

Community

Autumn 2024 | Issue 78

extraordinary

   [ConcordiaCollegeAdelaide](#)  [OldConcordiansAssociation](#)



CONCORDIA
COLLEGE

Giving Day 2024

Our Giving Day is a 12-hour online fundraising blitz where we ask community members to dig deep and support our exciting building projects.

As a not-for-profit school, this is your opportunity to make a difference for students of today and tomorrow.

*Save
the
Date*

**Wednesday
12 June, 2024**

**Every dollar you donate
will be matched**

Your Donation		Matched Today	=	Total
\$50	=	\$100		
\$100	=	\$200		
\$500	=	\$1,000		
\$2,500	=	\$5,000		
\$10,000	=	\$20,000		

Will my gift be tax deductible?

Donations of \$2 or more may be claimed as tax deductions.

How to get involved

Give a tax-deductible gift on the day. Share on your social media or become an ambassador to help share Concordia's Foundation Giving Day.

Giving Opportunities – Donate to:

- Fortiter (ELC to Year 12 Gymnasium)
- St John's Campus Redevelopment
- Building Fund
- Scholarships
- Disability access to the College Chapel

Contents

- 01 From the Head of College
- 03 Principals' Report
- 05 Ministry: Easter Reflection
- 06 Celebrating Achievement
- 07 Student Learning
- 08 International Students
- 10 ELC and Primary School Highlights
- 15 Middle School Highlights
- 19 Senior School Highlights
- 23 Exhibitions
- 25 Primary School Sports Day
- 26 Middle and Senior School Sports Day
- 27 Sports Highlights
- 28 Music Highlights
- 30 Musical - CHICAGO:
High School Edition
- 33 Community Events
- 35 Staff Profiles
- 38 Heritage Centre
- 39 Old Concordians' Association



The Treehouse (Year 3-Year 6)



Fortiter (ELC-Year 12 Gymnasium)

PUBLISHED BY

Concordia College
24 Winchester Street,
Highgate SA 5063
t. 08 8272 0444
e. mail@concordia.sa.edu.au
www.concordia.sa.edu.au

SUBMISSIONS

To make a submission in the next edition please forward details to community@concordia.sa.edu.au

Community is published biannually in Autumn and Spring.

The reverse side of the mailing sheet can be used for changes of address and opportunities to be involved in the College.

COVER PICTURE

Students performing in our 2024 musical production of CHICAGO: High School Edition

PRINTED BY

Express Colour Printing

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

From the Head of College

Commencing 2024 Together from ELC to Year 12

As we began the 2024 school year, it was incredible for staff and students across the College - from ELC to Year 12 - to be able to share in our first ever whole-of-College Commencement Service with three campuses present in our new Fortiter Gymnasium. Coming together as one College to commit the new year to God - and to introduce and pray for our Principals, new staff, returning staff and 2024 Student Leaders - was truly a special occasion and a perfect way to begin a new year of learning and collaboration. We look forward to more opportunities to connect as an entire College in the months and years ahead.

Exciting Developments in the Middle and Senior School

We are delighted to share some significant enhancements to our educational offerings that underscore our commitment to providing a dynamic and forward-thinking learning environment. These changes, set to commence in 2025, are designed with our students' futures at heart, aiming to offer more personalised and flexible learning paths that cater to their individual interests and academic needs.

Revitalised Curriculum Structure

To further enrich our curriculum and respond to the evolving educational landscape, from 2025 Year 10 students will transition into the Senior School, beginning their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) journey a year earlier than the current model. This decision comes after a comprehensive review, which included valuable input from our families and an in-depth analysis of our curriculum. It is a strategic shift designed to enhance our students' learning experiences and it allows for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP) to be streamlined into a focused three-year program for Years 7-9.

The key benefits include:

- + **Increased Personalisation:** By Year 10, our students have a clearer understanding of their interests and strengths. This change will empower them to tailor their studies to their passions, enhancing engagement and satisfaction with their learning journey.
- + **Accelerated SACE Progress:** Starting SACE in Year 10 offers our students a head start, enabling them to undertake Stage 2 subjects in Year 11 and, consequently, providing them with more flexibility in their crucial final year of schooling.
- + **Enhanced Academic Outcomes:** It is anticipated that this restructured approach will improve our academic results and median ATAR, aligning Concordia's outcomes more closely with the top-performing schools in the region.
- + **Optimised Learning Experience for Year 9:** Modifying the MYP will enrich the Year 9 curriculum as well, integrating personal and community projects more effectively with The Rite Journey and introducing new elective choices.



Furthermore, the redefinition of our Middle School (Years 7-9) and Senior School (Years 10-12) boundaries will not only expand the leadership opportunities available to our Year 9 students, but also balance the workload among our educational leaders more equitably, ensuring a focused, supportive learning environment for all students.

Incoming Director of Learning and Wellbeing, Mathew Disher, and Concordia Campus Principal, Penny McKenzie, will be implementing these exciting changes. This will reshape our Middle and Senior School timetable, leading to more exciting subject choices.

Seventh Year 7 Stream

In response to the increasing demand for Year 7 enrolment opportunities and our commitment to accommodating the educational needs of our growing community, Concordia College is excited to announce the introduction of a seventh Year 7 stream starting in 2025. This addition is a testament to the trust and confidence placed in us by our community and reflects our strategic vision for the future of the College.

The decision, warmly received by our staff and approved by the Board, aims to allow more families to be a part of our vibrant learning community. Preparations are underway to ensure the smooth integration of this additional stream, with a keen focus on maintaining the high standards of education and support defining the Concordia experience.



As we look forward to these exciting developments, we remain committed to engaging with our staff, parents and the wider College community.

We extend our heartfelt thanks for your ongoing support and enthusiasm. Together, we are setting the stage for a future where every student can achieve their full potential, guided by our shared values and dedication to excellence.

More detailed information about these enhancements will be communicated with families in Term 2. We welcome feedback from our community as we continue on this exciting journey together.

Warmest regards

Paul Weinert

Head of College



Principals' Report

The 2024 school year has commenced with great energy, excitement and enthusiasm. As Principals, our collaborative efforts are dedicated to reinforcing our foundational Lutheran values and preparing our students for a world of opportunities.

The College's refreshed strategic plan, initiated in 2023, serves as a guiding framework for our learning community. In our roles as leaders of Concordia's three campuses, we are dedicated to consistently challenging, connecting and empowering every learner throughout the College. We believe an ELC-12 strategy – one College, three campuses – is a most effective way of achieving this vision. Therefore, we have plans for this year and future years that will bring our students, staff and community together in exciting, meaningful and relevant ways.

The opportunities for us to provide unique and enriched learning experiences for students and our broader community are endless! Some opportunities in this space are as follows:

- + Combined faith and service community events and experiences, bringing together our community to strengthen our common values of connectedness, compassion and service.
- + Our shared Primary School Sports Day (now in its second year) across our St John's and St Peters campuses, also involving leadership and support from the College's Year 12 House Leaders.
- + The introduction of Concordia's Dance Academy, providing opportunities for Year 5 to Year 7 students across all three campuses to learn and undertake dance performances in our dance facility, trained by our specialist Dance teacher and professional performer.



- + Numerous enriched learning opportunities for Primary School students through deliberate accessibility of specialist facilities, resources and staff on our Concordia Campus in the areas of Science, Design and Music.
- + Year 12 students developing a range of life and employability skills through their weekly mentoring and support of Primary School students.
- + Strengthening and broadening our ELC-12 Performing Arts and Sports programs and opportunities.

Looking to the future, as a team of Principals we are excited about what is in store for 2025 and beyond. Our collaboration has already provided opportunities for our community to come together in 2024, and in 2025 we hope to embed these even further into Concordia College life.

Aligning key times on our timetables for 2025 will ensure we can share resources and allow for our youngest learners at both campuses to connect with our Middle and Senior School learners in meaningful and regular ways. We are seeking to work on cross-campus opportunities for staff to learn and work together as well, in particular through a service trip to Indonesia, where we will partner with a local Lutheran school and the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) International Mission. Exciting times are ahead at Concordia!

Paul Bannister

Principal — St John's Campus

Bronwyn Wilson

Principal — St Peters Campus

Penny McKenzie

Principal — Concordia Campus

Connecting • Empowering • Challenging
Learners *Learners* *Learners*

Ministry: Easter Reflection

Jesus said to her,

“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die...”

