

lion's roar

TERM 2 • 3 JUNE 2016 • VOLUME 262



From The Principal

Mrs Nicola Taylor

It is said that the variance within an organisation such as a school is often greater than the variance between an organisation. The same could be said between countries. The combined PLC Armidale and PLC Sydney visit to China over the past ten days has shown a greater variance between the three cities within China we visited; Shanghai, Hong Kong and Beijing than on the surface between Australia and China.

Of course there were some obvious differences to adjust to, such as traffic, that makes Sydney peak hour appear calm, cities with populations the size of Australia, and an array of food with unique textures and flavours. However, what was consistently experienced in each city visited that is the same as in our country is the value placed on education and the importance of providing a high quality education for children.

This was especially evident as we met with families and discussed their daughter's schooling. The parents we met with in China are deeply committed to the education of their daughters and are willing to sacrifice much to provide it for them. There is an acknowledgement that an Australian education develops skills and capabilities that may not be facilitated in the very competitive, hierarchical structure that appeared to characterise the schools their daughters were currently attending.

The understanding that success as a 21st Century global citizen requires a strength of character and quality of person, not just a high examination mark, is one that is growing amongst Chinese families which came through in each conversation we had. Values such as integrity, compassion, respect and empathy were expressed as we described an education which allows girls to be known as individuals, to be challenged in their learning and to develop perseverance and resilience along the way. Collaboration, problem solving, clear communication and a commitment to excellence are habits of learning we are seeking to build in our students to equip them to take their place as global citizens.

Director of Development, Mrs Shona Eichorn, and I are indebted to College Council, in particular Dr David Lim and his wife Zhuping as well as PLC Sydney, in particular Dr Paul Burgis and Director of Development, Mr John da Cruz, for facilitating this experience on our behalf. Without the strategic alliance with PLC Sydney the connections we are seeking to forge internationally would not be possible.

A memory of Beijing will be the beautiful roses growing throughout the city, much like those flourishing at PLC.



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calendar OF events

4 TO 26
JUNE
2016

North West Equestrian Expo	4-8/06/2016
Junior School - IPSHA Travelling Art Show	4-10/06/2016
PLCA Students Exchange Students to Columba NZ	4-18/06/2016
St Andrews College NZ Exchange Students at PLCA	4-24/06/2016
Eisteddfod Band Night	7/06/16
IPSHA Art Show/Class Canvas Auction	9/06/16
Boarders' Weekend - depart AM	10/06/16
Queen's Birthday Public Holiday/ Boarders return PM	13/06/16
P & F Trivia Night	17/06/16
Eisteddfod Gala Concert	19/06/16
Boarders' Church Service at St Pauls	19/06/16
Years 10 and 11 Armidale Youth Forum	23/06/16
Boarding Schools Expo - Newcastle	24/06/16
End of Term 2 - Boarders depart (AM)	24/06/16
DOE Bronze Qualifying Hike	25-26/06/2016



Above: Kate Allen kayaking at Penrith last week. Kate also competed in the State Championships and we look forward to hearing of her results.

Rotary Model United Nations Assembly (Muna)

Alison Chapman and Jessica Chambers travelled to Kempsey last weekend to participate in the Rotary District MUNA. They went as South Korea and thoroughly enjoyed themselves dressing up, debating political topics and forming alliances with other countries.

At the end of the weekend, they were awarded the delegates' choice for the most decorated team for MUNA 2016 – one of three awards given at the assembly of 68 students, 34 countries.

Alison and Jessica can be seen at right in their Korean costumes.



Senior School Notes

Anna Caldwell, Head of Senior School

Paul Dillon Teenage Drug and Alcohol Education Webinar

Over the last week I have had the opportunity to be a part of two informative webinars, the first with Paul Dillon, on Teenagers, Drugs and Alcohol. For those of you who missed it, it was recorded, so when it becomes available, you can watch it at a time that suits you. I would highly recommend all parents watching this and being aware of the dangers of mixing teenagers and alcohol. As soon as I get the details of how to access the recording I will let you know.

Working collaboratively to support students experiencing exam anxiety

The second webinar was run by the Mental Health Professionals Network and it was on reducing stress, particularly in the lead up to exams. The overwhelming message for everyone to reduce anxiety and stress is to eat healthily, sleep well, exercise regularly and practice mindfulness on a daily basis. Mindfulness was advocated by all the panelists who were psychologists, psychiatrists, psychotherapist, doctors and school counselors.

