What an extraordinary term it has been! Although the longest term in the year, comprising 11 weeks, it seems just yesterday we were celebrating coming together as a community. Much has happened and as I reflect on all that we have accomplished, you will agree that we have squeezed in a great deal.

In our first week, we welcomed all new families to our Loreto community with a Mass and BBQ, hosted by the Parents’ and Friends’ Association. It was a lovely evening with old friends catching up, as well as welcoming 16 new girls and their families. Then, the girls began classes and met their new teachers. Our thoughts were with our new girls who had to familiarise themselves with a new school, try to navigate around the maze of buildings and classrooms and meet a myriad of new people. I am very proud of how these girls tackled these challenges and their resilience in overcoming many obstacles, particularly homesickness.

Our annual Commitment Weekend, which is held at the end of the first week of school, allows the girls to reconnect after the school holidays. It also allows the “big sisters” of our new girls to spend some time introducing them to boarding life. Mrs Gleeson, our Principal, ran a session with the girls and spent some time with us. Kate Munro, our College Counsellor, and Ann-Maree Tippins, the Learning Technologies Coordinator, also shared their expertise with the boarders. It was a scorcher of a weekend with average temperatures over 45 degrees each day. We spent a lot of time doing water activities in our two pool areas and Rostrevor invited us for a pool party on the Saturday night. We finished the weekend with morning Mass and a day of retail therapy at Marion shopping complex, where we escaped from the outdoor temperature of 46 degrees.

I was most impressed by the enthusiastic way all our girls participated in both the Swimming and Athletics carnivals. They competed so well and won many of their heats. Next term we look forward to this same enthusiasm when the girls participate in the Performing Arts Festival.
In Week 4, the entire school community came together to celebrate the Beginning of Year Mass at St Ignatius Church. At this mass, all the student leaders were acknowledged and commissioned into their leadership roles. In addition, all Year 12 students received their Boarding and Senior badges. We particularly congratulate the following boarders who have significant leadership positions in 2014:

- **Head Boarder:** Alice Quigley
- **Deputy Head Boarder:** Meg Rasheed
- **Poyntz House Captain:** Deean Yeoh
- **Wigmore House Captain:** Isobele Murphy
- **Music Captain:** Caitlin Lord
- **Liturgy Captain:** Alice Pietsch
- **Indigenous Student Representative:** Danielle O’Donnell
- **Social Justice Coordinator:** Mikaela Heath
- **McGrath Sport Captain:** Abbie Keough
- **Mulhall Music Captain:** Jaime Willson
- **Mulhall Music Vice Captain:** Ciara Guy

During the term, the Year Level Supervisors organised excursions for their cohorts. The Year 8-10 girls went bowling and took part in a laser skirmish, the Year 11s enjoyed the Garden of Unearthly Delights at the Fringe Festival and the Year 12 group savoured fine foods at the Central Market. Throughout the term, the Boarding House Captains also organised a number of activities which the girls enjoyed.

Our Chapel prayers on Monday nights have been most reflective and I have been really pleased with the girls embracing this special time. It has been an opportunity to put away our mobile phones and electronic devices and to quietly sit and just “be.” I have been most impressed that some of the girls have asked to run future sessions.

Finally, we congratulate the class of 2013 for the strength of their results. This cohort demonstrated that with commitment, consistency and collaboration, wonderful results can be achieved. We wish our graduates of 2013 happiness and success in the years ahead. May they continue to strive for excellence in all that they do. May they go on to use their gifts and talents to help build a better world. In the words of Mary Ward, founder of the Loreto order, “women in time to come will do much”.

As you can see, it has been a busy, but rewarding term and I would like to congratulate each and every one of the girls for a wonderful start to the year. The girls are happy and settled and I can honestly say that our Boarding House is one filled with much love and joy.

Wishing you a happy and Holy Easter. Enjoy having the girls home for holidays!

Andrea Assioti
Head of Boarding

“Be sincere, be true, be you”

The boarding house leaders worked together to form a small phrase that we believed explained the value of sincerity in the context of the boarding school community. The theme that the boarding executive leaders decided upon represents the respect, love and truthfulness that we believe all Loreto boarders and scholars should, and do possess.

We believe that in our small community there is such diversity not only in the backgrounds from which we all come but also in every single girl’s personality. Our community would not be as special without this diversity. We have to be sincere in the way we act in order to be our true selves. Mary Ward’s ideal was that “we should be such as we appear and appear such as we are.” By being true to ourselves and others, our
true selves will begin to shine, thus becoming the person that Mary Ward envisaged.

The main feature of our banner is a superhero. This woman symbolizes the strengths that we all possess, and shows that by acting in a sincere manner we can also be as strong and independent as the superhero.

Throughout the year, as we remember our chosen theme, we ask that we align our thoughts, words and actions in order to be sincere to ourselves and each other.

Alice Quigley
Head Boarder

Boarding House Captains’ report

The mission of the Loreto boarding house is focused on the “Education of the Heart”. A large part of this is depend- ent on the way in which we value morals – something learnt and achieved as young children. It was for that reason that we banded together in an attempt to relive the past with common childhood memories that forever remain close to the heart of children all around the world – regardless of national or international borders.

The themes for each House Team in 2014 are:

- Playhouse Poyntz
- Where’s Wigmore?

As you all know, Term 1 has recently come to a close. Being the longest term of the year, we commenced it with an initiative to aid the boarding house community in pushing through homesickness with friendly communal competitions. So far, we have come together as collective teams to create our banners, rivalled our team cheers, challenged each other to Minute-to-Win-It, questioned our identities with Celebrity Heads, begun the year-long quest to recycle and visited the Beach House for communal bonding activities centred around the competitive spirits of each Houses.

We don’t want to give all the surprises away, but we have planned some really fun challenges for next term. Here is a sneak peak: gardening, talent shows and much more. We hope to have a diverse range of challenges which will encourage everyone across the four corners of the boarding house to get involved and use their abilities to challenge each other in the growth of our community!

Isobele Murphy and Deean Yeoh
Wigmore and Poyntz House Captains

www.loreto.sa.edu.au/boarding
To end our term, Loreto Boarding School hosted a Junior Social for all Boarding Schools in Adelaide. The girls were delighted to dress up in our theme of Cowboys and Indians.

**Easter Prayer**

We thank you that Easter is not about a people, but all people, that your love and your Salvation are for all who confess with voices, hearts and lives that the tomb is empty because Jesus is risen, that we might know forgiveness, that lives might be reborn and your name glorified now and for eternity.