– John 11:25

I think Easter has always been my favourite time of year. There is so much to like: cooler weather, autumn leaves, a four-day long weekend, chocolate and hot cross buns, the footy is back and you can almost smell the school holidays! I have always loved the special church services of Holy Week too - the sombreness and the reflective nature of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, moving into the expectation and joy of Easter Sunday (especially a dawn service).

Jesus' death and resurrection are the most significant events to have ever happened in our world's history and it is important for Christians to take time out to reflect and celebrate. Even though these events occurred over 2,000 years ago, Easter is not simply history, but a current living and ongoing gift of love and hope for the world. As a result of Jesus' sacrificial death and subsequent triumph over the grave, we are all offered the incredible gift of life - for today and

all time! New life emerges from the darkness and hopelessness of death. Hope exists in a world of grief, despair and sadness. If that's not worth celebrating, nothing is.

Easter is so much more than a fun, chocolatey, autumn long weekend. It is an opportunity to take time out to remember and give thanks for what Jesus did for us all and continues to do. The special treats, family meals and worship services are wonderful ways for everyone to not only remember Jesus' saving work, but to also celebrate his gift of life, love and everlasting goodness.

I hope our Concordia community had a happy and blessed Easter and that the Easter eggs or hot cross buns you enjoyed were a reminder of the life Jesus has won for all of us.

Mark Rathjen

College Chaplain — Highgate Campuses



Celebrating Achievement

There have been many occasions on which to celebrate the achievements of our extraordinary students in recent months. Here are some highlights from the end of 2023.

Oliphant Science Awards

Students from Years 2 to 12 entered a diverse range of projects in the statewide Oliphant Science competition, achieving some outstanding results. Three Primary School entries received second prize in their categories: 'Bush Monopoly' (Games), 'The Science of Music' (Multimedia) and the 'Debris Separator' (Models and Inventions). High commendations were also awarded for 'All About Planes' and 'The Science of Baking' in the Multimedia category. In the Middle and Senior School, a number of prizes were awarded to Concordia students:

- + Two first prizes for Multimedia
- + First prize for Programming, Apps and Robotics
- + Two first prizes and a third prize for Science Writing

Finally, a particular highlight was the presentation of the University of Adelaide, Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology: Sciences Prize 7-12 for the most outstanding entry highlighting the benefits of scientific research to the community. This was awarded to Luke (Year 11 in 2023) – a fantastic achievement!

Loris Grote Nursing Scholarship

The late Loris Grote attended Concordia College in 1949 and studied nursing after completing her final year. As part of a bequest to the school, Loris provided funding for a nursing scholarship to be offered each year to a student who undertakes to study a Bachelor of Nursing degree at Flinders University after completing Year 12 at Concordia College. The Scholarship provides 80% of the HECS fees for the first year of the course. We were pleased to present the 2024 Loris Grote Nursing Scholarship to **Tahlia Rosenberg** from the Class of 2023.

Individual Awards

Towards the end of the year, we celebrated the following individual awards:

- + Alicia (Year 12) – A Student Citizenship Award 2023 from The Order of Australia Association
- + Joshua (Year 10) and Piper (Year 12) – Australian Defence Force 2023 Long Tan Youth Leadership and Teamwork Awards
- + Victoria (Year 11) – Lutheran Women of South Australia and Northern Territory Encouragement Award
- + Hanno (Year 12) – Ampol Best All Rounder Award
- + Lincoln (Year 10) – Muriel Matters Medallion for 2023
- + Evangeline (Year 6) – Catherine Critchley Award

Class of 2023 Year 12 Results

After the final SACE examinations, we congratulated our Year 12 Class of 2023 on their hard work and dedication in their milestone year as graduating students at Concordia. Their efforts were rewarded with some excellent results:

- + College Dux, **Jasmine Chew**, obtained an ATAR of 99.3
- + 46% of students achieved subjects in the 'A-Band'
- + 27% of students placed in the top 10% nationally, with an ATAR of 90 or above
- + 47 Merits were awarded across a diverse group of 16 subjects.

We are very proud of all that these students achieved and wish them well for their exciting futures.



“Learning is experience. Everything else is just information.”

– Albert Einstein

Student Learning

| Connected. Empowered. Challenged.

It is not uncommon to see learning defined as outcomes such as knowledge and skills, but I would argue that these are products of learning, rather than learning itself. My favourite definition of learning is that it is a *process* that *generates change through experience*¹. Viewing learning in this way means that extraordinary learning is more than just having access to information; extraordinary learning is driven by extraordinary experiences.

At Concordia, learning is more than just achieving nice grades and rankings; learning is also about young people being more *connected*, more *empowered* and more *challenged*. These three words haven't just been chosen because they make for a catchy slogan for a strategic plan. They have been chosen because they are the foundations of wellbeing, and learning and wellbeing have a symbiotic relationship.

Challenge is, unfortunately, often misunderstood as a negative concept for young people. Attempts to support young people can sometimes be misguided when they involve removing challenges too quickly as they arise. Without challenge, there is no growth. When we *experience* challenges, we are forced to *change* the way we think and behave. Challenge is how a young person discovers new and more effective ways of knowing and doing.

However, challenge in isolation will not result in extraordinary learning. Young people need to be empowered to embrace challenges through deliberate resourcing. ‘Connectedness’ is a key resource for young people that empowers them to embrace challenges. People who report a greater level of connectedness to the people they spend time with, and the places they spend time in, also report greater measures of wellbeing and are more likely to navigate challenges effectively. Throughout Term 1, educators have been focused on knowing every learner in their classrooms and facilitating connections between them.

This year, Concordia College will look to develop a *Wellbeing Model* to sit alongside the *Instructional Model*, to better facilitate extraordinary learning. The Wellbeing Model will enable a shared understanding of wellbeing for the College community, and it will guide educators to continue to create extraordinary experiences that connect, empower and challenge our learners.

Mathew Disher

Director of Learning and Wellbeing ELC-12

¹Definition adapted from *How Learning Works* by S. Ambrose, M. Bridges, M. DiPietro, M. Lovett, & M. Norman (2010).

Ambrose, S. A., Bridges, M. W., DiPietro, M., Lovett, M. C. & Norman, M. K., 2010, *How learning works: seven research-based principles for smart teaching*, 1st Edition, Jossey-Bass, San Francisco, CA.



International Students

The value of inclusivity was certainly evident in Term 1 when eight new students from overseas commenced their educational journey at Concordia. If you walk around the campus grounds or look into the classrooms, the diversity of culture is abundantly obvious and overwhelmingly sets the foundations of an IB school. With most arriving from countries in Southeast Asia and living away from their families, it was appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the beginning of their new year – Lunar New Year, Chinese New Year and Tet. At our Middle and Senior School campus, a small luncheon was coordinated where the students shared some of the foods from their home countries with the Head of College, the Principal, School Leaders and Year Level Leaders.

Our St Peters Campus at Blackwood once again welcomed students from Korea in Term 1 as part of a short-term study experience. Embracing the opportunity to share and understand each other's culture, the Korean students demonstrated games and dances from their country. This sharing of cultures proved to be enriching and enjoyable for our Concordia students and our visiting students alike.

Steve Eden

Head of International Student Programs





2024 Quiz Night

THEME: THE LETTER **C**

Saturday 18 May

6.00PM (FOR 6.30PM START) - 10PM

Wirrkuta Trruku (St John's Campus Activity Hall)

P&F
CONCORDIA
PARENTS & FRIENDS

COMMUNI

Springtime celebration for the entire community
on our Concordia College Oval.

FRIDAY

• **13 SEPTEMBER** •

3.30-7.00PM

Save the Date

ELC and Primary School Highlights

Welcoming Grandparents and Special Friends

Early in Term 4, our Year 5 and 6 students welcomed special guests to the St John's Campus for a student-led Chapel service followed by the chance to show their visitors around some of their learning spaces and to engage in games and activities, from drawing portraits through to flying foam gliders on the Oval. It was a day full of fun and memorable moments, and we thank all of our guests for joining us.



St John's Campus Year 3 Belair Camp

While it kept them inside for initial teambuilding activities, unseasonal rain did not dampen the spirits of our St John's Campus Year 3 students when they headed to Nunyara at Belair for their camp. When the clouds cleared, students had a fun-filled time doing the tree climb, balancing the big seesaw, completing obstacle courses and building shelters. Basketball, four-way ping pong, card games and a movie were also highlights – a wonderful way to end the year while bonding as a year level.