Eisteddfod

Congratulations to all girls who have participated in the Eisteddfod thus far. The performances that I have seen and heard have been fabulous. This is a direct result of a lot of hard work and practice and all our girls should be very proud of their efforts.





Junior School News

Ainslie Breckenridge, Head of Junior School

Junior School Working Bee

On Sunday 22 May a group of dedicated PLC families came to the Junior School working bee and made such a difference to our grounds and to Buchan Cottage. I want to sincerely thank the following families who gave up their Sunday to paint, sand, mulch, excavate, cook, contact books in order to make our Junior School look sensational. A big thank you to the: Wake family, Dettwiler family, Alcorn family, Marchant family, Hardin family, Coupland family, Dauparas family, Waters family, Andrea and Aaliyah Howarth, Deb Martin, Joel Ruig and Nicole Frost, Tony and Lily Person, Dr Erica Smith, Lily and Sal McCook.

The results were great but, more importantly, we had a wonderful day of PLC community spirit. A big thank you also to the P and F who kindly paid for our lunch and drinks during the day.

Armidale Eisteddfod

Over the past few weeks we have had all our girls participating in so many group and individual events in the Armidale Eisteddfod. Our choirs and ensembles, under the direction of Miss Connie Rolfe, were amazing as were our musicians in strings and quartet performances. We certainly have many talented musicians amongst us here at PLC. A big thank you also goes to all the parents who have ferried girls to and from NECOM over the past weeks. I know that Miss Rolfe has celebrated the successes with the girls and is now focusing on preparing them for A Starry Night of Music later in the year. Well done to everyone.

IPSHA Travelling Art Show/ Early Literacy Evening

On Thursday 9 June, we will be showcasing artwork from six independent junior schools around NSW in the Astra Arts Centre from 6pm. These pieces come from schools all over the state and are of a very high standard. Please come along and enjoy some light refreshments as you peruse the artworks from schools such as PLC Armidale, TAS, The Hills Grammar, Central Coast Grammar and many more.



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As a special treat, we have the privilege of artist Mr James Rogers, who is a PLC parent, and our Senior School Visual Arts teacher, Ms Helen Templeton, showcasing paintings and sculptures on the evening. James will be here on the evening to talk to people about his pieces as well. It should be a great evening.

Our teachers and girls have been working hard with Ms Templeton, to produce incredible class canvases that will be auctioned off by Mr Andrew Starr on the evening. All proceeds will go towards Junior School resources.

Preceding the IPSHA Art Show, we would like to invite Kindergarten and Pre - Kindergarten families and their friends to come and listen to our early Stage 1 Literacy information talk by Mrs Fiona Wake and Mrs Nicola Taylor from 5pm in the Hospitality Centre. Fiona will be outlining the philosophy of THRASS and addressing the questions of what it is and why it is important to have exposure to THRASS from early stage 1 to year 12. Mrs Taylor will be discussing the importance of a whole school literacy focus here at PLC Armidale.

We would love to see as many of our existing K and Pre K families at this event as it is important information in understanding what we do here at PLC in our early literacy. Please encourage any of your friends who may be asking 'what school for my daughter in Kindergarten' for 2017. Free babysitting will be available in the Senior School library from 5pm. Bookings are essential through Mrs Emma Young.

The evening on June 9 is lining up to be a fantastic night of information, appreciating artistic expression and one of enjoying our PLC Junior School community. You never know, you may end up going home with a very impressive artwork to hang. It is a new event here at PLC so it would be lovely to see a lot of our Junior School families there to experience and support it.



Junior School Sport

Lucy Donaldson, Junior School Sports Coordinator

PSSA Cross Country

Congratulations to the 22 PLC Junior School Girls who competed at the PSSA Cross Country Carnival on Friday 20th May. The weather was on our side providing a beautiful sunny day. All of the girls ran fabulously and should be proud of their efforts. Thank you to the parents and other family members who joined us on the day.

Our 12 year old girls were placed 1st overall, 11 year old girls were placed 2nd overall and the 9 and 10 year old girls were both placed 3rd overall. A fantastic effort to receive a top three place in every age group that we entered.

Individual results:

9 Years: Scarlett Loxley 12th, Abigail Thompson 16th, Annabelle Pennington 17th, Alannah Williams 26th, Charlotte Portell 69th.

