in cubby building, fostering creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills. Of course, a highlight for many was the chance to enjoy multiple play sessions on the nature playground, where laughter and exploration filled the air.

This excursion was more than just a day outdoors—it was an opportunity to see firsthand how places hold stories, serve communities in diverse ways and continue to change over time.

Laura Benger
Reception Teacher

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SchoolTV Special Report: New Social Media Regulations: What you need to know

From Wednesday 10 December 2025, new laws will take effect in Australia to protect young people online by restricting access to social media for those under the age of 16. This important change reflects growing community concern about the impact of early social media use on children's mental health, wellbeing and development.

Research shows that social media can expose children to unrealistic comparisons, online pressure and harmful content long before they are emotionally ready to manage it. While regulation is a positive step forward, real safety begins at home. Families continue to play the most powerful role in helping children build confidence, resilience and awareness in the digital world.

These new regulations provide an opportunity to talk openly with your child about their online experiences and what these changes mean for them. It's also a chance to review family technology habits, reinforce healthy routines, and explore age-appropriate ways for young people to connect, learn and express themselves.

This Special Report explains what the new laws mean in practice and offers practical guidance to help families prepare for the upcoming changes.

Read the Special Report (opens an external website in a new window)
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MADD Festival 2025

Our Primary School students' creativity was on display in many forms at our recent 'MADD Festival', showcasing students' learning in Music, Art, Drama and Dance. Thanks to all who attended and to the students and staff involved in this extraordinary celebration of the arts.

On the night, we also thanked Julie—one of our incredible Music teachers—who will retire at the end of this term after 16 years of faithful service to our community. We wish her every

blessing and extend our gratitude to Julie for the way she has supported countless students to not only grow as musicians, but more importantly into young people with greater confidence and self-belief.

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Child Studies Class Serves Nutritious Lunches for Year 2s

As part of their summative assessment, the Year 10 Child Studies students designed and prepared a range of nutritious lunchbox food products for our Year 2 students. This engaging task encouraged them to explore the importance of a balanced diet in supporting children's growth and development, while also researching healthy eating habits and creative ways to make nutritious foods more appealing to young children. The Year 2 students thoroughly enjoyed both the food and the overall experience.

Working collaboratively, each group developed an action plan aligned with Area of Study 1: *The Nature of Childhood and the Socialisation and Development of Children*. Their plans addressed the specific nutritional needs of young children, taking into account portion size, dietary guidelines, texture, taste and individual dietary considerations. Students thoughtfully documented their decisions and allocated responsibilities within their groups to ensure a successful and well-coordinated outcome.

Mersina Harpas
Food Design Teacher

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Big Band 1 at The Southern Jazz Club

Well done to our new 2026 Big Band 1 students on a fantastic first performance together at The Southern Jazz Club on Tuesday 20 November. The group showed great potential and gave us a wonderful glimpse of what's ahead.

A special thank you to those who performed at Launchpad and then headed straight across—your commitment is truly appreciated.

Kellie Rich
Head of Music Performance ELC–12

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Stage 1 Drama Enters Young Theatremakers Award

Congratulations to the Stage 1 Drama class, who participated in the State Theatre Company's Young Theatremakers Award, hosted by Flinders University. With workshops from Flinders University practitioners, they reprised a section of their performance of *The Mermaid* for this event, grappling with a smaller number of actors, a large theatre space and the logistics of shifting a production to a new venue.

On the day, the group was first treated to an inside look at the workings of the Drama Centre, Australia's first tertiary Drama school. Students then presented their work alongside six other schools, all inspired by the key word 'elevation'. Our students performed admirably, with an emotive, polished performance that transported the enthusiastic audience to an underwater world. Year 10 Concordia students also attended, and immediately asked 'will we be able to do this next year?'

The judging panel reviewed the show as "*a small ensemble that produced a big impact; both inventive and emotionally charged [...] creating a powerful and polished piece that reflected careful rehearsal and strong artistic intent.*" Congratulations to the Year 11s on their performance. We look forward to the 2026 competition with the current Year 10s!

Daniel Lynch
Drama Teacher

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St John's Lutheran Church Kids' Club

St John's Lutheran Church, Unley, is hosting their November Kids' Club tomorrow for Primary School-aged children and their families. They meet once a month for fun, faith, friendship and a light meal. Please see details below.

