# Community

Spring 2026 | Issue 83



Firm in Principle, Gentle in Manner

*Fortiter in Re, Suaviter in Modo*

ConcordiaCollegeAdelaide OldConcordiansAssociation

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

# FestivALL

A vibrant end-of-year celebration of **student learning**, **creativity** and **achievement** while strengthening connections across our entire College **community**.

- STUDENT LEARNING
- MUSIC PERFORMANCES
- FOOD TRUCKS
- BAR AND REFRESHMENTS
- P&F MARKET STALLS AND ACTIVITIES




## 27 NOVEMBER 2026
## 3.30PM–7.30PM

FORTITER | COLLEGE OVAL | WIRRKUTA TRRUKU

**SAVE THE DATE**
**SEE YOU THERE**

# Contents


01 From the Head of College
02 Learning and Wellbeing
03 In Focus: Health and Physical Education
05 St John's Campus Principal's Perspectives
07 St Peters Campus Principal's Perspectives
09 Concordia Campus Principal's Perspectives
11 Ministry
13 National Science Week
14 Book Week
15 Music Highlights
17 Sports Highlights
19 P&F and Community Events
21 Staff Profiles
23 Heritage Centre
25 Old Concordians' Association







Students performing at Concordia in Concert 2026 'The Red Carpet Edition' music showcase.


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**SUBMISSIONS**
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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**
Senior Concert Band performing at Harmony in the Chapel.

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# From the Head of College

## Equipping Hearts, Hands and Minds for a World of Possibilities

If there is one thing we can say with certainty about the future our students are heading into, it is that it will be vastly different from what we experience today.

The careers our children will pursue are changing. Technology continues to reshape how we live and work. Communities are becoming increasingly diverse and interconnected. At the same time, many of the public conversations our young people encounter are characterised by division, uncertainty and competing voices.

As educators, we cannot predict exactly what the future will ask of our students. What we can do is prepare them for it.

At Concordia College, our vision is to ***"Equip Hearts, Hands and Minds for a World of Possibilities"***. Those words are much more than a statement on a page. They shape the way we think about education every day.

Knowledge will always matter. Strong teaching, academic excellence and high expectations remain central to what we do. Yet we also know that success in life depends on much more than academic achievement alone.







Young people need confidence in themselves. They need resilience when things do not go to plan. They need curiosity to keep learning, wisdom to navigate complexity, and the ability to work alongside people whose experiences and perspectives may be very different from their own. These are qualities that will enable them not only to adapt to change, but to shape it for the better.

As a Lutheran learning community, we believe these qualities are grounded in something deeper than personal success. They are grounded in the understanding that every person in our community is valued, known and loved by God. This calls us to treat every person with dignity, to seek understanding before judgement, and to view diversity not as something to fear but as a strength that enriches communities.

This commitment is reflected in our Strategic Plan, ***Creating Space for What Matters***. Our focus is not simply on preparing students for the next assignment or examination. It is about preparing them for lives of purpose, service and contribution. It is about nurturing young people whose character is as strong as their capability, whose compassion matches their ambition and whose faith gives them hope.

Ultimately, our aspiration is simple: that every Concordia student leaves our College with the knowledge, character and confidence to embrace a world of possibilities and, wherever life leads, to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

**Paul Weinert**
Head of College



# Learning and Wellbeing

## Learning through Reflection: IB Programme Evaluation

At the beginning of August, we welcomed a team of International Baccalaureate (IB) evaluators to undertake an evaluation of our Primary Years Programme (PYP) on the St John's Campus and Middle Years Programme (MYP) on the Concordia Campus.

Programme Evaluation is a requirement for Concordia to maintain its authorisation as an IB World School. More importantly, it is a reflective process that involves the whole College community. This year, staff, students, parents, leaders and our governing body have considered how well our programmes are meeting the IB Standards and Practices, what we are doing well and where there are opportunities to grow. The process informs a new Programme Development Plan, which guides the continued development of our IB Programmes over the next five years.

During the three-day evaluation visit, the team met with representatives from across our community, visited classrooms and engaged in conversations about our programmes and our approach to learning. One of the most encouraging aspects of the visit was hearing how much the evaluators enjoyed their interactions with our students. Ultimately, the young people we develop are one of the clearest expressions of the education we seek to provide, and it was wonderful to have this affirmed by an external perspective.

The timing of this process feels particularly fitting. As we launch our new Strategic Plan, we are entering a period of deliberate reflection about our educational offering at Concordia. The insights from the IB evaluation will provide valuable external perspective as we review aspects of our curriculum, teaching, learning and wellbeing over the coming 12–24 months.

We are proud of the work happening across our College—in the IB MYP, IB PYP, EdVenture curriculum framework and SACE—and grateful to the many staff, students, parents and community members who contributed to the IB evaluation. Most importantly, we remain committed to continually learning, reflecting and improving for the young people in our care.

**Mathew Disher**
Director of Learning & Wellbeing ELC–12



# In Focus Health and Physical Education

The Middle and Senior School Health and Physical Education program at Concordia has continued to evolve in recent years with the introduction of significant enhancements building on an already outstanding foundation. A key focus has been strengthening vertical curriculum coherence, ensuring that Middle Years learning experiences develop the skills, knowledge and dispositions required for success in SACE Stage 1 and 2 Physical Education and beyond.

Year 9 students now engage in new units such as Bouldering and Archery, with a focus on exploring the psychological factors that influence performance. Students can choose one of two unique experiences:

- a physically demanding climbing challenge at Beyond Bouldering that tests resilience, problem-solving and mental preparation
- a high-quality program at the North Adelaide Archery Club that challenges students' precision, focus and composure under pressure. In 2026, this was facilitated by Graham Winston (Level 3 and Paralympic coach), alongside James, a Year 11 Concordia student and qualified archery coach.

