Boarders’ Buzz

St Philip’s College Girls’ Boarding

Volume 19 Issue 2 Term 2 2016

Our kitchen rules!

I can say without any hesitation that this has been a great term. In fact I would go so far as to say that in terms of both the quality and quantity of what we have done it has been one of the best we’ve had in my time as Head of Girls’ Boarding.

Our activities were not restricted to the weekends this term. The introduction of Zumba on Thursday afternoons was a great step forward in keeping everyone active. I felt genuine excitement early in Term 2 as more than half of the boarders, including most of our less active ones, climbed on the bus with Deb to go to after school Zumba at the YMCA. Seldom have I heard them come back on such a high and it has remained a popular activity with many throughout Term 2.

Sport and fitness has played an important part in the term for many boarders with a good number playing netball and AFL, another group attending Friday afternoon gym classes with Deb and numerous trips to the stadium for volleyball and basketball and other sports. We also entered a team for the 12 Hour Sports. It’s been good to see our own gym in use regularly this term by a number of boarders and our fitness chart reflects a renewed effort from most of the boarders to keep fit.

We’ve maintained our commitment to community service: helping out at the Alice Springs Running and Walking Club with their Mother’s Day Breakfast, fund raising for Breast Cancer Research; helping to collect money for the Salvation Army’s Red Shield Appeal and, of course, our big fund raising dinner which raised over $2600 for the College’s Tanna Appeal. Many of the girls acquitted themselves exceptionally well at this event and can be justifiably proud of their efforts.

On campus we’ve made good use of the food tech area, baking cakes and preparing a three course meal.

News in brief

Hello and goodbye to:
- Erika, Maegan and Johanna, our three exchange students, and Arna, who stayed for a few weeks before becoming a day student.

Welcome back to:
- Zara from exchange in Denmark

Goodbye to:
- Breanne who is moving back to Adelaide
- Molly who is moving back to Darwin
- Iona who is becoming a day student

Congratulations to:
- Both our resident staff, Margo and Danica, on completing their Duty of Care courses in record time and now being fully qualified.

- Mereoni on being selected for the Alice Springs netball development squad

Thank you to:
- To our wonderful staff who have been so wholehearted committed to the girls’ well being

Boarders return:
Sunday
24 July

(continued on back page)
During my exchange I was lucky enough to go to one of the oldest schools within the Round Square program. Herlufsholm is a school in Denmark which is located about 80kms south of Copenhagen and was founded during the 15th century making the school itself about 450 years old.

The school, like ours, has approximately 600 students but starts teaching from 6th grade and finishes at 12th

The moment I was accepted into exchange it was all I could talk about – wanting to find out where I was going and what I needed to have for the country I was attending – I just wanted to get on a plane and leave for exchange right then and there.

At 16 years old, I was travelling across the world to a foreign country, one that I had no idea about – about to live with a family for the next two months – I had no clue who they were or if they were good people.

I was scared and frightened about what I was doing and leaving my dad on the other side of Customs showed me just how real everything finally was; how I wouldn’t see anyone I knew for a good few months. That thought scared me endlessly.

Before leaving I always wanted to please everyone – but that’s human nature right? I never really said no and if someone asked me if I wanted to do something with them, even though I really didn’t want to, I would 98% of the time say yes.

Being where no-one knows you can help you in more ways than one. You can try something new – try being someone you’re not actually back home and try something new - even things as simple as only doing what you want to do.

When you live in a boarding house with 35 other girls it can be hard saying no; even saying you need some time alone can be hard.

For a few hours a day the boarders at Herluf would have layel (study period) in their room and everyone was meant to be alone to study – having a few hours to yourself is something that helps you to re-energise and gives you space from being around so many people throughout the day and I appreciated this.

The nature in Denmark is something I hadn’t seen anywhere else – nothing can compare in my eyes.

I started my stay during the end of their winter where everything was dead, lifeless, dull and depressing – I ended my stay by seeing the once dead and dull-looking forest transform into something that looked like a fairy tale. The once lifeless forest was transformed into something so green it looked magical. The forest looked as if it went on forever, with little bits of light passing through. It’s something I’ll never forget.