- **Date: Friday 21 November**
- **Time: 6–8pm**
- **Location: St John's Lutheran Church Ministry Centre, 15 Marlborough Street Malvern**

If you'd like to attend, please register online via the button below.

Register (opens an external website in a new window)
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Year 7 Food Design Students Support OzHarvest Through Sustainable Cooking

Year 7 Food Design students have recently completed an inspiring project focused on

sustainability, food production and community support. As part of their learning, students designed a sustainable food product suitable for donation to an OzHarvest food distribution supermarket. Throughout the project, they were challenged to think critically about the environmental impact of their ingredients and cooking processes.

Students examined the packaging of their chosen ingredients, considering how different materials contribute to waste and how more environmentally friendly alternatives can be selected. They also researched the distance their ingredients needed to travel, aiming to reduce food miles and support more local, seasonal produce. Understanding seasonality helped students identify which ingredients grow best at particular times of year, and how choosing in-season foods can lower environmental impact.

As part of their practical skills development, students explored the resource demands of popular proteins such as beef and chicken, recognising the significance of choosing more sustainable options. They also experimented with fresh pasta making—rolling dough, forming ravioli or slicing sheets into fettuccine—before assembling pre-packaged pasta meals ready for donation.

OzHarvest expressed their sincere gratitude for the students' contribution. The pasta meals were distributed immediately through their Hindmarsh food distribution centre, making an instant and meaningful difference to community members in need.

Alongside cooking, students learned strategies to manage food preparation waste more efficiently, including how to reduce vegetable scraps and how careful planning of ingredient quantities can minimise excess.

This project not only strengthened students' practical cooking skills but also deepened their understanding of sustainability and the positive impact their choices can have on the wider community.

Sonia Ford
Food Design Teacher

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Dance Showcase 2025

On Monday 17 November, students from Year 5 to Year 12 experienced the unforgettable feeling of what it's like to be on stage, sharing their creativity, courage and passion with our school community. Across two sold-out shows, students shone with confidence, expression and teamwork, creating an evening that truly celebrated Dance at Concordia.

A special thank you to our dedicated team of staff and industry guests whose expertise and generosity helped bring this showcase to life. Your support behind the scenes ensures our students feel empowered and inspired.

I'm incredibly proud of every student's achievements, whether they are a seasoned performer or stepping onto the stage for the very first time. It is a privilege to teach in such a generous

and creative community, where students feel safe to express themselves and celebrate each other's successes.

Congratulations to all involved in making our very first Dance Showcase such a memorable and uplifting event.

Carla Bigiolli
Dance Teacher

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Celebrate the Advent Season with us at Carol Service 2025

A reminder that members of the College community are warmly invited to attend our Carol Service, led by Pastor Dale Gosden and our talented Music students. Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus.

- **Date: Monday 8 December 2025**
- **Time: 7.00-8.15pm**
- **Location: Concordia College Chapel, 45 Cheltenham Street, Highgate (Concordia Campus)**

This is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a community and celebrate the joy and hope of Christmas together.

We hope to see you there!

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Building Community – Year 11 Pancake Breakfast

On Tuesday of Week 5, the Year 11 students enjoyed a pancake breakfast cooked by the Year 11 Home Class Captains and several helpers. The weather was glorious, the pancakes were delicious, and during a very busy part of term, everyone enjoyed the opportunity to relax and enjoy the company of their peers. Thank you to all students who helped with this event!

Judy Harris
Year 11 Leader

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Community Connectors – Helpers in Our Hometown

This term at St Peters Campus, the ELC children have been exploring our Unit of Inquiry and

the Central Idea that *“People belong to groups and interact in them in different ways”,* with a focus on people within our community who have different roles and responsibilities.

We have been inviting parents to visit and share the important roles they play in helping others, from caring for people’s health to supporting families, protecting our environment and strengthening our neighbourhoods. These visits have helped the children understand that everyone has a special part to play in making our community a safe, caring and connected place.

The children have absolutely loved having their parents come in, and we feel so lucky to be learning about all the amazing things people do within our community. We still have many visits planned over the next few weeks and can’t wait to discover even more about the different ways people help, care and contribute to our community.

Sarah Midson
ELC Director – St Peters Campus

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Reminder of Tree Removal

At Concordia College, the safety of our students, families, staff and the wider community is our highest priority.