Year 9 students also continue to undertake a Coaching Unit, exploring skill acquisition concepts through experimentation, feedback and peer coaching before delivering skill-specific coaching sessions for St John's Campus students. This unique learning experience enables students to apply theoretical knowledge in a real-world setting.

Year 10 students have excelled in a Self-Defence Program, working towards achieving their blue belt in the physically demanding final grading. Students are also introduced to lawn bowls through specialist coaching at two local clubs, which provides an opportunity to develop new movement skills while exploring the strategic and tactical elements of a lifelong social sport.
At our Primary School campuses, younger



students focus on developing confidence and body control and building team skills. Year 4 and 5 students are introduced to sports such as street hockey, team handball and T-ball, building teamwork, communication and game sense while learning new skills and strategies. Meanwhile, Year 6 students embrace exciting challenges such as pickleball and badminton, quickly developing racquet skills, tactical awareness and sportsmanship. Across all year levels, students continue to strengthen their movement skills, confidence and enjoyment of being active while working collaboratively with others.

Distinct from but complementary to the Health and Physical Education curriculum, Child Studies was introduced at Stage 2 this year, exploring concepts such as child development, health, wellbeing, and the factors that influence children and families. It has been wonderful to see students grow in confidence, empathy and independence, particularly when developing projects for the younger students from our St Peters Campus.









Across Physical Education, Health and Wellbeing, Sports Science and Child Studies, students continue to develop the knowledge, practical skills and personal capabilities to enhance performance, promote wellbeing and build meaningful relationships. Through involvement with these subjects, they also become confident, compassionate leaders who are equipped to thrive beyond school.

**Samuel White**
Health and Physical Education Coordinator — Concordia Campus

# St John's Campus **Principal's Perspectives**

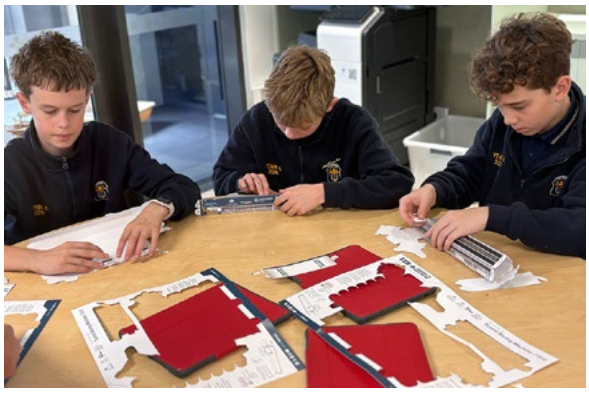
## Beyond the Classroom: Learning with Purpose

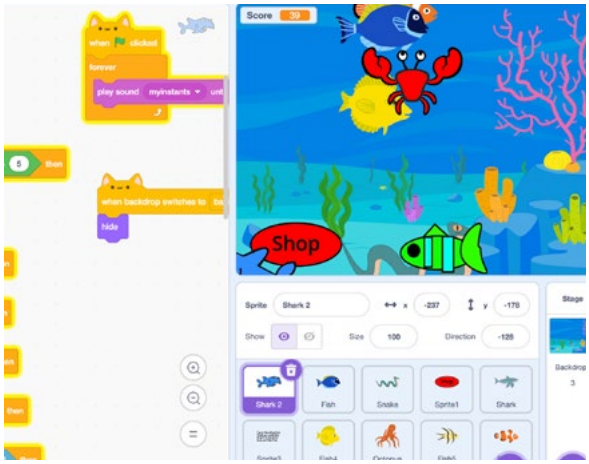
At Concordia, we believe some of the most powerful learning happens when students connect what they learn with the world around them. This belief is central to our decision to use the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) at St John's Campus.

The PYP moves students beyond simply acquiring knowledge by challenging them to understand how that knowledge connects to real life as well as how they can use it to take meaningful action and make a genuine difference.








A growing range of authentic learning experiences at the St John's Campus are connecting our students with experts, organisations and opportunities, helping them discover that their learning has purpose and that their ideas, strengths and passions are connected with a world that exists beyond the classroom.

Our young scientists engage with the Oliphant Science Awards, where they pursue areas of scientific interest while developing their curiosity, creativity and problem-solving skills. Students have also learnt directly from engineers involved in the River Torrens to Darlington (T2D) construction project, connecting their STEM and Mathematics learning with one of South Australia's most significant infrastructure projects.









Creativity and collaboration have come alive through Write a Book in a Day, a competition that challenges students to work together as authors and illustrators to produce a complete book within a single day. In addition, through the Australian STEM Video Game Challenge, students are applying coding, design, storytelling and problem-solving skills to create original video games for an authentic national audience.

During our National Reconciliation Week commemorations in May, Adelaide Crows players Izak Rankine and Callum Ah Chee visited St John's Campus to share their stories and perspectives, providing another powerful connection beyond the classroom. Our Year 5 and 6 students have also developed their confidence and communication through Debating SA, while participation in the R U OK? Day Summit has encouraged students to consider how they can actively contribute to their own wellbeing and that of others.

Importantly, authentic learning also has strong connection with service. Through leading worship at our local St John's Lutheran Church congregation, students put faith into action and contribute meaningfully to the community of which our school has long been a part.

For us, education is not simply about what students know—it is about what they can do with what they know. By strengthening authentic connections with community, industry and organisations beyond our school, we help students discover their passions, see new possibilities and recognise that their learning can make a genuine difference in the world, both now and into their futures.

