IN THIS ISSUE:
Cover: St George’s Anglican Grammar School Student Leaders and Principal
From the CEO
ASC Piano Competition
Building A School
Feature School: St George’s Anglican Grammar School
Reachout Manila
DEAR COLLEAGUES
There's no doubt about it… Term 3 feels long. Whilst it is not necessarily any longer in days than other school terms, it is our ‘winter term’, which means it is accompanied by cold (and sometimes wet) days and the dreaded cold and flu season. Am I imagining it or has this one been particularly fierce? Principals have told me of the large amount of sickness across both students and staff this past term, with colds and the current ‘strain’ of the flu virus.

I am unreliably told (by Dr Google and Wikipedia) that Sick Leave was in place around the time of the construction of Egyptian tombs, when at least some of the workers who built the tombs of pharaohs received paid Sick Leave as well as state-supported health care!

What today is called Personal Leave in our enterprise agreements and awards is there for members of staff in such a situation; where it is simply against everyone's best interests for that staff member to be anywhere but home in bed recovering. Whilst appropriate conditions are placed around the taking of such leave, it is a good thing that some millennia after the construction of the Egyptian tombs, the health and wellbeing of employees across our nation is deemed a priority, with generous conditions enshrined in both law and practice.

OPENING OF ST GEORGE'S ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

REACHOUT MANILA

As you will see featured later in this Newsletter, Reachout Manila Number Five took place over the July school holidays. Student pilgrims from our schools, together with Peer Support Leaders, Chaplains and staff, undertook a journey of flight and faith in some of the most poverty-stricken parts of the Philippines' capital, living alongside adults and children who are materially poor yet rich in spirit and life experience. Over the years that the Anglican Schools Commission has been offering the Reachout program, I have been struck by the remarkable impact it has… on the lives of those who venture to Manila more-so than the young people whom they encounter in Manila. Of course, that is what a true pilgrimage is about… opening up your life to be touched by the experiences you encounter ‘along the way’.

The 2015 pilgrimage to the Philippines built on the successful pilgrimages of the past five years, providing an opportunity for the pilgrims to leave their comfortable western lifestyle for a short time, to serve alongside ‘the poorest of the poor’. A unique option offered this year was an extended pilgrimage for some of the Peer Support Leaders and adults to journey to Taizé in France and Canterbury in England, world-famous places of Christian pilgrimage. I especially thank Archbishop Roger for giving his time to accompany the pilgrims for part of Reachout Manila, then on to Taizé and Canterbury.

FINALLY, speaking of sickness this past term, thank you to each of you across the ASC and beyond who offered good wishes and prayers whilst I underwent heart bypass surgery and the subsequent recovery in July and August. The efforts of both Mrs Irene Clarke and Mr Philip Goldsworthy, who each fulfilled the Acting CEO role during part of this time, are also appreciated. For those getting a break over these coming school holidays, may they be days of refreshment prior to what is always a hectic final school term.

Every blessing

Peter Laurence (Revd)
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
On Wednesday, 5 August, Peter Moyes Anglican Community School hosted the third Anglican Schools Commission Piano Competition which involved over 120 piano players from eight of the 14 ASC Schools namely: Peter Moyes Anglican Community School, John Wollaston Anglican Community School, John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School, Peter Carney Anglican Community School, St. Marks Anglican Community School, Georgiana Molloy Anglican School, and Frederick Irwin Anglican School. Piano students from Grade 1 to Grade 12 participated.

This event was organised into 15 morning heats from which 21 finalists were selected who then played in the afternoon Finals Concert. There were six categories each of which corresponded to approximate AMEB (Australian Music Examinations Board) grades from Preliminary to Music Diploma, and which were named after the ASC Core Values: Faith, Justice, Integrity, Respect, Diversity and Excellence.

When students were not competing, they were able to relax and socialise with their own school friends as well as make new friends from other schools. Other activities included dancing, playing computer games, playing keyboards, and sharing the food and drinks which were provided. It was great to see so many smiles. Many teachers and parents also attended to watch both the heats and the finals.

The five adjudicators chose first, second and third in each category and each student received a cash prize. They will also receive an engraved trophy or medallion. Overall first, second and third prizes and trophies were also adjudicated. A video showing the day’s events, including the winning performances, has been made and will be distributed to the ASC schools. All participants will receive a Certificate of Participation to be presented within their own school.

