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Welcome to 2016

It was wonderful to welcome almost 900 girls from Foundation to Year 12 through our College gates last week, for the start of another academic year. Whilst we have a campus that is always beautiful, it only ever comes truly to life when it is filled with Seymour girls.

I have spoken with many of them at the College gates or around the site, and have really enjoyed hearing their excitement at being back at school and their plans for 2016.

We have also had the pleasure of welcoming a number of new families to Seymour College over the past few weeks, and I have enjoyed speaking to many of the parents at events and during drop off and pick up.

Darren Pitt
Acting Principal
Principal's Message

We are all making plans for this year, with our first assembly of the term focusing on planning and negotiating the challenges and adventures that will face all of us in the months ahead.

During this assembly, Head Girl, Isobel, and Deputy Head Girl, Grace, took the opportunity to get the girls to record their goals in their diaries, asking What will you strive for this year? I look forward to hearing about progress against those goals as the Term unfolds.

In assembly I used the metaphor of a sprint hurdler to the girls, asking them to see their year ahead as being like a straight line from A to B, with a few hurdles to be negotiated along the way. We all agreed that side stepping those hurdles was not an option, and that neither going under them or stacking them all up at the end near the finish line (so that they can be attempted long jump style) were achievable options.

I made the point to the girls that the best way to overcome the hurdles and achieve their goals was in thorough planning for the challenges that they know are ahead, for example significant school assignments or during times when sport or social events are frequent.

Of course, and this is where the hurdling metaphor breaks down a little, it is also important for girls to understand that not all challenges can be foreseen, and that having the confidence to meet those that arise unexpectedly and by knowing where and how to get help are also crucial skills.

I'm excited for the girls about the hurdles that are in their paths, and I look forward to watching them leap over them.
One of the strongest aspects of Seymour is the warmth of our community. There have already been special opportunities to engage with various community members, at events including the Boarders’ Welcome BBQ, the New Senior School Parents’ Drinks, the Year 8 Parents’ Afternoon Tea and the Middle School Picnic. I also truly hope that many of you will join us when we come together at the Old Collegian Community Alfresco Drinks next Friday, 19 February, in the Lady George Quadrangle. It promises to be a lovely occasion, a chance to meet new staff and families, and to truly demonstrate the strong sense of community, support and connectedness we have here at Seymour. As I type, I do so for the first time as Acting Principal while we await the arrival of our 12th Principal, Ms Melissa Powell. We were lucky that we were able to share our staff professional development days in January with Melissa, as she helped our staff set their goals for the year. Melissa will also be with us this Term for the Year 12 Induction Service, the Swimming Carnival and Sports Day. In her absence, I am excited and privileged to be leading this great College.
Thursday, 11 February, was a very special day on the McGregor Campus, as we celebrated the induction of the Year 5 leaders. The girls enthusiastically made their promise to serve the Junior School girls, and act as responsible, caring role models.

Following the assembly, I was honoured to be invited as part of a panel of leaders, with Head Girl, Isobel, Constable Kerwin Penn from SAPOL and entrepreneur, Suzy Daw, who were interrogated by the Year 5 girls with searching questions about what it means to be a leader.

It was a fabulous learning experience for all involved – not least the panel members who were often caught searching for an answer, such was the quality of the questions being posed. The girls should be congratulated for the diligent and mature way they considered and tackled this task. I offer my congratulations too to Shelley Travers, Coco Grist, Julia Mander and Chris Stepien for their organisation of this excellent learning opportunity for the Year 5s.
Principal's Message

Our 2015 academic results were once again spectacular and I thank both the girls and our teaching and support staff for the dedication they showed in developing and contributing to the girls’ learning throughout their time here.

This week I had the pleasure of attending the SACE Merit Ceremony at Government House, where those students who achieved perfect marks in subjects were recognised, and I proudly watched on as our girls were awarded a total of 56 Merits and where Amy, Britt and Elly were each recipients of the prestigious Governor of South Australia SACE Commendations. This year only 28 students received this award and Seymour College was the only school in the state to have three students awarded. This is a fabulous achievement, and testament to the hard work of the girls and their teachers.

We further congratulate Britt on being awarded 2015 Dux of the College with an ATAR of 99.95 and six Merits (five in 2015 and one in 2014), as well as Amy (five Merits) and Dhanya (four Merits) who were jointly awarded Proximae Accessit, with an ATAR of 99.9. Amy was also awarded Dux of the Boarding House.

We are also proud of the girls who worked tremendously hard all year to achieve personal best results and those who managed exceptional sporting commitments with their academic pursuits.