**Paul Bannister**
Principal – St John's Campus











# St Peters Campus **Principal's Perspectives**

## Creating the Conditions for Children to Thrive

Every child deserves to come to school feeling safe, known and ready to learn. At Concordia, we believe children thrive when learning, wellbeing and connection are intentionally woven together. Academic growth matters deeply, but it does not occur in isolation. Children learn best when they feel secure in their relationships, understand what is expected of them and are supported to embrace new challenges.

The 2026 St Peters Campus production of Disney and Pixar's *Finding Nemo KIDS* brought this belief beautifully to life. While audiences enjoyed colourful costumes, imaginative sets, toe-tapping music and energetic performances, the greatest achievements were often found behind the scenes. For some students, courage meant auditioning, singing a solo or speaking before an audience. For others, it meant learning choreography, creating props, helping backstage or persisting when something felt difficult.

Although courage was critical for all students, the musical also demonstrated the importance of community partnership, as students across year levels worked alongside staff, families and community members, who generously contributed their time, creativity and encouragement.

Each student contributed in a different way, reinforcing the importance of being known and valued as an individual. The production created a safe and supportive space in which students could take creative risks, discover new strengths and experience the satisfaction of contributing to something larger than themselves. The resulting final performances reflected weeks of collaboration, persistence and shared commitment, creating an uplifting sense of belonging and collective pride.

These same conditions that made the musical such a success are essential in our classrooms. Clear behaviour expectations, predictable routines and consistent teaching approaches provide students with a sense of security and help create calm, purposeful learning environments. With this dependable foundation, teachers can recognise individual needs, provide appropriate support and challenge every child to grow.

At St Peters Campus, Compassionate Systems practices also strengthen the connection between learning and wellbeing. Through mindfulness, journalling, reflection and regular check-ins, children are encouraged to pause, recognise their emotions, consider different perspectives and understand their connections with others. Alongside opportunities for creativity, movement, play, worship and time in nature, these practices support the development of the whole child.









Creating the conditions for children to thrive is not achieved through one production, program or initiative. It is found in everyday relationships, thoughtful routines, high expectations and meaningful experiences that shape a child's time at school. While this emphasis remains central throughout each year, our musical was a wonderful reminder that when children feel safe, known, connected and appropriately challenged, they do more than perform or complete their learning—they grow in confidence, resilience, compassion and courage.

**Alison Ronoastro**
Principal – St Peters Campus

# Concordia Campus **Principal's Perspectives**

## A Community Where Every Student is Challenged, Encouraged and Inspired

At Concordia Campus, one of the greatest privileges of school life is witnessing the growth of our young people, not only academically but also in their confidence, character and sense of purpose.

As I walk through our campus, I am reminded that education is about much more than achievement. It is about helping every student discover who they are, where they belong and how they can contribute meaningfully to the world around them. This commitment sits at the heart of five of our College values: *Integrity, Courage, Aspiration, Care* and *Connection*.

- In all that we do, we seek to be a community grounded in *Integrity.* We want our students to leave Concordia not only with outstanding opportunities and achievements, but with strong values, compassionate hearts and a desire to make a positive difference.

- As they step forward in their learning and personal growth, we continue to encourage students to be people of *Courage* and *Aspiration.* In a rapidly changing world, young people need more than knowledge. They need resilience, adaptability, curiosity and a willingness to step beyond their comfort zones. Every day, we see students demonstrating these qualities in classrooms, on sporting fields, on stage, through service opportunities and in their interactions with one another.

- As we seek to show authentic *Care* to all in our community, we are inspired to place student wellbeing at the centre of our work, helping them develop the resources to meet challenges with confidence.








- To support both academic achievement and wellbeing, we prioritise genuine *Connection*, because we know that learning flourishes in environments where people feel safe, respected and included. When students experience a genuine sense of belonging, they are more willing to take risks, embrace challenges and pursue excellence. This year, we have welcomed a growing number of students from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, including from across Australia and around the world. This diversity strengthens our community and reinforces the importance of creating a culture where every student feels known, valued and supported. Belonging is built intentionally through the relationships students develop with their teachers, peers and mentors. Whether through Home Class, student leadership, co-curricular involvement or the simple act of a buddy helping a new student, we continue to see the profound impact of connection on student wellbeing and success.

Finally, as a Lutheran school, we are shaped by our sixth value, *Grace*, knowing that every person is created and loved by God, and that growth often occurs through encouragement and forgiveness. This value calls us to build a community where students feel safe to be themselves, confident to learn from mistakes and supported as they develop into the people God has created them to be.

As we progress through 2026, I am grateful for the partnership we share with our families and the trust they place in us. Together, we are creating a community where students are challenged to grow, encouraged to belong, and inspired to live with purpose.

**Penny McKenzie**
Principal – Concordia Campus












# Ministry

A particular focus at our Concordia Campus in Term 3 has been on a faith that *shows*. We are called to have a faith you can see, that is, a faith that is visible in our actions. We are also called to have a faith that shows others the way to Jesus, so they too can see him as the source of life and goodness. In both ways of showing, the point is to bring glory to God, as this is what it means, in the words of Saint Irenaeus, to be a human being who is *fully alive*.

The College values are really supposed to be the evidence others can see of an underlying faith. If our beliefs are the root, then our values are the fruit, but it's not always immediately obvious why integrity, courage, aspiration, care, connection and grace might be distinctively Christian. Many of these values would be fitting in any organisation, so what makes them different at Concordia?

It is a great privilege to outline to our staff and students how the faith of Martin Luther King Junior gave him a *different kind of courage* to a footballer backing into a pack. We love helping our students realise that aspiring for continual growth and improvement is about appreciating God's investment in them and not worrying about external validation. The Good Samaritan, The Prodigal Son, The Parable of the Talents, The Fruit of the Spirit—these form the spiritual basis for our values. We seek to be firm about these values but uphold them in a gentle manner, just as our motto says.