10 Years: Sienna Dellow 2nd, Keira Peet 26th, Neve Daugherty 32nd, Maggie Ryan 40th, Makenzie Robertson 27th, Holly Dauparas 50th

11 Years: Maddi McCook 3rd, Poppy Broun 10th, Pip Constable 12th, Emily Thompson 19th, Piper Starr 22nd, Lucy Young 30th

12 Years: Naomi Martin 5th, Mary Flannery 7th, Amelia Wake 9th, Rochelle Peet 10th, Lucinda Caldwell 27th



Gymnastics

Congratulations to Scarlett Loxley, Poppy Broun, Beatrice Henzell and Lucy Young who competed at Inverell on the weekend, representing the Armidale Gymnastics Club. They competed in four apparatus – floor, beam, vault and bars. Scarlett and Poppy received 4 blues each and Beatrice and Lucy received 3 blues and 1 red each. As a result of these scores, they also all received a gold medal. A terrific effort girls and well done!



Skoolbag App

PLC is now using the Skoolbag mobile phone app to keep you up to date with events and changes for your daughter's teams. Weekly sporting draws will be posted on here also.





The 5 Cent Campaign

Isla Biffin, Year 9

If you saw 5 cents on the ground, would you bother to pick it up? What is 5 cents worth to you?

This year, Year 9 Pastoral Care is again taking on the challenge of running the 5 Cent Campaign as our social service. The 5 Cent Campaign is designed to help combat global poverty in underdeveloped countries as well as in Australia. All it takes is 5 cents! By donating 5 cents or more (we'll take any spare change, we're not fussy), we can help provide food, health care and education to thousands of people living in poverty. Donation boxes will be placed in the front office, boarding house and around the local community. Once a week, we will come around to classes during Pastoral Care to collect donations. Our goal is to raise \$300, and any donation made will help us reach that goal and help those in need. So, if you have a jar of 5 cent coins sitting around, gathering dust just remember, with your loose change, we can make change! A big thanks to all those who have already donated, we appreciate your support.

Please ask any Year 9 student or Ms Foster for more information.

What is 5cent?

At YGAP, we believe in a world where every child has access to education.

YGAP's 5cent campaign inspires everyday Australians to take a stand against one of the root causes of global poverty. The innovative fundraising campaign helps them put value back into the five-cent coin and ensure that every child has access to education.

So far we've collected almost 11 million coins, changing the lives of 139,591 people.



2016 Travelling Art Show

[and Auction of Class Artworks]

**Thursday 9 June 2016
from 6pm**

Astra Arts Centre
PLC Armidale

Light refreshments

RSVP for catering purposes to:
Mrs Emma Young
primaryassist@plcarmidale.nsw.edu.au
7 June 2016

[babysitting available - bookings essential]

ALL GIRLS PRE-KINDER TO YEAR 12.
BOARDING FROM YEAR 5.

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Educating successful women of tomorrow in a Christian environment

In alliance with **PLC SYDNEY**



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PRESBYTERIAN
LADIES' COLLEGE
ARMIDALE
1887



1.



Lyndon
Eat Up

Delivering school lunches to underprivileged Australian school children, ensuring they can focus properly, graduate from school and break the cycle of disadvantage.

2.



Noni
African School for Excellence

Revolutionising the face of modern education in South Africa and, in so doing, providing greater access to world-class education to everyone.

3.



Maria
The Action Foundation

Breaking barriers for youth with disabilities living in Africa's largest slum, Maria provides pathways to schools, accessible health services and promotes social inclusion to young people with special needs.



Music Notes

Matthew Minter, Director of Music

Eisteddfod update

At the time of printing this week's edition of Lion's Roar the Eisteddfod competitions are well underway, but there is still more to go!

The Eisteddfod season began with the choral events, followed by composition, woodwind solos, the strings solos and ensembles, then vocal solos, piano and speech and drama. Next week is the class ensembles wind ensembles and the wind ensemble. The Eisteddfod culminates with the Gala Concert on Sunday the 19th of June at 2:00pm

So far the Eisteddfod has been a reflection of the standard of excellence that represents PLC. The Senior and Junior Strings were both awarded first place in their sections, as well as the string quartet. The Junior choirs were ahead of all the other schools and came second only to the NECOM choir. The Year 7 and 8 choir won the Year Ten and Under Choral Section and the Senior Choir won the Open Choral Championship. For me personally and professionally the achievement of winning the choral championship was very profound. However, it is the girls who sang! As music teachers we can encourage and guide our students, and provide them with the framework to extend their skills and develop their potential. However, it is the girls themselves who made the beautiful music that has been recognised throughout the Eisteddfod season. Congratulations to all!

