Term 3 has been another busy term for all the girls, and certainly a very busy one for me.

I had the opportunity to travel to the West Coast of South Australia to attend the biennial Cleve Field Days. It was lovely catching up with many of our families and although it was quite chilly, the rain held off for most of the three day event. Many of our families hail from the Eyre Peninsula and it was wonderful to have so many new enquiries about Loreto, due to all the positive feedback they have received from our current families. The most valuable advertising is word of mouth from our current parents regarding our wonderful Boarding School.

I returned to Adelaide to warm up for a few days, and then flew across to Canberra with five of our students to attend the Indigenous National Gathering. We were fortunate to stay at the Australian Institute of Sport, and whilst the temperature was averaging three degrees each day, we were delighted to have a number of stimulating workshops on leadership, identity, and culture. The girls enjoyed meeting other students from all parts of Australia and thoroughly immersed themselves in all activities.

Semester 2 is the serious end of the girls’ studies and I include below an excerpt from the Principal, Mrs Gleeson, regarding expectations of our students during this vital time of the year:

"...I spoke to the girls at our first assembly about the importance of focusing on their academic studies this term. Having received and reflected on their Semester 1 reports, Term 3 offers the opportunity for a fresh start for new semester subjects and consolidation for full year subjects. By taking the advice of their teachers, students are able to build on their areas of strength and utilise strategies to assist them in areas where improvement is needed. Term 3, which generally has fewer whole school interruptions, affords the students the opportunity to focus their energies on their study and set themselves personal goals to work towards. Attention to punctuality to class, completing homework, meeting deadlines, submitting drafts and acting on feedback all go towards nurturing ‘academic perseverance’, so that they can be thorough with their work and do it to the very best of their ability, despite distractions or level of challenge. I encouraged the girls to have a positive mindset and believe in themselves and make use of all the resources available to them at school to assist them in their pursuit of excellence and achievement…"

Apart from their usual study and assignment work, the girls were also busy with school based commitments which included work experience for the Year 10s, Year 11 camp in the Flinders Ranges and the Year 12s’ week of study and trial exams. In the midst of all these school expectations, the girls continued with their sporting commitments, Boarders’ Cup competitions, and even squeezed in some social activities. The finale to the Boarders’ Cup will occur in our final week of school with the results published in our final newsletter of the year.

This term has also seen the start of the process for leadership positions for 2013. The entire Boarding School was elated to hear that the Head Girl for the whole school is our very own Kat Jeissati. We were just as excited to hear that another boarder was elected as Mulhall House Captain for 2013: congratulations Rebecca Hardy.
Once these elections were finalised, we began our process to vote for Head Boarder. Five girls were nominated for the position by our Year 11 cohort, and each made her speech with dignity and poise to the rest of our boarders. I thank them all – Isabelle Hall, Lisa Erlandson, Michaely Lynch, Bridget Faulkner and Paige Elliott. Any one of them would have made an exemplary Head Boarder. It is with great pleasure that I announce Paige Elliott to be Head Boarder for 2013, and Isabelle Hall to be her Deputy. Further nominations and voting on other positions will occur before the end of the year and the full list of the Boarder Executive for 2013 will be published in the next newsletter.

This will be the final Boarding newsletter our Year 12s will be receiving, so it is fitting to acknowledge all the girls and their contributions to the Boarding School. Firstly, I would like to thank Hannah Boylan, our Head Boarder. Her sensitive and caring manner has been appreciated by all the girls and staff. Her genuine love for all has been a valuable asset in her role. Thanks also to Amelia Rasheed, Deputy, for her energy and sense of fun in all that she has done.

I would also like to acknowledge Jasmine Petersen and Kate Babbage for working on all our liturgies throughout the year. Their organisation has been greatly appreciated. Georgia Francis, Poyntz House Captain, and Dellie Smith, Wigmore House Captain, also worked with Alex Rositano to plan and lead Boarders’ Cup activities. Thanks go also to Jade Pass for being our School Executive representative, and always keeping us on track with her insightful ideas.

To the rest of the Year 12 cohort, your work with the younger students has been inspiring and you most certainly have left your legacy on us. We wish you all well with your final examinations, assignments and preparations for your final weeks of school. We pray that you thrive and flourish in your journey to find your place in the world and be the best that you can be.

Andrea Assioti
Head of Boarding

FROM THE HEAD BOARDER

What a roller coaster of a year! Where do I begin?

