From the Head of Boarding

Welcome to our first newsletter for the year, a particularly warm welcome to all our new families who have joined our boarding community. I am pleased to say that all the new girls have settled into routines and seem more at ease with the concept of boarding, so much so that it feels like they have been here forever! For those students returning to boarding this year, many changes have occurred. The refurbishments, which have seen a new reception desk in the foyer and additional bedrooms added, have been welcomed by both staff and students; it has made for a more welcoming area where staff, students and visitors can greet each other as they enter the front door. The junior girls, who are in the new front rooms, have been happy with the room sizes and configuration.

Our Boarding House is currently full and our boarders are flourishing. It is wonderful when meeting prospective parents that they all mention positive comments made by current families. For this, I thank you all.

This year we have asked the girls to pack their lunches in the mornings before they go to school. This encourages our boarders to socialise more with the day girls so that they can expand their friendship groups. All girls have been issued with their own lunchbox which contains several compartments for their recess, lunch and snacks. I must say how surprised I was at how much enthusiasm a lunch box can bring! Quite a few girls have specifically mentioned to me how much they enjoy having lunch in the school with the day girls.

I would like to welcome the following assistant supervisors who have joined our team in 2013: Jemma Moody, Melissa Beasley, Casey Treloar and Melissa Davies. These ladies are predominantly sleepover supervisors but also have the opportunity to work with your daughters during the week. I am also pleased to welcome back Deseri Beytell and Jess Kuerschner to the Boarding School team.

Our first term has been very busy but very enjoyable. Each week has been filled with activities, camps and information evenings - with the warm weather and the extended daylight hours the girls have had the opportunity to enjoy early morning and late evening runs and activities.

We began our year as a community with a welcome Mass. This was a great opportunity for our current Year 12 leaders to introduce their theme for the year. It was also a great opportunity for all parents to meet staff and enjoy the BBQ dinner provided by the parents and friends. Unfortunately we don’t have a lot of opportunities to gather as a large group, so I urge you to join in our inaugural ‘Parent retreat,’ 16-18 August, which is being organised by our West Coast families. A weekend retreat filled with activities, sharing of meals and socialising is a wonderful way to get to know each other. A flyer was sent out at the end of last year and has been distributed this year, if you require further details please email me.

Commitment Weekend

At the completion of the first week of school, all the girls remained in the Boarding House for the weekend. Friday night began with a Boarders’ Social for Years 10 – 12 and the juniors treated themselves to a movie night, as they had the entire house to themselves. On Saturday we began the morning with special guest speakers about safety on the internet and Kate Munro, our senior school counsellor, spoke to the girls on various topics about adolescent health and well-being. The girls painted their banners, spent some time with their ‘big sisters’ and we finished the weekend with some retail therapy at Marion Shopping Complex. The girls then returned to attend Mass at our local parish, St Ignatius.
Activities

The boarders have been busy in their free time during the term. We have many girls involved in a myriad of sporting teams which compete on weekends throughout the term. We have also participated in two major carnivals within the school. Firstly, our swimming carnival coincided with one of the hottest spells we have endured in Adelaide for many years. Competing in the indoor pool may have been a little uncomfortable for the spectators, but the girls certainly got into the spirit of the day and cheered for their house teams.

Congratulations to Rebecca Hardy, Mulhall Captain, who so ably led her team to victory at the Athletics carnival. I was very proud to see Rebecca lead with such great enthusiasm. The older girls have attended boarder socials at Rostrevor College and Wilderness School. Our juniors took a trip to the city with an assistant supervisor to explore the Fringe festivities and the Clipsal weekend.

I had the pleasure of attending Chinese New Year celebrations with our international girls. A Chinese banquet and traditional dragon dancing heralded in the Year of the Snake.

Congratulations to the Indigenous girls who participated in the Smith Family Fun Ride. I was very proud of their efforts in raising over $2000 for the Smith Family. Thanks also to all the parents who supported them in their sponsorship.