ADJUDICATORS' COMMENTS for PLC ensembles that won first place

The string quartet:

"A wonderful balance was achieved between the players and subtleties were sensitively acknowledged"

Middle School String Orchestra:

"Created a lovely atmosphere solos were sensitively accompanied"

Senior Strings:

"The Brandenburg Concerto was well prepared and a dynamic performance"

"Song of the moon voices were interwoven carefully"

Open Chamber Ensemble: (A small group from the senior strings led by Isla Biffin and Jess Hughes)

"Hungarian Dance captured the nostalgia and gypsy like expression and the Margaret Sutherland work was dramatic and demonstrated good control"

Middle School Choir:

"A convincing performance and beautifully sung"

Senior Choir (Winner of the New England Choral Championship)

"The Matthew Minter work, Towards Eternity was a convincing musical presentation with good tuning, diction and rhythmic balance. Excellent"

"The Dan Walker piece, Litany of Earth and Sky was beautiful and exciting. The best performance I have heard in the competition"

PLC girls have also done extremely well in the solo sections of the Eisteddfod. More results will follow, however, here is a summary of the New England String Age Championships, and the Vocal Solo results.

New England String Age Championships

10 years and under Age Championships

1st - Emily Thompson

11-12 years Age Championship

2nd - Laura Smitham

13 to 15 years Age Championship

1st - Isla Biffin

3rd - Sarah Hughes

16 to 18 year Age Championship

1st - Jessica Hughes





Notice for PLC Senior Strings

Many of our advanced players have successfully auditioned in past years for the Australian Youth Orchestra. Live auditions will be held in Armidale on 26 August. Interested students should check the website: ayo.com.au

Here is a summary of the vocal solo results

VC06 - Vocal Solo 18 Years and Under

1st - Syrana Glenn
2nd - Dakotah Love

VC13 - Folk Song - 16 Years and under

1st - Lucy Quast
Highly Commended - Lily Graham and Olivia Hoppe

VC26 - Popular Song - 16 Years and Under

1st - Isabelle Taylor

VC04 - Vocal Solo - 14 Years and Under

1st - Olivia Hoppe
2nd - Lily Graham

VC29 - Vocal duet - 15 years and under

1st - Olivia Hoppe and Shelby Philp

VC12 - Folk Song - 12 Years and Under

2nd - Gabrielle Cotterell

VC22 - Musical Theatre - 12 Years and Under

2nd - Gabrielle Cotterell

VC17 - Australian Composition - 18 Years and Under

1st - Dakotah Love
2nd - Syrana Glenn

VC30 - Vocal Duet - 18 years and under

1st - Dakotah Love and Lucy Quast
2nd - Syrana Glenn and Lucy Quast

VC23 - Musical Theatre - 15 years and under

2nd - Olivia Hoppe

VC20 - Sacred - 18 years and under

1st - Syrana Glenn

VC24 - Musical Theatre - 18 years and under

2nd - Dakotah Love
HC - Syrana Glenn

VC42 - Vocal Age Championship - 13-15 Years

1st - Lucy Quast
HC - Lily Graham

VC43 - Vocal Age Championship - 16-18 Years

2nd - Dakotah Love
3rd - Syrana Glenn

VC16 - Australian Composition - 15 Years and under

1st - Lucy Quast

"The Adjudicator was full of praise for the PLC String Orchestra and the Chamber Ensemble successes in the Armidale Eisteddfod on Thursday 26th May. The Old Teachers College auditorium resounded with String repertoire from Bach, Schubert, Fiocco, Peter Sculthorpe to name some of the great Composers of String repertoire presented.

The girls took out three 1sts and one 2nd and played with musicality and a polished sense of style.

The conductor, Deidre Rickards commented that the String programme at PLC has a long tradition of success and the girls playing on this day upheld this tradition with excellent ensemble work and a commitment to great repertoire."