The 2012 theme *Free to be You in Twenty One Two* was created to inspire the boarders to be true to who they are and express themselves without fear of being judged. The banner artwork was designed by all of the Year 12s, as we felt it described the theme perfectly. The silhouette of a girl expresses that people should be accepted for the qualities that they possess on the inside, as opposed to physical appearance. The colours being released by the girl represent the vibrant qualities each and every one of us holds within. The other symbols such as the netball, paintbrush and music note, symbolises the areas of hidden talent that we would love to see emerge as we become part of the Loreto family. The goal was that as a boarding community, we hoped to make everyone feel that she is free to express her inner qualities and emotions. We believe that this goal has been achieved this year.

On the first weekend back in the Boarding School, everyone participated in the Commitment Weekend, enjoying all the activities organised for us.

These included a pool party, Poyntz and Wigmore (boarding house teams) banner painting, name tag decorating, the Wilderness School Social and on Sunday, we all went to Marion for a day of retail therapy. Commitment Weekend was the start of the girls forming a sister-like bond.

The various activities that occurred this year, especially the Boarders’ Cup, allowed the girls to express their talents and individuality, whilst having a lot of fun. Supervisor, Alex Rositano, worked with the two captains, Dellie Smith
(Wigmore) and Georgia Francis (Poyntz), along with their vice captains, Mardi O’Brien and Bridget Faulkner, to plan fun filled activities to compete for house points. The activities were a great success and ranged from finding the leader down at the Parade, a Day at the Races dress challenge using garbage bags, to synchronised swimming on the lawn, sporting competitions, and the very popular Talent Show!

This show was a great hit and showcased some excellent talent. We had comedians, beautiful voices, instrumentals, dancers and group performances. The final was held in Week 9 this term. Everyone was excited to see who the champions for 2012 were and for Ms A to announce the winning team. Throughout the year, the girls have also attended socials at a range of schools, had movie nights under the stars rugged up on the sofas, and participated in quizzes to win team points.

In Week 7 of Term 2, it was the famous and much anticipated Boarders’ Week! On Monday, an assembly was held which allowed us to showcase our talents to the day school. The girls who performed at the assembly must be recognised for a job well done. On Thursday, the Boarders’ BBQ was held and everyone came in their country casuals! The delicious country sausages were kindly donated by various families. The smell of country meat cooking and the sounds of country music were loved by all. Many told us that is was their best Boarders’ Week ever!

All of the Year 12s are to be commended on the fabulous job they have done as big sisters to all the new girls. The girls built a special relationship and offered ongoing support to their little sisters to help them settle in. As the Boarding School expanded this year, rather than one little sister, the majority of Year 12s had three! The first night in the Boarding House, when it was just the new girls and Year 12s, we had an orienteering task down at the Parade where the 12s and their little sisters raced around completing the challenges. This allowed not only bonding time, but also a chance for the newies to get a sense of The Parade and where things were.

I would like to thank Ms Assioti and the boarding staff for their support throughout the year. To the boarding executive, school representative Jade Pass, music and liturgy leaders Kate Babbage and Jasmine Peterson, House Captains Dellie Smith and Georgia Francis, thank you for your ideas, support and ongoing efforts to make this Boarding School a better place. Thanks to the 73 sisters of 2012 who make up the boarding family, for making this a great year.

A very special thanks to my Deputy, Amelia Rasheed, who has been side-by-side with me through the good and bad times this year, I can’t thank you enough. Thanks to all the Year 12s for sharing the highs and lows of Year 12. This has been a truly memorable year we will cherish.

Hannah Boylan
Head Boarder
Best wishes and many happy returns to the following girls who celebrated their birthdays this term:
Brittany Dunchue, Paige Elliot, Olivier Holland, Riley Fitzgerald, Deean Yeoh, Renee Cubillo – Mulholland, Rebecca Hardy, Karla Ridsdale, Amelia Rashee, Annabelle Keane, Celia Dunne, Lara McKee, Mardi O’Brien, Dellie Smith, Tori Connor, Alice Pietsch and Tori Sherriff.

DIARY DATES
Sunday, 7 October
Students return
4:30 pm Family forum
5:00 pm Family BBQ

Monday, 8 October
Term 4 begins

Thursday, 18 October
Last day for Year 12s

Friday, 19 October
Year 12 Ceremonies

Sunday, 21 October
Boarders’ Mass (compulsory for all students)

Thursday, 25 October
Year 12 Boarders’ graduation dinner 6:30pm

Friday, 26 October
Year 12 Graduation Mass and dinner 5:45pm at St Ignatius Church

Friday, 23 November
Year 11 Exams begin

Tuesday, 27 November
Year 10 Exams begin

Thursday, 29 November
Year 10 & 11 Merit ceremonies (Year 10 & 11 students finish school year at 3:30pm)

Friday, 7 December
Year 6-9 Merit ceremonies
Last day of the school year (12:30pm dismissal)