Concordia Connect

2026 Term 1 Week 6

In this issue...

- From the Head of College
- Governor of South Australia Commendation Excellence Award
- Concordia Debating Students Appearing on SBS Insight
- Year 7 Camp
- Chinese New Year in the ELC
- St Peters Campus 'Rock, Paper, Scissors… SHOOT!'
- Noticeboard

Early Learning Centre

- From the Head of College
- Concordia College presents SHREK The Musical
- New St Peters Campus ELC Outdoor Learning Space Now Open
- St Peters Campus 'Rock, Paper, Scissors… SHOOT!'
- SchoolTV Free Webinar
- Chinese New Year in the ELC
- Reminder: St Peters Campus Family Picnic and St John's Campus Family Picnic
- Donation Opportunity – Musical Costume Sewing Kit
- Reception and Mid-Year Reception Entry Information Session
- SchoolTV Special Report: Discussing War and Conflict
- Employment Opportunity: Part-time Bus Driver
- City of Unley Living Young eNewsletter – March 2026
- SchoolTV Wellbeing Barometer Survey 2026
- SchoolTV Special Report: Consent and Respectful Relationships
- Noticeboard

Primary School

- From the Head of College
- Q&A with Melissa Apthorpe – Upper Primary Leader, St John's Campus
- Concordia College presents SHREK The Musical
- Year 6 German Students Visit Hahndorf
- St Peters Campus 'Rock, Paper, Scissors… SHOOT!'
- SchoolTV Free Webinar
- Reminder: St Peters Campus Family Picnic and St John's Campus Family Picnic
- Donation Opportunity – Musical Costume Sewing Kit
- SchoolTV Special Report: Discussing War and Conflict
- Fish Tank Entrepreneurship Program and Workshops
- Employment Opportunity: Part-time Bus Driver
- City of Unley Living Young eNewsletter – March 2026
- SchoolTV Wellbeing Barometer Survey 2026
- SchoolTV Special Report: Consent and Respectful Relationships
- Noticeboard

Middle School

- From the Head of College
- Year 7 Camp
- Concordia College presents SHREK The Musical
- Enrichment and Extended Learning News
- SchoolTV Free Webinar
- Team Sailing Success
- Donation Opportunity – Musical Costume Sewing Kit
- Music Notes
- SchoolTV Special Report: Discussing War and Conflict
- Fish Tank Entrepreneurship Program and Workshops
- Employment Opportunity: Part-time Bus Driver
- City of Unley Living Young eNewsletter – March 2026
- Lunchtime Garden Club Revitalises Winchester Street Garden
- SchoolTV Wellbeing Barometer Survey 2026
- Drama Workshops with State Theatre Company Director Katie Cawthorne
- SchoolTV Special Report: Consent and Respectful Relationships
- School Sport SA Swimming Carnival
- Noticeboard

Senior School

- From the Head of College
- Governor of South Australia Commendation Excellence Award
- Concordia Debating Students Appearing on SBS Insight
- Concordia College presents SHREK The Musical
- Enrichment and Extended Learning News
- Looking Ahead with LEGO in Exploring Identities and Futures
- SchoolTV Free Webinar
- Team Sailing Success
- Donation Opportunity – Musical Costume Sewing Kit
- Music Notes
- SchoolTV Special Report: Discussing War and Conflict
- Old Concordians Class of 2025 Reunion and Honorary Old Concordian Award
- Reminder: Senior School Drinks and Canapes
- Kuitpo Forest Field Study in Stage 1 Geography
- Fish Tank Entrepreneurship Program and Workshops
- Employment Opportunity: Part-time Bus Driver
- City of Unley Living Young eNewsletter – March 2026
- Lunchtime Garden Club Revitalises Winchester Street Garden
- SchoolTV Wellbeing Barometer Survey 2026
- Drama Workshops with State Theatre Company Director Katie Cawthorne
- SchoolTV Special Report: Consent and Respectful Relationships
- School Sport SA Swimming Carnival
- Student Achievements
- Noticeboard

From the Head of College

As we move into the next phase of our Strategic Plan, Creating Space for What Matters, we are sharpening our focus on the areas that will most strengthen student learning, wellbeing and our shared community life. The recent MMG Community Survey has provided clear affirmation of our strengths and honest insight into areas for improvement. This next phase of the plan responds directly to that feedback.

Learning

Parents consistently identify quality teaching, strong academic standards and a balanced education as central reasons for choosing Concordia. At the same time, feedback highlights the importance of greater clarity around academic expectations, consistency in teaching practice, differentiation and extension, and more regular feedback on student progress. In response, we are refining our evidence-informed Instructional Model, strengthening curriculum coherence from ELC to Year 12, and sharpening how we communicate growth and achievement. Our aim is consistent, high-quality learning in every classroom.

Wellbeing

A safe and caring environment remains one of Concordia's defining strengths. Parents value the focus on belonging and personal support. Feedback also calls for clearer communication about wellbeing processes and greater consistency in behaviour expectations. We will embed our LearningWell model more deeply across daily practice, strengthen partnerships with families and ensure every student feels known, valued and supported.

