FROM THE HEADMASTER

Enrolments

I am sure that many within the school community would be aware that we have had a record enrolment in 2014, starting the year with 1076 students. Over the last eight years, our roll has increased by almost 200, with steady growth in most areas.

Whilst we are not at this point envisaging significant further growth, running full cohorts assist us greatly in operating efficiently and achieving savings that we can then pass on. Moreover some growth at senior levels assists us in providing a full range of subject offering, particularly at senior levels, given that we operate a dual pathway with SACE and International Baccalaureate.

For 2015, we will start the year with a similar roll to the beginning of this year. Significantly, and unlike most other similar schools, we will again be full in boarding with close to 140 boarders.

For 2016, we are already well in advance of where we were this time last year and it appears that we will be full at several year levels. For 2017, the position looks even stronger, as we already have as many applicants for 2017 as we currently have for 2016.

I mention this now, because, since we now make offers over 18 months before commencement, people do need to apply early to guarantee a place at the College. Whilst we give priority to families with a prior connection with the College, we need to receive the applications in time to ensure that places are still available, particularly at primary and junior secondary levels.

IT Security Matter

We are currently dealing with an incident involving someone, possibly a PAC student, hacking into students' Facebook accounts and a possible associated breach of the school’s security system. We have been assisted by the Police in our investigations and have used this as an opportunity to educate our Middle School students further about responsible online behaviour.

It is unfortunately the case that young people get the idea that they are somehow anonymous in their online activity and that they are not accountable or responsible for what they might do or say online. This is of course entirely untrue and part of our responsibility is to educate them about responsible behaviour online. However, I would also say that this is not confined to young people, if you look at the comments attached to many online articles.

Given that we accept this responsibility for the broader education of our students, we would appreciate it if we could be advised about any online activity relating to the school which might cause concern.

Student Achievement

We have just been advised of an outstanding performance by our students of Chinese in the Language Perfect Competitions, where we took first place out of 32 schools to win the State Championship. In addition, we came third in Australia and fourth in the world in this Chinese Language competition.

Individually, Darcy Longrigg in Year 4 and Jack Doney in Year 12 won the Primary and Secondary awards. I would like to congratulate our students and staff for these superb results.

Bradley Fenner
Headmaster
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**2014 TERM DATES**

Term 4 – 13 October to 6 December  (ELC to Year 6 & Year 12)
14 October to 6 December  (ELC - Years 7 to 11)

**Tuesday 18-Friday 21 November**

Year 11 SACE/IB Exams

**Friday 21 November**

JP Nativity & Gathering on the Green

**Monday 24 November**

ANZCA Exams - Guitar - Langley Music Centre

**Tuesday 25 November**

Reception Transition Morning
Beginner Band Graduation Concert

**Wednesday 26 November**

Friends of PAC AGM at 7.00pm in the Ashton Room
Torrens Junior Regatta

**Wednesday 26 - Friday 2 November**

Years 7 - 10 Exams

**Saturday 29 November**

Torrens Junior Regatta
Strings Solo Concert - Chapel

**Sunday 30 November**

Guitar Solo Concert - Chapel
Strings Family Fun Concert - Piper Pavilion
Piano Solo Concert - Piper Pavilion

**Tuesday 2 December**

R-6 Transition Day

**Wednesday 3 December**

Lunchtime Concert in Rundle Mall - Big Band 1
Year 9 Graduation - 1:30 - 3:30pm
Annual Boarding Family Christmas party, Piper Pavilion

**Thursday 4 December**

Year 6 Graduation Evening

**Friday 5 December**

Middle School Presentation Assembly 9:00am
Senior School (Years 10 & 11) Presentation Assembly – 12noon
Years 3 - 6 Speech Night

A full list of events for 2014 is available on the **PAC website**.