We certainly hope these values are seen and experienced in our community, and that those who see them for the first time are curious about the Lord who brings these values to life.

**Dale Gosden**
College Pastor

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# Carols Service

## Wednesday 2 December 2026

## College Chapel

7.00-8.15pm

Come and celebrate the Advent season as we look to the coming of Christ. This is a wonderful opportunity to give thanks for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and for the gifts He has so freely bestowed upon us.

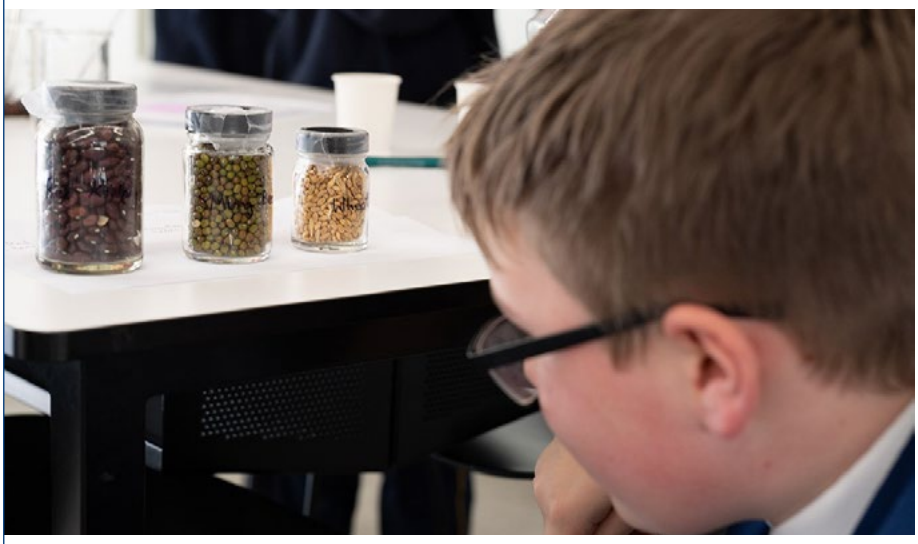
**Firm in Principle, Gentle in Manner**

*Fortiter in Re, Suaviter in Modo*

# National Science Week

In the lead up to National Science Week, the Year 8 students observed a 'Science Spectacular' in the Chapel, featuring demonstrations involving chemical reactions, dry ice and liquid nitrogen—an engaging way to bring science to life in real time. The show continued in the Quad during break time, with a crowd of students and staff witnessing the explosion of several hydrogen balloons followed by a container filled with ping pong balls, which erupted and showered the Quad in blue and gold.

The theme for Science Week in 2026 was *Seeds of Science: Nurturing knowledge for all*, and students at all campuses had the opportunity to engage in activities designed to capture their curiosity, initiate inquiry, stretch their scientific thinking and grow their understanding. From an animal design challenge, giant bubbles, rock tumbling and investigating water movement through plants, to seed dissections and milling flour for the purpose of making pancakes, Science Week was a wonderful way to put Science in the spotlight and help students' interest in the subject to grow.
























# Book Week

Book Week 2026 *'A Symphony of Stories'* was a vivid reminder that through reading we can encounter many characters, perspectives, narratives, words, images and ideas, which come together in harmony to form a myriad of books. During the week, our Primary School campuses were honoured to be visited by award-winning author and illustrator Gabrielle Wang, who shared about her books and Chinese culture. She also taught students how to draw amazing dragons. There were Book Week competitions to get the creative juices flowing and a Book Fair for those keen to take home a new book to add to their home library. To conclude the week, students and staff from across the College gathered in our Fortiter Gymnasium for the annual Book Week parade. There were so many creative and colourful book character or symphony-related costumes on display, and we were even fortunate to have Elvis in the building as we celebrated all things books, stories and reading.













# Music Highlights

**Generations in Jazz**
Concordia musicians once again excelled at this event, achieving outstanding results:

- **1st Place** – Division 1 Large Vocal Ensemble Mattson Jazz Choir
- **1st Place** – Division 4 Large Vocal Ensemble Prelude Jazz Choir
- **3rd Place** – Division 1 Stage Band Big Band 1
- **Best Soprano Section** – Division 1 Mattson Jazz Choir

In addition, two of our students were selected as members of Superband 1.

**Harmony in the Chapel**
Students in Senior Concert Band, Senior String Ensemble, Clarinet Ensemble, the Animato and Heilig String Quartets, Saxophone Quartet, Flute Quartet and Testosterphones shared some of their repertoire with friends, family and Old Concordians at a beautiful afternoon concert.

**Mid-Year Concert Series**
Our mid-year concert series saw various ensembles and vocal groups perform at Concordia Unplugged—a Chamber Music Concert, String Soiree, Winter Winds and Voices of Concordia.

**Australian Band and Orchestra Directors' Association (ABODA) Festival**
Six ensembles competed at the ABODA Festival. Notable achievements were Gold Awards for our Orchestra, Senior Strings, Senior Concert Band and Big Band 1, with the Orchestra once again awarded overall section winners.



**Lutheran Schools Choral Festival**
Concordia proudly hosted the inaugural Lutheran Schools Choral Festival on Saturday 22 August. Students from Faith Lutheran College, Cornerstone College, Endeavour College and Concordia College came together for a day of workshops and performances, celebrating the joy of choral music and collaboration. Kathie Renner was commissioned to compose a special work for this event, which was premiered at the concert. We hope the initiative will continue to grow in the years to come. A special thank you to Emma Borgas for her vision, leadership and organisation in bringing this event to life.







