Concordia Connect

2025 Term 4 Week 8

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From the Head of College

As we move through the final weeks of the school year, I have had the privilege of attending a wonderful series of events that captured the spirit, energy and depth of learning across Concordia College. Term 4 was truly a season of celebration—a window into the creativity, confidence and growth of our students, and a powerful reflection of the dedication and professionalism of our staff.

Across all campuses, the calendar was filled with joyful moments. A particular highlight was Launchpad, alongside the PYP Exhibitions at both the St John's Campus and St Peters Campus, where students demonstrated impressive maturity in their thinking, confidence in their communication and pride in their learning journeys. The Middle School Vocal Concert was another joyful celebration of talent and teamwork, and the Celebration of Learning events reflected the clarity with which students articulated their progress and understanding.

Our Primary School campuses came together this term for a vibrant MADD (Music, Arts, Dance and Drama) Festival, with wonderful performances enjoyed by packed audiences. Instrumental concerts throughout the year showcased the depth of musical talent across the College. The inaugural Dance Showcase, bringing together students from Years 5 to 12, filled the Drama Centre across two sessions with energy, joy and confidence—a remarkable achievement for a program only in its second year.

The final weeks of the year were marked by significant milestones, including the Valedictory service and the Year 12 Graduation Dinner, celebrating the journey and achievements of our senior students. The Rite of Passage service also provided a meaningful moment of reflection, affirmation and transition for our wonderful Year 6 students.

The 2025 MMG Community Survey affirmed the strength of relationships, wellbeing, co-curricular opportunities and sense of belonging across the College. It also challenged us to continue strengthening academic consistency, communication and clarity around learning. In response, our Strategic Plan 2026–2028 has been endorsed by the Board and will be shared in more detail early next year. It places a strong emphasis on high-quality, research-informed teaching, clearer learning pathways for students and families, improved consistency across classrooms and campuses, and stronger communication to support student progress.

Thank you for your ongoing trust and partnership throughout 2025.

As Christmas approaches, I wish every family peace, joy and renewal. At Concordia, we celebrate Christmas as the gift of hope through Christ—a reminder of love, grace and new beginnings.

Paul Weinert
Head of College

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Launchpad 2025

This year's Launchpad was an outstanding celebration of student achievement, creativity and innovation across all areas of learning at Concordia. The event brought together families, staff and the wider community to experience the incredible breadth of talent nurtured by our dedicated teaching team throughout the year.

Some highlights of the evening were:

- **Art Exhibition:** A stunning display of creativity and technical skill, showcasing the artistic efforts and journey of our students.
- **Music:** Performances from a variety of bands and ensembles filled the Fortiter Gymnasium with energy and passion.
- **Christian Studies:** Thought-provoking displays of student learning and literature, highlighting values and reflection.
- **PE:** Interactive displays, including a vertical jump test, which was very popular!
- **Photography and Digital Technology:** Showcasing the incredible works our students have produced using technology and creativity.
- **Food Design and Cert III Hospitality:** Guests enjoyed culinary creations that demonstrated both artistry and professional-level expertise—especially the ice cream, which was a crowd favourite!
- **Science, Maths, English and Humanities:** Core subjects with incredibly engaging student presentations and activities.
- **Languages:** Sharing the incredible opportunities presented by these subjects—including overseas exchanges and tours.
- **AIF, EIF and Community Project:** These subjects and the student learning that was on display reflected our students' commitment to innovation and service, with projects that demonstrate their passions and make a real-world impact.
- **Design Technology Pieces:** Always an annual highlight, this year's pieces combined imagination with precision, inspiring admiration from all who attended.
- **ELC and Primary School:** A selection of vibrant displays showcasing the learning of our younger students.

We were thrilled to see such strong engagement from students and families, creating an atmosphere of celebration and pride. The event was well supported by our dedicated staff, whose guidance and encouragement helped bring these projects to life.

Launchpad continues to grow as a cornerstone of Concordia's learning culture. Next year, we look forward to building on this success, engaging our community even further and creating more opportunities for students to showcase their talents and passions. We look forward to seeing you there!

Penny McKenzie
Principal – Concordia Campus

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Year 6 Exhibition 2025

Earlier this term, the Year 6 students from our St Peters and St John's campuses shared their personal inquiries and forms of action as part of the IB Primary Years Programme Exhibition —the pinnacle of their PYP experience. This event marked the culmination of their learning and highlighted the depth of their understanding, creativity and commitment to creating positive change.

