Brightening Our Community

Perth College girls are applying their artistic skills to interior decorating at school and in the local neighbourhood.

The School’s Year 4 class and Year 9 Art students have brightened the walls of St David’s Retirement Centre in Mount Lawley with the recent installation of a variety of artworks in the residents’ dining room. Large 3D sunflowers now frame the room’s noticeboard while a series of geometric canvas creations borders the windows.

Perth College Head of Creative Arts, Janet Hummerston, said the retirement centre management approached the School when their newly-extended dining room desperately needed some colour.

“We have a long-standing relationship with St David’s as many of our students volunteer there each week. It was rewarding to see some of the residents engaging with the Year 9 girls as they painted,” Mrs Hummerston said.

“The project was a wonderful way to generate community spirit.”

The School canteen – known as Affie’s Café – also has a new look after the Year 10 Woodwork class created a feature wall as part of a larger, longer-term refurbishment that began last year. Affie’s has been transformed into a modern, funky space to be enjoyed by all.

Each of the 14 woodworkers developed a design with an industrial theme, and had to consider colour selection, textures and materials in their proposal. Several ideas were combined to develop a final concept, with all girls collaborating throughout Term Three to construct their artwork.

In line with the School’s positive approach to sustainability, the timber used was sourced from old wooden pallets and recycled timber obtained through the Gumtree website.
Dear friends,

Preparing the first edition of Community Link for the year always signifies the end of the summer break and the start of a new school semester. I hope you had a restful time during the festive season and have re-charged in anticipation of a busy year ahead.

At Perth College, preparations are well underway for a variety of events, including our 30th annual art exhibition. From humble beginnings in 1985, when a committee was formed to raise awareness of art and develop a School collection, this event now attracts emerging and established artists from across Western Australia and helps fund our artist-in-residence programme. I hope to see you at the champagne opening on Friday 27 March.

As part of a masterplanning process, the School Council has also been reviewing Perth College’s facilities to ensure a modern, functional learning environment for our students. You will find more details on page three and our website about our planned new Senior Learning and Leadership Centre; I welcome your feedback about this proposed development.

Warm regards,
Jenny Ethell

A Note from the Principal

Perspectives through Art

The talents of three Perth College graduates have earned them places at the prestigious Art Gallery of Western Australia’s 2014 Perspectives exhibition.

Hayley Partington, Ruby Darge and Alice Fox will have their work on show alongside pieces from some of the State’s best and brightest emerging young artists at the Gallery from 7 March to 1 June.

Hayley’s artwork, Hay St Mall, is a mixed media piece on old door panels. Using pencil, pen, acrylic paint, oil and charcoal, she merged images of the Hay Street Mall from the 1970s and the present day.

“I’m interested in re-purposing and recycling, and this carried through into the theme of my artwork, which looks back on the past and forward to the future,” she said.

Ruby’s handmade book, Wanderings through the Wildflowers, features an oil-painted cover and ink and marker works on watercolour paper pages.

She was inspired by the 19th century book, Wildflowers: How to See and Gather Them, by Spencer Thomson, which is a cherished gift from her nana.

“A created a work that personifies nature as a higher and wiser power than humans,” Ruby said. “Through the form of a visual story, I express the contrast between everyday routine and the freedom of the exploration of nature.

“I want to show that many people get so caught up in these cycles, they let life pass them by.”

Alice’s artwork combines found objects with acrylic paint, ink and resin on acetate and MDF to portray her grandfather, Trevor.

“Upon venturing into my grandfather’s space I am hit with an overwhelming sense of chaos,” Alice said. “Spending time unpicking the layers of his objects and collections reveals a lingering essence of his personality.

“I selected pieces of his hoarded junk and arranged them systematically to reveal much more about my grandfather than the man I thought I knew.”

Head of Creative Arts, Janet Hummerston, said the girls’ selection for Perspectives reflected the creativity and high standard of work of Perth College’s Year 12 Visual Arts students.
Old Girl Captures Epic Journey

As an explorer and adventurer, Kate Leeming has cycled the equivalent distance of twice around the world at the equator! The Perth College Old Girl has now written a book and produced a film about her most recent expedition.

Njinga documents Kate’s 10-month journey across Africa from Senegal to Somalia in 2010, following a continuous 22,040km line. Her project explored the causes and effects of extreme poverty, to show how the global community could “offer a leg-up rather than a hand-out,” she said.

“Travelling by bicycle gives an unrivalled sense of place, of how the world fits together.”

As a guest speaker at the School’s Presentation Night in 2014, Kate encouraged students to DREAM. “If you are Dedicated, Realistic, Enthusiastic towards your goals and show a positive Attitude, then you will achieve your Mission,” Kate added.

Kate’s previous adventures include a 25,000km expedition across Australia in 2004 and a 13,400km cycle from St Petersburg to Vladivostok in 1993. Each aimed to raise awareness of pressing local issues. Her next challenge is to be the first person to cycle across the Antarctic continent via the South Pole. The School community helped fundraise for the planned expedition by screening Njinga on Sunday 15 February.

