Dear Friends

Welcome to our fourth edition of Community Link and thank you to everyone who continues to provide great support to our School.

We have had a very exciting first half of the year. Our Junior Secondary community is flourishing with our Year 7 girls stepping up to the challenge of life in the Senior School. It is so wonderful to be around the energy of these girls - their enthusiasm towards their academic and co-curricular pursuits is really something quite special to observe.

We have a number of staff members living within our grounds and it is with great pleasure that I introduce our newest Perth College employee and Mt Lawley resident, Judy Parker. Judy has been appointed to the role of Head of Boarding, and together with her husband and two young children has greatly enjoyed familiarising herself with the area and local attractions. I’m sure in time that many members of our community will have the opportunity to meet Judy and her family.

The School has been a hive of activity recently and our community tours have offered a great opportunity to showcase the facilities, programmes and people at Perth College. These tours have been extremely well attended and I encourage members of our community to phone our Development Office on 9471 2124 to book a place.

Another opportunity to visit the School comes your way on 21 July as Dr Michael Carr-Gregg visits Perth College to speak on the “Princess Bitchface Syndrome” and the “Effective Parenting of Young Girls”. Dr Carr-Gregg is one of Australia’s leading authorities on teenage behaviour, and as a practising psychologist specialises in the area of parenting adolescents and adolescent mental health.

As author of The “Princess Bitchface Syndrome” and “Surviving Adolescents”, Dr Carr-Gregg offers advice for parents when their ‘previously quiet, loving daughter becomes a restless, rebellious stranger who behaves like a responsible adult one day and a vampish brat the next.’ This event is open to our entire community and booking details can be found in the News and Events section of our website: www.pc.wa.edu.au.

We hope to see you there!

Jenny Ethell
Principal
This year is a very special year for the Year 7 and 8 girls, with the exciting commencement of the new Junior Secondary model in our Senior School. This is the first year in which our Year 7s are a part of the Senior School and together with the Year 8s form the Junior Secondary community.

The Head of Junior Secondary, Michael Comber, has worked with staff to build on the strong foundation of the Junior School curriculum, and together the girls are experiencing an exciting and challenging programme. This programme includes using specialist staff to allow the girls across Years 7 and 8 to experience all of the learning opportunities available at Perth College so they can make wise choices in future years.

The Year 7 girls have relished the opportunity offered to them through the challenging academic curriculum, as well as inclusion in the full Independent Girls School Sport Association (IGSSA) sporting programme and the cultural and arts co-curricular programme.

The teaching staff working with the Year 7 girls are enjoying the fresh and enthusiastic manner in which the girls go about their work; and along with their form teachers, deliver a pastoral care curriculum that focuses on resilience, appropriate choices, coping strategies and sharing.

New leadership opportunities have been developed for our Year 7 and 8 students, with the girls having the opportunity to act as form captains and sacristans on a semester basis.

A group of eight Year 7 and 8 students will form the Junior Secondary Council, a junior version of the Senior Representative Council (SRC), where they will represent the interests of Year 7 and 8 students, while periodically meeting with the SRC.

On the competitive front, our Year 8 students have been invited to participate in the WA Da Vinci Decathlon. This competition has a problem solving bent in the Maths and Science disciplines, and also touches on poetry and creative talents. This competition comes at a time when there is a focus in the Junior Secondary on problem solving and building resilience in our students.

The new Junior Secondary approach ensures our practice is aligned within the national curriculum. Our girls have responded well to the challenge of this new school model and early feedback has been very encouraging. The approach has already extended into social situations with an emphasis on the girls widening their friendship groups and developing newfound confidence.

The inaugural Community Tour held on the 20 May was a great success, with nearly 20 people taking the opportunity to visit Perth College to view the facilities, meet staff members and enjoy a morning tea. Although significant interest was shown in the facilities at Perth College, including the Jean Rogerson Science Building, the Judith Cottier Theatre and the 50-metre heated swimming pool, the star focus of the day was undoubtedly the Year 11 artwork on display in the Art Department.

Head of Visual and Performing Arts, Janet Hummerston explained to the tour group how she had invited our Year 11 students to ‘Experience the Chair’. The brief provided to this group of talented girls was to design and create a functional chair suitable for one adult. Each girl was encouraged to take their inspiration from a variety of sources and then to convey a meaning or message of a personal story or event that had an impact on their life. Janet has now selected a few of these works to enter in a competition held by the Art Gallery of Western Australia.

In Term 3 we will be running two Community Tours between 10.00am- 11.00am, with a morning tea following.

All members of our Community are welcome to attend but please ensure you RSVP so we can reserve your place. The Tour dates are set for Friday, 14 August 2009 and Wednesday, 9 September 2009.
UPDATE

Proposed Facility Developments

The City of Stirling approved the re-zoning of 28 Queens Crescent (Red Flats) and 30 Queens Crescent (White Flats) at the 17 March Council meeting, subject to the School entering into a legal agreement with the City to provide on-site car parking on the western side of Beaufort Street. This legal agreement is being finalised and once complete the rezoning application will be forwarded to the Minister for Planning for approval.