Students explored inquiries driven by their own passions, linking their classroom learning to real-world challenges. Their investigations inspired a wide range of actions: some created powerful advocacy pieces through art, music, and model-making; others rolled up their sleeves for hands-on initiatives such as school clean-ups or running sports and music clinics. Several students even ventured into digital innovation, designing games, websites and films to spread their messages more widely.

Families and friends had the chance to walk through these exhibits and witness the depth of thinking and effort behind each inquiry. Every display revealed a learner who had followed their curiosity, overcome challenges and taken purposeful action.

The journey was enriched by the guidance of mentors, input from guest speakers and support from professionals connected to each inquiry. Along the way, students strengthened key skills—working collaboratively, communicating effectively, managing their time—and demonstrated the attributes of the IB Learner Profile.

This Exhibition was a true team effort. We acknowledge and thank the students, staff, parents and volunteers who played a role in bringing this event to life.

To our Year 6 learners: congratulations. Your passion, your ideas, and your sense of purpose have inspired our entire community.

Rachel Saunders
Upper Primary Leader – St John's Campus

Nicolle Dupree
Primary School Learning Leader – St Peters Campus

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Year 12 Class of 2025 Graduation Dinner

Thursday 20 November saw our Class of 2025 and their parents and teachers celebrate a final moment of connection and fun at the Graduation Dinner.

Hosted in our Fortiter gym, which was decked out to the nines, the Graduation Dinner provided all in attendance with the opportunity to reflect with gratitude on what has been, through the sharing of speeches and the airing of video highlights from across the year. We even danced!

It was wonderful to have our largest Graduation Dinner yet, and we are particularly grateful for the exceptional Year 11 students who served the catered meal on the evening.

We look forward to more opportunities to connect as a community in 2026.

Daniel Wood
Senior School Leader

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Something Special is Coming Soon to St Peters Campus

Something special is coming soon to St Peters Campus!

Launching in Term 1, Little EdVenturers Playgroup will offer a warm, nurturing and play-rich environment where little learners can explore, create and build early connections—and where parents and guardians can meet, share and feel part of a welcoming community.

- Where: Concordia College, St Peters Campus, Blackwood (71 Cumming Street, Blackwood)
- When: Starting in Term 1, Week 3 (Thursday 12 February) and running weekly each Thursday during term time
- Who: Children from birth to pre-school age are welcome to attend with a parent/caregiver
- Time: 9:30–10:30am
- Cost: Each session is $5 per family

Stay tuned for more information, including booking details, in the weeks ahead.

We hope to see you there!

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Year 11 Awards

At our recent Year 11 Assemblies, we were pleased to present the following awards.

- Lutheran Women of South Australian and Northern Territory Encouragement Award: **Genevieve (11RAMO)**
- Myles Gilchrist Environment and Sustainability Award: **Ava (11BSTJ)** and **Lucy (11SBAC)**
- Muriel Matters Award:

Claire (11RAMO)
- ASX Stocks and Shares Competition Prize (1st prize in the State)
  Victoria (11AMOF)
- Subject Award for Stage 2 German
  Emma (11RGOG)
- Subject Award for Stage 2 Physical Education
  April (11EBAB)

Congratulations to all recipients!

Judy Harris
Year 11 Leader

Lucy (11SBAC) and Ava (11BSTJ) with their Myles Gilchrist Envrionment and Sustainability Award, presented by Myles's parents

Claire (11RAMO) receiving the Muriel Matters Award

Victoria (11AMOF) with her ASX Stocks and Shares Competition Prize (1st prize in the State)

Emma (11RGOG) with her Stage 2 German Award

April (11EBAB) with her Stage 2 Physical Education Award

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Celebrating Environmental Leadership

We were proud to recognise Maddie (Year 4) as the recipient of the Hutchesson Environmental Award at our whole school meeting this week. Catherine Hutchesson MP (Waite) presented the award to Maddie who has shown exceptional commitment to caring for our environment, from supporting sustainability initiatives to helping look after our chickens and garden spaces.

Her enthusiasm and leadership are an inspiration to her peers, and we are delighted to celebrate her contribution to our school community.