Unfortuntely, a small number of large gum trees at the western end of the College Oval, near our Fortiter Gymnasium, have been identified as posing a risk to the safety of those in the immediate area. These trees will therefore be removed over the summer break.

Thank you for your support and understanding as we guard the safety of our community.

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Inter-School Chess

This year, Concordia entered three teams in the Secondary School Division 2 Inter-School Chess competition. What made this year extra special was that for the first time possibly ever, we were able to enter an all-girls team. Chess is traditionally a male-dominated game, but there is absolutely no reason why girls can’t play too, and our girls certainly proved that this year.

The competition this year was very strong, but even when we didn’t win, we put up a very good fight, and made our opponents think hard. There is no doubt that our players all finished the season with new skills and tactics thanks to the games they played.

All players should be commended on their efforts, but we were pleased to present the following trophies at our recent School Assembly.

- SA Junior Chess League trophy for 12/14 wins – **Justin (10RCRO)**
- Highest Number of Wins (Middle School) - **Lewis (8LTHO)**
- Team Spirit (Middle School) – **Lachie (8TFIS)**
- Team Spirit (Senior School) – **Samuel (11RGOG)**
- Most Improved – **Maggie (8TFIS)**
- Commitment and Perseverance – **Leila (7SCHE)**

Chess Club and inter-school chess are great opportunities to develop problem solving and strategic thinking skills, to make new friends from across the year levels—and even to make friends from other schools. We hope to see many students playing chess next year!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Jasper, Mr Casey and Mr Gaskin for their support of Chess Club this year, and Mr Casey for his assistance with inter-school chess.

Judy Harris
Inter-School Chess Coordinator

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Stage 1 Dance Film with Creative Director and Film Producer Dhuruva Padmanabhan

Our Stage 1 SACE Dance students recently had the exciting opportunity to work with creative director and film producer Dhuruva Padmanabhan, exploring how to transform choreography into powerful visual storytelling. A big well done to **Hannah (11RAMO)**, **Emily (10RCRO)** and **Marion (9RBEN)** for their creativity, commitment and professionalism throughout the project.

A special thank you also goes to **Sebastian (11SBAC)**, **Cameron (11AMOF)**, **Rebecca (10DLYN)**, and **Holly (10JDIV)** for their invaluable support with technical production and lighting assistance. We are incredibly proud of the collaborative effort, and the students gained rich insights into how ideas are brought to life on film.

Carla Bigiolli
Dance Teacher

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SchoolTV Special Report: Embracing Change and New Beginnings

Change is a natural part of growing up. Whether it's the start of a new school year, moving between year levels or stepping beyond the school gates for the final time, each transition brings a mix of emotions, presenting both opportunities and challenges. These shifts call on young people to adjust to new routines, navigate unfamiliar environments and develop emotional flexibility. While some may embrace these changes, others may find the disruption unsettling and struggle with the loss of predictability.

Research shows that periods of transition are often linked to heightened anxiety, reduced academic engagement and changes in peer relationships. For families, these periods can also bring added stress. Recognising the emotional and psychological impact of change helps us respond more effectively and supportively.

While change can feel daunting, it also offers valuable opportunities for young people to learn and grow. By normalising uncertainty and encouraging open conversations, we help young people face new beginnings with curiosity rather than fear. When children are surrounded by guidance, encouragement and consistent structure, they're far better equipped to manage life's transitions with confidence and resilience.

Read the Special Report (opens an external website in a new window)
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Year 9 German Students Visit Hahndorf

Over two days in Week 4, the Year 9 German students travelled to Hahndorf as part of our unit on Prussian/German Immigration to South Australia. In groups we explored Rodert's Farm and were shown original buildings and tools that Prussian settlers had used all the way back in 1839. We learned about some of their customs and traditions, including that animal bones were placed in between the stones of walls to help strengthen and insulate the buildings, and that pear trees were planted near wells in the belief that they would sweeten and purify the water.

The Hahndorf Academy had much information about how life was for these early settlers, including their gruelling journey by ship; their interactions with the local Indigenous population; and the challenges of establishing housing, farming, schooling and sources of income.

While exploring the area we saw that there is evidence of a rich history spread all through Hahndorf. We also learnt that taking the time to look for and read about it can teach us many lessons about hard work, perseverance, and in some cases our own roots.