Spiritual Life

Families affirm the importance of our Christian foundation and College values. At the same time, we are called to express faith with authenticity and sensitivity within a diverse community. We will continue to nurture a visible yet thoughtful expression of faith through an engaging Christian Studies curriculum, meaningful service and opportunities for reflection.

Organisational Sustainability

Parents rightly expect stability, strong leadership and responsible stewardship. We remain committed to disciplined financial management, strategic investment in facilities and digital capability, and sustained enrolment strength so that we can continue providing rich opportunities for students.

Community and Culture

Recent feedback has reminded us that connection and partnership must be experienced consistently by all families. While many feel deeply connected, we know we can do better. We are committed to clear communication, intentional listening and structured opportunities for parent voice as we strengthen a respectful and unified College culture.

Creating Space for What Matters is not about adding more. It is about focusing more clearly. The MMG data has helped us identify where expectations are strong and where we can focus additional attention. Our commitment now is to translate that insight into disciplined action, so that every child experiences a Concordia education that is rigorous, supportive, values-based and deeply connected.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership as we move forward together.

Paul Weinert
Head of College

Back to top

Q&A with Melissa Apthorpe – Upper Primary Leader, St John's Campus

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

Before coming to Concordia, I spent 15 years at Seymour College and absolutely adored being a connected member the community there. It was a place that shaped me deeply as an educator. When the opportunity at Concordia arose, it was difficult to ignore. Concordia's reputation for innovative practice, outstanding educators and wonderful students extends well beyond the campus gates but even more so the value and emphasis Concordia places on commnunity and belonging.

Throughout the interview process, I was continually impressed and felt a genuine connection to the values of the College. It became clear that the values of Concordia strongly align with my own. I was completely sold when a group of outstanding Year 5 students attended my final interview and asked thoughtful, insightful questions about what they thought makes a great school and what they needed from a leader. An outstanding vison of student agency and voice. Their confidence, curiosity and pride in their community spoke volumes.

Now, nearly a term into my time here, I truly couldn't imagine a more perfect place to work.

2. Three words to describe you.

Empathetic, genuine, problem-solver.

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

Building strong connections and meaningful relationships with students, their families and other staff is my greatest passion. Truly understanding a child—who they are, what they enjoy, what challenges them and what makes them light up—is the foundation of a wonderful education. When children feel seen, known and valued, they are far more likely to engage, take risks and learn. In my role as Upper Primary Leader, I am motivated to build on the wonderful work that has come before me and to continue fostering a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment where every child feels safe, supported and empowered to become the very best version of themselves.

I am inspired daily by the teachers and staff around me who lead with kindness and empathy through the strong values of the College. I am equally inspired by the student who keeps trying even when learning feels hard, the child who runs in the sprint on Sports Day knowing it isn't their strength, the student who shares their ideas and extends their own learning or the student who quietly invites someone to join their game. It is these small but powerful moments that build a culture of kindness, courage and acceptance.

I feel incredibly privileged to be part of the Concordia community where these values matter and where I have the opportunity to help nurture not just learners, but thoughtful and compassionate young people.

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

If I could choose a superpower, it would be the ability to freeze time—or even move back and forth through it. I would love the chance to spend just one more day holding the tiny hand of my sweet, toothless two-year-old as we walked into her ballet class or rewatch my gutsy six-year-old take on his first game of basketball, soaking in those fleeting moments that pass far too quickly.

I would also treasure the opportunity to revisit special memories with loved ones—to step back into moments of laughter, celebration and togetherness. Time moves so quickly, and the ability to pause it, even briefly, would be the greatest gift of all.

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?

I would invite all of my closest friends. They are spread far and wide, and with busy lives filled with sport, work and family commitments, our time together is often few and far between, but whenever we are together, they fill my bucket with so much joy.

Some of these friendships date back to when we were two years old, while others have been formed through our children. Each of them brings something special into my life, and without their guidance, support and wonderfully down-to-earth perspectives, I would feel a little lost.

Their opinions and voices mean far more to me than the idea of sitting down to dinner with a celebrity. Sharing a meal, laughter and stories with them would be my perfect evening.

Back to top

Governor of South Australia Commendation Excellence Award

On Wednesday 11 February, Government House hosted 40 exceptional students from across South Australia who were honoured for their academic achievements and significant societal contributions. These students earned a prestigious recognition—the Governor of South Australia Commendation. Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, recognised these students for such things as "*leading mental health and wellbeing initiatives; championing sustainability and inclusion; advancing reconciliation and cultural understanding; and exemplifying initiative, resilience and leadership*". Congratulations

to Lincoln, Deputy College Captain from the Class of 2025, for this significant recognition of your service to Concordia and the wider community.

This ceremony was part of a larger celebration involving 1,221 students who achieved one or more subject Merits in their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) in 2025. We were thrilled to celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2025 with 15% of our Year 12 students placing in the top 5% nationally and 30% achieving results in the top 10%.

Photo courtesy of SA School Photography

Back to top

Concordia Debating Students Appearing on SBS Insight

In early February, one of the College's Debating teams was privileged to be invited to be part of an episode of *Insight* on SBS. The team of **Ilsa (10HLEW)**, **Lilah (10HLEW)**, **Amelia (10VNAR)** and **Nevada (10BWHA)** were flown out to SBS's Sydney studio, along with a range of other experts to discuss the topic 'The Death of Debate'.

