Welcome to 2010 – I hope that you and your family had a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. I certainly feel recharged and refreshed and I am really looking forward to starting our new School year.

2009 was a great year for Perth College. Our Year 12 leavers produced outstanding results in their TEE with 56% of the girls achieving a TER of 90 and above placing them in the top 10% of the State. As well as achieving these marvellous results the School continued our immersion programmes in Cambodia and the Solomon Islands, offering our girls the opportunity of living and working in developing countries. Through programmes such as these, it is my hope that our girls will be motivated to be someone who makes a difference within their own community.

In 2009 we also reconnected with Perth College ‘old girl’, Jennifer Flanagan. Jennifer was always involved in social justice programmes at School and was a key member of the Student Representative Council in her final year at Perth College. She is now the Chief of Staff for the Global Poverty Project, working alongside 2004 Young Australian of the Year, Hugh Evans.

Once a year the Perth College staff come together to celebrate the life of Jim Nicholson, a long serving and much loved teacher at Perth College, who passed away on St Michael's Day in 2007. Through the Jim Nicholson Cricket Match, a healthy competition is waged between the Principal’s 11 and Jim’s 11, with Jim’s wife Sheila joining in the festivities. In 2009 my team missed out on the title by just one run and we are greatly looking forward to challenging Jim’s team again in 2010.

Of course 2010 is already shaping up to be a big year, most notably because it is our fete year. I am always delighted to see how our extended community comes together on this day, and with so many interesting stalls and activities on offer, it really is a fabulous day for young and old. With an event of this size there are always many people contributing generously of their time and resources.

I feel so blessed to be a part of a community that can make an event of this scale so warm and inviting. We hope that you and your family are able to join us at the fete on Sunday, 24 October 2010.

We would warmly welcome members of our community who are interested in getting involved with the Perth College Fete and you can register your interest through our Development Office by emailing development@pc.wa.edu.au.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Community Link in which we outline our planning for the 2010 development of our Early Years Learning Centre and relive some special 2009 moments, including our Garden Walk, Community Tours, Community Choir and our girls visiting China as part of World Challenge.

Jenny Ethell
Principal
Facilities Development at Perth College

Perth College's heritage facilities at St Crispin's and St Rita's are being refurbished and extended to become the School's Early Years Centre for students in Kindergarten to Year 2.

The development will see these currently underutilised facilities upgraded and developed to a very high standard, reflecting their significant heritage value. Award winning architects, Donaldson and Warn Pty Ltd have been appointed to design the new facilities, with heritage architect Phillip Griffiths also providing valuable consultancy advice on the development of the buildings. Advice has also been sought from the Mt Lawley Society, with their feedback being of great assistance.

The project will see the renovation of the existing buildings, with new adjoining Early Years facilities being constructed at the rear of the site. Significant improvements will also be made to the streetscape through high quality landscape architecture.

The approval for the development of these facilities was received from the City of Stirling in August 2009. The project has been greatly assisted by the funds received from the Federal Government's ‘Building the Education Revolution’ programme.

Approval was also received in September 2009 from the Minister for Planning for the rezoning of 28 and 30 Queens Crescent (white flats and red flats), which are the neighbouring properties to St Rita's and St Crispin's. As a result the school recently commenced work on the demolition of the white flats in order to provide future space for play and recreational areas for the School’s youngest students. We thank our neighbours for their patience and understanding while this work has been taking place.

The planning and development of these facilities has been greatly informed by the feedback that was received from our local community during the consultation process. We thank everyone for their involvement in this process. Our School is keen to build upon the links we have formed with our local community and we are committed to keeping everyone informed throughout this and future building projects.

The aim in the development of these facilities is to maximise the benefits for both the school and the community, while seeking to minimise any impact the construction of the facilities may have on our neighbours.

At this stage, it is envisaged that the building programme for the Early Years facilities will begin in March/April 2010, with the buildings to be opened in 2011.

During the development of these facilities the School will also be continuing the planning of additional parking under the School oval on Beaufort Street.

Access our school website: www.perthcollege.wa.edu.au for information about the Early Years facilities development and the planning of the parking area.

Further information will be provided in the next edition of this newsletter.

If you would like to discuss these developments contact Tony Gooey, Director of Finance and Administration at Perth College on 9471 2100.
China World Challenge

Perth College participated in the World Challenge trip to China in December with three staff members accompanying girls from Years 10 and 11. The aim of the expedition was to teach life skills and expand minds outside the classroom. This is achieved through the World Challenge philosophy of Education through Experience.

As with all programmes of this nature offered at Perth College, a social justice element was incorporated to give the girls a greater understanding of the world in which we live.

The experience combined the elements of physical challenge, cultural immersion, community service and recreation. A notable achievement for the girls was carrying a large backpack throughout their journey, in a bitterly cold climate.

As a group, and with the guidance of staff, the girls planned, negotiated and led the trip. Many meetings were held throughout 2009 to prepare and plan for the trip as once they arrived they had to negotiate and organise local transport and accommodation, and even attend to the budgeting.

This experience has certainly changed our girls’ views on China and its place in the world.

Garden Walk and Community Tours a Success

It would have been impossible to plan better weather for the Perth College Auxiliary Garden Walk. A glorious spring day of 27 degrees set the scene for our wider community to tour the beautiful gardens in the streets neighbouring Perth College. Over 400 people toured the gardens and enjoyed the afternoon tea and market stalls in Regent Street West.

The funds raised on the day will go toward paying for two Perth College students and one other child to participate in Leadership training on the Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation. Thank you to local residents who supported this wonderful cause.

Our Community Tours have also generated great interest and have offered prospective parents, interested neighbours and past students the opportunity to tour the School grounds and then join staff members for a morning tea.

Dates have now been set for our 2010 Community Tours and we encourage anyone interested in attending to register their interest early. The dates are outlined overleaf in the Coming Events section.
When the suggestion was initially put forward to School Principal, Jenny Ethell, to start a Choir for interested staff and Perth College families, she suggested opening membership to the local community as well; and with these words the Perth College Community Choir was born.

After advertising in School newsletters and the local newspaper, the 25 strong Choir commenced rehearsals for their inaugural gig at the Perth College Carols by Twilight on Friday 20 November. Singing a mixture of traditional and contemporary upbeat songs, the Choir was well received by the audience of over 400 people.

Other performances at the Carols by Twilight from both our Junior and Senior School Choirs were also well received, as was the Christmas crafts stall where homemade treats and chilled mulled wine were available.

Following the great success of the Community Choir in 2009 we hope to continue its journey in 2010, subject to interest from our community. If you are interested in joining the Choir, please contact our Development Office to register your interest at development@pc.wa.edu.au.

For enquiries or more details on these events please email development@pc.wa.edu.au or contact the Perth College Development Office on 9471 2124.