The Gift of Giving

At Perth College, caring for the community begins at a young age. A culture of service learning ensures students from Kindergarten to Year 12 volunteer, fundraise for charity, and give to the less fortunate.

During June, girls from Kindergarten to Year 6 donated enough goods for homeless people to fill the tray of a ute four times over. They collected books, toys, clothing, bedding, toiletries and canned food for Homeless Connect, and also raised $380 with a ‘warm and woolly’ free dress day. The entire School also held a clothing drive for Anglicare WA’s Bring a Bag appeal, helping op shops increase their winter stock.

A teddy bear and toy parade – the brainchild of Year 6 student, Ella van Leeuwen – raised $800 for Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH). With help from her Nonna, Ella spent the July holidays creating 115 tutus, which she then sold to Junior School students, who dressed their bears, toys and dolls for a fashion parade.

Year 12 student, Megan Rapeport, is setting an outstanding example for her younger schoolmates, having completed more than 600 hours of community service since Year 10. Joining the School’s Amnesty Club in 2011, Megan’s passion for social justice is well known amongst her classmates and saw her elected to the Student Representative Council executive this year. Through this role, Megan raises awareness of social issues and represents the student body. She was awarded a Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs Award in August for her leadership skills, volunteer work with young people and Amnesty International, and experience in student government.

Principal, Jenny Ethell, said, “The girls are really proud to contribute to such worthy causes and charities, and recognise they can make a big difference in their community.”
Dear friends,

As you read our latest edition of *Community Link*, the end of the year is rapidly approaching and the School is preparing for major music, drama and end-of-year productions. It is also a time for reflection as we look back on the past 10 months and plan for 2015.

Much of our success this year has been due to the support of local residents.

Our mid-year drama production of *High School Musical on Stage* was a sell-out. The Perth College 29th Annual Art Exhibition in April featured works by emerging local artist Andy Quilty, which were created during a two-week residency at the School.

Our *InsideOut* self-leadership programme continues to evolve and we were overwhelmed by the community’s response to the GirlPower workshops ran during May.

More recently, the Old Girls’ Association organised a fundraising fashion parade of wedding attire – with some gowns dating back 150 years. Our Junior School students invited their grandparents and residents of nearby aged care facilities to their uplifting September production of *Dr Dolittle Jr*.

On the back page you will find a calendar of events for the remainder of 2014 – you are most welcome to join in and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Warm regards

Jenny Ethell

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**Support for the Solomons**

Twelve students have recently returned from the Solomon Islands as Perth College strengthens its connection to the developing nation.

Their journey in September was the seventh time the School visited as part of an immersion experience offering Year 10 students an insight into a culture vastly different to their own.

The girls attended classes at St Nicholas, an Anglican school on the island of Guadalcanal, and also took on a teaching role.

During the two-week tour, the girls visited Savo Island and experienced village life, saw World War II memorials and spent time with the Melanesian Brothers, learning about their role in the civil conflict of 2000. They also spent two days helping at a women’s refuge, the Christian Care Centre, run by the Community of the Sisters of the Church.

School Chaplain, Father Barry, who accompanied the girls, reflected on the importance of the trip. “As a School established by the Sisters, Perth College places a strong emphasis on students making a difference in the lives of others, and the time spent observing the work they do and helping out was very precious,” he said.

Students fundraised extensively to provide educational resources for St Nicholas and the Sisters.

In April, Perth College celebrated 10 years partnering with Awareness Cambodia and Sunshine House, near Phnom Penh. Each year since 2005, a small group of students and teachers has travelled to Cambodia to spend a week helping with refurbishment or renovation projects, teaching and playing with children and donating educational material.

This year’s tour also included a stay in Siem Reap, time spent exploring Angkor Wat and other temples, and a reflective visit to the Killing Fields and the Genocide Museum.

“We hope these immersion experiences encourage the girls to more deeply consider their values and faith as well as important issues such as equity and social justice, and return home realising how blessed they are. Many of the girls already have a strong social conscience and the tours enable the School to extend its culture of community service,” Father Barry said.

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*Perth College students, Rachael Mondello (top) and Hannah Brown (bottom), hard at work on renovation projects overseas*
Perth College athletes take on the world

Perth College athletes are stepping up on the world stage, with the introduction of a new Physical Education initiative in 2009 leading to outstanding results in individual and team sports.

Through Fitness Club, girls of all ages and abilities meet each Friday morning for activities aimed at increasing their general fitness while also emphasising a healthy, active lifestyle. Whether students are happy to just ‘have a go’ or aspire to representative sport, Fitness Club and the School’s Physical Education programme challenge them in a safe, enthusiastic environment and allow the girls to explore their talents and abilities.