**Concordia in Concert**
Over 250 musicians across all campuses performed in our annual Concordia in Concert showcase. This year we celebrated the glitz and glamour of the Grammy Awards and welcomed back Old Concordian Mark Stefanoff (2008) to host the event. We also celebrated Martin Butler as he prepared for retirement after 25 years of dedicated service to the College, shaping and strengthening our string program. In addition, we farewelled our Year 12 musicians and presented the following awards:

- Mike Stewart Memorial Award
  Marco (Year 12)
- Living Choice Community Award
  Sherry (Year 12)
- Peter Schmidt Music Award
  Lila and Ethan (Year 12)
- Concert Band Award
  Asaph (Year 12)
- Martin Butler String Award
  Sherry (Year 12)

**Kellie Rich**
Head of Music ELC–12

## Thank You

The Concordia College Music Department extends its sincere thanks to all our sponsors of this year's Concordia in Concert, especially our Diamond Sponsors Kawai Australia, LLL Australia, and VTan Consulting. Their valued partnership helped make the event possible and enriched the musical opportunities available to our students and wider community.

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# Sports Highlights

After an action-packed start to the winter season in Term 2, a squad of Middle and Senior girls competed at the Waverley International Schools Netball Championships in Melbourne in the first week of the mid-year holidays. The Middle girls secured 13th position out of 24 teams—a great result—and our Senior team also achieved an excellent result, placing 9th out of 34.

Our Open boys' basketball team played in the Sports Association for Adelaide Schools (SAAS) grand final against Trinity College. There was never more than three points in the game. Leading by one point with 14 seconds to go, Trinity shot a three-pointer with four seconds on the clock and ultimately took the final by a whisker. The boys are commended for a strong performance, despite the final result not going our way.

At the Adelaide South East District Sapsasa Athletics Carnival, athletes from St John's Campus competed with energy, determination and school spirit. Many placed first, second or third in various events, and after a dominant performance in the relays, they were excited to be announced as District Champions!









St Peters Campus students shone in the statewide basketball competition, playing with skill, sportsmanship and determination. The boys won all their matches to secure a spot in the state finals. Meanwhile, the girls also won through to the same event, with a wildcard entry! We commend both teams on their incredible efforts.

Our Premier League Reserves Netball team competed in the Independent Girls Schools Sports Association (IGSSA) grand final, capping off an undefeated season with an impressive premiership win.

In the SA Schools Knockout competitions, we enjoyed some excellent results in basketball, with the Year 11/12 boys coming third and the Year 9/10 girls in contention for the win in Term 4! The Middle girls' football team also had a good run in their knockout competition, making it through to the semifinal match. Our Year 7/8 boys' soccer
















team made their way into the final, finishing second out of 29 schools across the state—an outstanding achievement. In the Primary school knockout competition, the Year 5/6 girls' soccer team fell just short of the finals. Meanwhile, the Year 6 boys' soccer team remained undefeated for the third consecutive year—a great testament to the team and their coach. In netball the Year 9/10 girls narrowly missed out on the finals. In tennis, the Year 7/8 girls earned the right to play in the state finals in Term 4.

At the SA Volleyball Schools Cup, both the Senior and Middle boys' teams won silver medals. The Senior girls and Middle girls also played well, finishing 6th and 5th respectively. All teams represented the College impeccably and should be proud of their efforts.

Towards the end of Term 3, we were delighted to host our first ever Spirit of Sport Awards evening, recognising the outstanding efforts of many of our students across the year. Laura Hodges, a four-time Olympian and our Head Coach of Basketball, spoke to the enraptured audience. It was also a particular highlight to have David and Sue Serotzki in attendance, who presented the inaugural male and female Team of the Year trophies named in their honour to our Open A boys' basketball and Premier League Reserves netball teams. Another highlight was the individual accolade of SAAS Player of the Year, which was presented to Harry (Year 12).

Finally, we congratulate Isobelle (Year 12), who received the prestigious Ashleigh Young Medal recognising her outstanding contribution to IGSSA sport at the IGSSA Awards Breakfast.

**Ric van Wachem**
Director of Extra and Co-curricular Sport

# P&F and Community Events

## Building Connections Across our College Community

Over the last two terms, the P&F continued to foster connection, strengthen relationships and create opportunities for families to engage with one another within campuses and across the College. When asked what the P&F means to them, parents consistently speak of community, connection and communication. Along with the College values, these principles guide our ongoing work.

Terms 2 and 3 provided many opportunities to come together:

- the **Community Coffee Catch Up** events offered relaxed opportunities for conversation and connection
- **Mother's and Father's Day Celebrations** at Highgate and Blackwood brought families together to honour some very special people, with record high attendance
- Our 'All that Glitters' **Quiz Night** was a highlight, raising approximately $15,000 for the P&F to support future community events and initiatives
- around **30 Class Connector** events have been held so far in 2026 across ELC to Year 6, helping families develop meaningful relationships within their year levels.

In the coming weeks, we are preparing for a new College-wide celebration, **FestivALL**, to be held on Friday 27 November. The P&F is proud to be supporting FestivALL, which will bring together learning showcases, performances, activities and an opportunity to connect socially. We hope you will come and be part of the vibrant and connected community that makes Concordia College such a special place.





