Congratulations to the entire Class of 2015, who we wish every success in their future endeavours.
Over the Christmas break, our maintenance and grounds team were busy ensuring that our site was well prepared for the return of the staff and students, and that a number of significant capital works projects were completed to improve facilities. Our Strategic Plan outlines our commitment to optimising our facilities, and the works undertaken through December and January assist us in achieving those goals. Returning students found that:

- The Adam Dining Hall has been renovated and there have been significant improvements to the Boarding House.
- The Stables has been fitted with new furniture in keeping with 21st century learning philosophies and a number of the learning spaces in the Hetzel Building have had a generous makeover, including the ICT Services Area to create Helpdesk environment for student, staff and parent assistance.
- We have installed new wi-fi access points throughout the Hetzel, McCaul, Abbie and Payton Buildings to improve internet access and speed of use.
- The Taylor Resource Centre classroom has been remodelled into two rooms to create a classroom and breakout learning space, and the Head of Middle School’s Office has been relocated to allow for an additional Year 7 classroom.
- External works have been undertaken such as the resurfacing of some of the outdoor sports courts, the installation of a water fountain at the swimming pool, the installation of a bike rack near the Year 7 transportable classroom and the McCaul building, and new sun shade blinds in the Early Years.
- We have also refurbished the Year 12 Common Room so that it is a more comfortable environment for our most senior students.

We are grateful to the members of our community who support these works through their generous donations to the Voluntary Building Fund each year. Thanks also to our Business Manager, Rita Chetcuti and the maintenance and grounds team, led by Tony Trotta, for the wonderful work they do throughout the year to ensure that we have the best possible environment for our girls.
Principal's Message

Staff News

The beginning of a new school year often also means some staffing changes, and we are very pleased to announce some new appointments and some returning staff.

It is always good to welcome back staff and, as the new school year commenced, we were especially pleased to welcome back Tori Moule, Lisa Parsons, and Amanda Shepherd from parenting leave.

We will also be joined by a number of new staff members who bring additional experience and expertise to the College this year:

**Head of Senior School**

Nicholas Sharrad has been appointed the Head of Senior School and joins the College Leadership Team (CLT) from Xavier College, Gawler, where he held a number of senior positions, including Assistant Principal: Teaching and Learning; Assistant Principal: Pastoral Care; Head of Science; and Teacher in Charge of Hockey. Nicholas holds a Bachelor of Science, a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Studies, a Graduate Diploma in Education, and a Masters of Education (Leadership).

Nicholas was instrumental in introducing Positive Education training and practices into his former school, and brings a wealth of experience in providing pastoral care to young people.

Please read more about Nicholas as he introduces himself elsewhere in this section.

**Middle and Senior School Mathematics**

Three new teachers join our Mathematics Faculty: Brad Cummins, Ann Fenton and Emma Weber.

Prior to arriving in Australia just over a year ago, Brad Cummins taught Mathematics and Science in the United States. Brad enjoyed the opportunity to teach at a number of schools in Adelaide during 2015 and has joined Seymour College on a 1-year contract.

Ann Fenton is also an experienced IT teacher with degrees in Mathematics, IT and education. Emma Weber has a Masters in Education and comes to us from completing her teacher training at Saints Girls.

**Arts**

We welcome Christine Underdown and Madeline Edwards to Seymour College to enhance our offering in dance and performance.

Christine Underdown is a SACE Dance instructor who is heading up our SACE Dance. Christine has a Masters in Creative Industries and a Graduate Diploma in Dance Teaching. She is a Registered Teacher for Dance, is a SACE moderator and has extensive experience as a dance educator and a professional dancer.

Madeline Edwards also joins us as a dance instructor, and will assist with SACE Dance.

Bernadette Rodman also joins us on a short contract in Middle School and Senior School Art.

**Year 7**

Olivia McKenzie joins us as a Year 7 teacher who started her career as a research scientist. She has a Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours in Medicine from Adelaide University and a post graduate Certificate of Education from Bradford College in Leeds. Olivia has taught Science at middle school level, and her last role was at Scotch College teaching Year 6. Olivia has also published a number of science research papers.

**Boarding House**

We are pleased to confirm that our Boarding House is full this year and welcome Di Liu to the Boarding House Senior Staff.
Di has a Masters in Education from the Shanghai University and a Masters in Social Work from Flinders University. Di will be part of our support team for International Students and will undertake a number of additional duties in the Boarding House.

I am excited at the depth of experience and expertise that these new staff members will bring to Seymour, and the important ways that they will add value to the education of our girls.
Principal's Message

Non-Teaching Staff News

Director of Advancement
After conducting an extensive review of fundraising in 2015, the College has appointed a Director of Advancement to oversee all fundraising and philanthropy. We welcome Vicky Lekis to the CLT to work closely with the College Foundation Board and the Principal to assist us to realise our Master Plan.
Vicky has a great deal of experience in philanthropy and fundraising. She comes to Seymour having been a consultant in this area, and from the role of Director of Development, a synonymous role, at the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra where she was instrumental in the significant growth in philanthropy and sponsorship to that organisation.

Support Staff
Kaitlyn Gotley joins us as the Resource Centre Assistant on the Barr Smith campus, and is currently undertaking a Masters in Information Management. Ruth Brown joins us as a Home Economics assistant for a year. Ruth has extensive hospitality experience, including with our catering contractor, Cater Care. Emily Marriott will work in the Junior School in student support until Week 4, and finally, Krishna Panchal joins us as our temporary Lab Assistant for Term 1.