Year 12 student and hockey player, Aleisha Power, is balancing her studies with the aim of wearing green and gold for Australia. This year she was awarded a full scholarship to the WA Institute of Sport. Aleisha has represented WA in under-18s indoor and outdoor squads and was a member of the under-21 WA squad competing in July’s national hockey championships. She then travelled to Singapore with Hockey WA in the Diamonds development squad. Her aspirations will see her follow a path paved by many Perth College Old Girls.

Runner and 2013 Leaver, Bri Ilarda, broke the women’s under-18, under-20 and open state records for the 3000m in February last year. After completing the 4km event at the recent City to Surf, she moved to the US on a four-year scholarship at Providence College, Rhode Island, under the guidance of renowned athletics coach, Ray Treacy.

Another 2013 Leaver, Brianna Throssell, was one of eight Australian swimmers at the Youth Olympic Games in China during August, and won seven bronze medals. Currently a Physiotherapy and Pre-Med student at the University of Notre Dame, Brianna completes nine pool and five gym sessions each week. Her Perth Swim Academy club-mate, Heidi Gan (2005), represented Malaysia at the recent Pan Pacific Championships in the 10km open water race. She finished sixteenth in the 10km Women’s Marathon at the London Olympic Games, where cyclist, Josie Tomic, a 2006 graduate, finished fourth in the Track Women’s Team Pursuit.

Students make their mark on the international scene

Perth College prides itself on developing remarkable young women. Current and former students have continued to prove their academic talents, showing they rank alongside some of the world’s brightest and most academically gifted youth.

Just as eight of our Year 11 students have returned from undertaking short courses at Oxford University, a PC Old Girl has begun studying a Master’s degree at the prestigious institution as a Rhodes Scholar.

Freya Shearer, who graduated from Perth College in 2006, was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship in 2013 and is now pursuing studies in Global Health Science and Research in Public Health.

Perth College Principal, Jenny Ethell, said Freya had set an outstanding example for current students and was representative of so many of the School’s graduates.

“Perth College girls are always striving for their personal best, pushing academic boundaries and making the most of their opportunities,” she said.

Mrs Ethell encouraged students committed to excellence with a desire to make their mark in the world to apply for a Perth College scholarship when applications open in November. For details, contact the School’s Registrar on 9471 2100 or email registrar@pc.wa.edu.au.
Step up for the PC Challenge

Perth College is giving regional families the chance to take a sneak peek into life as a boarder by opening its boarding house to girls in Years 5 and 6 during the Australia Day long weekend. The initiative – the PC Challenge – helps to ease the transition from country to city life for young girls before they move away from home for secondary schooling.

From Friday 23 to Sunday 25 January, girls will stay in the boarding house and take part in games and activities across the school grounds. The weekend will include a welcome barbecue dinner and a swimming pool social, and on the final day the girls will work in teams to problem-solve and put their newfound knowledge to the test.

Head of Boarding, Judy Parker, who leads the programme, advises the School wants to give these girls the confidence to stay away from home, perhaps for the first time, in preparation for boarding and show them it might not be as nerve-wracking as they expect.

“For the vast majority of boarders, there is no choice – their rural or remote location makes boarding a necessity. We want to reassure them boarding can be a positive experience and help them cope with any anxiety,” she said.

The PC Challenge is free – the only cost is transport to and from the School. Registrations close on Friday 14 November 2014 and can be made via 08 9471 2197 or email to Judy.Parker@pc.wa.edu.au.

UPCOMING EVENTS

INFORMATION SESSION AND COMMUNITY TOUR
Perth College campus
Monday 20 October, 5.00 pm
Learn more about the School and its programmes, meet the Principal and tour the campus.

A SHOWCASE OF MUSIC
Judith Cottier Theatre, Perth College
Friday 24 October, 7.00 pm
Students from Years 5 to 10 showcase their musical talents through band, orchestral and choral performances.

STUART LITTLE PRODUCTION
Judith Cottier Theatre, Perth College
Wednesday 19 November to Friday 21 November, 7.00 pm
Students in Years 7 to 9 perform Stuart Little. For tickets call Perth College Reception on 9471 2100.

FRIENDS OF PERTH COLLEGE CAROLS
Perth College Founders Centre, 32 Queens Crescent, Mount Lawley
Sunday 23 November, 5.00 pm
Celebrate the joy of Christmas with the Perth College community and school choirs.

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

WE INVITE OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY TO GET INVOLVED

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.