Celebrating OSHC

The Outside School Hours Care Association of South Australia (OSHCsa) hosted a morning tea in our brand-new St John's Campus OSHC space to acknowledge and celebrate the pivotal role that OSHC services play in the lives of many families. It was an honour to welcome The Hon Blair Boyer MP, Minister for Education Training and Skills, and The Hon Emily Burke MLC, Assistant Minister to the Premier, to the College on this special occasion. Minister Boyer spoke about the importance of OSHC and about the government's commitment to investing in quality OSHC programs, providing access to safe and enriching environments beyond the school bell. His heartfelt speech was inspiring and having him shoot some hoops with students in our Wirrkuta Trrukku activity hall was also a highlight!



Inaugural MADD Festival

St John's Campus hosted the inaugural Primary School Music, Art, Drama and Dance (MADD) Festival on Friday 10 November, with many community members braving the extremely hot weather and enjoying the artistic creativity of our students from Reception to Year 6. There was a great buzz as guests moved from one area to another, viewing artworks and witnessing student performances from music groups, choirs, dancers and buskers – an amazing, vibrant celebration of the Arts.





St Peters Campus Students Explore the History of Concordia

Following our first whole-of-College Commencement Service, Year 3 to Year 6 students from St Peters Campus visited the Heritage Centre and explored some areas of the Concordia Campus marked on the Heritage Trail – a wonderful opportunity to discover more about the College's 133-year history.

St Peters Campus Year 2 Zoo Snooze

The Adelaide Zoo hosted our St Peters Campus Year 2 students for an exciting excursion and a unique chance to stay overnight for a 'Zoo Snooze' adventure. Touring the zoo after dark, the students' curiosity was evident as they learned about the animals they saw before falling asleep to the distant roars of the lions. The next day saw the students visit Bounce and the Plaster Fun House before returning home with a trove of treasured memories.



St John's Campus Year 2 Sleepover

Our Year 2 students had an exciting sleepover at AFL Max for their year level camp. The students enjoyed participating in football drills, which helped them to learn specific skills. Students also took part in an obstacle course. They loved watching the Toy Story movie at the end of the evening.





Nature Play SA at St Peters Campus

ELC to Year 6 students at St Peters Campus were visited by representatives from Nature Play SA, who presented a range of activities that developed students' creativity, teamwork and connection. These included building their own shelters, creating artworks inspired by nature, learning the art of wood whittling and more.



Friday Fun Day Celebration

On Friday 9 February, St Peters Campus students celebrated getting 'off to a great start' for the year, enjoying a day of extraordinary sun-soaked summer fun, with outdoor water play activities, ice blocks, a sausage sizzle and games. We thank all of the parents and caregivers who joined the festivities at the end of the day for helping to make it a special time for our students.





Chinese New Year

The Year of the Dragon! The St John's Campus ELC children celebrated Chinese New Year by making dumplings, doing a dragon dance, dressing up in traditional clothing and learning to say Nǐ hǎo (hello).



ELC Students Clean Up Australia at St Peters Campus

The children at St Peters Campus ELC showed respect and care for our environment in Term 1 when they set out to clean up the school grounds. We were lucky to receive a gift from 'Clean up Australia' with brand new gloves and rubbish bags to help us sort the rubbish we collected. It was a fantastic opportunity to talk about the importance of taking care of our world and the things we can do to make a difference.



St John's Campus Year 4 Douglas Scrub Camp

For the first time, our three classes of Year 4 students headed south to the beautiful McLaren Vale district for their camp. Our classes experienced both camping in tents and in dorms. The days were filled with great opportunities for personal growth as the students attempted, and usually succeeded at, the high ropes climb, bouldering walls and other team-building activities. This camp was their introduction to the 'Who We Are' unit, that is focusing on building resilience and learning about how to care for our mental wellbeing. The students were engaged with all the challenges set for them. Congratulations, Year 4s - you showed yourselves to be extraordinary learners.





Middle School Highlights

Year 10 Fleurieu Peninsula Camp

Spread strategically across three sites along the stunning south coast – at Willow Creek, Port Elliot and Deep Creek – our Year 10 students experienced an enriching three-night camp packed with activities such as surfing, kayaking, abseiling and mountain biking. Carefully chosen to provide an appropriate level of challenge for the students while also fostering a sense of accomplishment and fun, these activities helped students to explore their limits, build resilience and cultivate camaraderie as they strengthened bonds with their peers through shared experiences.

"I had a really good time at the last activity of camp, which was rock climbing. It was a great experience to demonstrate friendship and trust between my peers as I put my life into their hands to experience something I had never done before."
– Rajat

"I had so much fun at camp, getting closer to my friends and making new friends. Even though the hike was challenging, I really enjoyed it."
– Charlotte



Catherine Obst Lutheran Schools Year 8 Public Speaking Award

Two of our Year 8 students competed in the 2023 Catherine Obst Lutheran Schools Year 8 Public Speaking Competition in November, tackling the topics of 'Global issues, local action' and 'Time travel tales – learning from the past to shape the future'. The students involved were commended by the adjudicators on a high standard of competition. In the end, Concordia claimed victory and we were presented with the perpetual shield – a wonderful achievement!

Year 9 STEM Enrichment Conference

While attending the STEM Enrichment Conference held at Flinders University in October, a group of Year 9 girls heard from role models across various career stages and from several professional fields: medical, physics, applied chemistry and forensic science. Hands-on sessions enabled students to have a go at some 'green chemistry', making their own sap and plastic bottles from seaweed. Further sessions explored gravity, electroplating a keyring and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in facial recognition. It was a great opportunity to network and consider their own future aspirations.

"The course was really fun and fascinating, and I learned a lot about the types of sciences involved with STEM. ... Most science events that I have gone to before showed the same experiments, where I don't learn anything new, but I learned so much more about having a career in STEM than I thought that I would, and it changed my mindset on what I might do later in life." – Annabel



Year 7 Victor Harbor Camp

Our Year 7 students had a great time forming new friendships and strengthening existing ones during their year level camp to Victor Harbor early in Term 1. With amazing weather, the students had extraordinary fun engaging in aquatic activities, mountain bike riding, team-building games and the adrenalin-inducing Flying Kiwi high rope swing.



Year 9 Concordia – The Rite Journey Calling and Departure Ceremony

Venturing to McElligott's Quarry Reserve at Mitcham for the first time, our Year 9 students - together with many parents and caregivers - gathered early in the morning for the Calling and Departure Ceremony on Friday 8 March. As the first formal ceremony within our Concordia – The Rite Journey program for 2024, this special occasion calls our young people toward adulthood, encouraging them to take increased responsibility and to build knowledge and competency needed for their lives as adults. Set on a hill with views over the city, the students and parents were met by Home Class teachers, each of whom shared a key character quality that will be essential for the students in their growth as young people.

While the Year 11 String Quartet played 'Amazing Grace', Year 9s shared gratitude letters with their parents, having reflected on their childhood. The Departure component of the morning represented, over the course of a three-hour hike, the challenges ahead and the qualities needed as students grow from adolescents into adults. Students had opportunities to show teamwork, leadership, grit, resilience, communication and perseverance across what was a rewarding morning for the year level. Lessons learned from this experience are designed to help students prepare for their Adventure Camp in Term 2.

Year 8 Drama Students Perform at the ELC

Walking across the Oval to the ELC at St John's Campus, Year 8 Drama students developed their theatrical performance skills by engaging their audience of ELC children with interactive approaches, voice, costume and props. Meanwhile, the ELC students learned about audience etiquette as well as developing listening, comprehension, imagination and cooperation skills. This preparatory experience enabled the Year 8s to work on producing their own pieces of Theatre for Young People. The Drama Department is looking forward to continuing to foster this cross-campus connection.



Creating Electric Cars in Year 8

Fostering scientific inquiry and promoting teamwork, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, an engaging Science task saw our Year 8 students constructing electric cars using motors, batteries and gears. Students then measured the effect that adding 50g masses had on the time taken to traverse a set distance. They learnt about the scientific process and how to conduct a fair test before using their communication skills to compile their findings in scientific reports – a wonderful example of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) learning in action.

Senior School Highlights

Back to Where it All Began

Prior to finishing their classes and completing final examinations, a group of students had the opportunity to head back to where it all began, visiting the St John's Campus ELC to meet some of their former teachers, see how the learning spaces have changed and interact with current ELC children. Having been part of the ELC in 2009/2010, and with the space being expanded and re-opened last year as part of the St John's Campus redevelopment, it is fair to say a lot had changed since the Year 12s began in the ELC. Reminiscing with ELC Director Kate Wood and teacher Deborah Waters as well as viewing old photos from the archives brought back many memories – a wonderful full-circle reminder of all they have learnt and the fun they have had at Concordia College across their ELC to Year 12 journey.