Nicolle Dupree
Primary School Learning Leader – St Peters Campus

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Enrichment and Extended Learning News

Middle School Ethics Olympiad Success

Recently we had two teams compete online in the Middle School Ethics Olympiad. There were 20 schools competing on this specific day. The Ethics Olympiad is a competitive, discussion-based event where students collaboratively analyse real-world ethical dilemmas and present well-reasoned, respectful arguments. The competition emphasises critical thinking, ethical literacy and civil discourse rather than "winning debates". Teams are rewarded for clarity, empathy and principled reasoning.

Dr Lance McBride hosted the event from Christchurch, New Zealand. The students were outstanding—a real credit to Concordia. Their teamwork, thoughtfulness, respect and depth of reasoning were evident throughout the event.

South Australian Results

- Gold Medal: Concordia College (Purple)
- Silver Medal: Wilderness School (Aqua)
- Bronze Medal: Concordia College (Orange)

We have been notified that our Purple team has qualified for the online International Middle School Ethics Olympiad Final in February 2026, competing against teams from around the world. The International competition will welcome teams from India, Hong Kong, Singapore, the Philippines, New Zealand, the USA and Canada. We are thrilled that this is the second time a Concordia team has been invited to compete at the international level.

Concordia Purple□□□□□□□□□□□ □

- Sophia 9ALAM
- Amelia 9SFOR
- Benjamin 8DGAL
- Lucy 9ALAM
- Daisy 9SFOR

Concordia Orange

- Imogen 8MCAS
- Alby 8MCAS
- Jimmy 7VPER
- George 8DGAL
- Abigail 7SCHE

Congratulations to all who took part.

26 Book Challenge Celebration

Our avid readers have once again gathered to celebrate the conclusion of another successful

26 Book Challenge, marking our sixth year of this beloved tradition at Concordia.

Thanks to our fabulous library staff, who expertly guided students to find books that met the challenge criteria, everyone found a way to participate. The displays in the library throughout the year were amazing. A big thank you to Mostly Books at Mitcham, and our school library for generously donating several books and vouchers as prizes.

This year's adventure theme involved students in a literary race around the world. Students gathered passport stamps as they completed specific categories. Our celebration day involved a boarding pass, passing through security and a plane trip with refreshments, certificates and fabulous prizes. Thanks to members of our school Book Council for your involvement in the creation of the challenge and for supporting our literary adventures throughout the year. If you would like to be a member of our school Book Council for 2026, please fill out the form that was emailed to you earlier this week. Don't forget to visit the library to stock up on some holiday reading!

Each year, the 26 Book Challenge grows bigger and better. Next year, we're working with the musical theme of Book Week—Symphony of Stories!

Katherine Obst Year 8 Lutheran Schools Public Speaking Competition

Two of our students, **Bethany (8DGAL)** and **Benjamin (8DGAL)** represented Concordia at the Katherine Obst Year 8 Lutheran Public Speaking competition. This annual event brings together talented Year 8 speakers from Lutheran secondary schools across South Australia. This year's event was hosted by Cornerstone College. All participating students presented speeches of three minutes, which were judged by two highly experienced adjudicators from Rostrum Voice of Youth. The school with the highest combined score was crowned winner. The standard was very high, and students really impressed the adjudicators with entertaining and informative speeches. Congratulations to Bethany and Benjamin who placed first overall and received very positive feedback from the judges. This rounds out a highly successful year for our oratory program at Concordia. Please contact Emma Rieger if you would like to extend yourself in this area by participating in the 2026 Rostrum Voice of Youth competition. The 2026 topics have just been released.

Year 7 Science Zoo Photography Competition

Thanks to all who took part in this year's zoo photo competition.

Every year we award a first place for each of the specific categories. Congratulations to:

- Category: Wild | Winner: **Adele (7KSPA)** | Baron Bitey – Komodo Dragon
- Category: Eyes | Winner: **Elsie (7KSPA)** | The tiny tiger of the treetops: Black squirrel monkey
- Category: Sleepy | **(Adele 7KSPA)** | Do not disturb, capybara recharging
- Category: Black and White | **Amy (7RBRO)** | I'm sleepy, not dead
- Category: Colourful | **Hamish (7KSPA)** | Snack time
- Category: Babies and families | Winner: **Osheen (7KSPA)** | The royal lovers of the still lagoon

- Category: Free Choice | Winner: **Tilly (7NBRO)** | Meerkat

A special congratulations to Osheen, our overall winner, who was presented with the much sought after Media Meerkat trophy.