International Enrolments
Bec Carolan, formerly EA to the Principal and Manager of International Enrolments, has left Seymour College to pursue other opportunities. The International Enrolments responsibility will be managed by our Manager of Enrolments, Sally Penn. Bec was an asset to both the Principal’s Office and the Enrolments team and remains an active and committed parent within our community. We wish her every success for the future.
Principal's Message

Staff Congratulations

**Leif Larsen** has been appointed to the position of Middle School Learning Coordinator – expanding on the excellent work he has done with the Year 6 and 7 students to include Years 8 and 9. **Shelley Travers** has successfully passed her Masters in Educational Management. We also congratulate **Julia Mander** (Year 5) and **Lacey Cartwright** (The Early Years at Seymour), who have both recently announced their engagements.

Thank you to **Lynne Moten, Kay Robinson, Nicky Harding** and **Suzanne Close** and our eleven Year 10 and 11 students who undertook the 2015/16 Sarvodaya trip to India. The commitment of this travelling party to live our motto to grow by serving will have a profound effect on the children and families that they interacted with during their stay. Please take a moment to read Lynne Moten's report in the Director of Service Learning section.
Our girls continue to inspire us with their efforts and achievements. Congratulations are offered to the following students:

**Oxford University**

Congratulations to the Class of 2015's **Kathleen** who has been accepted to read History at Oxford University.

**Swimming Championships**

Congratulations to the Seymour swimmers who competed in the McDonalds Queensland Swimming Championships in Brisbane in December 2015 and the 2016 Victorian State Age Championships.

We also had 15 Seymour girls compete at the 2016 South Australian Age and Open Championships. Please see the Sports, Clubs and Activities section for more information about this event and an update on the 2016 Georgina Hope Australian Age Swimming Championships written by Tamara, 2016 Swimming Leader.

**Rowing Success**

Congratulations to six of our Year 12 rowers who have been selected to represent South Australia in the Schoolgirls Pathway VIII at the Australian Junior Selection Trials in Penrith during April. **Cara** and **Elizabeth** have been selected for the 1st VIII Squad and **Lucy, Chelsea, Ella** and **Jordy** have made selection for the 2nd VIII Squad.

Congratulations to Year 8s **Grace, Isabel, Mia, Cassie** and **Eliza** who won both the Schoolgirl Year 8 and Year 9 Quad scull races on Saturday, 6 February at the School Super Series Regatta.

**South Australian Junior/Young Rider Dressage**

Congratulations to **Mary** (Year 12), Seymour's 2016 Equestrian Leader, on her selection in the South Australian Junior/Young Rider Dressage squad. Mary will compete throughout the year at interstate competitions in Victoria and Sydney, including the prestigious Victorian Young Rider Dressage Championships and the Australian Dressage Championships in Sydney.
Limited edition, signed reproduction prints are now available
Renowned botanical artist, Gilbert Dashorst has created this beautiful artwork as part of his Artist in Residence programme at Seymour College during 2015.
This is a sensitive and comprehensive collection of studies which illuminates all aspects of the life cycle of an iconic component of the Seymour College crest: Onopordum acanthium (Scotch Thistle).
Only 100 copies of these signed, professional reproductions will be sold. Price $150.
Please contact Vicky Lekis, Director of Advancement on 8303 9000 or Deb Roach, Manager, Seymour Shop on 8303 9017 for more information or sales enquiries.
A focus on curriculum changes and innovation is the focus for our Curriculum Leaders this year with the full implementation of Version 8 of the Australian Curriculum.

Primary staff have increased their focus on the PYP, Middle School staff are engaged with the complexities of a range of exciting curriculum opportunities, while the secondary teachers bring in the new English and Mathematics courses at Year 11 level. It’s also exciting to be offering Stage 2 Economics and Dance for the first time.

One of the perennial issues for discussion is homework and its value. Data tells us that the effect size for primary school age students is 0.15 while the effect size for senior school students is 0.64. This certainly would seem to indicate that homework has more value for secondary students than it does for those in primary school.

It is important for students to understand the purpose of their homework. Studies tell us that homework is of most value to students when it:

- Allows them to memorise basic rules so skills become rote;
- Increases skill speed which can then be applied to complex problem solving;
- Deepens understanding of a concept perhaps by further reading; or
- Prepares for the following day’s learning (flipped classroom).

Time spent on homework tasks may vary depending on the age group. Often a short time spent on improving concentration skills can be beneficial. Homework timetables need to be cognizant of the needs of each age group, and students’ co-curricular activities and commitments.

Homework is always more valuable when students gain specific and timely feedback on how they are going. Having a mix of teacher feedback, student feedback, self-assessment, sharing with a buddy, sharing with the class, and comparison to success criteria, are all valuable ways of providing feedback.

Parent input is also vitally important. Students need a supportive environment and often, as they get older, a quiet place to study.

Please be in touch if you have any concerns about your daughter’s homework programme. We are keen to discuss what the appropriate guidelines for optimal success might be.