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**Staying Safe Online**

Adelaide City Library (3rd Floor, Rundle Place, Rundle Mall) will host a free presentation by Sonia Ryan focussing on online safety for children on **26 November at 5.45pm**. Sonya will cover strategies and approaches parents can use to keep their children safe online, by talking about technology not covered in the school curriculum such as Snapchat and other potentially harmful online tools.

**Scholarships for 2016**

The College is proud to offer Scholarships to boys commencing Years 7 and 8 in 2016.

These academic Scholarships are allocated on a competitive basis with qualification dependent on the applicant’s performance in the ACEP Scholarship Examination. The ACEP Scholarship exam will be held at the College on Saturday 7 February, 2015.

The last day for registration is Tuesday 20 January, 2015.

For more information and registration please click [here](#) to visit our website.

**School Tours**

Prince Alfred College will run two School Tours in Term 4. The tours provide an opportunity for prospective families to see the school in action and meet our boys.

The Final tour for the year will be this afternoon (Friday 21 November) at 4.30pm (Twilight Tour).

To find out more please email Matthew Rawes, Manager Student Recruitment or telephone on 8334 1275. Click [here](#) to register online.

Additionally our friends at:

**Wilderness School** will conduct a tour on Wednesday 26 November 2014 at 9am. Please register [online](#).

**St Peter’s Girls** will hold ELC & Junior School Tours on Thursday 23 October at 9.30am. Please click [here](#) to register online.

**School Holiday Tennis Clinics**

Make sure you get in early and book a place in the school holiday tennis clinics run by our Tennis Coaches Dean Schipanski and Paul Baccanello.

More details – Click [here](#) to download form
Wanted: loving homes for Guide Dog puppies

Guide Dog puppies have the potential to change lives. Can you help them start the journey?

Guide Dogs SA/NT has an urgent need for volunteer families in the Adelaide area to care for puppies for about a year.

All you need is time, love, a secure back yard and work part time or less. (Children in the family need to be school age or older).

You’ll help guide their future by taking them out and about to shopping centres, restaurants and get them used to public transport and other public places.

Guide Dogs SA/NT Group Manager Mobility and Dog Services, Tracey Jones, says having a Guide Dog puppy in the family is great for the children to be involved with the discipline of feeding and grooming — as well as giving back to the community.

All training, equipment, food and veterinary services are provided by Guide Dogs SA/NT.


Social Media

We are so close, 12 to go, in reaching 2,000 likes with 1,988 as of Thursday 20 November, so one last request to spread the word to the Princes Community to like us on Facebook. To assist us in achieving this number please share within your own group of friends.

Each week we pick up a few new Twitter followers with our tally now at 327. To assist with increased numbers please retweet or reply with comments as this is a great way to increase our numbers here.

Our engagement rates continue to grow with an amazing reach of 15,688 for the article on AFL Draft prospect Harrison Wigg.

Spread the word and follow us on twitter and like us on Facebook.

We are also experimenting with Instagram – click here to connect.

If you have anything that you think should be promoted via social media please email our Communications and Marketing Manager, Craig Burton. Make sure you attach an image and a small report.

Princes in Pictures – Co-curricular photos available for purchase now

To view and order photos taken at College events, please visit Festival City Photography’s website where you will be directed to Prince Alfred College’s photos. You will be asked to enter your access code, the code is – Princes2014.

Select the Event you wish to view and you now have the option of adding images to a favourites selection to select the best photos later, or you can add them straight to your Shopping Cart. If you encounter any problems, please call Festival Photography on 1300 360 241.
ISSA Swimming Carnival Series 3 2014

On Friday 14 November a squad of 12 PAC boys joined with Seymour College to compete as a combined team in the last of a 3 carnival series at Immanuel College pool.

John Clements and Deb Trengove accompanied our boys and were very impressed with the boys' performances and sportsmanship on the day.

It was pleasing to see the team effort, combining well with a very talented group of Seymour girls to win the day. The final score was PAC/Seymour 523 points, defeating Immanuel College 473.