Year 12 End-of-Year Events

At the 2023 Valedictory Service in the College Chapel, staff, students, parents and caregivers celebrated the achievements and service of the Class of 2023. Pastor Dale Gosden shared a message from Matthew 5:13-16, *"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world..."* and Mr Rory Amoy spoke about how individuals taking small actions can effect change on a global scale. As well as being an opportunity to congratulate students on completing Year 12 and to honour those who received Valedictory Service Awards, it was a wonderful evening of celebration, music and prayer. To mark this important milestone, we were pleased to present each Year 12 student with a personalised letter from their Home Class teacher and a gift from the College. We wish our graduates all the very best for their extraordinary futures.

On their last day of school, the Year 12 Final Assembly was full of energy, vibrance, creativity and humour as the students celebrated in their own way, with many amusing videos and speeches. Following the Assembly, students made their way through the incredibly moving guard of honour formed by younger students and staff who applauded the graduating class, sending them on their way with warmth and best wishes.

Finally, following the completion of exams, our Year 12 students – along with their parents and caregivers – gathered with staff in the Fortiter Gymnasium, which had been transformed into a beautiful function space for the Year 12 Graduation Dinner. Pre-dinner drinks and music by our fabulous String Quartet preceded a catered dinner, with Year 10 and 11 student volunteers assisting with serving the meal. Following the speeches, the dance floor was popular with parents and students alike as we officially farewelled the Class of 2023 for the final time.





German Exchange

Towards the end of January, 14 Concordia students returned from two months in Bavaria, southern Germany, having enjoyed time with a German family, a chance to attend a German school, plenty of snow, a European Christmas/New Year, and a week-long trip to Berlin as part of the German Exchange. This cultural immersion is life-changing, with students making friends, building confidence and developing independence, all while honing their language skills.

"The exchange to Germany was completely unreal! Not only did I learn some essential German phrases ... but I was also able to build lifelong friendships with people across the globe through school, music and sporting programs. The food was amazing, the weather was beautiful (when I remembered to wear gloves), and the best part was knowing that I will soon fulfil my promise of going back!" - Macy

Early in Term 1 this year, we welcomed five German students, who stayed with Concordia host families as part of this year's German Exchange. These students attended school here and enjoyed a range of other activities such as a trip to Mount Lofty, surfing lessons and taking in the atmosphere of Lunar New Year celebrations at the Central Market.

CARE@CC

In 2024, we have launched a new lunchtime group connecting like-minded students in Years 10 to 12 who have an interest in careers related to medical fields. The group is designed to allow students to witness stories from the health industry, gaining greater empathy and respect to prepare them for their roles as future medical professionals. The first lunchtime meeting saw students hearing anecdotes and wisdom from a retired General Practitioner with 45 years' experience. We trust this group will provide extraordinary learning opportunities for students who are keen to forge careers in medicine, nursing, paramedicine, health research and other related fields.

CARE @ CC

15 FEB	THURSDAY WEEK 3
1 MAR	FRIDAY WEEK 5
15 MAR	FRIDAY WEEK 7
28 MAR	THURSDAY WEEK 9
12 APR	FRIDAY WEEK 11

A LUNCHTIME GROUP FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN MEDICAL RELATED CAREERS.

CONTACT EMMA RIEGER
erieger@concordia.sa.edu.au



Valentine's Day Fundraiser

Friendship Freddo frogs, roses and singing telegrams were once again delivered by Year 12 students, who helped spread joy to students in the Middle and Senior School during our Valentine's Day fundraiser. This year, the money raised from the sale of these items (and the associated non-uniform day) is contributing to spreading love overseas through the important work of Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS).

Exhibitions

Digging deeper into areas of personal interest, taking action, sharing learning and celebrating achievement were all high on the agenda in Term 4 as students showcased the outcomes of their learning at the Year 6 Exhibition and the Middle and Senior School Launchpad event.

Year 6 Exhibition

The Exhibition is the culminating learning activity for our Year 6 students, enabling them to use and showcase the skills they have developed across their journey through the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) – acquiring knowledge, developing skills, fostering attitudes and inspiring action.

Having selected and conducted an inquiry into an area of interest that they were passionate about, students committed themselves to taking action based on their findings. Examples included:

- + advocacy through artwork, models and music
- + participation in beach clean ups and running sporting clinics
- + social entrepreneurship and the design and creation of movies, apps and websites.

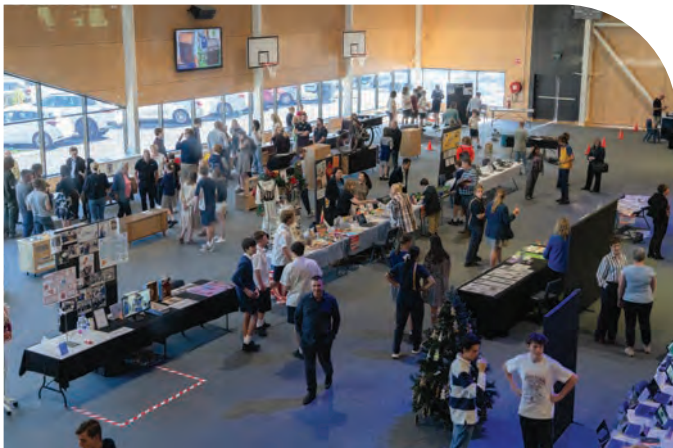
Many thought-provoking exhibits generated wonderful conversations as parents, caregivers, staff and other students visited to hear what our Year 6 students had learnt. We congratulate the students for demonstrating the attributes of the IB Learner Profile while also developing important skills for future life, study and work such as time and resource management, collaboration and communication.



Launchpad

The annual Launchpad Middle and Senior School learning showcase was held in our recently opened Fortiter Gymnasium for the first time in November 2023, with over 250 students proudly displaying the outcome of their hard work. With many learning areas represented, an eclectic mix of furniture, artworks, drone demonstrations, live music performances, storybooks, computer games, chemical titrations and more made the event a highly engaging environment in which students shared what they had achieved. Stage 1 Exploring Identities and Futures work (incorporating the MYP Personal Projects) from Semester 2 was also on display and, as always, the range and scope of these products was a testament to the diversity of student interests and to the hard work of the students involved.

We thank all of the parents, grandparents, fellow students, staff and local community members who attended for supporting our students and helping to make this a wonderful celebration of extraordinary learning.



Primary School Sports Day



While the House and spectator marquees provided some relief from the sun on our combined Primary School Sports Day, the competition did not take long to heat up as students from St John’s Campus and St Peters Campus competed together to see which House team would win the day.

The team chants opened the day’s competition, with Cheltenham taking an early lead after being awarded the best chant for 2024 by Principals Paul Bannister and Bronwyn Wilson. Included in their chant was the line, ‘Cheltenham, Cheltenham hear our cheer; we can win again this year’ and despite making their mark early on the scoreboard, it remained to be seen whether this would be the case when all was run and done.

As year levels moved through their tabloid events, it was incredible to witness the participation, positivity and perseverance of our students from Reception to Year 6. A truly extraordinary aspect of the day was the admirable way in which students consistently supported and encouraged one another. The energy and enthusiasm did not diminish as the final relays took centre stage between the House and spectator tents, as everyone prepared for the final scores.

In the end, the claim expressed in Cheltenham’s chant came to fruition with a back-to-back victory, after also winning the day in 2023.

A big thank you to the Year 12 House Leaders, who ably assisted throughout the day’s events in numerous ways, including by providing a great source of support for their Primary School counterparts. We also thank all of the parents, caregivers, grandparents and community members who attended. Our Sports Day was a perfect platform for cross-campus collaboration and a sensational snapshot of the strength of our community.

Final Results

Cheltenham	981
Highgate	919
Malvern	904
Winchester	815





Middle and Senior School Sports Day

With Malvern taking victory last year over the previous reigning champions in Winchester, it was anyone's guess as to what would happen at this year's Middle and Senior School Sports Day at SA Athletics Stadium. Would Winchester fight back to regain the crown? Would Malvern maintain momentum to secure a back-to-back victory? Would Highgate or Cheltenham come to the fore, finishing in first place? The day was certainly anyone's to win, with the Bartel Cup as the prize.

There was plenty of excitement, strong participation and some outstanding performances in the track and field events. Thankfully, some rain in the morning dissipated as the day rolled on, and it was great to see students and spectators enjoying the atmosphere despite the cooler temperatures.