Ruth Massie
Director of Studies
Parent/Teacher Interviews and Student Diaries

Parent/Teacher Interviews
You may have noticed that the Parent/Teacher interviews for Foundation to Year 9 have been moved to Week 5 this term. Responding to feedback from families, our intention is to provide an earlier opportunity for parents and teachers to meet and discuss learning expectations and experiences.
Please note the dates of interviews on the College calendar: Monday, 29 February: Foundation to Year 7; and Tuesday, 1 March: Foundation to Year 9. Interviews for students in Years 10–12 will be held at the end of this term.
Parents will be sent an email during the next couple of weeks providing details of how to log on to the portal to book interviews. This occurs through SOCS and so parents are reminded to make sure that they are able to access this portal.

Student Diaries
In alignment with our strategic direction to enhance student wellbeing through Positive Psychology, we have updated the student diaries to include a section each week about learning strategies and positive wellbeing strategies. The diaries have been introduced from Year 2 through to Year 12 with a Junior School, Middle School and Senior School version.
Each week the diary focuses on a particular theme: Personal timetable, Mastering time, Cornell note taking etc. The theme is presented using language which is appropriate to each sub-school and allows opportunities for the whole school to focus on the development of core executive functioning and wellbeing skills.
If you would like to learn more about the information in the diaries please refer to:

Leonie Harwood
Director of Learning and Operations
For the past 23 years I have held a number of leadership roles in education in South Australia, most recently at Xavier College where I fulfilled the role of Assistant Principal, both in Curriculum and Pastoral care.

I have a thorough knowledge of the SACE and implemented professional development for teachers in the AITSL standards. I believe that guiding curriculum leaders to help teachers in the delivery of high quality teaching and learning is a key component to student success.

One of my greatest strengths is in leading pastoral care. With a background in Psychology, I have a passion for Positive Education and I am excited by the work already undertaken in this area by Seymour. The principles of Positive Psychology are vitally important when we consider the idea of holistic education, which is what we strive to deliver for the students in our care.

My teaching philosophy embraces the importance of setting high and realistic academic expectations, with an emphasis on good manners and respect for others, service, morality and commitment.

I gain much satisfaction in using two of my signature strengths of teamwork and perseverance to assist teachers working with students to prepare them for life.

In my Senior Pastoral Care role I am also cognizant of the importance of staff and student wellbeing and implementing the right programmes and opportunities to help both staff and students develop physically, spiritually and psychologically.

Finally, I endeavour to be a role model of the kind of learning, integrity and zest I strive to promote amongst staff and students.

I am excited by the prospects of what 2016 will bring and look forward to working with the College Leadership Team, students, parents and wider community to deliver the best outcomes for all Seymour girls.

Nicholas Sharrad
Head of Senior School
Welcome to 2016

Welcome to the 2016 school year and a special welcome to new members of the College community. As Head of Senior School, I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with parents to enable your girls to achieve their best.
I am learning quickly that the Senior School at Seymour is a very busy place with opportunities for the girls to undertake a wide variety of activities while having a support network which allows them to flourish. I will further discuss these activities in later editions of the newsletter.
The beginning of the year provides the girls with a great opportunity to start afresh. Setting good study habits and routines, along with being organised, goes a long way to achieving success in the Senior School.
Daily use of the school diary will help your daughter to map out the various academic demands through the school year by helping her to organise her work load into manageable portions. At the beginning of the diary there is a large amount of valuable information and activities regarding Positive Emotions, Engagement, Relationships, Meaning and Accomplishments (PERMA), and weekly thought provoking exercises which will help improve your daughter’s wellbeing. At times, Form Teachers, Clan Guardians or myself will direct these activities, however these can also be self-directed.
One of the first functions for Senior School parents is the Senior School Parents’ drinks on Wednesday, 24 February. This is a great occasion for parents to interact with other parents, make connections, and be involved in the life of the College. It also provides an opportunity to meet the Clan Guardians and me and receive important information regarding life in the Senior School.
Nicholas Sharrad
Head of Senior School
Head of Senior School

Clan Themes for 2016 - Bruce

Our theme in this Olympic year is *Bruce Brazil*, reflecting the wonderful opportunity for nations to come together and compete in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

I look forward to a year that revolves around a strong theme, which emphasises participation, collaboration and total commitment in striving to achieve success, just as the summer Olympics in Brazil will encourage.

The Clan system is an effective method of bringing girls together to work towards a common goal. In Clan Bruce we strongly believe in dedication and participation to reach our goals, whether that be placing in a running race or claiming victory at Clan Choral.

2016 will be a year where every single member of our Clan feels passionate enough to take the risks involved in being a participating member of our competitive Clan challenges. This year will be an exciting opportunity to bring the girls together in a way which allows us to laugh off any blunders and bounce back to fight hard for our Clan’s success.

Shantay
Clan Bruce Chief, Year 12
The theme that we have chosen this year is Cameron Cheerleaders. Imogen, Lucy and myself, under the guidance of Mrs Tinsley, our Clan Guardian, chose this theme as we thought it related closely to what we wanted to achieve and focus on this year.