The team consisted:

Year 7: Charlie Dangerfield, Sam Nykiel, Tom Grech, Thomas Worthley, Ky Bishop, Jackson Rees

Year 5: Lachlan Moore, James Wheeler, William Ayres, Sam McKenzie

Year 4: Fergus McLachlan, Joshua Fedele

All of the boys obtained some great results and good times. It was particularly pleasing to see some very strong wins in the combined medley and freestyle relays.

A highlight of the day was receiving the overall trophy for the ISSA Swimming Shield for the 2014 series.

The visit was well-organized and enjoyable, with a good mix of races and events, allowing the boys to showcase their skills and represent the College.

Sean Watt
Deputy Head of School - Preparatory ELC-6

Primary Years Programme (PYP) Evaluation

For the last year, our ELC – Preparatory School staff have been involved in an in-depth review of our implementation of the Primary Years Program delivered through the International Baccalaureate. A review like this occurs every 5 years and we assess our practice against 116 practices based on 7 standards: Philosophy, Organisation (Leadership & Structure, Resources and Support) and Curriculum (Collaborative Planning, Written Curriculum, Teaching & Learning, Assessment).

For each practice we provide evidence of our implementation and provide authentic suggestions on how we can even further improve.

The involvement of all stakeholders in this process is crucial in providing an honest and useful assessment. We involved the governing council, our parent and student body and many of our administrative team members.

On 3 – 5 November, we hosted a visiting team from the IB who extensively reviewed our documentation, assessment and evidence. They also drew evidence from classroom visits and observations, interactions, many meetings and discussions with various people and teams in our school.

The visiting team is preparing a report to feedback to our staff on our implementation of the programme and how we can develop our practice. We will add their suggestions and recommendations to our 5 year Action Plan. We look forward to making what we do even better. Thank you ELC – Preparatory Community for your participation in our Evaluation and your continued support!

Katherine Baird and Lisa Foster
Assistant Directors of Teaching and Learning PYP (ELC – 6)

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Year 6 Transition

Last Friday we welcomed our Year 6 boys and 14 “New, New Boys” to Middle School to begin their transition.

Unfortunately, our planned rowing excursion was cancelled due to hot weather, but the boys did not let this get them down. They threw themselves into the alternative program with gusto. Many thanks to Mr Thompson and the Year 6 team, as well as Mr Hammond (Rowing) and Mr Colaiacovo (Y7 YLC 2015) for their assistance in putting the day together at short notice.

I would also like to thank our teachers who gave up their time during a busy period in the life of the College to run rotations for our transition boys on the second day of the program.

I was very pleased with the enthusiasm and behaviour of our new cohort of Year 7s for 2015 and look forward to welcoming them in January.

Middle School Social

On Saturday we were pleased to host girls from Seymour, Wilderness, Walford, St Peters Girls, and Loreto at our Middle School Social.

Our students’ behaviour was excellent and an enjoyable night was had by all. Mr Gilbert, Mrs Dawe and Ms Wilson were led the charge for the adults, letting the music sweep them up in pure dance chaos!
Many thanks also to Senior School boys Tim Hobbs, Jack O’Brien, Kevin Park, Matthew Smalls and Andy Nguyen for their work in organising and staffing the event for our boys.

Special Thanks

Both of these events would not have been possible were it not for the efforts of Mrs McLaughlin, Mr Watson, Mrs Porter and our Facilities staff who work tirelessly to ensure that things run smoothly and our boys get the most out the events we put on. Thank you!

Steps Toward Cybersafety

I recently attended a national conference on cyber safety in Melbourne, along with Chris Downing from our IT Department. As Neil Andary has already communicated, we were visited by SA Police Electronic Crimes Division this week in order to raise awareness among our boys of their rights and responsibilities in relation to social media following a reminder that issues around the use of IT adds another layer of complexity to modern adolescent life.