As part of this topic, guests were discussing whether Australia is still—or ever has been—capable of productive, safe and respectful debate, and the place that it has in democratic society. The girls themselves discussed the significance of debating in developing critical thinking, empathy and the ability to understand the nuance of complex topics. They highlighted the increasing trend of polarisation in modern society, and how important debating is in breaking that down and coming to reasoned, empathetic decisions. Overall, the team conducted themselves in a manner that they should certainly be proud of!

The episode itself will be airing on Tuesday 10 March on SBS at 8:00pm. Keep an eye out as well on the College's social media for some behind-the-scenes photos.

Angus Moffatt
Debating Coordinator

Back to top

Year 7 Camp

During Week 3, our Year 7 students took part in an exciting experience at Adare Camp in Victor Harbor, facilitated by Beyond Limits. The program provided opportunities for students to build connections, participate in engaging activities, and challenge themselves.

Students strengthened relationships within their Home Classes while competing for points in a range of team-based challenges. Across the week, students demonstrated excellent teamwork and communication. Activities included the Flying Kiwi (high rope swing), challenge and obstacle courses, bike riding, kayaking and bodyboarding, offering students opportunities to develop confidence, resilience and collaboration skills. Congratulations to Tribe 2, supported

by Mr Watkins, who were our overall winning team!

The camp was a memorable experience that encouraged personal growth and fostered strong peer connections. We commend all Year 7 students for their enthusiasm and positive attitude, and we look forward to seeing this continue throughout 2026.

Rachel Hogan
Year 7 Leader

Back to top

Concordia College presents SHREK The Musical

The College's Middle and Senior School production of SHREK The Musical is sure to delight and entertain audience of all ages*, so please save the date and book your tickets today.

- **Dates and Times:**
  - **Friday 27 March – 11.00am and 7.00pm**
  - **Saturday 28 March – 1.00pm and 7.00pm**
- **Location: Futures Church (Paradise), 57 Darley Road, Paradise**
- **Cost: Adults $45 / Concession $37.50**

Our Concordia Campus students were recently treated to a sneak peek featuring two of the lead characters—an outstanding performance, which reinforced that this is a show not to be missed! Book your tickets today via the button below.

We hope to see you there!

**Content Rating: PG*

Book online (opens an external website)
Back to top

New St Peters Campus ELC Outdoor Learning Space Now Open

We are excited to announce the opening of our newly upgraded outdoor learning space at our St Peters Campus ELC. Developed in consultation with children, families and staff, this innovative space has been designed to nurture curiosity, creativity and exploration.

The upgraded area offers rich opportunities for children's learning and inquiry, encouraging hands-on experiences that connect with the natural world. From exploring textures and plants to engaging in imaginative play, our outdoor space provides a stimulating environment that supports both individual and collaborative learning.

Situated within the beautiful natural surroundings of our school, the outdoor learning area

seamlessly blends nature with play-based education. Children can investigate, discover and engage with their environment in ways that spark wonder and foster a lifelong love of learning.

We invite families and the community to experience the vibrant new space where learning blooms outdoors, and where every day is an opportunity for curiosity, growth and connection.

Sarah Midson
ELC Director – St Peters Campus

Back to top

Enrichment and Extended Learning News

Ethics Olympiad Middle School International Final

On Wednesday 18 February we had a team of five students represent Concordia in the Ethics Olympiad Middle School International Final. The Ethics Olympiad is a competition focused on critical thinking, respectful dialogue and ethical analysis of real-life cases. This competition brought together 50 teams from across the world, including students from all the states and territories of Australia, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, India and Canada. Our team was invited to compete, alongside three other South Australian schools, after a gold medal performance in our heat last year.

Some of the cases they explored in preparation for the competition included:

- Should Artists' Ethics Affect Our Artistic Judgments?
- Bullfighting
- Relying on Civilian Intelligence in War
- Using AI in the Classroom.

Our students had a brilliant experience and proved that ethical thinking can be rigorous, collaborative and genuinely fun.

Congratulations to Sophia (10LTRA) Benjamin (9JEGA) Amelia (10VNAR) Daisy (10NSHW) and Lucy (10HLEW).

70 Years of the Duke of Ed

Since its beginnings in 1956, The Duke of Ed has been more than just a framework—it's a passport to possibility. It's where young people challenge themselves, discover their potential and realise that they're capable of far more than they ever imagined.

Across Australia, 90,000+ young people have taken part in the Framework so far. Each one has their own story—whether it's conquering a mountain or urban trek, learning a new language, mastering an instrument or giving back to their community. These experiences don't just fill a logbook; they build confidence, compassion and character.

Students can commence the Framework from age 14. In significant changes, from this year, the Bronze level can be completed in a shorter timeframe with the minimum duration reduced from six months to three months. Newly registered students are no longer required to complete a Major Section. It is hoped recent changes will allow for greater accessibility and retention. Organised students can complete all three Levels by the end of Year 11. Please contact Emma Rieger if you would like support with this program.

Upcoming Opportunities

Youth Parliament: The YMCA South Australia Youth Parliament is a non-partisan program designed to offer individuals aged 15-25 years a platform to express their perspectives on significant matters. It aims to foster the development of leadership skills, enhance parliamentary comprehension and deepen understanding of democracy. Applications close on 13 March 2026. Learn more here.