With final scores the closest they have ever been in recorded history, and only 50 points separating first place from fourth place, it was Highgate who emerged victorious, having prevailed at this event for the first time since 1994.

Well done to all of the students who took part by competing for, cheering on and supporting their House. Thanks to all who attended for making it a wonderful day of sport. We now look forward to the 2024 House Shield competition continuing with lunchtime House events in Terms 2 and 3.

Final Results

Highgate	2565
Malvern	2547
Cheltenham	2530
Winchester	2515



Sports Highlights

- + Our Senior A girls' volleyball team won the silver medal at the Australian Volleyball Schools Cup on the Gold Coast.
- + 23 St John's Campus students competed at the Adelaide South East (ASE) district Sapsasa swimming trials. All students competed to the best of their abilities and were competitive in their heats. Three of our students earned top three placings and two were selected to represent the district:
 - + Jaco – first place in the 10-year-old boys' backstroke and third place in 10-year-old boys' butterfly (ASE Team Selection).
 - + Elsa – second place in the 10-year-old girls' butterfly.
 - + Noah (ASE Team Selection).
- + Our Middle A and Senior A girls' volleyball teams both made it through to the semifinal of the Independent Girls School Sports Association (IGSSA) competition in their respective divisions. Unfortunately, the results didn't go our way, but we commend the girls for their efforts and commitment across the season.
- + Our Open A1 boys' volleyball team won the premiership in the Sports Association for Adelaide Schools (SAAS) competition with a 2 sets (50) to 0 sets (43) victory.
- + Our Middle A girls' basketball team played in their IGSSA shield grand final at home in Fortiter on Wednesday 27 March and won 50-19 – an extraordinary result!
- + At the School Sport SA (SSSA) Graded Statewide Schools Athletics competition, our girls finished in first place and our boys finished third out of nine schools, just narrowly missing out on second place. Overall, our combined results saw us finish in first place in the A2 Grade, a result which will see us promoted to the top tier A1 Grade for 2025.

All the very best to our Concordia sports teams competing across the winter 2024 season. Go CC!



Music Highlights

In addition to preparing for the College musical, there have been a number of other music highlights over the last two terms. Here is a summary of some events and performances of note.

- + Our extraordinary Cello Quartet recorded four pieces in the Concordia College Media Studio on Thursday 2 November. Directed by highly creative composer Stephan Richter, who writes all of the pieces for the ensemble, the students played brilliantly and their musicality certainly shone through on the recording.
- + The “Middle School Vocal Concert”, held in the Chapel on Wednesday 8 November, showcased our Middle School vocal students and choirs in a casual and supportive setting. It was fantastic to see such a broad range of talent and musical tastes on display. Student performances ranged from classical to musical theatre to pop, rock and gospel - feet could not stay still, and there was not a dry eye in the house at various moments in the program. We are extremely proud of our younger students and their resilience and bravery in performing in this public setting.
- + Helping to spread some Christmas cheer, our Clarinet Ensemble, String Ensemble, Year 9 Choir, Heilig Quartet and Harmonie Quartet performed for hundreds of residents at the neighbouring Living Choice Fullarton Great Hall as part of their annual ‘lighting of the tree’ event. The response was overwhelmingly positive - a reflection of the power of music and the connection experienced through singing together as a community.
- + Adding to the festive atmosphere at the St John’s Campus Christmas Market Stall on Friday 24 November, students performed some Christmas music for guests to enjoy.
- + On Monday 11 December, the Concordia community gathered in the Chapel for our annual Carols Service - a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the significance of Christmas, with our talented students providing some beautiful music.
- + In preparation for Generations in Jazz, our Mattson, McKenzie and Prelude vocal ensembles, along with Big Bands 1 and 2, spent a day early in Term 1 at Nunyarra Conference Centre where they worked with staff and guest specialists to unpack new repertoire and learn new techniques. The day finished with a well-received miniature concert from all groups.



- + The Association of Heads of Music of Independent Non-Government Schools (AHOMINGS) met in Week 6 of Term 1. College Captains Hayden and Georgina represented our Music program, participating in workshops with renowned multi-instrumentalist and composer Adam Page while staff shared ideas with fellow music staff from other independent schools.
- + Our 2024 Middle and Senior School Ensemble Leaders have been elected and presented for the ensembles that run throughout the year. Congratulations to the students who have received these leadership positions. We know they will be wonderful ambassadors for the program.
 - + Big Band 1: Macy (Year 12)
 - + Big Band 2: Marco (Year 10)
 - + Chamber Strings: Rebecca (Year 9)
 - + Concert Band: Indiana (Year 12) and Victoria (Year 12)
 - + Mattson Jazz: Matilda (Year 12) and Bianca (Year 12)
 - + McKenzie Jazz: Matilda (Year 11) and Ebony (Year 12)
 - + Prelude Jazz: Annabelle (Year 9)
 - + String Ensemble: Daniel (Year 12) and Sean (Year 12)
 - + Testosterphones: Thomas (Year 11)
 - + Wind Ensemble: Jackson (Year 10)
- + At St John's Campus, our performance groups have gotten off to a great start with many enthusiastic students keen to join the ensembles and some students joining ensembles on the Middle and Senior School campus. Our Primary School ensembles are as follows:
 - + Chapel Band
 - + Concert Band, conducted by Ms Kellie Rich (Head of Music Performance ELC-12)
 - + Percussion Ensemble
 - + String Ensemble
 - + Vocal Ensemble
 - + Years 3 and 4 Choir
 - + Year 5 Choir
 - + Year 6 Choir



Musical - CHICAGO: High School Edition

Creating this production has been a great vehicle to discuss concepts of fame, celebrity and 'fake news' with this team of young people who have been born into an era of social media influencers and sensationalist news. Our interpretation of **CHICAGO: High School Edition** served as a warning that stardom at any cost can be very short-lived. It paid homage to the '20s era and the iconic Bob Fosse style while drawing from Epic Theatre to enhance the satirical commentary on the corruption in the justice system, the 'media circus' and the concept of the 'celebrity criminal.'

A school musical is an experience students remember for the rest of their lives. It is also where they make lifelong friends, develop their craft as artists, build communication, ensemble and complex problem-solving skills, and achieve a true sense of belonging to something bigger than themselves.

This was particularly palpable in this production as we decided to do away with understudies and instead mount two equally strong principal casts. It was wonderful to see students work with their counterparts to encourage, inspire and 'lift each other up' with a genuine concern for bringing the best out in each other.

Close to 120 students were involved on stage, as part of the technical crew and pit band, and were supported by a dedicated team of staff and parent volunteers, and mentors, making this a mammoth ensemble effort of an extremely high quality. This was reflected in the glowing review the production received from the Theatre Association of South Australia stating "this production was smooth, slick and well coordinated. It was thoroughly entertaining and of a uniformly high standard, a credit to all involved" (Smith, 2024). The full review can be found on the TASA website (tasaonline.org.au).

If you came along to see the production, we hope that we 'razzle dazzled' you... and all that jazz!

Aldo Longobardi

Director | Producer | Drama Coordinator

Smith, D., 2024, *Chicago, High School Edition - Concordia College*, Theatre Association of South Australia, Adelaide, viewed 7 April 2024, <https://tasaonline.org.au/reviews/chicago-high-school-edition-concordia-college/>









Community Events

There is an almost tangible sense of excitement and enthusiasm around community events at the College following the completion of our state-of-the-art Fortiter Gym and Wirrkuta Truku (St John's Campus activity hall).

- + In Term 4 at our St John's Campus, we welcomed over 200 grandparents and special friends, who visited students in Wirrkuta Truku and The Treehouse across the day.
- + For the first time, Year 12 parents and students were able to enjoy a sit-down Graduation Dinner together in Fortiter, an amazing event to host in this new facility that seamlessly transforms into a magnificent event space.
- + The Parents and Friends have continued to generously support the Community Coffee Catch Up events, Class Connector Coffee Meetings, Grandparents and Special Friends' Day and also hosted the St John's Campus Christmas Market Stall.

- + The highlight for Term 1 was our 'Welcome Drinks and Nibbles' after each of our Parent Information Evenings. Guests were able to enjoy a social gathering after the formal presentations - a perfect way to connect with each other and the College at the start of a new school year.

The P&F, Class Connectors and Quiz Night working group are doing a wonderful job in creating opportunities for community engagement. The calendar is swiftly filling up with opportunities to make new friends and reacquaint with existing ones.