I was struck by a simple method for helping your son, or daughter, develop responsible habits around IT and social media use. One of the key practices in helping young people stay safe online is to keep the technology out of bedrooms. They are less likely to engage in inappropriate online behaviour when their use of technology is confined to shared spaces in the home.

In addition, recent research supports the idea that exposure to the light emitted by smartphones and tablets may interfere with sleep patterns by stimulating parts of the brain - not to mention the “Fear Of Missing Out” effect that has young people checking their devices at every beep or vibration throughout the night. As adequate sleep is a vital component of healthy adolescent development and brain function it would seem that asking your son to leave his tablet or phone in another room, such as the lounge, at night would also be advantageous. Indeed, I offered this advice to a student who recently came to speak with me about feeling tired and frustrated. In a follow up conversation he told me that he had tried leaving his device in the kitchen at night time and that he had “fallen straight to sleep” upon turning out the lights!

Chris and I will be developing a Parent Information Night for 2015 based on our findings in Melbourne.

Michael Oomens
Deputy Head of School - Middle

International students

On Wednesday 12 November, students in the English for Academic Purposes Course (EAPC) held a forum in the Frederic Chapple library, where they displayed posters they had designed on an issue related to technology. Year 6 boys from the Preparatory School were invited to the forum to chat with the students and provide feedback on their work. A number of College staff also attended.

It was wonderful to witness the genuine interaction that took place between all involved. The Year 6 boys asked relevant questions, and offered sophisticated critique. Some were quite impressed by the international students’ bilingual skills. Indeed, listening to the international students as they explained and supported their ideas highlighted their immense growth in confidence.

I’d like to thank all who attended the forum as their participation provided our international students with a valuable opportunity to see just how far they have come with their English.

Mr Bradley Fenner talking to Clement, Jayden and Steve about their ‘X-Rays’ poster.

Donna Martin
English for Academic Purposes - Teacher

EAPC students discussing their posters with year 6 boys and other guests’
2015 Father / Son Nepal Experience

Would you benefit from engaging with your son on an adventure away from home, immersed in an environment that will challenge you emotionally, psychologically and physically?

Off the back of very successful experiences in 2013 and 2014, PAC proposes to offer another Father / Son experience to Nepal for boys in Years 9-11 and their Fathers in the 2015 October School Holidays.

The trip will include a trek in the Himalayas, the opportunity to visit schools and engage in local communities, visiting a number of cultural landmarks and exploring ancient villages.

“This trip forced me to take time off which I never do and share this incredible part of the world... The best father son experience shared so far”

“The shared experiences such as the Nepal Trek build upon a foundation of trust and communication between father and son. It doesn't make a poor father-son relationship a great one, but adds a unique layer to the relationship that is unique to them, and no-one else in the family.”

Please email Andrew Stace with father’s name, email address, phone number, son’s name and year level in 2015, to receive an information booklet and express your interest in this amazing opportunity.

Andrew Stace
Year Level Coordinator - Year 10

SENIOR SCHOOL

Helicopter Parenting

Researchers warn that the new phenomenon known as ‘helicopter parenting’ where parents hover over their children and become too involved in their lives can affect their child’s ability to get on with others. While some parental involvement helps children develop, too much can make them more likely to get depressed and less satisfied with their lives.

Obviously, our children need parents who care for their safety and security. Surely, as parents we want the best for them, and most of all, we want to save them from the painful mistakes we ourselves had made in the past. We go to great lengths to ensure our children’s success. But what if we have difficulty letting go? What if we run our adolescents schedules, laundry, outfit, friendships? Is making a mistake or failing a bad thing? As a loving parent, we all want to protect our sons from any potential mistakes. The very word “mistake” immediately strikes fear in our minds when, in fact, it shouldn’t. How often we forget that “a mistake” is simply an opportunity to learn. Thomas Edison once said: “I haven’t failed -- I’ve found 10,000 ways that don’t work”.