Visiting towns and islands that held no more than 200 people was amazing because, even living out bush, a town of two hundred seems very small.

I love food – I mean, who doesn’t? Everywhere I went, whether it was to Copenhagen with some friends for the day or out with my host family, I always tried to sample something new – and with not understanding the menu fully, it helped with not always ordering the same meal. I was never one for sea food before leaving; but upon returning I would order mussels or crab and I wouldn’t be against trying something new either.

Thinking back on my exchange I’m understanding just how much time really means. I can’t wrap my head around just how fast 2 months can go

Time is a valuable thing and is something I’m going to take more seriously in future.

Zara Milton
Term in Pictures
On the 14th June we packed our sleeping bags and headed out to Simpsons Gap for a fun night of camping in the bush.

When we arrived the girls helped set up camp and collected firewood. We then played some games in the creek with Stevo while Rickaine, Helena and Breanne fired up the BBQ and cooked some yummy steak for dinner. Keiarah and Nikita prepared a nice damper cooked in the coals.

Just after dinner Mr Tudor joined us for a campfire sing along. Helena did a thank you speech for Mr Tudor and presented him with a lovely painting done by Zoe Daly. We then sang some more campfire songs including the banquet song and the St Philip’s school song. While we were singing songs we also roasted marshmallows on the fire.

Around 10pm Mr Tudor went home and all the girls rolled out their sleeping bags and tucked in for the night. The next morning after we rose we enjoyed bacon and egg breakfast by the fire.

Once we were finished we packed up and we all piled in the bus and we came home.

Thank you Stevo for taking us camping.

Mereoni Uluivuya
On Saturday 8th June, the Girls’ Boarding House held a fundraising dinner to raise money for the Tanna Appeal.

All the girls enjoyed playing their part in setting up and cooking for the dinner and there were even a few of the boy boarders who assisted. A big thank you to Dani and Margo, the boarding house parents, who helped in the kitchen, cooking and washing on the night.

The menu was delicious: soup with garlic bread, followed by steak, salad and cheesecake dessert. After dinner mints, coffee and tea were also served at the end of the evening.

The girls who volunteered to waitress did a wonderful job in handing out and serving the meals. They were Zara, Molly, Emily, Arena, Rickaine and Batavia.

Entertainment was provided by Shania, Meagan and Helena. Shania sang *Butterfly Fly Away* beautifully, even though she was sick a few days before. Meagan entertained the guests by singing *Riptide* and all three girls joined together to sing *Hallelujah*, with Miss Bernadino accompanying with the guitar.

The night ended with a smile on everyone’s face. It was a beautiful and memorable evening with everything being perfect.

Meagan de Hamer
In Week 3, 12 of the girl boarders spent 2 hours playing sports. We played dodgeball, netball, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball and soccer. We won all of our dodge ball games except for the last game.

Unfortunately, we did not get to be on the court all of the time, so when we waited we kicked the football around and played AFL.

Margo kindly brought us lunch and we had lots of boarding support from the sidelines.

We had lots of help from Helena in making our flag and helping the team to stay together on the day, as well as joining us in our team for the last year that she will be here. She also helped us figure out our team name The Dungeon Dragons and helped us design our team shirts. We would not have won best flag without her.

I found 12 Hour Sports to be a blast and next year I will definitely try and join the team.

Arena Wheeler

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On two weekends this term, the girls’ boarding house used the food tech class room for the night. The first time, the girls laid the tables beautifully in the next room, cooked a three course meal for themselves, with sushi, pizza and a yummy dessert.

On the second visit the girls made cupcakes, with all the girls using their maths skills and having fun. We made a lot of chocolate cupcakes, except for one group who forgot to put the chocolate in!

Earlier that week the girls had been introduced to the new exchanges and a new member of the boarding house. Because of these new arrivals we needed to make a special batch of gluten free, vegan cupcakes.