Many thanks to our community for embracing the extraordinary opportunities to connect and engage across all three campuses. There are exciting things in store!

Angela Warrick

Engagement and Events Manager



Staff Profiles

— *Getting to know*



Jacqui Downes

ELC Teacher
– St John's Campus

+ Describe yourself in three words.

Adaptable, kind, creative.

+ What motivates/inspires you in your role?

My motivation comes from a desire to see children thrive, to feel secure and supported, and to become confident learners.

+ What do you think you would say to the world if you were able to have everyone's attention for 30 seconds?

First of all, I'm not a fan of public speaking so this sounds like a nightmare to me. I guess I'd like people to know we're not alone in this world, we have worth and dignity because there is a God who loves us and cares for us.



Paul Bannister

Principal
– St John's Campus

+ Describe yourself in three words.

Caring, passionate, relational.

+ What motivates/inspires you in your role?

The power of education is that it has the potential to prepare us for life, both now and into the future! As Principal, having the opportunity to support staff, parents and students in this space is a privilege and an honour. My role is to motivate, guide and support our community members to grow and be the best versions of themselves. Whether that is an individual achieving their goals or working through a challenging situation, nothing motivates me more than seeing other people grow!

+ What, from 2024, do you think people are likely to be most nostalgic for 50 years from now (and why)?

An emphasis on fun and connection. As we continue our readjustment after the pandemic, I'm noticing a lot of families, students and staff in our community prioritising these fundamental human needs! Planning special family holidays, being courageous to try new experiences and prioritising being connected with family and friends are all things I see as 'moving' for people. I feel 2024 will be the year we all look back on and say, "yep, that was fun!"

now you...



Alexandra Barratt

Year 3/4 Teacher
– St Peters Campus

+ Describe yourself in three words.

Fun, caring, considered.

+ What motivates/inspires you in your role?

My driving force and passion for teaching stems from the relationships formed with students and the broader school community. Witnessing the journey of our students, nurturing their holistic development and empowering them to reach their utmost potential is deeply gratifying.

+ If you could have two items with you while shipwrecked on a desert island, in addition to food and water, what would they be?

Besides the obvious items that would help me get off the island, I would definitely need some form of music and a good book.



Scott Jasper

Library Technician
– St Peters Campus

+ Describe yourself in three words.

Creative, passionate, focused.

+ What motivates/inspires you in your role?

I have a passion for children's literacy. From the moment my eldest daughter was learning to read, I knew I wanted to work around children's books. I am a bibliophile. My favourite author is Brandon Sanderson.

+ If you could choose to visit the International Space Station or the Australian Antarctic Division's base stations in Antarctica, which would you choose and why?

I would choose to go to Antarctica. It is a landscape vastly different from Australia and it is rapidly changing due to global warming. Many of those ecosystems may not be there in decades to come, but space will likely become a more accessible destination.

.....

Staff Profiles



Penny McKenzie

Principal
– Concordia Campus

+ Describe yourself in three words.

Energetic, passionate, fun.

+ What motivates/inspires you in your role?

Co-creating a future for, and with, the young people in our care at the College. Young people have such passion and energy, and preparing and empowering them for the future will create a better world for us all.

+ If you could choose to put a \$10 million contribution towards solving a problem facing our world in 2024, what issue would you choose and how would you spend the money?

I would love to see a world where kindness always overrides conflict. Human connection and kindness can have such a positive and powerful effect, and my great hope and prayer is that it can bring peace and harmony to the world. I would donate the money to Lutheran World Federation because they are already doing work in that space. \$10 million might not be enough – but you've got to start somewhere!



Shane Schoff

Science Coordinator
– Concordia Campus

+ Describe yourself in three words.

Adventurous, curious, collaborative.

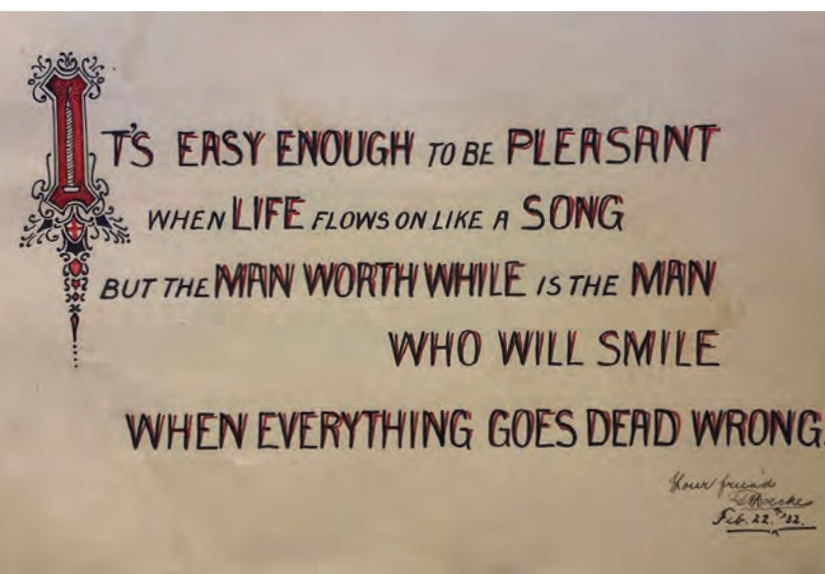
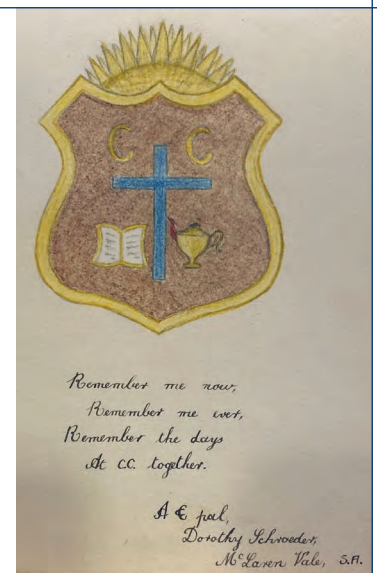
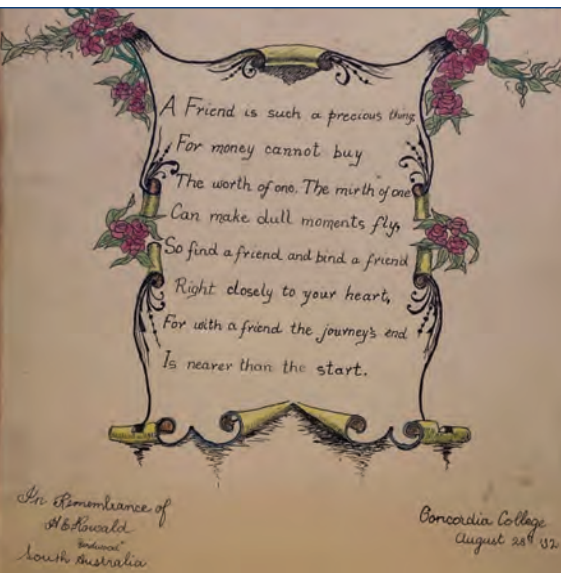
+ What motivates/inspires you in your role?

Learning is my inspiration, and I am motivated to make education meaningful for young people.

+ If you were asked to describe your job to a young child, what would you say?

I love learning so much I am still at school!

— *Getting to know you...*



Heritage Centre

| Autograph Books

From the 1920s through to the 1970s, autograph books were commonly used and highly prized possessions of many Concordia students. They asked fellow students, family, teachers and friends to contribute their autograph, an original poem or piece of verse, a personal message or a drawing.

As you can see by the pages displayed here, in many cases a great deal of time, care and talent was thoughtfully assigned to a single page entry. Pages of the autograph books contained

anything from the heartfelt and sentimental to the humorous and witty. Some were a record of the names in the student's class or boarding house. The pages were looked through and admired by friends and family and served as a lifelong reminder of Concordia days.

The Concordia Archives has a collection of autograph books on display, dating back to the 1920s, which are both interesting and unique.

Sue Kleinig
Alumni Manager

Old Concordians' Association

Old Concordians Blazing a Trail

| Janine Mohamed, Class of 1991, 2024 Australian of the Year for Victoria

Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed is a proud Narungga Kurna woman, who grew up at the Point Pearce Mission on the Yorke Peninsula. Janine's full bio can be found online here: <https://www.lowitja.org.au/about-us/our-people/janine-mohamed/> (Accessed 25 March 2024)

Tell us about where life has taken you since leaving Concordia...