Emma Rieger
Enrichment and Extended Learning

Ethics Olympiad team ready to compete

Back to top

Looking Ahead with LEGO in Exploring Identities and Futures

What did you want to be when you were 15? A doctor? A parent? A contestant on ‘Ready, Steady, Cook'? As part of their SACE Exploring Identities and Futures course, students were asked to depict in LEGO where they see themselves in five, 10 and 15 years, based on responses they received from undertaking career and personality quizzes during class. As you can see, Concordia students dream big! From families to pharmacists, our Year 10s are on a mission! Such a fun and engaging way to showcase their learning… and who doesn’t love a good LEGO session?

Vanessa Narino-Terry
Humanities Teacher

Back to top

Year 6 German Students Visit Hahndorf

In Week 5, our Year 6 students participated in an excursion to the historic German village of Hahndorf. This experience provided an authentic opportunity to deepen their understanding of German migration and its lasting influence in South Australia.

A key highlight was our visit to the Hahndorf Academy, where students explored the history of

the early German settlers. They discovered how families established homes, farms and community buildings through determination and hard work. They also practised writing their names in traditional Sütterlin script and experienced what school life was like 150 years ago using slate boards and chalk. On a scavenger hunt through Hahndorf, students visited St Michael's Lutheran Church and explored local businesses, including the Hahndorf Inn and the “Gewürzhaus” (spice house). A visit to “Eishaus” gave students the opportunity to try the well-known German Spaghettieis. We concluded the excursion by enjoying traditional “Brezeln”. The day was both educational and enjoyable, strengthening students’ connection to German heritage and bringing their learning to life in a meaningful way.

Vicky Miegel
German Teacher

Back to top

St Peters Campus 'Rock, Paper, Scissors… SHOOT!'

There was energy, laughter and a healthy dose of competitive spirit across St Peters Campus on Thursday 26 February as students and staff took part in our whole-campus Rock, Paper, Scissors Challenge.

Every person on campus—students and adults alike—began the day wearing a necklace. The goal was simple: challenge someone to a single round of “Rock, Paper, Scissors… SHOOT!” If you lost, you had to physically hand over your necklace to the winner. No best of three. No second chances. One shoot—and the necklace changed hands!

As the challenge unfolded, necklaces quickly began stacking up around the necks of our strongest competitors. It was fantastic to see students confidently approaching peers, teachers and support staff, all eager to test their luck. Laughter echoed across the yard as dramatic wins and surprise losses played out in real time.

What made the event so special was that everyone participated. Adults were just as involved as the students, and it created a wonderful sense of connection across year levels. Older students encouraged younger ones, staff embraced the fun, and the entire campus shared in the excitement of such a simple but powerful community-building activity.

After many intense “shoot” moments and an impressive collection of necklaces, Lucy emerged as the overall winner of the day. Congratulations, Lucy—a well-earned victory!

Events like this remind us that belonging and connection can grow through shared experiences and a willingness to have fun together. We are excited to share that the Rock, Paper, Scissors Challenge will be returning throughout the year as we continue to build strong community spirit across St Peters Campus.

We’re already looking forward to the next round… Rock, Paper, Scissors… SHOOT!

Alison Ronoastro
Principal – St Peters Campus

Back to top

SchoolTV Free Webinar

Parents and caregivers are warmly invited to be part of a free online webinar on the topic of Understanding Anxiety and Depression to Foster Resilience.

- **Date: Thursday, 19 March 2026**
- **Time: 7:30pm**

This presentation forms part of a broader webinar series designed to strengthen mental health literacy across school communities.

Join international experts Dr Emma Woodward and Dr Joe Stammeijer as they share valuable insights into recognising early signs of concern and practical approaches to supporting the wellbeing of young people.

Topics in this session will include:

- Understanding Anxiety and Depression
- Recognising Early Signs
- Supporting Neurodivergent Children

Download a flyer for more information.

Register for the Webinar (opens an external website in a new window)

Back to top

Chinese New Year in the ELC

To mark the arrival of the Year of the Horse, a series of thoughtfully planned, immersive learning experiences were organised for the ELC children. Classrooms were beautifully decorated with traditional Chinese New Year elements, creating an engaging and culturally rich environment for exploration and discovery.

During the celebrations, children took part in a variety of meaningful activities. They created Year of the Horse themed artwork using paint and craft materials, explored Chinese calligraphy by practising writing the character "□" (horse), and made festive red lanterns symbolising happiness and reunion. Through themed picture books and guided discussions, children also deepened their understanding of the traditions and cultural significance of Chinese New Year.

The festive spirit reached its peak on Friday, when both educators and children dressed in red—a colour that symbolises good fortune and prosperity in Chinese culture. As dumplings are an essential part of Chinese New Year celebrations, each classroom was offered a hands-on dumpling-making experience. The children participated with great enthusiasm and later enjoyed tasting the dumplings they had prepared themselves, fostering a strong sense of

accomplishment and shared joy.

We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to the families who contributed to this celebration. Thank you for providing festive decorations and sharing photographs of your own family celebrations. These contributions enriched the learning experience and allowed children to proudly share their personal traditions with their peers. Conversations about red envelopes brought visible excitement and smiles to many faces.