## Enhancing the Student Experience

The P&F continues to support the College by funding projects that improve accessibility or enrich learning, wellbeing and the student experience. Initiatives that have come to life in 2026 include:

**Encouraging sport participation**
- Cricket equipment for St John's Campus
- Pedal Prix trailer branding

**Supporting healthy, active play and development**
- Moveable climbing and balancing equipment in the St John's Campus ELC
- An outdoor chess set for St John's Campus
- A BlazePod activity kit for St Peters Campus OSHC

**Enticing young readers**
- Forward-facing book displays in the St John's Campus Library

**Resourcing our community**
- A selection of books to be used by families attending Little EdVenturers playgroup at St Peters Campus

**Enhancing community events**
- Subwoofer sound system for use at whole-of-College events
- Drama blocks for professional staging and improved viewing in Wirrkuta Trruku

Thank you to all volunteers, Class Connectors, families and supporters who generously give their time, energy and encouragement to strengthen our College community.

**Claire Baldwin**
P&F President

### Get Involved! — Key Term 4 Dates




**Monday 9 November 2026** **5.45-7.30pm**
ELC-Year 12
Nature's Providore, Living Choice Fullarton




**Friday 27 November 2026** **3.30-7.30pm**
FestivALL
Fortiter | College Oval | Wirrkuta Trruku

ConcordiaCollegeAdelaide

# Staff Profiles






**Kaya Buchanan**
**Dance/Drama Teacher**
**– St Peters Campus**

**Describe yourself in three words.**
Creative, nurturing, enthusiastic.

**What motivates/inspires you in your role?**
I'm inspired by seeing children grow in confidence, develop their creativity and express themselves. I love creating a fun and supportive environment where every child feels included, encouraged and where every child has the opportunity to shine. Being a mum has also given me a strong appreciation for encouraging and celebrating each child's individuality.

**If you could have two items with you while shipwrecked on a desert island, in addition to food and water, what would they be (and why)?**
I would have a photo of my two daughters, to remind me of my favourite people and purpose of making it home, and a sleeping bag because I really don't like being cold and would definitely want to be warm at night!



**Katherine Grieves**
**Administration Assistant**
**– St Peters Campus**

**Describe yourself in three words.**
Caring, compassionate, mum.

**What motivates/inspires you in your role?**
I'm motivated by a desire to help people and to listen.

**If you had to write a book, of any genre, what sort of book would you write and why?**
If I had to write a book, I think perhaps it would be a book of life quotes for my children, to share wisdom and make them laugh when life gets tricky.



**Sian McGradey**
**Reception Teacher**
**– St John's Campus**

**Describe yourself in three words.**
Caring, creative, curious.

**What motivates/inspires you in your role?**
I'm inspired by the children I teach and the opportunity to help them discover the joy of learning. I love seeing their confidence grow, celebrating their achievements and those little moments when something finally 'clicks'. Creating a classroom where children feel safe, valued and excited to learn is what motivates me every day.

**If you could travel to any location in the world for the next two years, where would you go and why?**
I'd choose to explore Australia and discover some of the hidden gems of our beautiful country. Having travelled through North and South America, Europe, and Southeast Asia, I'd love to slow down and experience even more of what Australia has to offer.



### Gabriele Catania
**School Counsellor – St John's Campus**

**Describe yourself in three words.**
Calm, friendly, genuine.

**What motivates/inspires you in your role?**
My motivation comes from helping children and young people feel heard, supported and understood. It is a blessing to walk alongside students as they discover their strengths, build confidence, and grow into capable learners and achievers.

**If you had to write a book, of any genre, what sort of book would you write and why?**
If I could write a book, I'd write a collection of biographies about my family, particularly my grandparents. I'd love to capture their stories of growing up in Italy, making the journey to Australia, and building a new life here. Every family has unique stories, and I think preserving these memories would be a meaningful way to ensure future generations understand where we came from and appreciate the experiences that shaped our family.



### Jack Castine-Price
**School Counsellor – Concordia Campus**

**Describe yourself in three words.**
Active, grounded, empathetic.

**What motivates/inspires you in your role?**
My inspiration stems from being able to be a part of the journey of students reaching and achieving milestones in all elements of their lives, from wellbeing to interpersonal to learning.

**If you could have two items with you while shipwrecked on a desert island, in addition to food and water, what would they be (and why)?**
I would have a tarp large enough to make a decent-sized shelter, and a volleyball for entertainment (and friendship if it comes to it).



### John Dinan
**Operations Manager**

**Describe yourself in three words.**
Funny, likeable, gregarious.

**What motivates/inspires you in your role?**
I am motivated by progress, both visual and behind the scenes. I like to tackle jobs that have been put in the "too-hard" basket.

**If you could travel to any location in the world for the next two years, where would you go and why?**
I would travel anywhere in Australia because of its richness in diverse landscapes as well as its culture, warm weather and fresh produce.





# Heritage Centre

## Representing Concordia in Sport – Interstate and Abroad

Over the decades, Concordia students have travelled interstate and abroad on a range of trips, many of which involved students representing the College in various sports. Here are some highlights, beginning with the first of our trips to visit Luther College, which took place 60 years ago.

**Visiting Other Lutheran Schools**

In 1966, 50 Concordia students embarked on the first of a few trips interstate to Victoria for sporting contests and social activities with Luther College. The Colleges reciprocated hosting duties each other year, with Luther first visiting Concordia in 1967.

Reporting on the 1968 trip to Luther College, one of the attending students included the following in the 'Brown & Gold',

> *"Saturday was Concordia's most successful day. After breakfast a brief period was allotted for the purpose of looking around the local area, and at ten o'clock the basketball started; for the first three quarters the teams were very evenly matched, but in the last Concordia ran away from their opponents to win the game. After dinner came the long-awaited footy game. In this, as in the basketball, the scores stayed even until the last quarter. It was then that our boys decided to start playing and piled on four or five goals."*

In early August 1974, a team of students travelled to St Paul's College in Walla Walla, NSW, to enjoy friendship, games and sport. The following year, the students from Walla Walla visited Concordia.