We hope to be able to support each and every girl, much like cheerleaders in a squad, and have each girl support not only girls in Cameron, but employ this idea in their everyday lives.

The qualities that are seen in a cheerleading squad include support and teamwork; important skills for each girl to develop.

I’m excited about what this year has to hold.

Jordy
Clan Cameron Chief, Year 12
Head of Senior School

Clan Themes for 2016 - Douglas

This year is the year of Douglas Defenders. Clan Douglas will strive to support one another in every situation and will look to make the most of every opportunity that comes our way. To do this we will live up to our motto of Jamais Arrière meaning Never Behind. By accepting life’s challenges and encouraging our peers to do the same, Douglas will stay in front and have a positive influence on those around them. Our theme encapsulates the supportive and enthusiastic nature of our Douglas girls in their efforts to engage and participate in school life. After achieving amazing results in late 2015 with the Clash of the Clans and the Clan Can Plan, I believe Douglas girls will be very proud of everything we achieve in 2016.

Sophie
Clan Douglas Chief, Year 12
This year, the *Stewart Showstoppers* will dazzle and amaze the Seymour College community with their competitive clan spirit and their “show-stopping” skills.

Combining the glitz, glamour and accomplishments of the roaring 20s flapper dancers; who defied social norms and challenged and redefined women’s traditional social roles, Stewart strives to encourage its multi-talented members to be individuals in their own right.

The theme promotes a strong sense of female empowerment, specifically through dance and stage performance, however this can be incorporated into all aspects of what is to come this year: Swimming Carnival; Sports Day; Clan Choral; and Clash of the Clans. *Stewart Showstoppers* should feel confident in themselves and their abilities to achieve success in any endeavour they undertake.

Cara

Clan Stewart Chief, Year 12
Welcome to 2016

This is one of my favourite times of the year: everyone is excited to be back at school, everyone has a story to tell about their summer adventures, we welcome many new members to our community – students and staff, and, after working in a very quiet environment over the last few weeks, the College comes alive with the hustle and bustle of students. It has been especially exciting in the Middle School as we welcome two new classes in Years 7 and 9, so the structure of the Middle School is as follows:

6B Ms Bianca Hodgkiss
6H Ms Jane Hopper
6M Miss Rachel Muncaster
7G Ms Louise Gibbons
7L Mr Leif Larsen
7M Ms Olivia McKenzie
7S Mr Trevor Stephenson
8A Ms Siobhan Allen
8E Ms Sharon Eichinger
8M Ms Kate Mawson
8W Ms Emma Weber
9C Mr Brad Cummins
9F Ms Ann Fenton
9S Ms Madalena Styles
9W Ms Kelly Walker

This has meant some changes in terms of buildings. 9F and 7L are enjoying newly fitted out classrooms to accommodate these extra classes. My office in the Taylor Building is now located across the hall to my previous office.

At the start of the year it is a good time for students to reflect and act on their strengths and let them shine as they re-establish relationships after the long break. It is also a great time to remember to use their strengths in their learning. Each year level has been establishing positive relationships with their peers and their teacher, as well as setting goals for the year ahead.

The relationships the staff have with families is crucial as we work together to support students in their learning and wellbeing.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Middle School Picnic tonight, where you will have the opportunity to meet your daughter’s Form teacher in a relaxed environment.

I wish everyone a prosperous 2016.

Rachel McKee
Head of Middle School
On behalf of the entire Junior School staff it is my absolute pleasure to welcome you to Term 1, 2016. I am, once again, very much looking forward to working with all members of our Junior School community. I wish both our continuing and new families a year blessed with good health and happiness. Our first weeks back into teaching and learning routines have been filled with smiles, enthusiasm and plenty of determination to work hard and achieve newly established goals.

The Seymour Junior School is a unique, and very special learning environment but the outstanding nature of our teaching and learning culture does not come about by accident. Our expectations in regard to respect shown for self, others, learning and our community environment are high, consistent across year levels and curriculum subjects, and relevant to all members of our community.

Our College Vision reflects our commitment to developing women of strength, optimism and justice. Maintaining a learning environment where learning is valued and celebrated, words and actions demonstrate respect for others, and where every learner is guided towards achieving their personal best, is central to transforming this vision into reality. When these stars align, school is an exciting and happy place to be.

The beginning of a new year is an opportune time for reflection about expectations of behaviour, uniform, homework and learning application. We have spent some time during the first few days reinforcing these expectations with all our girls. I thank you, in advance, for supporting the high expectations we have imbued in our culture.

Communication
As the Head of Junior School, I will be making a special endeavour during the year to contact and meet with you all personally. Our working lives become busy and, whilst I have contact with many of you on a weekly basis, it is often fleeting with little time to share more than those things most immediately at hand. I greatly value your views and perspectives and believe that I need to hear more of them. They help me as a leader and help us as a Junior School.

For these reasons, I have decided to contact all Junior School families in the coming months to make a mutually convenient time to meet. I would like to speak with you about the girls and the Junior School, to hear your ideas and, most importantly, to enhance the open and trusting environment that is essential for all successful school community partnerships.