With that in mind, our students at times will make poor decisions and to learn from them, sometimes they need to fail. Making mistakes will allow them to develop responsibilities and enable making the right decisions in the future. Too much sheltering takes away a child’s independence and ability to think critically when he faces a problem.

Encourage instead of “helicoptering”. As a caring parent you do not have to give up your hands-on parenting methods. Knowing what’s happening in your son’s life is important, so that you can support him or offer advice whenever he needs it. However, you may need to learn to adjust your parenting style to the developmental level of your son.

We all can encourage our sons to try new things, let them face possible failures and experience valuable lessons. By giving them a little space we will boost their problem-solving skills and self-esteem. Psychologist, Virginia Satir, says: “Feelings of worth can flourish only in an atmosphere where individual differences are appreciated, mistakes are tolerated, communication is open, and rules are flexible - the kind of atmosphere that is found in a nurturing family.”

Mark Dell’Oro
Deputy Head Senior School
History Q & A = Vietnam

Modelling the ABC program Q & A, keen history students studying the SACE and IB Diploma courses had the opportunity to meet, listen to and talk with Vietnam veterans, Graeme Nybo OAM and Jock Statton AM (PAC Old Scholar 1960-63) in the Piper Pavilion recently.

Will Hudson chaired the session where questions ranging from patrolling as a forward scout, the impact of Agent Orange and returning home were all discussed with great candor by the two veterans. Reflecting after the session, the boys made the following observations:

“I thought the Q and A set up was an excellent way to get relevant information from the veterans – it worked really well.” Dylan Mosey

“It was fascinating when Jock opened up and reflected on one of his battles that he was involved in and his description made us feel like we were there!” Joel Thiele

“The session was a great way for us to interact with the veterans during an active Q & A, giving us a better insight into key concepts and real life accounts of soldiers during the Vietnam War.” Nick Gregurke

Jock and Graham were treated to a delicious lunch in the Year 12 Boarders’ Common Room after the session and enjoyed further chats with those Year 11 boys that joined us.

Expeditions proposed for 2015

The Princes Adventure club is currently seeking expressions of interest for expeditions on offer in 2015.

- White Water Rafting Victoria, September holidays, Years 9-11
- New Zealand Tour, December, Year 11 (2015)

Click above for more information or email Micha Jensen.

SPORT

Winter Sport

Match fixtures and other sporting details can be found on the College website and are also reported on twitter and Facebook.

Click here to view the latest sport results.

Troy McKinnon
Director Co-Curricular / RED Centre Manger

MUSIC

Learning an Instrument in 2015

Beginner Piano

Boys in Years 2 and 3 will have a visit from me this week to explain the Beginner Piano program. Like the Beginner Band, no experience is required to start these lessons.

The standard of the young pianists has risen dramatically over the last 2 to 3 years due to the dedicated teaching of our wonderful Piano Coordinator, Mrs Sofie Arhontoulis. The Sunday concerts she organises are a testament to her student’s exceptional musicality and enthusiasm.

As well as the usual solo piano repertoire, Mrs Arhontoulis also ensures boys have opportunities to play together in duets, trios and even the odd quartet. Learning a new instrument can be fun but the opportunity to play with their classmates makes this program a winner.

Click here for the Beginner Piano course information.

Beginner Band Try-outs

It is great to see the enthusiasm for the 2015 Beginner Band in our Year 3 and 4 students. Our deadline for first preferences has past but there are still limited vacancies on flute, trumpet, trombone, bass guitar and percussion.

The Beginner’s Concert Band is designed for boys who have little or no musical experience. Boys will be taught everything they need to know to be successful performers, with their first concert scheduled for the end of Term 1, 2015.

Click here for the Beginner Band course information.
2013 Boys – Where Are They Now?

Continuing our updates from our 2013 boys, this week we hear from Trevor Adelson who recently sent me an email from Melbourne.