Year 7/8 Global Challenge

Every year, our Year 7 and 8 students can take part in the annual Global Challenge—a race to place 197 countries onto an online map within a 15-minute time limit. It was wonderful to see students working hard to beat their own personal bests. A special congratulations to our two year level champions: **Ben (7NBRO)** and **Sancho (8MCAS)**.

Sancho in Year 8 was able to place all countries with 100% accuracy in 12 minutes and seven seconds.

Ben in Year 7 placed all countries with 100% accuracy in an incredible five minutes and seven seconds.

What an extraordinary feat… and an all-time Concordia record!

Brain Bee Challenge 2026

Year 9 students who would like to register for the 2026 Brain Bee Challenge, a national neuroscience competition, are invited to fill out the form that was emailed this week. Students must be in Year 10 2026 to compete. Concordia has a proud history of success with this competition. Students with an interest in biology, psychology or with a desire to study in a health-related area may find this of value.

It has been a productive and successful year for students engaged in the diverse extension and enrichment programs offered. Bring on 2026—another fabulous year of learning.

Emma Rieger
Enrichment and Extended Learning

Ethics Team 1

Ethics Team 2

Some of the 26 Book Challenge participants this year

26 Book Challenge Celebration

Katherine Obst Public Speaking Competition winners

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A Spud-tacular Harvest!

This week our young gardeners harvested our very first crop of red potatoes planted earlier in the year at a student's request.

For a first attempt, the crop was surprisingly abundant, with plenty of beautifully coloured red potatoes perfect for chips, baking, mashing and roasting.

Students loved digging through the soil to uncover each spud, learning firsthand about food growth, soil care and sustainable gardening. A simple idea became a joyful, hands-on EdVenture and they're already deciding what new things to plant next!

Nicolle Dupree
Primary School Learning Leader – St Peters Campus

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Hearts Filled With Love

As part of their Service Learning program, our Year 8 students have been busy sewing plush 'hearts of love' to gift to Reception students across the St Peters and St John's campuses. This beautiful initiative brings together creativity, compassion and community connection—capturing the true spirit of Service Learning at Concordia College.

Each soft, colourful heart is lovingly handmade by a Year 8 student. Once completed, the hearts are passed on to Reception families, who are invited to 'fill' them with love, hugs and kisses before returning them to their child. The idea is simple yet incredibly meaningful: during the day, when young children may feel a little wobbly or miss home, they can reach into their pocket, hold their heart tightly, and be reminded that they are loved, supported and held in their parents' thoughts.

For our Year 8 students, this project has been both purposeful and practical. Many discovered previously hidden talents for sewing. Students developed patience, perseverance, teamwork and the joy that comes from creating something with genuine emotional impact. This simple gesture demonstrates how powerful small acts of kindness can be in strengthening our community.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 8 students for embracing this project with enthusiasm, care and creativity. Their handmade hearts truly carry love in every stitch.

Hajnalka Molloy
Learning Resources Manager

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48 Hour Film Project Awards

Congratulations to Concordia's filmmaking teams in the 48 Hour Film Project, both of which won awards for their films on Saturday night.

Suaviter Cinematix had been nominated for Best Ensemble, Best Use of Genre and Best School Film. They won the Best Use of Genre Award for their medical sci-fi film, Sick Bay.

Fortiter Films was nominated for and won the Best Ensemble Award for their single room comedy, The Party Planner/s. As part of their prize, Fortiter Films also won a full day filmmaking workshop and lunch at AIE, the Academy of Interactive Entertainment, one of Australia's premier 3D animation, visual effects, film and computer games education providers.

Both teams also won free registration to the 2026 competition.

The awards were presented at an exclusive event at the Piccadilly Cinema on Saturday night hosted by City Producer, Anita Baltutis, and Australian television and film legend and ambassador of the Adelaide 48 Hour Film Project, Ernie Dingo, with a keynote presentation from Chair of the South Australian Film Corporation and former Premier of South Australia, Mike Rann. It was attended by leading members of the South Australian film and television industry and tertiary educators including General Manager of Channel 44, Lauren Hillman as well as writers, actors and producers such as PJ Oaten, Mark Knight, Nick Launchbury, Nick Buckland and Chris Asimos, to name a few.

We are very proud of their efforts and commend the students involved for their efforts.