Feedback from consultation undertaken with the community and from the City of Stirling during this rezoning process, has highlighted the opportunity to adapt the previous facility development scenarios that were presented to the community in 2008, in order to better meet the needs of the School and the local community.

Perth College has also recently been successful in its application for $2.5 million of funding in Round 2 of the Federal Government’s “Building the Education Revolution” (BER) grants scheme, which was announced in June. This funding provides the school with the ability to bring forward the development of the Early Years and car parking facilities.

It is a condition of the funding that all phases of planning and construction are completed by 31 January 2011. As a result the School has worked expeditiously to revise its previous planning and established a development framework that proposes a revised development scenario, which differs in some elements to what was proposed during the Queens Crescent rezoning consultation. This revision has been based on feedback from the community and the City of Stirling and responds to a range of issues, in that it:

- better utilises existing facilities;
- considers the School’s site constraints;
- addresses parking and traffic issues;
- minimises disruption to the School and local community;
- addresses heritage issues;
- considers the operational needs of the School; and
- maximises use of the BER funding, within the required timeframe.

The following stages are proposed in order to achieve the best outcomes for the School and community:

- **Stage 1A - Early Years Facilities**
  This stage proposes greater use of existing buildings contained within the existing school footprint (rather than demolish heritage buildings as previously considered), by:
  - Refurbishing and restoring St Crispin’s and St Rita’s (32 and 34 Queens Crescent) to cater for the existing number of students within a development that reflects the buildings’ heritage and character;
  - Replacing existing Early Years facilities (Kindergarten to Year 2), with new facilities in and behind St Crispin’s and St Rita’s.

- **Stage 1B - Recreation and Play Space on No. 30 Queens Crescent.**
  When the application for the re-zoning of No 30 Queens Crescent (white flats) to “Private Institution” is finalised by the Minister for Planning, the School will apply for a demolition license to remove the current apartment building (white flats) to allow the creation of an open playing and recreation space on the site. During the construction process at St Rita’s and St Crispin’s, 30 Queens Crescent will provide valuable space for interim parking of contractor vehicles, alleviating the pressure on the local roads. Upon completion of the Early Year facilities, students will have access to 30 Queens Crescent as a recreational and play space. These landscaped grounds will also be accessible to the community out of school hours, and will make a significant improvement to the streetscape.

- **Stage 1C - Parking Facility (Undercover parking - Under the School Oval)**
  The new car parking facility will be constructed under the existing playing fields, with the oval and courts being re-instated as part of the development. It is the School’s intention to progress completion of the car park as soon as the Early Years facilities are undertaken and in so doing the School will lodge a Development Application for this project during the construction period of the refurbishment, alterations and additions to St Crispin’s and St Rita’s. The new parking facility will allow all staff to park in the one area, thus allowing more short term parking in local streets, improving traffic movement and providing more open space for students.

- **Stage 2 - Proposed Future Developments**
  In future years the school will also embark on upgrading the Junior School facilities. It is anticipated that this accommodation can be achieved within the existing building footprint, by replacing the current Junior School with an integrated development that incorporates classes for Years 3 to 6, expands the existing library and improves ICT infrastructure.

Further Information

A range of further information about the proposed developments is available from the School, including two information sheets entitled - “Perth College Facilities - Update” and “Perth College Facilities Masterplan Frequently Asked Questions”.

These sheets are available from the School office or can be downloaded from the Community section of the School website at www.pc.wa.edu.au.
Our School has long been committed to Netball, with as many as 30 per cent of all students playing the sport. We have the largest Netball Club in Western Australia, with 37 teams within the Perth Netball Association.

Liz Booth, Coordinator of the Netball Academy at Perth College loves this sport because it is a great leveller. It is a competitive game where girls can compete at a level appropriate to their talent and caters for all abilities. Our girls can aspire to playing at state level, for fun, fitness, or simply to catch up with other girls.

We recently set up our Netball Academy to recognise the great commitment our girls, their families and the extended School community provided to the Netball programme. Although the programme was initially set up to offer Boarders a Saturday Netball competition, it grew and became a strong focus for our day girls as well. Our exceptional Physical Education teachers ensured the growth of the sport until it became the impressive size it is today.

As with all sport at Perth College, there is a focus on developing pathways to ensure every girl can continue her involvement after leaving school. Through the Academy, elite pathways are identified for girls in all aspects, including playing, umpiring, coaching and mentoring.

Perth College has already produced many fine players, including Emma Beckett (West Coast Fever), Kate Lazenby (Orioles), Alyssa Petrig (up and coming and State League), Pippa Leverington (State League), Linda Wheatley (State League) and current student and Vice Captain of Sports-Jade McGuire.

Perth College now plays host to West Coast Fever training sessions, offering our girls an opportunity to see the elite players training and in time realise their own potential. The benefits of the partnership are also seen by West Coast Fever’s Head Coach Jane Searle who also deems the collaboration will open up many doors for her team.

‘Having these facilities readily available is providing us with the stability and resources needed to be able to adequately prepare for the championship’, Jane said.