Although the weather was not always kind to us, eating a pile of Berliner, Streusel and Bienenstich buns did wonders to keep up energy levels, and allowed us to enjoy a sweeter side of German heritage!

Trish Prenzler, Adrian Siegfried and Kathy Breitweg
German Teachers

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St John's Lutheran Church Christmas Tree Festival

St John’s Lutheran Church, Unley, would like to warmly welcome you to the Christmas Tree Festival 2025. The Festival will be held on Friday 5 to Sunday 7 December in the St John’s Ministry Centre, 15 Marlborough Street, Malvern.

A special Market Day will take place on Saturday 6 December. Entry to the event is free, and any proceeds raised from the Market Day will go towards supporting a refugee family arriving in Adelaide next year, supporting the work of Australian Lutheran World Service, and supporting drought-affected farmers in South Australia.

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Old Concordians' Association 20 Year and 10 Year Reunions

The Old Concordians' Association is committed to helping Old Concordians enjoy lifetime connections with each other and the College. Our annual program of events provides a variety of opportunities for Old Concordians to reconnect. Recently we have hosted two milestone reunions, with our final reunion for 2025 set to take place next week.

Class of 2005 20 Year Reunion

We recently welcomed the Class of 2005 to Concordia to celebrate their 20 Year Reunion. A bit of bad weather didn't stop the fun as the the cohort enjoyed catching up with each other, a tour of the College and some good stories!

Class of 2015 10 Year Reunion

The following week, Old Concordians from the Class of 2015 gathered for their 10 Year Reunion and enjoyed a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, catch up and reminisce. Thanks to all who attended!

Sue Kleinig
Alumni Manager

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City of Unley Living Young eNewsletter

The latest edition of the City of Unley's Living Young eNewsletter is out now. Here are some of the items of note in this edition:

- The Australian Short Story Festival
- Young Citizen of the Year Nominations
- Christmas at the Rotunda and Christmas Street Party
- Fish Tank 2026, and more!

View the November Edition (opens an external website in a new window)
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Student Achievement

Congratulations to **Mils (9ALAM)**, who recently represented Concordia in equestrian across two days at the Clare High School Gymkhana. With her 23 year old horse, Arib, Mils won 19 ribbons in various events and a rosette for champion horse and rider—an amazing achievement!

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Diary Dates

To view upcoming diary dates, please refer to the Events Calendar on our website.

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The School Shop

Term Time Opening Hours

General trading – no appointment required.

- Monday: 8am–4pm
- Wednesday: 12.30pm–4pm
- Thursday: 12.30pm–6.15pm
- Friday: 2.30–4.30pm

(Closed on Public Holidays)

The School Shop will be closed from Tuesday 9 December 2025 and will re-open on Wednesday 21 January 2026.

New students in 2026 are requested to make a uniform appointment for the purchase of their summer uniform prior to the end of Term 4, 2025. Uniforms are sized with room to grow. Please leave tags attached and if needed exchanges can be made during holiday opening hours.

School Holiday Opening Hours

Exchanges, top-up purchases and collection of orders can occur during holiday opening as seen below.

- Wednesday 21 January 2026: 8.00am–4.00pm
- Thursday 22 January 2026: 12.30–6.15pm
- Friday 23 January 2026: 12.30–4.00pm
- Tuesday 27 January 2026: 8.30am–5.30pm
- Wednesday 28 January 2026: 8.00am–4.00pm
- Thursday 29 January 2026: 12.30–6.15pm (Term time hours resume)

Uniform Orders

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. Students in Years 7-12 are emailed to advise when their orders are ready to be collected. For students in ELC-Year 6, email advice is sent to parents/caregivers.

Secondhand Uniform Sales

The School Shop advises that our terms and conditions for the sale of secondhand uniforms have been updated, along with the consignment form. Secondhand uniform items can now be donated or sold on consignment according to our new Terms and Conditions for the sale of secondhand uniforms.

Download a consignment form

Umbrellas

The following items are now available in The School Shop:

- Golf umbrellas - $38 each
- Fold-up umbrellas - $28 each

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CC Café Term 4 Menu

Download a copy of the CC Café menu for Term 4 to see what is on offer.

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Public Notices & Events

- **Code Camp** is running summer holiday camps at a variety of locations, with a $25 discount code now available. They are also hosting free activities during the summer holidays. Download a flyer for more information.

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