Aldo Longobardi
Drama Coordinator

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St John's Campus ELC Explores the Community

On Thursday 27 November, the children from Room 1 in the ELC enjoyed an exciting bus excursion exploring our local community. This experience supported our current Unit of Inquiry, which focuses on the roles and responsibilities people have within our community.

The children were very excited as they boarded the bus and handed over their ‘ticket’. The trip was filled with lots of chatter and wonder. As we travelled, the children observed a wide range of familiar and important community services. We passed shopping centres, fire stations, libraries, other schools, doctor’s offices, the post office and much more.

This excursion provided a valuable opportunity for the children to make real-world connections to their learning and deepen their understanding of how communities function as well as the people who help make them safe and supportive places.

Claire Oakley

ELC Educator

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Veta Morphus

Veta Morphus has been a deeply transforming course, filled with rich conversations and fulfilling retreat experiences. Each week, we have connected through our faith with peers in our community, building strong friendships with like-minded students. We all agree that our favourite part has been the retreats. Each term we have spent a weekend away with Veta Morphus students across the state for worship, prayer and connection. It has been such a great way to got to meet young people with similar experiences to us from all over SA. Veta Morphus has also given us opportunities to volunteer and serve in our local church communities, allowing us to get involved in leadership. Investing this year to deepen our faith has helped us see the role we play in the future of the church.

Veta Morphus Student Participants

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Christmas Services at St John's Lutheran Church and St Peters Lutheran Church

Members of the College community are warmly invited to celebrate Christmas at St John's Lutheran Church, Unley, or St Peters Lutheran Church, Blackwood.

Please see service details below.

St John's Lutheran Church, Unley

For details of St John's Lutheran Church services, please check their website, social media or contact the church office.

St Peters Lutheran Church, Blackwood

Christmas Eve

- Date: Wednesday 24 December
- Time: 7.00pm
- Location: St Peters Lutheran Church, 71 Cumming Street, Blackwood

Christmas Day

- Date: Thursday 25 December
- Time: 9.00am
- Location: St Peters Lutheran Church, 71 Cumming Street, Blackwood

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A Night of Adventure at St Peters Campus!

Our Reception and Year 1 students had an unforgettable time at their Stay Up Late & Sleepover night. It was packed with creativity, courage and pure childhood joy.

Nature Play SA set the scene with hands-on adventures, including clay sculpting, marble runs, messy painting, loose parts play and endless giggles. After an energetic afternoon, everyone tucked into warm pizza before the Year 1s settled in for the full sleepover experience, snuggling into teepees with torches, soft blankets and excited whispers.

The next morning kicked off with pancakes and proud smiles. Tired eyes, happy hearts and children who absolutely took on the night like champions.

The sleepover was more than just fun. It was a chance to build independence, practise resilience and grow confidence in a safe, caring environment. It was an incredible experience for our young EdVenturers!

A huge thank you to the wonderful parents who helped in the evening and with breakfast.

Nicolle Dupree
Primary School Learning Leader – St Peters Campus

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Reconciliation Action Plan Updated

The Concordia College Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) has recently been re-published by Reconciliation Australia.

Each year, our RAP is carefully reviewed and updated to ensure our goals, actions and commitments remain meaningful and proactive. This ongoing process helps us strengthen our relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, deepen our understanding and embed reconciliation more fully into the life of our College.

Our updated RAP reflects Concordia's continued dedication to fostering a community where respect, cultural learning and genuine partnership guide our path. We look forward to building on this important work together as we head into 2026.

You can view the Concordia College RAP on our website.

Nancy Wells
Reconciliation Action Plan Coordinator

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Exploring History and Language at the Lutheran Archives

A small group of Year 7 students, accompanied by Pastor Dale and Mrs Molloy, visited the Lutheran Archives to deepen their understanding of early Lutheran missionaries and their extraordinary impact on the Kaurna people. This excursion formed an important part of our ongoing commitment to learning about and honouring the First Peoples of the Adelaide Plains.

Students explored the remarkable work of Clamor Schürmann and Wilhelm Teichelmann, two Lutheran missionaries who arrived in South Australia in 1838. Unlike many others of their time, Schürmann and Teichelmann showed great respect for the Kaurna people, forming genuine relationships and working closely with the community. Their detailed recordings of Kaurna language and culture have played a vital role in the revival of Kaurna language today.

One of the highlights of the visit was viewing Schürmann's original diary, a treasured historical artefact that vividly documents early encounters on Kaurna Country. Students were also fascinated by a seemingly ordinary wooden walking stick that, when its handle was pulled, revealed a hidden sword once carried by a Lutheran pastor.