Family Day

What a wonderfully successful day! I was so thrilled to have heard from many of the day scholar parents that the Boarders' Stall was so inviting. The home cooked produce, Streaky Bay oysters, arts and crafts were lovely. Once again, thank you for all your efforts.

Andrea Assioti
From the Head Boarder

When deciding on a theme for 2013, we wanted to capture the importance of justice in our everyday acts in the boarding house. When defining justice, we believe that it indicates the right relationships between people in combined communities, and especially in our boarding community. Having right relationships means not necessarily having perfect interactions with all people, but respecting the dignity of others and embracing your relationship with God, with other people, with creation and having a deep relationship with yourself. Healthy relations with other people are the basis to creating justice; therefore we will strive to strengthen the relationships between the girls, their relationships with themselves and others, with staff, and with the wider Loreto community.

Embracing a change entails recognising an issue that is in need of attention. This will allow us to choose an appropriate course of action, and in doing this, will give us the opportunity to share our knowledge and resources. The use of the word embrace indicates being passionate about making the boarding house a better place. Embracing can also be seen as ‘embodying’ a change, by involving our passion in our actions and words, and having a belief that with the support of others, we can make a difference.

To pursue justice with dignity is to carry out ‘just’ acts. This consists of being free of judgement, having an understanding and appreciation of those around us and their situation, as well as being open-minded and accepting of differences in lifestyle and opinion. Dignity means having self-respect, and granting everyone the same rights, subsequently recognising inequality to further create equality through, not only our words, but also our actions within the boarding community.

To have the courage to pursue justice with dignity, in Mother Gonzaga Barry’s words, a ‘heart transformed by love’ is a necessity. This beholds having the capacity to love yourself, have a love of those around you, a love of God and a love of life.

Thought around these virtues enabled us to arrive at the theme for the Loreto College Boarding House for 2013 of: ‘Embrace the Change you wish to see, and Pursue Justice with Dignity.’

Paige Elliot
From the Wigmore and Poyntz Captains

This term, all the girls have shown great interest and enthusiasm in the Boarders’ Cup activities. It allows the girls to form new friendships, enjoy themselves, show their talents and be competitive. We commenced the yearly competition during our commitment weekend. We used this time to get to know the new girls in the teams and make them feel welcomed. The banners they painted represent the themes we chose for each of our teams this year. Wigmore’s theme for the year is ‘Wigmore Westerns’ and Poyntz’ theme is ‘Poyntz Party Rock.’ Each of these themes deeply reflect our personalities, which is important as it gives a chance for our teams to not only get into our themes and dress up, but it also gives the girls an opportunity to get to know us as their captains. We want all girls to be comfortable expressing their ideas and feelings about what they would like to see in the competitions throughout the year.

We have had team meetings to decide on a plan that will be in the interest of everyone this year. The first official competition we held this year was a Wigmore vs. Poyntz Netball match in Week 4. It was a vibrant atmosphere as the colours of aqua ad pink scattered the gym. After a very close competition, Wigmore produced a win. Great participation and skill was exhibited from both teams. Week 7, again, saw the gym filled with the girls as we played a very competitive basketball game. Once again Wigmore came away with the victory. There is currently one point separating the two teams and we look forward to many more exciting events in the upcoming weeks and remaining terms.

Bridget Faulkner and Mardi O’Brien

Term 2 Diary Dates

Sunday, 28 April
Boarding House opens 1pm
Boarder parent meeting 5pm

Wednesday, 1 May
Flu vaccinations

Saturday, 4 May
Year 11 & 12 pre formal boarding parents’ cocktail party
5:30-6:45pm

Monday, 6 May
Year 11 & 12 parent, teacher, student interviews

Sunday, 26 May
Boarders’ Mass (compulsory for all boarders)

Friday, 31 May
Performing Arts Festival - Adelaide Convention Centre

Friday 7- Monday 10, June
Boarders’ exeat - Queen’s Birthday long weekend

Tuesday, 2 July
Last day of Term 2

For further information on these and future events visit our online calendar [www.loreto.sa.edu.au](http://www.loreto.sa.edu.au)