在为期两周的庆祝活动中，ELC为小朋友们精心准备了丰富多彩的体验式活动，让大家在沉浸式的氛围中迎接马年的到来。

老师们在教室里布置了充满中国新年特色的装饰元素，处处洋溢着喜庆与温馨。孩子们用手中的画笔和刷子制作了马年主题贴画，尝试用中国书法书写“马”字，还亲手制作了象征团圆与喜庆的红灯笼。通过阅读春节主题绘本，大家进一步了解了中国新年的传统习俗与文化意义。

节日的气氛在周五达到了高潮。老师和孩子们纷纷穿上象征好运与喜庆的红色服饰，为节日增添了更多热烈与活力。饺子是庆祝中国新年不可或缺的传统美食，我们为每个班级安排了包饺子活动。孩子们热情参与，认真地包出一个个属于自己的饺子，并在午餐时品尝到这份亲手制作的美味，脸上洋溢着满满的成就感与喜悦。

我们也特别感谢参与此次活动的家庭。感谢大家提供春节装饰品、分享庆祝春节的温馨照片。孩子们也借此机会自豪地向同伴介绍自己是如何庆祝中国新年的。每当提到“红包”时，大家脸上都露出藏不住的笑容。

九紫离火马年象征着活力、创新，勇气与坚韧。值此新春之际，我们衷心祝愿所有老师、孩子和家长在新的一年里马到成功，幸福安康！

Jubilee Ye
Co-educator – St John's Campus ELC

Back to top

Reminder: St Peters Campus Family Picnic and St John's Campus Family Picnic

St Peters Campus Family Picnic

Our St Peters Campus ELC–Year 6 family picnic is next Friday 13 March and all families are warmly invited to attend.

If you have not yet booked your tickets, please do so today via the link below!

This event is proudly supported by our Concordia P&F. Come along and enjoy catching up with old friends and making new ones in a relaxed environment.

Date: Friday 13 March
Time: 5–7pm
Venue: St Peters Campus Little Oval, 71 Cumming Street, Blackwood
What to bring: BYO picnic food and picnic rug (soft drinks provided)
Bookings: Bookings essential (via the button below)

Please note: this picnic held on College grounds is an alcohol-free event. This is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students and is in adherence with the College's Responsible Use of Alcohol and Duty of Care guidelines.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Book online (opens an external website)

St John's Campus Family Picnic (New Date)

Our St John's Campus ELC–Year 6 family picnic has been rescheduled to **Friday 20 March** and all families are warmly invited to attend.

If you have not yet booked your tickets, please do so today via the link below!

This event is proudly supported by our Concordia P&F. Come along and enjoy catching up with old friends and making new ones in a relaxed environment.

- **Date: Friday 20 March**
- **Time: 5–7pm**
- **Venue: Concordia College Oval (St John's Campus end), Highgate**
- **What to bring: BYO picnic food and picnic rug (soft drinks provided)**
- **Bookings: Bookings essential (via the button below)**

Please note: this picnic held on College grounds is an alcohol-free event. This is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students and is in adherence with the College's Responsible Use of Alcohol and Duty of Care guidelines.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Book online (opens an external website in a new window)
Back to top

Team Sailing Success

In what was a fantastic result for our Team Sailing squad, Concordia recently won the Metropolitan Schools Team Sailing Championship, held over two Sundays in February at the Goolwa Regatta Yacht Club.

The regatta saw two days of non-stop racing, with about 100 races being completed in total. Concordia won 11 of the 15 races they were in, meaning they emerged as the top metropolitan school, beating out teams from schools with strong sailing programs such as Westminster, Immanuel, Saint Peter's College, Prince Alfred College and others. The only races we ended up losing were against teams we had already beaten in other races during the regatta, which was very pleasing.

Our squad of eight students was comprised of **Sam (12SBAC)**, **Reid (12SBAC)** and **Argon (12CRID)**, **Zahli (10NSHR)**, **Raf (9JEGA)**, and **James (8IROS)**, **Henry (8SMAR)** and **Archer (8MCAS)**. Argon, Sam and Reid did the bulk of the skippering on the day, with Zahli taking charge for a few races as well, while Raf, James, Henry and Archer rotated as crew.

Special mention goes to our three Year 12 students, all of whom started Sailing as young

students in the Middle School. Over the years, not only have these boys improved exponentially in their individual sailing skills but they have also become very savvy in the tactics of Team Sailing, showing great teamwork and a clear understanding of how to use the rules of the competition to slow down opposition boats and get their own three boats into winning positions. It is no exaggeration to say that this victory was about five years in the making!

Congratulations to the team and many thanks to the parents who came out to support the event. We look forward to putting in a strong showing at the state titles in April.

Chris Finch
Sailing Coordinator

Back to top

Donation Opportunity – Musical Costume Sewing Kit

In the interest of avoiding unnecessary consumption, waste or adding to landfill, we are hoping that our community can help us to create a craft/sewing kit for backstage repairs of costumes during musical production week.

If you have any of the items listed below at home that you are willing to donate, we will gratefully accept them. Please do not purchase items for this purpose—we are happy to source any additional items required. Instead, please think of it as a decluttering opportunity.