Last year’s winner, Elisha Abraham, travelled to Melbourne to play in the national Bernstein Piano Competition, and also the 2014 ASC Combined Concert at the Perth Concert Hall. He again performed with excellent expression this year and won the highest category "Respect". The overall ASC Piano competition winner this year was Song Chen who gave a brilliant performance of Chopin's Waltz No.5 in A Flat Major, Opus 42.

There are many people to thank, including Bronwyn Booth, who did so much of the administrative work; the Allan Shaw Centre technical staff, ably assisted by student tech-wiz Mitchel Byrne; PMACS teaching staff, including Matthew Schluter (photos), Annie Gifford and Andrea Black; the PMACS catering staff, grounds staff; the other 12 student helpers; music staff; the five adjudicators; the Heads of Music from the ASC schools; the many piano teachers; the ASC and PMACS administrations; and our guest of honour, Mr. Doug Swingler, who presented the prizes.

It has been very rewarding to see the standard of playing improve each year, with more and more students playing in the more technically and musically challenging, higher categories. There was a lot of beautiful music played: from contemporary Australian composers, to student originals, to the great classics of the piano repertoire, including Chopin, Beethoven, Mozart and Debussy.

The adjudicators were impressed with the excellent quality of performance throughout the day and commented: The talent is amazing and never ceases to amaze me… It was just superb from the beginning of the day to the end… The standard was very high, and the students, staff and other judges were a joy to work with.

The winners in the 2015 ASC Piano Competition were:

Faith: Joscelyn Melendez (PMACS), Sorcha Kingsbury (SVACS), Caleb Sim (SVACS)
Justice: Adam Lindsay (FIAS), Annika Luff (GMAS), Edward Mirco (JRSACS)
Integrity: Mischa Jones (SMACS), Cindy Jones (SMACS), Talisha Lee-Karuthiru (JRSACS)
Respect: Elisha Abraham (JRSACS), Song Chen (SMACS), Cai Dackins (SVACS)
Diversity: Eileen Melendez (PMACS), Amelie White and Jocelyn Melendez (duet, PMACS), Nicole Smith (FIAS);
Excellence: Song Chen (SMACS); Elisha Abraham (JRSACS); Eileen Melendez (PMACS) tied with Amelie White and Jocelyn Melendez (duet, PMACS)

Justin Tonti
Head of Music
Peter Moyes Anglican Community School
The philosophical and pedagogical approaches to teaching and learning that recognise the distinct learning needs across the Kindergarten to Year 12 continuum have been in place at JOHN SEPTIMUS ROE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL since 1999 and our teaching facilities have evolved and, in some notable instances, rearticulated to support the approaches. It has taken careful planning, ingenuity in curriculum design, the adaptation of existing buildings, as well as the design and construction of new general and specialist facilities as they could be afforded within the context of a low-fee school, to bring this plan to fruition.

The Senior Secondary Centre, in planning from 2011, is the culmination of this work. Construction began in October 2013 and was completed in June 2015. The new Centre with 12 high-tech classrooms, is located in close proximity to the Kenneth Evans Science Centre, the Senior Mathematics and Year 10 Learning Community Building, the ICT Centre and the Catherine O’Neill Library. It provides tutorial spaces for four senior House divisions and has become the hub of the Senior Secondary section of the school.

The Centre has its own reception, administrative offices, common student and teacher lounge areas, kitchen facilities, teacher preparation spaces and two large student independent study areas with sweeping views of the ovals and adjacent bush land. The outside areas and approaches to the building, with its emphasis on creating an environment for students on the cusp of young adulthood, are equally impressive.

CATHEDRAL COLLEGE WANGARATTA has seen considerable growth in both its student population and its buildings and grounds this year. We celebrated the opening of the new Middle School Precinct and the Arts Centre at our open day in April. The Arts Centre was recently transformed in the Stitched Up Textile Festival Wangaratta, an opportunity for our artists of all ages to participate in a public exhibition, showcasing work from the Materials Technology, Textiles, Art and Design subjects. Visitors from across the region were welcome to view the works on display and see many of the Arts classes in action. The facility has also been opened to local community groups in the evenings, keen to use the Apple Mac Lab. With the oval and indoor sporting facilities due for completion at the end of the year, there will be many more opportunities for the College to continue to build partnerships with local community groups.

