It’s been a very short term but we’ve managed to pack a lot in as usual.

A new award at the College came into place this term and that was the Kurt Hahn Award, which recognises involvement in all aspects of College and community life and I was very proud to see that the majority of the inaugural recipients of the award were girl boarders.

Many of them had far more than the necessary fifteen activities recorded and it shows what a big contribution they make around the place.

Our eight recipients had lunch with Chris Tudor and all came back feeling a real sense of achievement.

While on the subject of contribution, the girls this term have been busy doing Bob a Jobs. It has been tradition for a number of years that in Term 4 the girls work to buy ‘Care’ gifts for those less fortunate in countries overseas.

Working in groups they have washed cars, gardened, moved piles of sand and rocks not to mention a bit of dog walking and cooking. Among the items bought this year were goats, chickens, ducks mosquito nets, a water tank and numerous other items.

(continued on back page)
Our Community Garden Plot

This term we’ve been involved in working hard in our community garden. Every Tuesday afternoon in the school bus or the boarders’ car we go to the garden. Stevo asks some of the girl boarders to volunteer to help plant some veggies and flowers at our garden plot.

At the moment the garden looks beautiful because it is so green and a mixture of flowers and vegetables. All down one side are tall yellow and orange sun flowers. Our vegetables include silverbeet, radishes, peas, beans, tomatoes and sweet corn.

This term gardening has been more popular than usual and that is because of all the ripe mulberries waiting to be picked! On some Tuesdays the boarders have come home with red hands and red striped faces too!

Brooke Baliva

Pottery

For the last few weeks of this term some of the girl and boy boarders have been doing pottery on Sunday afternoons in the Art room with Miss Wilton. We have made things such as bowls, cups, pots etc. We have also had a shot on the spinning wheel, which is a wheel that spins around fast or slow so you can try and make a nice round shape. It has been a lot of fun too, because, it can get you out of the boarding house without going to town to spend any money, as well as having lots of fun.

Zara Milton.
Traditional BBQ and German desserts!

For the main course we travelled to Mrs Crogan’s house and had a juicy BBQ and a good rest in the comfy hammock.

Finally for dessert we went to Debbie’s home where there were lots of different German desserts prepared by Sabrina.

The night was a wonderful night and thank you to all of the staff who fed us and to Stevo for organizing the event.

Chelsea Yu

One happy Saturday, all of the girl boarders got dressed up and went out for the progressive dinner. We started the night at Rhiannan’s house, where we enjoyed delicious starters and playing with her dog, Jess.

After that we went to Vicki’s house for soup. We were greeted by three great waitresses Vicki, Kathleen and Laura who gave great service! We played a game called ‘Have you ever never’ and then another called ‘Assassins’ and to me this game made no sense!

Chelsea Yu

Trick or Treating on Halloween

On Halloween a group of the boarders got dressed up and went on a secret adventure to people’s houses. When we were going to people houses we were trick or treating.

The first house we went to was Miss Killer’s and then we went to Mrs Tilbrook’s. After that we went to Peter Bourke’s followed by Civic Video where we got some lollies. Their shop was all decorated for Halloween.

When we arrived at Mr Griffiths they were sitting around pretending to play with a fake ouiji board. Then we went to Ketut and Lily’s house where we had our photo taken.

Later, Ms K’s house we played dress the mummy and ate ice cream.

Then at Mrs Taylor’s house we played basketball and jumped on the trampoline and some of us climbed into a real coffin and got people to take photos!

Finally we went to Nuggets’ where we got water thrown all over us.

It was a fun night and we are planning to get revenge on Nugget.

Meagan de Hamer

Meagan looking the part

Helena went for a more glamorous look
The Term in Pictures
Goodbye from Martha, Sunette.....

Boarding life hasn’t been an entirely new concept for me as I have been boarding for a total of 8 years now. Prior to my arrival at St Philip’s College, I boarded in quite a stringent environment where items such as phones, computers and other technological equipment never existed in school. We spent a total of 16 hours each day in school and 7 hours sleeping. Despite this sounding quite harsh, it was ironically liberating and allowed me to “toughen up”.

Nevertheless, upon my arrival to St Philip’s College, I was warmly welcomed by the older boarding students and was majorly assisted by my cousin Kemy Ogendi in terms of settling in. She also used to be a boarder before her family moved down to Alice Springs from Tennant Creek.

I was immediately known as the shy African girl with short afro hair that surprisingly, everyone became very fascinated with. As English was my second to third language, verbal communication and comprehension was quite difficult for me in terms of me communicating with the other students; however, with my elder brother also attending the College, it became slightly easier for me to survive these first few nervous days.

I remember I was so nervous that in my first day, I decided that if anyone asked me a question, I would simply answer it with ‘Hello my name is Martha and I’m a new student in Year 8,’ despite the basis of the question. The flexibility that St Philip’s students had was a major aspect that intrigued me as well as the countless opportunities that they are provided with. This is so as back home in Kenya, the contemplation of things such as which university you will go to was always a foreign concept.