Elizabeth Peach - President, Armidale Eisteddfod Society

Armidale Eisteddfod 2016

Date	Arrival Time	Event	Ensemble	Venue	Est. Perform. Time	Transport
Tuesday 7 June	8:30am	EN06	PLC Year Eight 1 Ensemble	OTC	9:00am	Bus both ways
	8:30am	EN06	PLC Year Eight 2 Ensemble	OTC	9:00am	Bus both ways
	8:30am	EN07	PLC Stage 5 Class	OTC	9:45am	Bus both ways
	5:30pm	EN19	PLC Wind Ensemble	OTC	6:45pm	Own



Boarding House News

By Laura Hayes and Kayley Morgan



Over the past two weeks the boarding house has been very busy. A lot of girls took part in the tie-dyeing activity over the weekend. Everyone had fun and made lots of colourful shirts, bags, and socks. Pink, blue, purple, green, yellow, orange and red dye got all over us. We had to watch lots of videos to learn about how to do tie dyeing and to learn how to do the designs and patterns we wanted.

Last weekend we had a girl's night. We did makeup, facemasks, hair design, and nail design on other girls. We played music on the speakers and danced as well. Gabby the Duty Mistress did a lot of the girls' makeup and hair. Darcy and Isobel helped out lots as well. We all looked beautiful by the end.

Lots of girls have participated in the Armidale Eisteddfod over the last two weeks. Olivia Hoppe, Annabel Sevil, Syrana Glenn, and Ria Kealey competed in individual solo performance events.

Aggie and Syrana participated in a composition workshop after submitting exceptional compositions. Numerous girls competed in school ensembles. Annabel placed first and third in her two violin solos. There are many more eisteddfod events coming up in the next few weeks with speech and drama.

Claire McLachlan, Julia Chambers, Saskia Kennett, Tara Murray and Molly Trindall competed in a combined training competition which included jumping and dressage. It was a one-day event in Armidale. Claire, Julia, and Saskia placed 2nd in their respective events.

Good luck to all the girls leaving this week to participate in the North West Equestrian Expo at Coonabarabran.

Reminder for parents/carers:

All leave/exeats and end of term leave plus travel arrangements should all be sent to Ms Latham at Boarding@plcarmidale.nsw.edu.au





Development and Enrolments

Shona Eichorn, Director of Development
Sally McCook, Enrolments Manager



Annual Giving – PLC Armidale Foundation, End of Financial Year opportunity

At the end of each financial year, like many Foundations and Charitable organisations, the PLC Armidale Foundation asks for the

support of the PLC Armidale community, past and present. The focus for 2016 is to increase opportunities for girls to attend PLC Armidale, by way of a Scholarship. I trust that you have received your invitation to contribute to this worthy cause close to all our hearts and that you will consider making a gift. Every donation makes a genuine difference to these girls and their families and is very much appreciated. Please remember that every donation over \$2 is tax deductible.

2017 All Rounder & Boarding Scholarships – Round Two LAST CHANCE

Our PLC Armidale Foundation offers a range of Scholarships for worthy recipients as well as financial assistance by way of various bursaries annually. This is only possible due to the generosity of the numerous donors and benefactors who are passionate about providing opportunities for girls as well as improving the facilities at the College. So should you know of a girl (Year 7 to 11 in 2017) who fits the criteria outlined (check the website for more details) for the Boarder and All Rounder Scholarships, please encourage her to apply now.

Experience Days

It is that time of year, where we facilitate the opportunity for prospective students to come and see what a day as a PLC Armidale girl is like. Thank you to all our staff and students who have been so welcoming and accommodating to ensure that our future girls have enjoyed a wonderful experience. Should you know of any girl who too would like this opportunity whether it be for Junior or Senior School, please do not hesitate to contact our friendly Enrolments Manager, Sally McCook.



IGNITE . . . the final spark!

For those who were not here last year, PLC Armidale and its support groups (Foundation, P&F and Old Girls) teamed up to conduct a fundraiser for the re-furbishment of the four Science Labs in the Senior School, called IGNITE.

And whilst the Science Labs were completed and opened to classes in Term 1, our fundraising just has a little way to go! There are still PLC Periodic Table elements for sale, most of which are \$300 each. There is a list on our website of those elements still available as well as the benefits received for your kind contribution. All donations are tax deductible.

The Science Labs are due to be officially launched in August this year (date tbc), to coincide with National Science Week.