Early in 2026 these students, together with a broader team from all three campuses, will now begin planning a visual display for each of our College libraries. Their project will celebrate the legacy of the Lutheran missionaries and acknowledge their contribution to preserving Kaurna language for future generations.

We are especially grateful to Old Concordian Bethany Pietsch for leading this wonderful learning opportunity and generously sharing her knowledge with us.

Hajnalka Molloy
Learning Resources Manager

Pastor Dale Gosden
College Pastor

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Year 11 Vehicle Maintenance with the RAA

On Monday of Week 8, a group of nearly 40 Year 11 students attended a vehicle maintenance course run by the RAA. The students learnt about safety features of different cars, and received tips on what to consider when purchasing a car. They also learnt how to identify the oil, coolant and wiper fluid caps under the bonnet, how to refill these, and how to change a tyre. The course was a great mix of theory and practical skills, and we hope that the students will now be able to deal with minor car maintenance issues with greater confidence and knowledge.

Judy Harris
Year 11 Leader

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Young Engineers Australia After School LEGO Clubs at St John's Campus

Young Engineers Australia will again be running after school LEGO workshops at St John's Campus in 2026. Please see details below, download a flyer for more information and register today.

Years 1–4

- Dates: Weekly on Tuesday from 3 February to 31 March
- Time: 3.30–4.45pm
- Focus: Engineering and Robotics
- Cost: $285

Book Online (opens an external website in a new window)

Years 2–6

- Dates: Weekly on Wednesdays from 4 February to 1 April
- Time: 3.30–4.45pmm
- Focus: Coding and Engineering
- Cost: $285

Book Online (opens an external website in a new window)
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Community Partnerships Supporting Safety at St Peters Campus

At this week’s whole school meeting, we were delighted to welcome Catherine Hutchesson MP (Waite) along with members of the Blackwood Rotary Club and Blackwood Lions Club. Together, they presented our new Fire Danger Rating Sign. These signs are an important initiative designed to promote fire-safety awareness and help our community prepare for the fire season.

Catherine spent time teaching our students what the Fire Danger Ratings mean, why they matter, and how paying attention to them helps keep our community safe during high-risk periods. Her message encouraged students to be aware, prepared, and informed as we head into the warmer months.

We are incredibly grateful for the partnership and generosity of our local Rotary and Lions Clubs. Their support strengthens our connection with the wider Blackwood community and helps ensure our students understand the importance of safety and readiness.

Nicolle Dupree
Primary School Learning Leader – St Peters Campus

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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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Music Notes

Concordia Students Have Great Success at the 2025 ASME SA Young Composers Awards

The ASME SA Young Composers' Award is an annual competition for composers established by the South Australian chapter of ASME in 1973. The suite of Awards provides a fantastic opportunity for students and young composers to showcase their creativity and share their original music, and provides an effective platform for the performance of their works.

- 1st Place – **Marco (11AMOF)**, Large ensemble Composers in school Years 9–12
- 1st Place – **Jude (12TMCC)**, Year 12 Composers in School Year 11–12
- 2nd Place – **Cameron (11AMOF)**, Year 11 Composers in School Year 11–12

Living Choice Lights Up

On Friday 28 November, the Music Department at Concordia presented a concert as part of the annual Christmas Tree Lighting celebration at Living Choice. The performance featured the Year 7/8 Choir, String Ensemble, Animato String Quartet, Clarinet Ensemble and Saxophone Quartet, showcasing a wonderful selection of Christmas-themed repertoire and leading the community carols.

It was a fantastic evening filled with music, joy and strong community spirit.

Glen Woodley Visit by Middle School Vocalists

In what has been a busy month of performances, selected Middle School vocalists spent the afternoon performing at Glen Woodley Retirement Village on Friday 23 November. They certainly brought smiles to the faces of residents, many of whom joined in with our young musicians for renditions of well-known tunes.

Big Band 1 2026 in Full Swing!

Our 2026 Big Band has had a busy Term 4 as they prepare for the year ahead. On Tuesday, 18 November, they were invited to perform a set at the Southern Jazz Club, and last Sunday they spent the afternoon workshopping and learning from local professional jazz musicians in preparation for Generations in Jazz next year.