This may take some time, but I am committed, and look forward to progressively arranging to meet with you all this year.

Camp Australia Open on College Closure Day
All College staff will be involved in a day of professional learning on Thursday, 24 March resulting in an official closure day immediately prior to the Easter weekend. Please note that the Early Years at Seymour will still operate and that Camp Australia will be available to take bookings from 7.00am–6.00pm on that day. Please make bookings through the Camp Australia website.

Shelley Travers
Head of Junior School
We all seek an environment in which our young learners flourish. This is integral to everything we do. An effective home/school partnership is one of the most effective means we have to achieve this goal and give every Seymour girl an opportunity to be the best she can be. 

I encourage you generally to share your feedback with us, seek clarification as needed and offer ideas for growth in partnership.

Keeping parents engaged in Junior School learning processes remains a significant goal for us again this year. Our Partnerships with Parents workshop programme will recommence in Week 3 of this term. A timetable of Term 1 workshop topics can be found below and will also be posted on our Junior School noticeboard.

I look forward to sharing Junior School teaching and learning information and initiatives with you at these workshops throughout the year.

**WEEK/DATE/TIME** | **PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS WORKSHOP FOCUS**
---|---
**WEEK 3**<br>Wednesday, 17 February 3.00–3.30pm<br>Thursday, 18 February 6.00–6.30pm | Changing Mindset, Goal Setting and Getting the Most Out of Learning.  
• The work and research of Carol Dweck  
• Entity versus Incremental learning

**WEEK 5** | Parent / Teacher Interviews – No PWP

**WEEK 7**<br>Wednesday, 16 March 3.00–3.30pm<br>Thursday, 17 March 6.00–6.30pm | IBPYP – The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme  
• Update on the Junior School journey  
• What you are seeing, why and what it means for learning

**WEEK 9** | Junior School Chinese Festival – No PWP

**WEEK 11**<br>Wednesday, 13 April 3.00–3.30pm<br>Thursday, 14 April 6.00–6.30pm | Provocation and Discussion – Looking out for the grown-ups in our Junior School  
• Parent wellbeing – staying well so that you can be the best parent you can be  
• Ideas and experiences from the group  
• Research and support for everyone
The Junior School were incredibly fortunate to receive a very special visit from Indigenous dance group, The Dusty Feet Mob, on Thursday, 11 February.

This talented group of young dancers from the Port Augusta area were in town to perform with Archie Roach at Adelaide’s Annual Anniversary of the Apology Breakfast on Friday, 12 February.

We welcomed the dance troupe for a shared lunch with our Year 5 leaders and, following a walk around the Junior School, The Dusty Feet Mob performed a series of traditional and contemporary dances for our girls. We hope that this insightful and exciting experience is the start of a wonderful friendship.
Our Year 5 Leaders for 2016 were officially inducted and presented their badges of office at a special assembly on Thursday, 11 February. They then spent the day involved in a series of leadership workshops. Throughout the day the girls explored what it means to be a leader via an inquiry using the Learner Profile attributes of the IB Primary Years Programme. The day concluded with an inspiring Q&A session for the girls with a panel of leaders from our Seymour community which included Darren Pitt (Acting Principal), Isobel (Head Girl), Suzy Daw (Management Executive) and Constable Kerwin Penn (SAPOL).

Thank you to Chris Stepien, Coco Grist and Julia Mander for their energetic contributions during the day and to our brave panellists who received some insightful questions from our young leaders and shared their inspiring stories and experiences so generously.
Junior School classrooms are abuzz with units of inquiry for the Primary Years Programme (PYP). While there is a lot of new language surrounding the PYP that is appearing in classrooms and around the College, our general day-to-day routines continue as usual.

Our strong focus on learning, thinking interdependently and challenging yourself remain central to our teaching and learning programme, but a walk into our Junior School classrooms will also enable you to feel, see and hear the language of the PYP Learner Profile. You will see girls working collaboratively in groups to brainstorm what they know about a newly introduced unit; girls questioning and inquiring within the unit and posting questions and wonderings on a ‘wonder wall’; as well as girls and teachers formulating ‘Essential Agreements’ (learning expectations and responsibilities for the year ahead).

You will also see girls enacting the Learner Profile as they go about their learning tasks. Girls being thinkers, inquiring and reflective learners, and open-minded and courageous communicators. Girls who demonstrate a principled approach to life and who value learning and becoming increasingly knowledgeable about the world they live in and themselves.

The PYP is a framework for best practice teaching and learning. One that our Junior School is very much committed to and excited about implementing.

Steph Bates
Assistant Head of Junior School – Curriculum
PYP Coordinator
Welcome to 2016

We have certainly started 2016 on a positive note, with a full Boarding House and 38 new girls joining us as boarders. We have welcomed girls from far and wide, across Australia and overseas. We have girls whose local swimming pool was a 25 metre rock pool, girls who come from properties that are thousands of hectares in size and who had never been to school before attending Seymour, and girls who had to sit on a bus for three hours each day to travel to and from school. Coupled with our already diverse group of girls from across South Australia, New South Wales, the Northern Territory, Tasmania and South East Asia, the Boarding House is a very interesting and lively place to live.