After my schooling at Concordia from 1987-89, I initially moved to the Riverland to help my parents run a citrus farm. After a couple of hard years during the 1990s recession, I was keen to get back to Adelaide!

I studied nursing at the University of South Australia, trained at the Women's and Children's Hospital, and worked in clinical nursing, balanced with academic and research work. It highlighted to me the problems in the health system that created injustice and inequity in Indigenous health outcomes. So, I moved into the Aboriginal community-controlled health sector - and into policy work at statewide, national and international levels - seeing the deep need for work on anti-racism and reconciliation.

I was awarded an Atlantic Fellowship in 2019, a Doctor of Nursing honoris causa by Edith Cowan University in January 2020 and, in 2021, a Distinguished Fellowship by The George Institute for Global Health Australia. I was recently awarded 2024 Australian of the Year for Victoria, which was a great honour.

I call myself 'the accidental CEO' because I had not planned to enter senior management, but I stepped up at the invitation of Elders who I deeply respected, to be CEO of the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM) and then the CEO at the Lowitja Institute.

As importantly, I am married to Justin Mohamed, Australia's inaugural Ambassador for First Nations People, and I am Mum to our five beautiful children.

You recently finished up as CEO of the Lowitja Institute – can you tell us a little about the organisation and your time there?

The Lowitja Institute is Australia's national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health research institute. Across more than two decades it has challenged and disrupted Western models of research, and of power instilled in research organisations and funding.

The Institute's namesake and founding chair and patron was Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue, an extraordinary South Australian woman and a true trailblazer, who sadly just passed, aged 91.

Prior to the Lowitja Institute and its earlier iterations, research was done about and to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, not by and for us. This meant it was embedded in 'the deficit discourse' - where we were the researched "problem", rather than the systems that have caused us such harm.

My greatest joy at Lowitja Institute was that 60% of the organisation is made up of Indigenous staff, and 100% of the research the Institute commissions is led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers, who bring new and ancient knowledges into the health research space. As the oldest continuing culture on the planet, we take great pride in having been humanity's first researchers.

Congratulations, you are the 2024 Australian of the Year for Victoria – please tell us what you would like to achieve.

I hope I can use the platform to open up more discussion and understanding about the impacts of racism on health and health care. No man, woman or child should die a preventable death because of their cultural heritage, yet too many do, and many others have near misses.

I will also continue to advocate for the creation of a national Truth Telling process. There are still significant numbers of people who are either unwilling or unable to confront the historical injustices, discrimination and racism faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, which of course have ongoing impacts. Truth can be truly healing.

What have been some of the defining moments in your life since Concordia College?

I'm proud and lucky to say there have been many:

- + Going into nursing.
- + A chance encounter as a trainee nurse with the extraordinary Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue that led to me having coffee with her every week in West Lakes for two months, where she imparted her wisdom and took a genuine interest in my future.
- + Being involved in and reading many coronial inquiries into preventable deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, where no one stood up on their behalf and saw that they were being racially profiled. That has powered my work on the need for cultural safety in the health and justice systems.
- + Learning about the impacts of climate change on people living in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This led me to speak for change at the United Nations, COP-26 in Glasgow and COP-28 in Dubai.
- + Being granted an honorary doctorate by Edith Cowan University, being honoured as Alumni of the Year by UniSA, launching the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association, and embedding cultural safety into nursing and midwifery professional accreditation standards.



What advice would you offer current students to inspire them?

Aim to leave the world a better place, to seek justice for the most vulnerable, to 'do no harm', and know your blind spots — that is, to examine your own beliefs, assumptions, biases and stereotypes that affect the way you interact with others, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

I'm very mindful that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up only three per cent of the Australian population, so we need and value the support of our allies.

My other advice is to be open-minded. I hated research when I was at school and university, and more recently I have led an outstanding health research institute. You never know where life is going to take you.

Please tell us your fondest (or funniest) memory of being at Concordia College.

I have a few...

- + Receiving my scholarship to go to Concordia College in the first place. It demonstrates the school's commitment to justice and equity.
- + Being at our Year 9 Social, dancing to Rick Astley's 'Never Gonna Give You Up' with my friend Simone Berry, perhaps at Burnside Town Hall? I might have had a rah-rah skirt on and too much hairspray in my hair!
- + My favourite teacher, Mr Pfitzner... he was dry as dry, but he made Science fun for me.
- + I also have fond memories of the importance of faith and Christian values at Concordia.

Past and Present Girl Guides

| Melanie Dancer, Class of 1984

Our Alumni Manager asked Melanie about her career since leaving Concordia, including her current role as CEO of Girl Guides SA. Here is some of her story.

Melanie has worked throughout Australia in a variety of government and corporate industries covering criminal justice, social services and female leadership with a focus on reform.

During her time with South Australia Police (SAPOL) as a specialist detective and investigator, she completed the Catherine Helen Spence Memorial Scholarship focusing on an outcome that led to the offence of 'drink spiking' being included into South Australian criminal legislation. Melanie developed her portfolio of governance experience as a Board member and Chair of YWCA Adelaide, focusing on the status of women, safety and policy. She also attended international conferences focusing on microeconomics of women-led business in developing countries.

Next, Melanie transitioned into executive careers within community and social services development, including aged care, disability and education models for at-risk young people.



Melanie has worked with a variety of organisations to implement change management and create commercial service models as well as leading local and national projects to grow female participation for females and vulnerable populations, including within the AFL.

Melanie is now the CEO of Girl Guides SA with a focus on leadership for young women and growing female leaders of the future.

"The leadership opportunities that Concordia provided me as a young person were instrumental in my ability to go out into the world as a confident person who cared for others. I was taught that as an individual I was valuable to my community and I could do anything! Now, I am in a position where I can lead an organisation in providing caring, tailored, and holistic leadership opportunities to other young women. I feel incredibly privileged to do this and strongly feel that Concordia had a pivotal influence in helping me to grow into a capable and caring citizen."

Concordia Girl Guides

Year 11 Leader and German teacher Ms Judy Harris is a Girl Guide leader, she was a Brownie and a Guide as a child and returned as a leader in 1995. Although she said it was "just for one year" – that one year has stretched to nearly thirty!

Judy says: *"I enjoy seeing the girls develop friendships and challenge themselves to try new things. Camps and outdoor activities are always a highlight, from kayaking to ice blocking. Community service is also important, and Guides have taken part in many projects, including tree planting on the Coorong and raising money to buy goats and fund drinking water for people in developing countries. When I was 23, I represented Girl Guides Australia at an international seminar in Switzerland. Since then, I have been fortunate enough to attend Girl Guide events around the World. I have also served on committees at State, National and global level, and*

have taken groups of girls to events in England and Switzerland. Guiding really has significantly changed and enriched my life."

Current Concordia Campus girl guides Soraya (Year 7) and Eleanor (Year 9), are both members of the Knightsbridge Girl Guide Unit where Judy is a leader, and they told us what they like about being Girl Guides:

Soraya: *"Being in Girl Guides means that I can be active and make friends, as well as serve the community."*

Eleanor: *"I like the opportunities and adventures at Girl Guides, it's a good way to meet girls similar to you."*



The Student Body of Concordia, 1931



Back Row (left to right)—H. Hanson, F. Appel, C. Hoppel, O. Aesche, H. Zacher, F. Schumann, J. Kling, C. Bell, A. Rost, M. Benson, M. Schumann, S. Schwan, P. Grunert, L. Tepper, W. Kautz, W. Jansen, A. Harbeck.
 Fourth Row—E. Kriewaldt, E. Fugler, C. Wurst, K. Hapke, V. Kopp, B. Harbeck, N. Winkler, M. Bock, B. Hauer, R. Rott, S. Glaz, A. Stiller, E. Bittke, P. Gerth, L. Hen, Third Row—T. Koch, L. Winkler, V. Scholz, E. Koch, A. Eckmann, P. Jans, M. Wurst, R. Hapke, V. Kopp, F. Peters, D. Hennig, L. Meyer, J. Binkert, V. Rottger, G. Ditzel, R. Bittke, H. Noll, A. Schwan.
 Second Row—C. Harbeck, M. Jansen, G. Fugler, E. Jansen, H. Noll, A. Schwan, J. Peters, F. Bock, L. Meyer, M. Gorg, C. Zwick, H. Fugler, F. Noll, E. Mader, H. Binkert, F. Kopp, D. Fugler.
 Front Row—B. Kautz, N. Rost, V. Schwan, R. Zwick, R. Wurst, L. Peters, E. Bock, P. Rott, L. Jans, J. Wurst, S. Macke, A. Bittke, H. Kautz, H. Kautz, A. Winkler, E. Stiller, C. Harbeck.