Items Required

- **Sewing kit/tool box**: We are looking for one or two large portable boxes/trolleys that have various compartments/pockets for storage (see examples here and here)
- **Sewing and fast repairs:**
  - Needles – various sizes
  - Thread spools of various colours
  - Safety pins (small, medium, large)
  - Mini scissors / thread snips
  - Thimble
  - Seam ripper
  - Measuring tape
  - Pin cushion / magnetic pin holder
  - Pins
  - Chalk
- **No-sew quick fixes:**
  - Fashion tape / double-sided tape
  - Clear medical tape (skin-safe)
  - Fabric glue (quick-dry)
  - Iron-on hemming tape
  - Velcro dots / strips
  - Hot glue gun + glue sticks

- **Costume care and spares:**
    - Lint rollers
    - Baby wipes / stain wipes
    - Small towel / cloth
    - Buttons
    - Elastic (black and white)
    - Spare shoelaces
    - Heel grips / shoe tape
    - Shoe rosin
    - Hair ties

If you have surplus of any of these items and are happy to donate them for use in our College musical, we would be most grateful. Please arrange for students to bring any donated items to the Library circulation desk.

Hajnalka Molloy
Learning Resources Manager

Back to top

Reception and Mid-Year Reception Entry Information Session

The pathway from early years learning through to full-time school in Reception is a time of transition. To help navigate this transition, we warmly invite interested family to learn more about our Reception and Mid-Year Reception programmes at Concordia College, St John's Campus.

- **Date: Tuesday 17 March**
- **Time: 5:00–6:00pm**
- **Location: St John's Campus, 20 Highgate Street, Highgate**

Please RSVP via the button below by **Friday 13 March 2026**.

RSVP to Attend (opens an external website)

This session is open to current ELC families and prospective families planning to commence Mid-Year Reception in 2026 or Reception in 2027 and beyond.

Join our St John's Campus Principal, educational leaders and our Director of Enrolments to learn more about the benefits of Term 1 and Term 3 intakes of Reception. This roving information session will include visits to the classrooms for you to see firsthand how the transition programmes will come to life for current ELC students and students new to Concordia College. An opportunity to tour more of the St John's Campus will also be on offer.

With the transition for Mid-Year Reception 2026 commencing mid-Term 2 (May 2026), this is a wonderful opportunity to plan your child's journey to school.

If you have any questions, please contact the friendly staff in our Enrolments Office on 8272

0444 or enrolments@concordia.sa.edu.au

We look forward to welcoming you.

Paul Bannister
Principal – St John's Campus

Chelsea Skene
Director of Enrolments

Back to top

Music Notes

A big thank you to our wonderful Animato String Quartet—Jezzy, Lewis, Charles and Sherry—for performing at the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand (LCANZ) Church House Opening on Saturday, 28 February. Their performance showcased a rich and varied selection of works and added a very special touch to a significant day in the life of the LCANZ community.

Kellie Rich
Head of Music ELC–12

Back to top

SchoolTV Special Report: Discussing War and Conflict

With the recent escalation of conflict involving Iran, children may be hearing or seeing distressing updates through the 24-hour news cycle, social media and conversations at school. Even when events are geographically distant, repeated exposure to images, headlines and commentary can heighten anxiety, particularly for young people whose understanding of the world is still developing.

It is important for parents and caregivers to be mindful of overexposure, as constant coverage can amplify fear and uncertainty. Reassurance is key. Children need to feel safe and supported as they process complex global events.

Before beginning these conversations, take a moment to check in with your own emotions. Children often take their cues from the adults around them. Remaining calm, listening openly and offering reassurance can help your child regulate their feelings and maintain a sense of security.

This Special Report provides practical guidance to help families navigate conversations about war and conflict in a measured, age-appropriate way, while reinforcing hope, empathy and resilience. We encourage you to take a moment to review the information provided. If this topic raises concerns about your child’s wellbeing, please consider seeking appropriate medical or

professional support.

Read the Special Report (opens an external website in a new window)
Back to top

Old Concordians Class of 2025 Reunion and Honorary Old Concordian Award

It was wonderful to welcome over 80 of our newest Old Concordians from the Class of 2025 back to the College for their first reunion on Thursday 19 February. We look forward to keeping in touch with the Class of 2025 through our program of reunions and events as well as our Old Concordian sporting teams.

We were also delighted to congratulate Connie Held, who was awarded Honorary Old Concordian status by the Head of College, Paul Weinert, at the reunion. The award recognises Connie's genuine passion for and commitment to Concordia College and the Old Concordians' community over many years.

Sue Kleinig
Alumni Manager

Back to top

Reminder: Senior School Drinks and Canapes

We are looking forward to a wonderful opportunity for parents and caregivers of our Year 10–12 students to connect at our Senior School drinks and canapes evening on Thursday 19 March.

If you would like to attend and have not yet submitted your RSVP via the TryBooking link below, please do so by **Friday 13 March**. Click the button below to book online.

As well as catching up with other Senior School parents, you will have the opportunity to chat with key staff and gain valuable insights into your child's Senior School journey—all in a welcoming environment. Stay, sip and socialise without the rush of a Parent Information Evening!