Kellie Rich
Head of Music Performance ELC–12

Lights Up at Living Choice

Students performed at Glen Woodley Estate

Students rehearsing for Generations in Jazz

Students rehearsing for Generations in Jazz

Students rehearsing for Generations in Jazz

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Notice of Tree Removal on 15–17 December

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

Unfortunately, the 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. This tree will therefore be removed between Monday 15 and Wednesday 17 December.

Restrictions will be in place and the area will be sectioned off for safety reasons.

Some of the timber from the tree will go to our Design, Technology and Engineering Department for their use. The remaining mulch will go to the carnivore enclosure at Monarto Zoo.

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

Sally Staggs
Manager Risk and Operations

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Recognising Young Writers and Creators

We were proud to celebrate **Annabelle (Year 4)**, who has been published in *theINmag*— a national magazine created by kids, for kids. *theINmag* provides a platform for young writers, artists, illustrators and big thinkers to share their stories, opinions and creative work with readers across Australia. It is a publication that values student voice and shines a light on young people's perspectives in a meaningful way.

Seeing her work selected and published is a wonderful achievement for Annabelle. It reflects her creativity, confidence and growing skills as a writer. We are thrilled to recognise this milestone and celebrate her contribution to a magazine that champions the ideas and talents of young people.

Nicolle Dupree
Primary School Learning Leader – St Peters Campus

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SchoolTV Special Report: Surviving Christmas

As families around the world prepare to celebrate Christmas by decorating their homes, singing carols, buying gifts and planning feasts, often the true meaning of Christmas can be lost due the commercial exploitation of this time of year. Many people see it as a joyous occasion to spend with family and friends, but for others it is viewed as a stressful and challenging time attributed by a combination of things such as financial pressures, relationship issues, and quite often, loneliness.

During the Christmas period, there is a huge increase in the number of calls to support organisations. Many of these callers are considered to be in a high-risk category and sadly, this is the ugly side to Christmas. Should you, or a loved one, ever feel that the pressure of Christmas becomes too much, it is important to seek help. Reach out to a trusted friend, talk to your doctor or counsellor, or phone one of the many support organisations available to you 24/7.

Read the Special Report (opens an external website in a new window)
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St Peters Campus Year 2, 3 and 4 Camp at Belair

What an incredible camp at Nunyara in Belair! Our Year 2, 3 and 4 students embraced challenges with persistence, resilience and teamwork. From problem-solving activities to outdoor adventures, the camp was filled with opportunities to learn, grow and have fun together.

Students worked through the Amazing Race, solving puzzles and completing tasks around the campsite. They tested their creativity and engineering skills in the Tower Challenge, building tall, strong structures and then using slingshots to knock down rival towers! At Initiative Plus and Aslan's Table, clear communication and collaboration were key as teams worked to balance, cross, and complete tricky challenges.

Outdoor activities were a highlight, including the tree climb, where students had the opportunity to push themselves to climb up to 12 metres safely harnessed in, and the water obstacle course, which had everyone laughing as they connected pipes, filled buckets and unlocked a treasure chest before tackling a group puzzle. Shelter building tested design thinking and teamwork as students worked with limited resources to create a structure that could withstand a 'storm' (with a little help from a hose!). Add in billy cart races, problem-solving stations and plenty of time for reflection, and it was a camp to remember.

Beyond the fun, students learned valuable life lessons about supporting one another, listening to ideas and never giving up. We are so proud of their collaboration and resilience, and grateful for the memories made at Nunyara!

Lisa Smith, Alex Barratt and Kathryn Watkins
Year 2, 3 and 4 Teachers

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The Angels' Story - A Christmas Play for the Whole Family

Members of the College community are invited to St Peters Lutheran Church for a performance of an original play for the whole family—*The Angels' Story* by Margaret Modra (writer and director) and Ruth Harris (producer).

- **Date: Christmas Eve (24 December)**
- **Time: 7.00pm**
- **Location: St Peters Lutheran Church, 71 Cumming Street, Blackwood**
- **Cost: Free event**

We hope to see you there!

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Your Say Unley - Planning for Growth

The City of Unley is keen to work with the community to make decisions about living and working in the local area. A draft plan has been released, focusing on accommodating population growth, fostering the concept of living locally, building a resilient and inclusive community, and encouraging residential diversity.

To find out more about how you can have your say, visit the Your Say Unley – Planning for Growth website.