The ‘freedom’ within the boarding house also fascinated me although it took me a while to embrace. It took me almost a year and a half to get my first ever phone.

During my journey in the boarding house, I’ve had the privilege of meeting extraordinary ladies and ladies whom I will call sisters for the rest of my life. Despite my apparently intimidating nature, I pride myself in being patient, open and friendly, facets which have been well nurtured during my stay in the boarding house. Being the only female African in the boarding house was one of the many reasons for which Margo Sullivan and I became friends. She found my African attributes quite fascinating and it is something she would always remind me of even to this moment.

This ‘privilege’ also came with its challenges as I was always obliged to answer countless questions about my home continent; questions such as ‘Are there any apple trees in Africa?, ‘Do you have lions in Africa? and my favourite one, ‘Have you ever been to the lion king place?’ among many other fascinating ones.

Therefore, when Sunette Mndebele arrived in Year 9 from South Africa I felt like the weight of such a responsibility was lifted off my shoulders. Due to this commonality, a friendship immediately grew and it was awesome to share some of my experiences back in Kenya with her and knowing that she would understand most of them if not having experienced any of them.

Martha Ondeyo

My days in boarding started off in Year 9. The first time I was going to be away from my mom, knowing that I would only see her every few months’ time was a gloomy feeling, but the first glimpse of the boarding house and the people who lived in it, seemed to ease those feelings.

My days in the boarding house have been great and not so great, but they seemed easier to control and live through with the friends that I had.

My first roommate was Martha, she’s an amazing and easy person to share with and also be true friends with, and we truly connected through dancing African dances, watching YouTube videos, or just simply reminiscing about our
I have had such an amazing time caring and looking after the young women of the Girls’ Boarding House. They are all maturing into such strong, confident, funny and compassionate young adults who I am proud to have called “my girls”. Yes, there have been challenges, but when living with 33 different personalities and ages, this is to be expected, but when all is said and done, the girls genuinely care for one another. My fondest memories will be hearing the laughter in the hallways; the hugs and smiles at the beginning of my shift; the dancing and singing shenanigans; and sharing the moments of joy and happiness when someone gets a great mark on their test, or there is good news to tell about family.

I have learnt so much about myself from the girl’s, and they have each showed me and invited me into their lives. I feel very honoured and humble to have had the opportunity to live with your daughters, and like myself, I am sure you are all proud of them and their achievements this year. A special thanks also needs to be given to all the Boarding staff. Thank you for your support over the last two years while I have been with the Boarding House and I wish you all well.

So as I head off into the sunset on my next chapter to Kowanyama in Queensland; know that I am taking with me the fondest of memories and each of you in my heart. And as the great Tim McGraw said *We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere.* Best wishes to you all, have a safe and Merry Christmas and remember; it’s not good bye, it’s see you later!

Shannon Killer

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Shannon Killer
We also emptied our small change ‘pig’ in the dispensary and bought gifts for the Kmart Wishing Tree.

Among our activities this term have been a night out trick or treating on Halloween, a wonderful progressive dinner, ten pin bowling, pottery on Sunday afternoons, gardening and a lot of pool activities both at the town pool and the school one.

This term as always we said goodbye to our Year 12s at the Christmas party and as well as losing them we are also saying goodbye to Shannon Killer who has been the resident in the senior dorm this year. She has fulfilled the role with much love and the girls have felt well cared for.

We wish her every success in her new position in Queensland and give her our heartfelt thanks for her contribution to boarding.

While people go each year there are always new comers and it was fun to meet some of next year’s Year 7’s when they came for a sleep over as part of their orientation.

This term we introduced a new boarding tradition, our boarders end of year Carol service. It was a lovely event and very well attended. It was good to see some of our girls participating as they have done consistently all year.

With less than a week to go now till the end of term we are all eagerly anticipating the holiday ahead.

As Sarah Pollitt our College Chaplain is always so fond of saying if you have never boarded you can never fully appreciate the excitement that the end of term brings when boarders return to their families.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year and look forward to helping guide your daughters through their college life again next year.

Margaret Stevenson

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**Year 12 Boarders return**
**Monday 26 January**

**Year 7 Boarders arrive**
**Tuesday 27 January**

**Years 8-11 boarders Return Wednesday 28 January**

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**Smiley Awards**

An explanation of our ‘Smiley’ Awards is probably long overdue. These stickers hang on a chart in my office and are given each term basically for kind, thoughtful and community minded actions. So often in life we celebrate sporting or academic achievements and such like, but how often do we celebrate people just being lovely people? Hopefully these awards help to re-dress the balance.

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**Honour Roll**

**Contribution**
- Zoe

**Most Improved**
- Zara

**Prep Award**
- Zara

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**Year 12 Boarders return**
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**Honour Roll**

**Boarder of the Week**
- Wk 2 Emma
- Wk 3 Shania
- Wk 4 Hanna
- Wk 5 Mikeely
- Wk 6 Hanna
- Wk 7