Everyone enjoyed their creations after a lot of hard work and effort. Over all the girls all had lots of fun bonding in the kitchen.

Billie Russo

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On May 8th, Mother’s Day, the boarding girls, Billie, Mereoni, Shania, Jordan, Arena and Arna, attended the Alice Springs Running and Walking Club Mother’s Day breakfast.

The girls, having prepared several platters of fruit the day before, were woken up early in the morning at 5 o’clock, to be up and ready for the run.

All the girls were excited to help out, with their delicious platters of fruit and the plates of scones and cookies. Tom, one of the gappies, came with us as he was running.

As well as preparing and handing out food, the girls also helped hand out the medals. Even though it rained, it didn’t stop the run or the fun of the event, and neither did age, with babies crossing the finish line alongside their parents or even in strollers.

The girls wore pink tops and wings in support of the breast cancer fundraising, as well.

Over all everyone had fun, whether they ran or not.

Billie Russo
At the beginning of the term I was able to attend the Year 8 Round Square Conference. This year the conference was held in Perth. The school that hosted us this year was Scotch College for boys. The theme for the conference was ‘Life On The Edge’.

While on the conference I was able to participate in many things such as a High Ropes course at the outdoor education centre held in Dwelling Up, Moray River and going to food rescue. There we looked at how much food is actually wasted even if it is perfectly fine to eat. After visiting the food rescue place we headed to the Tranby homeless shelter. There I was able to see how fortunate I really am.

We also went to the Perth Botanical Gardens and did an amazing race around the gardens. After doing the amazing race we did kite making for the international understanding pillar.

For the democracy pillar we had worked with a renowned local artist in painting a picture representing ‘Life On The Edge’.

The thing I liked most about the conference is definitely the friends I made and how they grew stronger as the conference progressed.

If you are a Year 7, I would definitely look into going on the Round Square Conference of 2017.

Shania Milton

As an exchange student from Canada, my perspective on the boarder’s trip to Ormiston Gorge may be different from others, simply because I had never witnessed such incredible rock formations before unlike the other students.

The trip to Ormiston was the first opportunity I had to experience a part of the Northern Territory separate from being in the town of Alice Springs. The feeling that I had walking through the impressive rock walls and sand was pure amazement. I had never seen anything like it before and probably will never again.

The students in the boarding house made the experience even better for me by including me in conversations and games.

I vividly recall hiking to the first look out point with some boarding students and several other exchange students, and being truly astonished by the beautiful view.

The day was filled with laughter and fun, and will definitely be a moment from my exchange that I will never forget.

Erika Shea

**Kindness is magic**
Let’s go Zumba!

Throughout the term the girls’ boarding house has been participating in an active Zumba class every Thursday. The class runs for one hour every week at the YMCA in town.

When the opportunity to participate in this class arose, several of the girls were hesitant to join.

However, many of them decided to give it a shot, and really ended up enjoying it.

As the sessions continued, more and more girls were starting to join due to the positive feedback they heard from their friends.

The Zumba room is a very fun space with loud music and colourful lighting. The instructor is enthusiastic about what she does.

It is clear that the girls love attending the classes and their overall mood boosts when they enter the room.

Many thanks to Deb who organised the activity and who takes us each week.

Erika Shea

In Alice we’ve been to the town pool, beach volleyball, the cinema, and ten pin bowling and a group of girls has gone up Spencer Hill a number of times.

As I read back through this I almost wonder how the girls have found time to go to school! However, the truth is that the more involved the boarders are with these activities, the more positive they feel about themselves and the better they perform at school.

It’s been one of those terms that has left me feeling re-energised and keen to get going again in Term 3, but in the meantime I am sure I will enjoy a great holiday and I wish you also a wonderful holiday with your daughters.

Margaret Stevenson

Honour Roll
Contribution
Helena
Improvement
Batavia
Prep
Zoe
Boarder of the Week
Wk 2  Helena
Wk 3  Zoe
Wk 4  Arena
Wk 5  Breanne
Wk 6  Jordan
Wk 7  Meagan
Wk 8  Shania
Wk 9  Zara

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