'I've been spending a lot of time at the piano lately (in part because where I'm staying has a beautiful Yamaha grand) and I've been working on improving my jazz piano chops.

I always make time to play the horn as well, and there’s always a bunch of local college stuff they ask me to play for. I've done a bunch more gigs with my regular band Benny & The Dukes around Melbourne bars and pubs, and we played at the Melbourne Uni stage a few weeks ago to rousing success.

We also did this pretty big charity gig for “Connor’s Run” a little while back.'

Trevor Adelson (2nd left) with his new band, ‘Benny & The Dukes’

Music Performance Calendar – Term 4

Another full term of performances, check the calendar for specific dates & times.

Click here for the Music Performance Calendar.

Andrew Newhouse
Director of Music Performance

BOARDING

Boarding Family Christmas Party

The Annual Boarding Family Christmas party this year will be held on 3 December in Piper Pavilion and will be a slightly altered format, with the 2014 Year 12 boarders and their families invited for the first time – please come along and say good bye!

Click here register your interest. I look forward to seeing you there!

Boarding Activities

We have had a couple of busy weeks in boarding to start term 4.

Last weekend our future golfing stars headed off to the driving range to perfect their skills. The long range, hit the target and best slice competitions were fiercely contested in the setting sun.

On Sunday morning two very different groups headed off for their next adventure – asmall scuba diving group for two boat dives off the Adelaide coast, and another group of Year 12s ready to plunge out of a plane from 8,000ft!

The day was perfect for both groups with lots to see on the bottom of the ocean and also from 8,000ft above the mighty Murray River and Lake Alexandrina.

Last exeat weekend we had a number of boarders doing lots of good things around the school and beyond. It all started with the Hartley boys hosting the Early Learning Centre children from the four year old room. With some help from our Year 12 residents, the youngsters learnt a lot about boarders, their lifestyle back home and PACs boarding community, with one Year 12 boy also being reminded - “It’s messy in here! You need to tidy up your room!”

We also had several boys involved in the Giant Garage / Car Boot sale which raised funds for Habitat for Humanity house building project being undertaken in Cambodia in December by 20 students and 4 staff members. Year 11 IB student Ho Ting Ip also gave up his weekend to support the Preparatory School Relay for Life event held at Mt Barker.

Darren Roylett
Head of Boarding
FRIENDS OF PAC

AGM

We are really excited to announce that after much collaboration, the Parents and Friends committees of both the Preparatory and Middle & Senior Schools have now merged to become the new Friends of PAC Association.

We will continue as a larger and stronger association across the whole College, supporting the school community, building strong community spirit and raising funds to help develop resources and facilities for all of the boys to enjoy.

Throughout the year the Friends of PAC hosts fun family and parent events bringing people together, coordinates movie nights, morning teas, fashion parades, cake stalls and sausage sizzles, supports other school groups and sporting associations and generally adds to the strong tradition of school spirit at PAC.

The Friends of PAC is an energetic and passionate group of parents and we warmly welcome new committee members from every year level (ELC-Year 12) for 2015.

Meeting just twice each term, this is a great way to become involved in the school community, requiring as much or as little time as you are able to offer.

Upcoming events

Friday 21 November

Gathering on the Green & JP Nativity, Front Oval, PAC.
Order hampers here.

Wednesday 26 November

Friends of PAC AGM 7:00pm in the Ashton Room
Click here for more information.

If you would like to find out more about Friends of PAC please contact Rachel Walsh – President on 0413 014 535.
Please refer to PAC website for more information.

OLD SCHOLARS

Upcoming Events

The final event in the PAOCA calendar for 2014 is the Annual Brisbane Dinner to be held at the Queensland Club on Friday 28 November.

Please refer to PAOCA website for reports and photos from our 2014 events and a comprehensive listing of our events planned for 2015. Alternatively contact PAOCA Executive Officer, Mary-Ann Standish on (08) 8334 1880 or via email.