Kate continues her work as a Real Tennis professional, where she coaches people in this indoor game, at the Royal Melbourne Tennis Club. She holds second place in the world Real Tennis rankings.

Visit www.kateleeming.com for more details.

Planning for the Future

Neighbours, stakeholders and parents recently attended a Dialogue Café, facilitated by community engagement specialists, Creating Communities, to discuss and provide feedback on Perth College’s proposed development of a Senior Learning and Leadership Centre at 24-30 Lawley Crescent.

The event provided a mix of good food and conversation, with attendees engaged in a variety of activities to seek their input.

This new multifunctional educational facility will form part of an ongoing masterplanning process the School is undertaking to enhance its amenities to ensure they remain at the highest standard. It will be a unique venue enabling flexible curriculum delivery and supporting the development of students’ leadership and citizenship skills.

The state-of-the-art buildings will embrace sustainable design features and provide a range of versatile learning spaces. It should be emphasised the development won’t result in additional student enrolments, but will better cater for the contemporary educational needs of our current students.

A key benefit to the local community will be the provision of an underground/basement car park with approximately 40 car bays. The additional parking, as well as plans for improved and safer management of traffic, through features such as a drop-off zone, will reduce parking on local streets and decrease traffic congestion.

Principal, Jenny Ethell, was delighted to receive feedback from the Dialogue Café, which will help inform the design of the Centre, so it can integrate seamlessly with the surroundings.

“We were pleased so many members of our local community took the opportunity to provide their ideas on how the development might best meet the needs of our students and our neighbours,” she said.

“Creating Communities will provide a detailed consultation report, which our architects will use to inform their final designs.

“Once they are done, we will present information about the designs to the community before seeking development approval from local government.”

Details of the proposed Senior Learning and Leadership Centre can be viewed at www.perthcollege.wa.edu.au/news-events
Check Out Our School

At Perth College, girls are free to be independent, hard-working and confident. In our learning environment, they can be proud of striving to achieve, knowing that everyone else is also seeking to bring out their best. Our students are encouraged to challenge themselves, grow their confidence and be ever-more determined to succeed.

If you would like to find out about how we inspire learning at Perth College, come to our Open Day on Monday 2 March.

From 10.00 am to 2.00 pm, students in Years 6 and 10 will lead guided tours of the campus, including the renovated 50m swimming pool and the Junior School playground.

Staff will be available to answer questions about the curriculum, special programmes and enrolments.

To register for a tour, please contact the Community Development Officer, Natalie Swannell, on 9471 2124 or via development@pc.wa.edu.au.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OPEN DAY 2015
Perth College campus
Monday 2 March, 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
The School opens its doors to the community on the Labour Day public holiday. Students in Years 6 and 10 provide guided tours of the campus. Artistic performances are also scheduled throughout the day.

HIGH TEA
The Rise, Eighth Avenue, Maylands
Thursday 12 March, 12 noon to 2.45 pm
Support the School’s two social justice programmes in the Solomon Islands and Cambodia at the annual fundraiser, with auctions, raffles and gift bags.

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL VIA www.trybooking.com/GODY

SENIOR MUSIC NIGHT
Judith Cottier Theatre, Perth College
Tuesday 17 March, 7.00 pm
Celebrating the talents of our Music students from Years 7 to 12, this annual event is always a popular occasion.

INFO SESSIONS AND COMMUNITY TOURS
Perth College campus
Thursday 7 May, Friday 19 June, Tuesday 28 July, 9.00 am
Learn more about the School and its programmes, meet the Principal and tour the campus.

FRIENDS OF PERTH COLLEGE MOTHERS’ DAY LUNCHEON
Mount Lawley Golf Club
Friday 8 May, 12.30 pm to 3.00 pm
Celebrate mums at this annual luncheon that will feature a guest speaker.

HAPPY 30TH ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION
Perth College Pavilion, Lawley Crescent
Friday 27 March – champagne opening, 6.00 pm (tickets essential)
Weekend viewing – 10.00 am to 4.00 pm
Enjoy and buy paintings, ceramics, glass, textiles, drawings and jewellery by emerging and well-known WA artists.
Contact Trish Montgomery on 9471 2163 or email Trish.Montgomery@pc.wa.edu.au for more details.

YEAR 12 PLAY
Anne Hairsine Drama Studio, Perth College
Monday 30 March to Wednesday 1 April, 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm
Children of the Black Skirt is set in an old orphanage discovered by three children lost in the Australian bush. Aspects of history are revealed through the spirits of the children who have lived there, from convict times through to World War II and beyond.

SPIN
Judith Cottier Theatre, Perth College
Thursday 18 to Saturday 20 June, 7.00 pm
The School’s major Dance production features 100 dancers from Years 7 to 12 and runs over three nights in Term Two.

For enquiries or more details on these events please email development@pc.wa.edu.au or contact the Perth College Development Office on 9471 2146.