- Date: Thursday 19 March
- Time: 6:00–7:30pm
- Location: The Quad, Concordia Campus (weather permitting*)
- Cost: Free event

**In the case of inclement weather, we will gather in the Chapel narthex.*

We would love to see you there!

Book online (opens an external website in a new window)
Back to top

Kuitpo Forest Field Study in Stage 1 Geography

This term, Stage 1 Geography students have been studying hazard and disaster management, with a targeted focus on bushfire preparedness. After formative learnings and a guest lecture from Mr Oppelaar, who recently had to implement his own bushfire action plan, students headed to Kuitpo Forest to engage in their own field study investigation.

Guided by their Inquiry question "*How prepared is Kuitpo forest to withstand a bushfire event?*", students undertook a range of activities including bipolar surveys, vegetation density and potential canopy and understory fuel. For the students, it was their first time undertaking an investigation of this nature, which requires problem-solving, investigative skills and critical thinking. Another extraordinary example of our steward-ents (Geography joke) applying their classroom studies to the wider world.

Vanessa Narino-Terry
Humanities Teacher

Back to top

Fish Tank Entrepreneurship Program and Workshops

Youth Entrepreneurship Program

Fish Tank is the City of Unley's flagship youth entrepreneurship program and applications are open now. Young people aged 8–25 years who live, study, work or play in the City of Unley have the opportunity to win a prize package (seed money and business mentoring) to help grow their business.

This year we have launched two new competition categories:

- Social Enterprise Award—this award honours the young person that aims to deliver positive social and environmental impact through the power of business. This category is open to all ages 8–25 years.
- Inspired Pitch Award—this award honours the young person that delivers the most compelling and impactful pitch. Demonstrating clear vision, persuasive communication and entrepreneurial passion. This category is open to all ages 8–25 years.

Applications close Sunday 17 May 2026 at midnight.

For further information, T&C's, prizes and to apply visit the Fish Tank website.

Free Entrepreneurship and Social Enterprise Workshops

Young people aged 8–25 years who live, study, work of play in the City of Unley are also invited to learn about entrepreneurship, social enterprise and how to develop their own business idea at an age-appropriate free Entrepreneurship and Social Enterprise Workshop.

Entrepreneurship Workshop for 8–25 years

- **Date: Thursday 23 April 2026**
- **Time: 10am–12pm**
- **Location: Fullarton Park Community Centre, 411 Fullarton Road, Fullarton**
- ***Parents/ Guardians are welcome to accompany their children***

Social Enterprise Workshop for 8–25 years

- **Date: Thursday 23 April 2026**
- **Time: 1pm – 3pm**
- **Location: Fullarton Park Community Centre, 411 Fullarton Road, Fullarton**
- ***Parents/ Guardians are welcome to accompany their children***

To register, visit the Fish Tank website by **Tuesday 21 April 2026 at 5pm**.

Back to top

Employment Opportunity: Part-time Bus Driver

Concordia is seeking an experienced bus driver to assist with part-time College bus driving duties, including morning and afternoon shifts and the potential for work during school holidays, supporting our Vacation Care program of planned excursions. The role will commence around the end of March. Applicants will require an LR or MR licence.

If you or someone you know is interested in driving our new bus, please contact our People and Culture team via email: employment@concordia.sa.edu.au

Back to top

City of Unley Living Young eNewsletter – March 2026

The March 2026 edition of the City of Unley's Living Young eNewsletter is out now. This edition contains a number of items that may be of interest to our students and families, including:

- Fish Tank Youth Entrepreneurship Program for young people aged 8–25 years (applications close Sunday 17 May) and free workshops on entrepreneurship and social enterprise
- Unley Youth Art Showcase (entries close Sunday 22 March)
- Carclew eNewsletter

- Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan
- Harmony Week in the City of Unley
- Festival of Rice (Saturday 9 May)
- Adelaide Independent Film Festival (Submissions close Friday 12 June)

Read the March 2026 Edition (opens an external website in a new window)
Back to top

Lunchtime Garden Club Revitalises Winchester Street Garden

A little over a year ago, our lunchtime Garden Club started tending and revitalising our Winchester Street Garden, which had been cleared for replanting. One year on, it is wonderful to see the garden thriving thanks to the diligent work of the students, providing produce for Food Design classes to enjoy. Well done to all involved!

Back to top

SchoolTV Wellbeing Barometer Survey 2026

The Wellbeing Barometer survey is an important annual check-in that can help our school better understand the wellbeing of our students. The survey provides valuable insights into young people's experiences, highlighting areas of concern, recognising strengths and resilience, and reinforcing the importance of early, preventative support.

This year, the survey has been reviewed and refreshed to further refine the information shared by parents and adult carers, helping provide a clearer and more meaningful overview of wellbeing across our school community. These updates support more accurate insights while maintaining the same commitment to privacy and confidentiality.

Your participation is strongly encouraged. We ask that you take a few moments to complete the survey for each of your children, based on your observations from the past 12 months. All responses remain anonymous and are reported only in aggregate.

By capturing a broad picture of students' emotional, social and mental wellbeing, the survey can help us respond more effectively to the evolving needs of our school community. The insights gathered can assist in identifying emerging trends, areas of strength, and opportunities for early intervention, ensuring support can be targeted where it is needed most.

If any of the content raises concerns for you or your child, please contact the school or seek professional medical advice.