For more information about the IGNITE, please contact Director of Development, Shona Eichorn on development@plcarmidale.nsw.edu.au

lion's roar

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Early Literacy Information Night

[Early Stage One Pre-K to Kindergarten]

Presentation by experienced THRASS qualified educator Mrs Fiona Wake and Principal, Mrs Nicola Taylor.

Thursday 9 June 2016

5-6pm Hospitality Centre, PLC Armidale

then join us
for the



2016 Travelling Art Show

[and Auction of Class Artworks]

from 6pm in the Astra Arts Centre

Light refreshments

RSVP for catering purposes to:

Mrs Emma Young

primaryassist@plcarmidale.nsw.edu.au

7 June 2016

[babysitting available - bookings essential]

ALL GIRLS PRE-KINDER TO YEAR 12.
BOARDING FROM YEAR 5.

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— 1887 —



*** ENGAGE YOUR BRAIN!**

at the PLC Armidale

P&F

TRIVIA Night

Friday 17 June 2016

6pm for a 6.30pm start
in the PLC Dining Room

Theme:

PLC Pursuit & the Olympic Games

Come dressed up, best table wins a prize!

Tables of 8 (maximum 10) - give your team a name!

BYO Food & Drinks, glassware, cutlery, crockery

Silent Auction on the Night

Ticket Price \$15 per head

book at trybooking.com - using the code:

<https://www.trybooking.com/LNEA>

Babysitting available @\$5 per child

Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS



Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Lakshmi Singh

School Reports - tips for parents

Report time can be stressful for parents and students. Here are 5 expert tips to guide parents through this process.

School reports could easily be considered a form of art. This type of art, like any other is open to interpretation, review and criticism. It's just that these reviews don't really make it into any literary publications but no doubt can have a huge impact on a child and their family. How then should parents wear the hat of a critic and not only get an accurate representation of their child's work but implement measures to cater to the feedback?

A primary school vs a secondary school report – understanding the differences

In primary schools, teachers report on the child's behaviour in class, educational progression and socialisation skills, says Dr. Karen Phillip, preschool educator and a parenting expert.

However, as children get older and are offered more in terms of electives, the expectations shift as their focus and attentive behaviour should become obvious in their reports, says Dr. Phillip.

As they gravitate towards their chosen subjects of interest, the effort they put in

and the results can be expected to reflect their work ethic.

"In high school teachers report on the child's academic results, dedication to lessons, assignment results and class participation," she says.

Also, at this age, any concerns are generally better picked up by both the child and the teacher.

"Parents whose children are in high school usually place a higher value on the school report as this may be vital to enter the University of choice," she says. Although they may realise the report is describing their child's progress, expecting more from teachers and blaming them for a poor report is a regular occurrence, she says.

"Parents see their child as intelligent, better than others, special, more gifted. When a report is average, they blame," she says.

However, before jumping to conclusions, it is important to note that quite a few factors could be in play when it comes to a school report. Problems mentioned in reports could be as a result of issues from

home transferring across to school – bullying, anxiety or a range of other feelings/situations, says Dr. Phillip. Younger children may not be able to express this adequately.

Elizabeth Watson, Acting Director of Curriculum at Waverley College's Senior School, believes feedback and reporting is essential in helping students reach their learning goals, but they won't be very effective if they aren't treated as conversation starters and opportunities for active reflection.

Engage in discussion

It is important to take a broader view when reading a child's report, says Dr. Phillip.

"Reports can sometimes be a teacher's perspective and not necessarily the complete picture. Talk to both child and teacher to gain a more complete understanding and never judge the child harshly, instead focus on the solution to any problem or issue causing this."

more on page 2 >>



Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my **FREE** weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.



parentingideas.com.au

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Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS

Building parent-school partnerships

... School reports - tips for parents ...

Watson recommends asking the student to perform a self-assessment by posing questions like: "Does this report reflect my understanding in each subject?", "Does this report reflect my effort in each subject?" and "What will I do differently next time?" Following this self-assessment, it can help to discuss ways of improvement and seek recommendation from teachers.

"Should there be areas that need attention, rather than focus on marks or ranks, think about strategies that will improve the quality of your work," says Watson.