So many wonderful parents have joined our boarding community. At our recent Boarders’ Welcome BBQ, boarders young and old, siblings, parents, teaching staff, along with the College Leadership Team, joined together to celebrate the beginning of the boarding year. Old friends caught up and new friends were welcomed with open arms. Photos from this event and the boarders zone and ute photos are now available to view and purchase from Festival City Photography. Log in details are available on SOCS.

If you haven't already registered your interest in joining the Boarders’ Parents' Retreat, please click below:

![BOARDERS’ PARENTS’ RETREAT – BROKEN HILL]

FRIDAY, 8 APRIL TO SUNDAY, 10 APRIL 2016

Register your interest by Monday, 29 February at www.trybooking.com/179981

Accommodation at corporate rates is available from:
- Red Earth 08 8088 5694
- Old Willyama Hotel 08 8088 3355
- Royal Exchange Hotel 08 8514 9908

The above three motels are all within walking distance of the Main Street (Argent Street) and the venues for Friday evening and Saturday morning.
Please book your own accommodation.
Further details and costs will be provided shortly.

For more information, please contact
Robin Baxter on rob.baxter@bigpond.com or
Caroline Hodges on chodges@seymour.sa.edu.au

Caroline Hodges
Director of Boarding
The Sarvodaya India participants returned to Adelaide on Tuesday, 26 January feeling very satisfied that they had contributed to the programme and built on the relationships begun by previous groups. The group followed the same itinerary and connected with our partners in a way that brought much credit to themselves, their families and the College. Our partner communities were very generous in their hospitality and are grateful for our contributions.

During the last week of the trip the focus changed from service to our exchange with Salwan Public Schools, Gurgaon and Rajender Nagar. Both schools ensured that we had a varied programme with an excellent mix of culture, education and fun. We look forward to hosting a group from these schools later in the year.

Lynne Moten
Director of Service Learning
Congratulations to Old Collegians, Elly, Senuri, Alexandra ('15), and Year 12s Brittany, Claudia and Alexandra for their contribution to Edmund Rice Camps during the holidays. I received excellent feedback about the girls’ engagement and presence with all on the camps. Below is a reflection from Brittany, Alexandra and Claudia:

This January, five Seymour girls volunteered at the Superhero themed Edmund Rice Camp, a five day programme that helps children aged 8 to 11 from marginalised backgrounds. We spent four fun filled days at the Rostrevor Boarding House, playing games, swimming, making superhero capes and generally forming genuine relationships with the kids. It was a fantastic way to spend our holiday break, providing us with a valuable perspective that is very useful going into Year 12. We now look forward to the next camp in July!
During January, Year 11s Tayah and Hannah attended a Social Justice retreat with students from other colleges. Tayah has reflected on the experience:

*If Hannah and I had to use three words to describe the 2016 Social Justice Leadership Retreat they would be: inspiring, empowering, and eye-opening.*

*The retreat consisted of a number of sessions with topics such as What is Justice?, Justice Leadership, Charity vs Justice, The Forgotten Ones, Justice in Action and Where to from here?*

*One of the main highlights of the retreat was the placements. The placement to which I was sent was to help a very inspirational woman, Rachel. Rachel puts together backpacks and pencil cases full of stationary and delivers them to families who were affected by the recent Pinery bushfires.*

*The overall experience was great as I came to know Rachel, her story and how one person can really make a difference.*

*Hannah went to Catherine House, an organisation that takes care of homeless and vulnerable women.*

*One thing I took away from the experience was that every single one of us deserves to be treated fairly and equally, after all we are all human.*

*We would most definitely recommend this retreat to anyone who would be interested in making a difference in the world or in their local community.*

*Here is a quote that I now believe with my whole heart:*

Justice is being done when the worth of the other is valued, respected and celebrated.

Nicholas Wolterstorff.
SwimmingSuccess

2016 South Australian Age and Open Swimming Championships

15 Seymour girls competed at the 2016 South Australian Age and Open Championships in January 2016, winning eight gold, seven silver and thirteen bronze medals.

- I, Tamara (Year 12, Swimming Leader), won six gold, two silver and one bronze medal.
- Emily (Year 11) won two gold and one bronze medal.
- Madeline Stephan (Year 9) won two silver medals.
- Ella (Year 9) won one bronze medal, one fourth and qualified for two other finals.
- Aislin (Year 10) qualified for finals in three backstroke events, swimming new personal best times.
- Ellie (Year 8) won three silver and five bronze medals.
- Isabel (Year 8) won three bronze medals.
- Lucy (Year 8) swam in five races, reaching the finals in her three individual races.
- Lara (Year 7) won two bronze medals.
- Truc-Mai (Year 7) swam in two relays as a part of the Henley and Grange Swimming Club.
- Olivia (Year 6) competed in three races, swimming in two finals.