The Middle School Precinct, completed earlier this year, provides a purpose built space for our students from Years 6 to 8. We are fortunate to have firmly established ourselves as a Prep to Year 12 school at Murdoch Road this year. As we look to the future, we will continue to grow in a measured and considered way.

The ground was broken this month on the next building project at PETER CARNLEY ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL, which will see a new state-of-the-art gymnasium added to its already impressive campus. The gymnasium, designed by Parry and Rosenthal Architects, will include two basketball courts, a stage area, a mezzanine floor designed as a weights and strength training area, male and female changing areas, as well as two general purpose classrooms. The entire project is expected to cost $5,775,000, with $1,950,000 generously provided through the Commonwealth Capital Grants scheme. The build is being undertaken by Sanpro Construction, which undertook the recent extension to the School’s Administration Building. Construction is expected to be completed by mid-2016.

Principal, Mr Peter Martin, confirmed that the School was keenly anticipating the new school facilities. "We have been growing exponentially in recent years, so as well as the obvious sporting uses for what promises to be an impressive new facility, it will also be wonderful to be able to gather the whole School into one covered area again, and to host some of our significant cultural and social events there."
ESPERANCE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL (EACS) is delighted to have a new, 40-bed boarding house built with generous funding from the ASC and government. The addition of boarding facilities extends the School’s reach into the hinterland of the Goldfields and Wheatbelt and gives parents an affordable alternative to boarding their children in Perth. It is pleasing to see the positive start made by our boarders and the staff caring for them. Students are happy in a home-like environment and are pursuing a wide range of interests. Staff includes Resident House Parents, two Resident Tutors and a Matron who all provide the pastoral care we value so highly. We can truly say that EACS is the place to live and learn in the heart of Esperance.

JOHN WOLLASTON ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL is excitedly awaiting the completion of its new building, The Commons, which will house 16 contemporary, secondary classrooms for English, Humanities, Mathematics and Languages, two staffrooms, smaller break-out learning areas and the latest in classroom technology. The Commons will enhance the School’s capacity to provide a more flexible, functional learning environment for secondary students. The purpose-built facility is light-filled and spacious, and expansive windows give upper-floor classrooms either stunning views across the John Wollaston sporting facilities to the Darling Range or a vista through the heart of the campus to the technology centre, library and chapel.

Designed by Steve Mueller Architects and built by Absecon builders, The Commons is due for completion in December 2015 and will be ready for use at the start of the 2016 school year. One of the advantages of having four learning areas under the one roof is the opportunity for close collaboration. All staff acknowledge that geographical proximity will enhance what are already productive professional relationships.

Heads of Department were consulted on the functionality of interior spaces and fit-out and chose colour schemes to enhance their learning areas. With growth in student numbers in the coming years, the building’s design will accommodate additional classrooms. The Commons promises to be an outstanding facility for the School. The recently completed Technology and Enterprise (T&E) Centre at SWAN VALLEY ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL (SVACS) is a significant development for the school. The T&E Centre includes a new school café, which has been a big hit with the students, along with a commercial kitchen, standard kitchen, as well as metalwork, woodwork and CAD rooms.

The School has employed an onsite chef to assist and teach the Hospitality students from the beginning of 2016. The food prepared by the students in the new commercial kitchen will be sold in the School canteen and all School functions and events will be catered through the Hospitality students’ catering business. The students completing the Hospitality course in 2016 will become paid employees of the School, with all of the expectations that come with being a paid employee, ensuring a real-life work experience while they complete the Hospitality Course.

Students are also developing their skills on woodwork machines such as the mortiser and wood lathe, while using the new spray booths to finish projects to a high standard. Metalwork students are able to use metal lathes, MIG and TIG welders, oxygen/acetylene welding equipment, plasma cutters and a milling machine to design and make projects. It is wonderful for SVACS to have a new T&E Centre that offers opportunities for enhanced educational possibilities for our students.

The new Senior Academic Centre, which will open in 2018, is the most significant capital project in the 30-year history of ST MARK’S ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL. The Centre has been designed to align with the School’s 10-year masterplan and its three key strategic priorities:

• Raising the academic ethos and profile of the School
• Increasing the focus on the Arts, Creativity and Innovation
• Connecting meaningfully with the Indian Ocean Rim and becoming more international in our perspective

The Senior Academic Centre will be a three-storey structure on the site of the current Alkimos building, replacing some of St Mark’s oldest facilities. The modern, spacious design allows for flexible, glass-enclosed learning areas, similar to the well utilised ‘glass rooms’ located in the Tony Stopher Library & Information Centre, which opened in 2013.