A student's report from the 'Brown & Gold' that year said,

> *"Friday afternoon was reserved for sport: football, netball, hockey and basketball. The teams were mixed, with St Paul's students and Concordians on both sides, making it a tiring but enjoyable afternoon in the beautiful sunny weather."*

In August 1984, a party of staff and students set off on an interschool visit to Immanuel Lutheran College in Maroochydore, QLD. Sports matches were included in the three-day visit. The following excerpt is from an article by Greg Hunt (Year 10 student) in that year's 'Brown & Gold',

> *"On Monday Concordia played Immanuel in tennis, volleyball, netball and basketball. We didn't win a single game. It'll be our turn when they come down here in about October 1985."*

**Ski Trips**

The Concordia Ski Trip has been a regular feature of the winter school holidays for many years, occurring almost annually since the mid 1970s. For many students, this has been their first experience of learning to ski or snowboard! Destinations for the College Ski Trip have included Tasmania, Victoria and, most recently, New Zealand. In 2007, four Concordia students entered a ski team in the SASKI Competition in Mt Buller, Victoria. Rather than going all out, the Concordia team took the slow and steady approach to avoid any accidents, and their strategy paid off when they won a gold medal!

**Football Outreach Vanuatu**

In 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019, students from Concordia, all with a passion for global service and a love of Australian Rules Football, travelled to Vanuatu on Concordia's Football Outreach Vanuatu trip.

During each visit, the team set about bringing some fun and hope to the lives of local children—they ran Auskick sessions, donated equipment and served in other practical ways, including field preparation and erecting goal posts. Each trip involved the donation of funds and educational materials for the ongoing development of the sport, including umpiring and first aid education, as well as assisting the Youth National team in preparing for the Oceania Championships. The culmination of each trip was a whole-day football carnival. Although the goal of the trip was to serve others, Football Outreach Vanuatu was undoubtedly a life-changing experience for all involved, with our students benefitting greatly from the experience.










**Waverley International Schools Netball Championships**

The July 2015 school holidays saw Concordia participating in the Waverley International Schools Netball Championships for the first time and our girls represented Concordia magnificently. Since then, the College has participated most years, and it has become a valued skill development opportunity for our netballers.

**National Basketball and Volleyball Championships**

For a number of years, our students have been travelling interstate to Melbourne and the Gold Coast to participate in the Australian Schools Basketball Championships and the Australian Volleyball Schools Cup. A girls' team from Concordia joined the boys' team at the national basketball competition for the first time in 2025, finishing fourth in their division, while our boys' team finished third overall in Division 1 and received the bronze medal. At the national volleyball competition Concordia has also experienced some great success in recent years, with our senior girls' team winning bronze in 2022 followed by silver in 2023.

We look forward to seeing our students continue to represent the College exceptionally on the sporting field—whether at home, interstate or internationally—in the years to come.




# Old Concordians' Association

**From the Old Concordians' Association Committee**

The Old Concordians' Association Committee has been focused on bringing our new 2026–2029 Strategic Plan to life, while continuing to strengthen our tradition of meaningful relationships and relevant engagement across the Old Concordian community.

We are particularly excited by the growing participation in our Old Concordians' sporting teams, which provide a wonderful opportunity for Old Concordians to reconnect, build new friendships and stay connected with the College and one another. Whether through reunions, sporting teams, mentoring opportunities or other community activities, there are many ways to remain involved and connected.

In Term 3 we held the Year 12 Old Concordians' Lunch. It was a wonderful opportunity to speak with our current Year 12 cohort about the lifelong opportunities that await them as future Old Concordians, and to encourage them to see their connection with the College as something that continues well beyond their final year.

Term 4 is shaping up to be an exciting and busy time for the Old Concordians, with several reunions, sporting activities and events taking place. We look forward to welcoming many Old Concordians back to the College and continuing to build a strong, connected and engaged community.

**Sue Kleinig (1974)**
Alumni Manager







# Old Concordians Blazing a Trail



## **Llewellyn Schilling**—Class of 1950

Retired Firefighter & Rainbow Silo Visionary

Llewellyn grew up in Rainbow, a town in Victoria's northwest, before forging a career with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Melbourne City following his time at Concordia College. After retiring and travelling, Llewellyn settled back in Rainbow where he owned a large block of land, complete with a disused concrete silo. With a desire to add to the stunning silo art found in the area, Llewellyn embarked on a journey to convert his silo into a visual spectacle, complete with internal and external murals and a 28m viewing platform with extensive views over the surrounding area.

Llewellyn is currently featured in the Spotlight on our Old Concordians page on our website. To read about his silo art project, visit https://www.concordia.sa.edu.au/blog/llewellyn-schilling/ or scan the QR code below.

Scan to read more about **Llewellyn Schilling** in 'Spotlight on our Old Concordians'



## **Reuben Goodall**—Class of 2021

Professional Motorsport Driver

Reuben's drive to become involved in motorsport began in 2007 when his dad introduced him to the on-track racing action at the Adelaide Clipsal 500. In 2014, he started racing go-karts and in 2022 he completed his first car race in the Toyota GR Cup Series, followed by the Super2 Series in 2024. Following some success with seven podium finishes in 2025, this year he has been given the opportunity to make his supercars debut, co-driving for Tickford Racing alongside Thomas Randle in the Bend 500 and the prestigious Bathurst 1000. He also had his first solo Supercars appearance at the Townsville 500 in July.

Reuben is currently featured in the Spotlight on our Old Concordians page on our website. To read about his journey into becoming a race car driver, his reflections on motorsport as a career, his interests outside of racing, his reflections on his time at the College and his advice to current students, visit https://www.concordia.sa.edu.au/blog/reuben-goodall or scan the QR code below.