Image: 'The Student Body of Concordia, 1931' taken from the 1931 Brown & Gold. Oscar is fourth from the left in the top row.

Oscar's tribute and photo are now on his RSL Virtual War Memorial web page (<https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/602286> - Accessed 26 March 2024).

From the Archives

| Oscar Johannes Aesche, Class of 1931 – 'A Rat of Tobruk'

Oscar was born on the fifth of January, 1917 at Ambleside. That year the town of Hahndorf was one of several towns that experienced a name change because of anti-Germanic sentiment generated after WWI (the town later reverted to Hahndorf in 1935 when South Australia celebrated its centenary).

Oscar attended Concordia College in 1931 as a boarder at the age of 14 and was one of 84 students at the time. Eventually his family moved to Monarto South, where Oscar worked as a farm labourer.

At 23 years old, with the outbreak of WWII, Oscar enlisted to serve on the 29th of June 1940 and was allocated to the 2/48th Battalion. His early days were spent at Wayville before heading to Woodside. Oscar boarded the Stratheden in November and arrived in the Middle East on the 17th of December that year. His experience with driving trucks meant that Oscar was initially graded a Group III Driver Mechanic before returning to his battalion in October 1941.

Oscar was injured with a gunshot wound to his left foot and left thumb during the fierce, unrelenting fighting at El Alamein at the end of October 1942. That battle created a turning point in Egypt. On that night alone, nine of the Battalion were killed and 20 wounded in action. Of these, 16 were from South Australia and the remainder from Western Australia.

Authors John Glenn and Paul Oaten in 'Tobruk to Tarakan' described that event as the climax of the Alamein Battle and the reason the Battalion earned itself a new name, "In total 48 men from the 2/48th lost their lives in this battle. An horrific battle for the proud and very brave 2/48th Battalion who in future years were to proudly own the name 'Rats of Tobruk'" (Glenn and Oaten, 2012, p. 148).

Oscar was hospitalised for the next two months before boarding a hospital ship which arrived in Sydney on the 27th of February, 1943. Having endured such challenging conditions in the Middle East, Oscar returned to South Australia, where he received ongoing treatment for arthritis, resulting from the injury to his left hand and thumb.

Aged 59, Oscar died on the 21st of February 1976 with a plaque in his honour placed in the Tailern Bend Cemetery. His name also heads the list of Old Concordians who served in World War II and are honoured on the War Service Honour Board at Concordia College.

References:

The above 'From the Archives' article is comprised of excerpts from an article by Kaye Lee, daughter of Bryan Holmes, 2/48th Battalion.

Glenn, J. G. & Oaten, P., 2012. *Tobruk to Tarakan: 70th Anniversary El Alamein Edition*. Illustrated, revised ed. s.l.:Paul Oaten.

Sporting Clubs

Join a Club!

The current Old Concordian sporting clubs are a fun and easy way to get involved in activities with other Old Concordians. For information about joining an existing Old Concordians' Association sports club, please contact alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au and we will direct your correspondence to the relevant Club Coordinator listed below:

- + Basketball Club, Tristan Prentice
- + Cricket Club, Troy Pincin
- + Netball Club, Chrissy Barnard
- + Pedal Prix Club, Derek Harris
- + Soccer Club, Cameron Basnec
- + Volleyball Club, Emma Whyte

The Old Concordians financially support the setup and running costs of our sports clubs. If you are interested in starting a sports club or special interest group for Old Concordians, we encourage you to contact the **Alumni Manager, Sue Kleinig** (email alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au).



Old Concordians' Pedal Prix

Weddings



Eden Neumann (Bishop 2018) and Adrian Neumann on Saturday 9 December 2023

Back Row L-R: Jacob Fabich, Daniel Neumann, Eliza Thomas (2019), Bianca Ayling

Middle Row L-R: Adam Henderson, Adrian Neumann, Eden Neumann (Bishop 2018), Naomi Bishop

Front Row L-R: David Liddell, Gabrielle Bishop (2021)

Births



Clare Rawlinson (2004)

and Tom Rawlinson,
a daughter Lydia
Rawlinson on 30
September 2023, a
sister for Remy (born on
18 November 2020)



Rachael Williamson (2010)

and Lyall Jackson,
a daughter Juniper
May Jackson on 16
November 2023

Latest Reunions and Events



Class of 2003 - 20 Year Reunion
Friday 10 November 2023



Class of 2013 - 10 Year Reunion
Friday 24 November 2023



Class of 2018 - 5 Year Reunion
Friday 1 December 2023



Class of 2023
Thursday 22 February 2024

In Memoriam

Concordia has learnt of the following deaths in our community. We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of these Old Concordians.

Fulwood, Valerie (Mattiske 1948)

on 29 January 2021

Brook, Vida (Jorgensen 1946)

on 5 March 2022

Quast, Kenneth (1950)

on before 26 February

Koning, Una (Heinrich 1943)

on 17 August 2023

Weiss, Una (Quast 1946)

on 11 September 2023

Tepper, Margaret (Bryan 1950)

on 5 October 2023

Wiech, Maurice (1969)

on 23 October 2023

Altus, Owen (1940)

on 27 October 2023

Atkins, Maureen (Wittwer 1953)

on 28 October 2023

Kleinig, Ian (1939)

on 21 November 2023

Pietsch, Stephanie (1972)

on 4 December 2023

Dutschke, Bradley (1957)

on 17 January 2024

Nitschke, Helen (Zweck 1949)

on 11 March 2024

Diary Dates

CLASS OF 1974, 50 YEAR REUNION DINNER

Friday 24 May 2024, 6-9pm

Fortiter Gymnasium (Upstairs Room)

Tickets: \$40 per person // Complimentary drink on arrival

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CNVDZ

CLASS OF 1984, 40 YEAR REUNION DINNER

Friday 21 June 2024, 6-9pm

The Suaviter (old Chapel), Concordia College

Tickets: \$40 per person // Complimentary drink on arrival

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CNVDQ

CLASS OF 1994, 30 YEAR REUNION DINNER

Friday 16 August 2024, 6-9pm

The Suaviter (old Chapel), Concordia College

Tickets: \$40 per person // Drinks, finger food and a College tour

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CNVCX

60+ LUNCH (CLASS OF 1964 AND PRIOR)

Thursday 19 September 2024, 12-3pm

The Suaviter (old Chapel), Concordia College

Tickets: \$30 per person // Three-course lunch and entertainment

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CNVCV

CLASS OF 2004, 20 YEAR REUNION

Friday 1 November 2024, 6-8pm

Art Courtyard, Concordia College

Tickets: \$30 per adult, free for children // Drinks, finger food and a College tour

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CNVCO

CLASS OF 2014, 10 YEAR REUNION

Friday 15 November 2024, 6pm

Cremorne Garden Courtyard, 207 Unley Road, Unley

Tickets: \$25 per person // Complimentary drink on arrival and finger food (subsidised by the Old Concordians' Association)

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CNVCF

CLASS OF 2019, 5 YEAR REUNION

Friday 29 November 2024, 6pm

Cremorne Garden Courtyard, 207 Unley Road, Unley

Tickets: \$25 per person // Complimentary drink on arrival and finger food (subsidised by the Old Concordians' Association)

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CNVBS

Partners welcome to join our events.

Attention Old Concordians!

The Old Concordians' Association (OCA) Committee is looking for some new members. Please consider if you might like to be involved in this way. We meet on a weeknight six or seven times per year during term time, with each meeting lasting 60-70 minutes.

To find out more, please contact the Alumni Manager: alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au.



**If it's important to you,
it's important to us!**

We love hearing from Old Concordians of all ages, both near and far, so please do get in touch to share stories, milestones and any news, or simply to update your contact details.

Visit our website
concordia.sa.edu.au/community/old-concordians/stay-in-touch/
or phone Sue Spry, Alumni Manager, on 08 8291 9339.

Interested in joining the Old Concordians' Association Committee?

We would love to hear from you!
Please contact the Alumni Manager, Sue Spry, for more information - alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au

**Have your contact
details changed?**

If the details we have for you are incorrect, please contact us on 08 8272 0444 or mail@concordia.sa.edu.au

**Would you prefer
a digital copy?**

If you currently receive a printed copy and would prefer a digital copy of future editions, please email community@concordia.sa.edu.au with the subject line "Digital Copy Please"