In addition to the 22 learning spaces, the building will feature two new Home Economics facilities, a staff room, a new Canteen/Café area, a presentation space with flexible seating for up to 200, prep rooms and offices. The flexible design will allow teachers to easily adapt the space within the facility to suit a variety of learning styles.

A bridge will provide a direct link from the Senior Academic Centre to the Secondary School Library. The new building, together with the bridge, is set to become a hub for creativity and academic development for Senior School students.

The Senior Academic Centre is expected to open in 2018, which will coincide with the School’s transition to a new sub-school model. This change will have Kindergarten to Year 5 as the Junior School, Year 6 to 8 as the Middle School and Year 9s will become part of Senior School, working alongside Years 10, 11 and 12 in the Senior Academic Centre.

Principal Cameron Herbert says, “This outstanding new educational facility will provide three generous floors of modern, flexible learning spaces, as well as being a home base for students in Years 9 to 12. It will also be a physical statement about our serious commitment to establishing a reputation for academic excellence.”
St George’s Anglican Grammar School opened the doors to its new city campus at 50 William Street for the first time on Monday, 27 July 2015. Students and staff made the significant journey as a single group, travelling by train from the old campus at Murdoch University into the city. On arrival at Perth Underground Station, the group of students, distinctive in their red blazers, ascended into the Murray Street Mall, where they were welcomed to the city by the Honourable Lord Mayor, Lisa Scaffidi. The Dean of Perth, The Very Reverend Richard Pengelley, blessed the students before they walked the short distance to the modern, vibrant facility the School would now call home.

Students spent the first day becoming familiar with their exciting new campus as well as the surrounding city area. They visited a number of the facilities they will be using on a regular basis, such as St George’s Cathedral, the Art Gallery of WA, the Perth City Library and the Museum of WA. Students and staff also enjoyed a picnic lunch in one of the many beautiful parks close to the School.

St George’s students are delighted with the building and settling into the new routines associated with being located at the heart of the city. Staff and students are eagerly availing themselves of the opportunities to engage with the city and excellent local facilities.

The Arts Department has maximised the benefits of our new location. Our Year 12 Visual Arts students have been fortunate to have all of their art lessons this term in the Art Gallery, which is only a short walk away. This opportunity has brought many benefits and the standard of students’ work has lifted as a result. The photography classes have thoroughly enjoyed the many and varied chances to develop their skills in a dynamic urban environment, with classes being held out in the city as much as possible. Not to be outdone, our annual drama production was held at the State Theatre where students relished the opportunity to work in magnificent facilities and experience the privilege of working alongside accomplished and highly professional staff. Our students rose to the occasion and produced a hilarious and high-energy performance of *Popstars, The Musical*. We are certainly privileged to have access to these wonderful facilities.

The School is working hard to develop our Music programme with the introduction of peripatetic tutors in a number of different instruments. Burt Hall at St George’s Cathedral was the rich setting for the inaugural School Music Festival which showcased our wonderful musical talent. It was a delight to see how supportive and encouraging our students were towards one another that night, regardless of age and gender differences.

Physical Education lessons in third term centered around athletics in preparation for our Inter-House Carnival which was held at the UWA sports grounds on 28 August. In addition to this, students enjoyed paddle-boarding lessons on the Swan River and archery classes at Langley Park. The exciting school rooftop area is always a hive of activity, where basketball and table tennis games happen daily and a
The Year 10 Science classes visited the Perth Museum as part of their studies on Evolution and Natural Selection during the first week in the city. They were able to compare the different skeletons of a range of vertebrate species and to appreciate the difference between homologous and analogous adaptations. It was a good opportunity to look at the range of fossils on display and to understand the different types formed.

St George’s Cathedral, the spiritual home of the School, has allowed us to further enhance and develop our Religious Education program. The grand Cathedral is a magical place to gather and worship together. Students make a great impression as they walk down St George’s Terrace each Monday, excited to visit the Cathedral for their weekly Chapel Services.