Take the Wellbeing Barometer Survey (opens an external website in a new window)
Back to top

Drama Workshops with State Theatre Company Director Katie Cawthorne

A key experience for Drama students at Concordia College is a connection to industry. This term, Year 9 and Year 12 Drama students worked with theatre director Katie Cawthorne as she undertook two very different workshops to develop their theatre-making skills.

The Year 9 class explored their physicality and were challenged to move in new and sometimes unexpected ways with highly effective results. This class is to be commended on their vulnerability and their maturity as they significantly changed their thinking when it comes to physical theatre and building their first performance assessment.

The Year 12 class worked with Katie to develop their vision statements as they imagine the world of Andrew Bovell's *When the Rain Stops Falling*. Their lateral thinking and deep insight to the text was leveraged as they generated intellectual, nuanced and thought-provoking ideas to develop their hypothetical interpretation of the work in their first task of the year.

Both classes will now view Windmill Theatre's *Mama Does Derby* to be inspired once again! We thank Katie for her delightful workshops and for sharing her expertise.

Daniel Lynch
Drama Teacher

Back to top

SchoolTV Special Report: Consent and Respectful Relationships

As children and young people mature, their understanding of relationships, boundaries and respect continues to evolve. Learning about consent is not a single conversation, but an ongoing process shaped by everyday interactions, social influences and guidance from trusted adults. While these topics can sometimes feel challenging to navigate, they play an essential role in supporting young people to form safe, healthy and respectful relationships.

Consent extends beyond sexual activity and is closely linked to communication, empathy and mutual respect in all relationships. In today's social and digital world, young people can face complex situations that require clear understanding and confidence to navigate. Consistent, age-appropriate messages from both home and school help reinforce what respectful behaviour looks like in practice.

By engaging with this topic, families are encouraged to build confidence in having calm, open conversations at home. When schools and families work together to reinforce shared values and expectations, young people are better equipped to understand boundaries, respect others and make informed choices that support their wellbeing now and into the future.

Read the Special Report (opens an external website in a new window)
Back to top

School Sport SA Swimming Carnival

Recently, Concordia's Middle and Senior School swimming team competed at the 2026 School Sport SA (SSSA) Swimming Carnival. Our girls finished sixth and our boys finished seventh, with Concordia finishing in seventh place overall. Although we didn't place in the top three, we commend the students for their efforts in a great day of racing.

Back to top

Student Achievements

Congratulations to **Erin (11AMOF)** who—with her beach volleyball partner—recently won the gold medal in the U18 women's South Australian Beach Volleyball Series (SABVS) finals followed by bronze in the SABVS Open women's 3 star series finals. We wish Erin all the best as she prepares to compete at the nationals.

Erin (11AMOF) with her gold medal at the U18 women’s South Australian Beach Volleyball Series

Back to top

Noticeboard

Contents

- Diary Dates
- The School Shop
- Public Notices and Events

Diary Dates

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

^ Back to Top

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 final day of regular trading for Term 2 is **Friday 10 April (12.30–4.30pm)**. The School Shop will reopen in the school holidays on **Thursday 23 April** (see below for holiday opening hours).

School Holiday Opening Hours

- Thursday 23 April: 12.30pm–6.15pm
- Friday 24 April: 12.30pm–4.30pm
- Monday 27 April: 8.00am–4.00pm
- Tuesday 28 April: 12.30pm–4.30pm
- Wednesday 29 April: 8.00am–4.00pm (Start of Term 2)

Winter Uniform Fittings

A communication containing booking information has been sent to families who have students new to the College this year and for students in Reception and Year 7. Booking times are available from March until the end of Term 1. If your child is new to Concordia or has entered Reception or Year 7 in 2026, please refer to the aforementioned email and book your fitting appointment at your earliest convenience.

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

^ Back to top

Public Notices & Events

- **Code Camp** is running Autumn Holiday Camps for children aged 5–13 in the upcoming school holidays. Download a flyer or visit their website for more information and use the coupon code on the flyer to save $25.
- **Warradale Army Barracks** is celebrating 125 years of service and mateship with an Open Day on Saturday 14 March. Download a flyer for more information.
- **Adelaide Art and Cartooning Kids Club** is running Cartooning Camps from Monday 20 to Friday 24 April. Download a flyer for more information.
- **Forestville Hockey Club** is seeking new players interested in trying hockey at their new state-of-the-art hockey pitch in Netherby. Bookings are made on the FHC website. There are have two programs to join:
    - Hook in 2 Hockey for ages 5–10 | Started Sunday February 22 for a six-week program
    - Stick It & See for ages 11–16 | Wednesday 4 March and Wednesday 11 March (Year 5 and up). This program is new to the club and free.
    - Finally, the Club is expanding their current community volleyball program to include Under 12s in 2026. Visit their Facebook page for more information.
- **kidsinadelaide.com.au** has compiled a Best Adelaide Fringe Shows for Kids 2026 Family Guide. Visit their website to see the shows they recommend for families with children this Fringe season, which runs from Friday 20 February to Sunday 22 March.
- **Payneham Norwood Union Football Club** is inviting registrations for U7, U8, U11 and U12. Places are limited. Download a flyer for more information.

^ Back to top

Back to top