Establish strategies for improvement

Watson encourages parents to make the most of opportunities such as parent teacher interviews. This is where parents can ask for specific areas that need developing and strategies for improvement. Some sample questions parents could ask teachers include:

- 1 **Mathematics**
"What particular topics need attention?"
- 2 **English**
"Did [student] fall down with his paragraph construction or with his grammar/spelling?"
- 3 **Science**
"Did [student] perform better in the practical or theory component of the assessment?"
- 4 **Art**
"How much time should [student] be spending on his/her major work compared to theory?"

Parents developing an understanding of the curriculum and content being taught can help establish specific strategies.

"In addition, establishing a more relaxed atmosphere at home so the child doesn't always feel stressed when studying is also a very important strategy. We need to be taking the emphasis off the results and placing it more on the process and the child's overall experience," he says.

Tips from the experts

- 1 Discuss the report with the teacher to fully understand the situation, be curious, and don't jump to conclusions.
- 2 Talk to your child calmly, go through the results and ask how they are feeling about it.
- 3 Ask your child questions like: "Is your workspace conducive to quality home study?", "How can I help you manage your workload?", "What strategies do you think will make a difference?"
- 4 Set practical small steps for the child to work on to reach the final goal.
- 5 Support them along this journey, check in regularly and re-adjust if required.

Lakshmi Singh



Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my **FREE** weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.



parentingideas.com.au

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NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC



2016 Junior Orchestra Workshop

Wed 29 & Thurs 30 June 2016

The New England Conservatorium of Music (NECOM) annual Junior Orchestra Workshop gives young musicians an inspiring two days of invaluable performance experience playing in a large orchestra under the leadership of specialist conductor Anne Phelan and NECOM tutors.

The Workshop is open to students in Years 3-9 who can read music and have at least 12 months experience playing one of the following instruments:

- Violin, viola, cello, double bass, harp
- Flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone
- Trumpet, trombone, French horn, tuba
- Orchestral percussion (pianists may apply)

Dates and Times: Wed 29 8.45am-3.30pm

Thurs 30 June 9am-3pm

Free concert: Thurs 30 June, 2.30pm

Venue: CB Newling Building (Old Teachers College)
Cnr Mossman and Faulkner Streets, Armidale

Dress: Casual (no uniforms)

Lunch: Bring lunch both days Morning tea provided

Fee: \$90 Early Bird Discount OR \$99 Standard Fee
OR \$120 Late Fee

Bursaries available on application

For Information & enrolment forms:

New England Conservatorium

Web: <http://www.necom.une.edu.au>

Tel: 02 6788 2135 Email: admin@necom.org.au

music speaks volumes



ANNUAL GIVING 2016

Giving is a gift...
to give is to
receive!

Each year, the PLC Armidale Foundation asks its community to help provide the best possible educational opportunities for girls attending the College now and in the future.

PLC Armidale has a culture of learning, engagement and achievement, the envy of many schools. I would like to encourage you to join the generations of donors who for almost 130 years now have demonstrated their faith in the College. Your gift to the Annual Giving Campaign 2016 will contribute to this culture of giving in our community.

With each and every gift, you are supporting the College's mission of educating successful women of tomorrow in a Christian environment today.

On behalf of PLC Armidale Foundation, thank you for your support.

Mrs Deborah Martin, Chair, PLC Armidale Foundation

This year, PLC Armidale is planting the educational seed with the launch of its Scholarship Giving Tree in recognition of your generosity (although you may also wish to remain anonymous). The "tree" will adorn the walls of the Astra Arts Centre, where each leaf will feature the name of each donor over \$100. You can also choose to have your "leaf" in the colour of your Guild if you are a past student or parent, or in any of the Guild colours - red, yellow, blue or green, depending on your colour preference.

Show your true PLC spirit by donating today.

Join the generations of
generous PLC Armidale donors.

"Madi excelled academically at PLC Armidale Junior School, but socially, by her very nature, remained quiet and reserved. When it came time to go to high school, we knew we would struggle financially to keep Madi at PLC but we also knew PLC was the very best school for her to flourish, and she did - Dux of Year 6, Dux of Year 12 2015 and Head Prefect 2015 - are testament to how the amazingly talented teachers and staff at PLC Armidale who nurtured, encouraged and supported our bright, shy little girl into becoming the strong, intelligent and fiercely independent person she is today. None of this would have been possible without the Academic Scholarship Madi received in Year 5. For that we are forever grateful."

Jacqui and Andrew Moar
Parents

For more information contact the Foundation by directing your enquiry to:

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