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St John's Campus ELC End of Year Celebration

On Tuesday 25 November, ELC families gathered together on the oval outside the ELC to play, socialise and celebrate a great year in the ELC. Burnside Rotary Club cooked a BBQ for families to purchase sausages and drinks, and the evening concluded with the children being invited to share some songs. They did a fantastic job of singing the songs that they have been learning over the term, and sharing some Christmas cheer.

Sarah Davis
ELC Director – St John's Campus

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Year 7 SkillUp!

This term, our Year 7 students have participated in SkillUp! sessions, a fun and engaging opportunity to try new activities and connect with peers from other classes as well as key members of our school community.

Each week, students selected from a range of activities, including:

- slow stitch
- 3D printing
- pickleball
- nutrition
- glass painting
- polymer clay sculptures
- friendship bracelets
- remote-controlled cars
- gardening
- LEGO.

The variety ensured that every student could discover something they enjoyed while building confidence, learning a skill, and building connections. Their joy, curiosity and willingness to try something new made the program a wonderful success.

Rachel Hogan
Year 7 Leader

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St Peters Campus Lights Up the Dance Floor

As part of our exciting PE Week celebrations in Week 5, the St Peters Campus transformed into a vibrant disco wonderland! Students grooved to their favorite tunes under glowing lights, surrounded by balloons, bubbles and the sparkle of glow sticks. Fun-filled games kept the energy high, making it a morning to remember. Thank you to everyone who joined in the celebration—what a fantastic way to keep active and have fun!

Laura Benger
Reception Teacher

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St John's Lutheran Church Christmas Tree Festival

A reminder that 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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Stage 1 Industry and Entrepreneurial Solutions

Our Stage 1 Industry and Entrepreneurial Solutions students recently concluded the course by presenting their innovative product ideas to a panel of industry professionals. The technical skill and problem-solving they demonstrated were truly impressive, with students using a variety of new technologies, including our 3D printers and CNC plasma cutter, to develop refined practical products.

We sincerely thank Rob Wood and Bernie Sharrad for generously contributing their time and expertise. Their thoughtful feedback offered students invaluable insights and real-world

perspectives, greatly enhancing the experience.

A special congratulations to **Joshua (11AMOF)**, with his innovative ‘CornerLock’ being recognised as the most marketable product, and to **(Sophie 11AMOF)**, whose ‘FormGuard’ earned the award for the most well-developed idea. Well done to all participants for their impressive efforts.

James Divitkos
Design, Technology and Engineering Teacher

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Year 7/8 Knockout Volleyball Results

Our Year 7/8 Knockout boys' volleyball team recently played in the statewide finals day at the Lights Community and Sports Centre. The boys ended up winning the Division 2 competition, defeating schools from all over the state, which is an incredible effort!

Jesse McKinnon
Boys' Sport Coordinator

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Student Achievements

Congratulations to **Lincoln (12SSCH)**, who was awarded a Student Citizenship Award by the Order of Australia (SA Branch) at Government House, one of only 10 students in the state to receive the honour.

Well done to **Imogen (7VPER)**, who was selected as a 'ball kid' at the Playford Internationals tennis tournament—an exciting opportunity. Imogen shared the following information about her involvement:

Before you start to ball kid for tennis players, you must go through a series of training sessions to prepare for what must be done on court. This was my first time and I came into the trainings knowing nothing on ball kids. I had to learn how to roll, service and the correct ways of entering the court and exiting. It was easy once you learn the basics because of how much support they gave you. I have just recently completed the Playford Internationals as one of the ball kids and the first time on court was both exciting and nerve-racking. Being so close to the players was an amazing experience and I can't wait to do the Adelaide Internationals. Doing this experience has taught me many things, including patience, stamina, teamwork, communication and concentration. I have learnt that even through tough times like heat or rain, you can always overcome it with your team and the right mindset. Sometimes it was hard, but nothing was more rewarding when you see the grateful smiles on the players faces at the end of the match.
- Imogen (7VPER)

Lincoln with his Student Citizenship Award

Imogen at the Playford Internationals

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Noticeboard

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- Term 4 CC Café Menu
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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.
- **Resonance Volleyball Academy** is expanding their current community volleyball program to include Under 12s in 2026. Visit their Facebook page for more information.
- **Blackwood Tennis Academy** is running Tennis Holiday Clinics for ages 5–15 at Hewett Sports Ground (cnr Coromandel Parade and Cumming Street). Download a flyer for more information.

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