Competing in their first state championships, Indy (Year 5), Georgina (Year 5), Eliza (Year 7) and Lucy (Year 7) all swam new personal best times – well done.

- Indy competed in two 11&U events as a ten year old, placing 43rd and 44th.
- Georgina swam in three 11&U age group races as a nine year old, performing superbly against much older girls.
- Eliza competed in four 50m events, achieving new personal bests in each race.
- Lucy raced in the 12 years 50 Freestyle and swam a 1.5 second personal best time.

Qualification for 2016 Georgina Hope Australian Age Swimming Championships

Ellie (Year 8), Madeline (Year 9), Emily (Year 11) and I, Tamara (Year 12), have swum qualifying times to compete at the 2016 Georgina Hope Australian Age Swimming Championships to be held in Adelaide from 28 March to 4 April. The competition will provide the girls with great experience racing amongst the fastest age group swimmers in the country. All the best!

Tamara, Year 12
2016 Swimming Leader
The Outdoor Education programme at Seymour aims to use the outdoors to develop in students an understanding and an appreciation of the natural environment and the need for its conservation. Students develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for survival in a variety of outdoor activities that have minimal impact on the environment and maximum impact on their personal development.

The Seymour College Outdoor Education programme aims to provide students with a range of opportunities to discover and develop their own potential, with a focus on three main facets: communities (relating to others), individuals (relating to self) and the natural world (relating to the environment).

In chronological order, the Seymour College Outdoor Education camps being held in 2016 (which are also found in the calendar) are as follows:

- Year 6 – Camp Aldinga: Term 1, Week 6 (Wednesday to Friday)
- Year 7 – Victor Harbor Adventures: Term 1, Week 8 (Mon to Wed)
- Year 10 – The Flinders Experience: Term 2, Week 3 (Mon to Fri)
- Year 8 – Murraylands Aquatic Centre: Term 3, Week 5 (dates and relevant Forms to be confirmed).
- Year 9 – Scott’s Creek Outdoor Education Centre: Term 4, Week 5/Week 6 (Two forms attend Mon to Fri each week)

Christie McAuley
PE Teacher/Outdoor Education Coordinator
Outdoor Education Extension Programme

The 10 day trip to The Overland Track, Tasmania (including six days/five nights of expedition bushwalking) is planned for Sunday 17–Tuesday, 26 April, 2016. The experience is open to 2016 Year 10–12 students. A maximum of ten students can attend. Selection criteria will apply. Expedition details:

- Sunday, 17 April 2016: fly Adelaide to Launceston
- Tuesday, 26 April 2016: fly Launceston to Adelaide
- Transfers to/from Cradle Mountain from Launceston with local operator
- 10 days/9 nights, including 6 days of independent walking (with leaders) on marked trail
- Pack will weigh approximately 17 or 18 kgs

There are some places still available for this wonderful adventure, and late entries may be negotiated prior to Friday, 26 February.

An information letter can be collected from Ms McAuley (Sports Centre).

Christie McAuley
PE Teacher/Outdoor Education Coordinator
Seymour has well-established partnerships with schools in three different countries as well as in Queensland and Victoria. These partnerships allow for a sharing of culture and knowledge, and often create opportunities for the development of relationships that endure for many years.

Annually, girls from Years 8, 9 and 10 can apply for inclusion in a reciprocal exchange, ranging from one week to four, which sees them hosting a student from another school and, in turn, they are hosted by that same student in their school. The current partnerships include:

- St George’s School, Edinburgh, Scotland (Year 10): Applications are now open for Year 10 girls interested in applying for this exchange, which occurs during Term 2/3. All application information and documents can be downloaded from the ExPO page of SOCS. Applications close on Friday, 19 February.
- York House School, Vancouver, Canada (Year 9)
- Diocesan School for Girls, Auckland, New Zealand (Year 9)
- St Aidan’s Anglican Girls’ School, Brisbane, Queensland (Year 8)
- Ruyton Girls’ School, Kew, Victoria (Year 8)

Girls who are interested in applying for these exchanges should keep an eye on the ExPO page of SOCS and listen to Daily Notices.

Further information can be obtained by seeing Rosie Lake or making contact via email on rlake@seymour.sa.edu.au.

Rosie Lake
Coordinator of Student Activities
Community

Community Events and Information

Please click on community notices for further information.

**Alfresco Drinks**
RSVP by Thursday, 18 February 2016 via Trybooking: [www.trybooking.com/173059](http://www.trybooking.com/173059)

**2016 P&F Cocktail Party and Fashion Parade**
For more details, please email Marcelle.James@btfinancialgroup.com

**P&F Volunteers Needed - Swimming Carnival**

**2016 Parent Representatives - Can you help?**

City of Burnside Parking Information

**Kids' Weekend - Adelaide Writers' Week 2016**

**Seymour Dance - Enrol now!**

Limited edition reproduction artwork by Gilbert Dashorst (below) available for purchase. Please contact Vicky Lekis, Director of Advancement on 8303 9000 or Deb Roach, Seymour Shop Manager on 8303 9017 for details or to order.