Scan to read more about **Reuben Goodall** in 'Spotlight on our Old Concordians'

# Generations of Old Concordians

## The Winkler Family

Current student Charlotte (Year 8) is a fourth Generation Old Concordian, and we spoke to her grandfather Robert Winkler (Class of 1965) about the history of the Winkler family at Concordia.

Robert's grandfather, Martin Theodore Winkler, was a Lutheran pastor trained in St. Louis, USA, who was sent to New Zealand as a missionary pastor before coming to Concordia College Adelaide in 1908 as a Professor. While he was teaching at Concordia, a number of his seven children attended the College over the years, including Robert's father, Arthur Edmund Winkler.

Pastor Martin Theodore Winkler remained working at Concordia and was also assisting at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Flinders Street, Adelaide, until his sudden death at the age of 62 in 1942. He had taught at Concordia for over 30 years.

Following in the footsteps of Arthur and his siblings, Robert and his three siblings also attended Concordia, along with a number of his cousins. Robert's three children all attended Concordia for numerous years, including Charlotte's mother Jessica.

Concordia College has played an important role in shaping the values of the Winkler family. Through the College's focus on developing character, academic capability and faith, they have come to appreciate the importance of lifelong learning, strong relationships and contributing positively to the community. The College's strong sense of community has also reinforced the importance of belonging and supporting one another. Through school events, service opportunities and everyday interactions, the Winkler family has experienced firsthand the value of kindness, inclusivity and meaningful relationships.

When asked to share his fondest or funniest memory from his year at Concordia, Robert said,

> *"One of my fondest memories was studying the history of art. Before that class I had very little interest in art; however, the enthusiasm and knowledge of my Art teacher made it interesting to learn about. Recently, I had the pleasure of reconnecting with a classmate who sat beside me in most of my first-year classes. It was wonderful to reminisce about our school days."*

### Some Winkler Family Members Who Attended Concordia from 1931 to the Present

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Current Student | Charlotte (Year 8) | 2030 |
| Aunt | Anna Dingle (Winkler) | 2004 |
| Mother | Jessica Southwood (Winkler) | 2000 |
| Uncle | Brett Winkler | 1998 |
| Great-aunt | Victoria Marriott (Winkler) | 1970 |
| Great-uncle | Arthur R. Winkler | 1966 |
| Grandfather | Robert Winkler | 1965 |
| Great-aunt | Catherine Caldwell (Winkler) | 1962 |
| Great-grandfather | Arthur E. Winkler | 1931 |



# Old Concordian Sporting Clubs

Old Concordian sports clubs are a great way to connect with other Old Concordians for fun and some exercise! We currently have teams competing in basketball, cricket, football, netball, Pedal Prix and soccer. Support for setting up and running of the clubs is provided by the Old Concordians' Association, so please email alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au for information about joining or starting a club of any type.

# In Memoriam

Concordia has learnt of the following deaths in our community. The College extends its sympathy to the families and friends of these Old Concordians.

**Highet, Leanne** (Wenke 1978)
on 5 March 2026

**Wundersitz, Rev David** (1956)
on 15 August 2026

# Latest Reunions


Class of 1986 – 40 Year Reunion


70+ Reunion


Current Parents who are Old Concordians


Class of 1996 – 30 Year Reunion

# Diary Dates

Please save the dates for the following Old Concordians' Association events planned for 2026.

**CLASS OF 2016 10 YEAR REUNION**
**Friday 13 November 2026, 6pm**
*Cremorne Hotel Garden Courtyard, 207 Unley Road, Unley*
Tickets: $25 per person
Complimentary drink on arrival and finger food
Bookings: www.trybooking.com/DIGAI

**CLASS OF 2021 5 YEAR REUNION**
**Friday 20 November 2026, 6pm**
*Cremorne Hotel Garden Courtyard, 207 Unley Road, Unley*
Tickets: $25 per person
Complimentary drink on arrival and finger food
Bookings: www.trybooking.com/DIGAK

## Partners are welcome to join our events.

If you are interested in holding a reunion that is not listed, please get in touch with us, as we would love to assist in any way.

Keep an eye out for next year's program of events in the summer 2027 edition of Old Concordians' Connect.

# 2028 Scholarships Now Open



## Academic Scholarship
Years 7–12

For high achieving students with top problem-solving and critical thinking skills.
**Examination by ACER**



## Excellence Scholarship
Years 7–12

Does your child excel in academics, performing arts, sport or community contribution? Concordia's Excellence Scholarship recognises outstanding students and gives their potential room to grow.



## Music Scholarship
Years 7–12

For young musicians with talent, passion and commitment, a Concordia Music Scholarship can open the door to even greater opportunities.



## Otto Senior School Technology Scholarship
Years 10–12

For students who love designing, creating and solving problems with technology, the Otto Senior School Technology Scholarship helps turn passion into possibility.



## Senior School Entry Scholarship
Year 10 entry

Ready for what comes next? Our Senior School Entry Scholarship recognises all-rounder students who bring enthusiasm and ability across academics, sport and extra-curricular life.

## Visit: *www.concordia.sa.edu.au*

For more information, visit our website or contact our Director of Enrolments on **08 8272 0444 /** email **enrolments@concordia.sa.edu.au**


**St John's Campus (ELC-Year 6)**
20 Highgate Street
Highgate SA 5063
t. 08 8271 4299
CRICOS: 00360J

**St Peters Campus (ELC-Year 6)**
71 Cumming Street
Blackwood SA 5051
t. 08 8278 0800
CRICOS: 04084C

**Concordia Campus (Year 7-Year 12)**
24 Winchester Street
Highgate SA 5063
t. 08 8272 0444
CRICOS: 00360J