On the academic front, we are continuing to achieve success, as shown in the recent Australian Mathematics competition where one of our Year 10 students achieved a score in the 100th percentile, being the top one per cent in Australasia. In addition to this great achievement, four students received High Distinctions, (ranking them in the top five per cent of Australasia) and 22 achieved Distinctions placing them in the top 15 per cent of Australasia. We are very proud of these students.

Our Year 12 Physics students recently visited Murdoch University’s Separation Science Laboratory where they learnt about the latest in Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) from Dr Joel Gummer. GC-MS equipment screens WA crops to detect the presence of pesticide residues at vanishingly small concentrations. The technique is similar to that used at airports to test for explosives residues, although vastly more sensitive. Students were impressed that, in analysing metabolites, the spectrometer is able to differentiate between the mass of different isotopes of the same element.

At the conclusion of the service, the congregation processed out of the Cathedral and marched through the streets of Perth back to the School, led by the rousing drum cadences and music of the City of Perth Marching Band. What a joyous procession it was and what a striking sight the students made in their beautiful red blazers. The service continued at 50 William Street when the Archbishop blessed the new site. After a delicious luncheon provided by the School Café, student leaders invited guests on tours of our magnificent new facilities.

The day was a wonderful celebration for the entire school community and a fortuitous beginning to this significant new chapter in the life of St George’s Anglican Grammar School.
It's not every day I get the opportunity to go on a trip like this, and I honestly feel honoured to have had the opportunity, and to be a part of something wonderful. But I don't think I was at all ready for where it would take me, or even where it's going to take me.

Three pilgrimages in one: not something I ever expected to experience and to start it off on familiar ground in Manila (above) was a privilege and a blessing, but to travel on to both Taizé and Canterbury, is something I will carry with me forever. I don't think I could have experienced all three of these the way I did without beginning in Manila, with the people I love and doing something so rewarding. Manila taught me not to take things for granted and to live, not in the moment, but with the moment. And I think that's something I carried with me through to the end, to not leave with regrets, to do what I can in the time that I have. And I know that I followed that through with my experience in Taizé.

I wasn't at all ready for what Taizé (top right) was going to throw at me; I really had no idea what to expect. But even then it took me time. It was a progressive thing over the week I was there, and I could have quite happily stayed for longer if it meant I could make clearer sense of things. As soon as I felt comfortable there, I realised that I wanted to try and reflect and strengthen a connection, and it wasn't until the last couple of days that things really started to happen for me. I had been thoroughly enjoying myself for the whole week, getting to know new people, learning about other cultures, and just experiencing a community. But those last couple of days drew me to realise something. Something I had only faintly scratched the surface of in Manila. I was being called to do something. What that is, I still don't know.

I was asked while in Taizé, whether I was doing more sketches there than I would at home. At the time I said no, but for the rest of that night I kept wondering if maybe I'd given the wrong answer. Now that I'm back in Esperance, I realise that I did. Taizé gave me a sense of freedom, both spiritually and creatively, something I wouldn't otherwise experience here in Esperance. For me, Taizé was a turning point; it helped me to realise something I otherwise probably wouldn't have noticed if I was in my normal, everyday surroundings. It's something about the atmosphere, the people, the connections made spiritually, that helped me to tap into that. I think. And I honestly wouldn't trade it for anything else. And one day I hope to get back there, to further what I experienced.

Canterbury (top left) was beautiful, there's really no other way to describe it. To be able to be in a place with such history was so important to me. I don't know what it was, but it helped me to further find what I had experienced in both Manila and Taizé, and I think what I had experienced in Taizé, helped me to appreciate Canterbury a whole lot more. Just to imagine how people lived in those times, and to walk on streets that so many had trod before me, maybe searching the same as me or maybe not. It was a very surreal feeling and it filled me with an appreciation for such a place, and now, a purpose. I felt a connection and I found myself not wanting to leave the Cathedral, or Canterbury for that matter. I just wanted to sit and be in awe of my surroundings with the hope that maybe I could figure out what exactly I was being called to do.

Manila, Taizé, Canterbury. I don't have the words to simply explain everything I felt over the time I was away but I do know that each one of these places has taught me something, and that they will always have a place in my heart. And it's honestly an amazing feeling. Now I'm just left to search for what I'm being called to do.

And I owe that to this trip. My three pilgrimages in one.

Julie-Ann Ross
Year 12 2014