Since gratitude has been my theme this year complimenting the Wisdom theme of the whole school, I would firstly like to thank you all for being part of Schols’ Boarding community. It is a rich diverse community of which you, your daughters and the staff are an invaluable and essential part. You are all an intrinsic part of who we are at Schols, an inclusive community who really lives the values of the college. After three years working in partnership with the boarding families, my life has been invaluably enriched and I am ever grateful for the young women who on a daily keep me honest and inform me about what I need to know as an adult who knows very little. It has been a great year so much has happened; we have seen many join us, while the Year 12s reluctantly left us to commence their life beyond Schols.

Winima House officially opened in March is now a thriving part of the boarding school with the Years 7 and 8 seeing this as their domain. Although the Year 8s who have spent the year there are very excited about moving up to the big house to be amongst the older students and not having to walk so far!!!! Our boarders are playing an amazing array of sports each weekend. I watch the Year 11s juggle their study commitments with their determination to participate in the social justice, community service and environmental initiatives organised by the College. Three of our Year 12s left on the 20 November with Sister Meg for the Good Sams’ alternative “schoolies”, to the Philippines, a really different experience from the Gold Coast and another opportunity to give back and be grateful.

Year 10 have left junior school and made those difficult subject selections for their senior studies. They had a great end-of-year, with Hot Topics, a transition program to senior school, a social, a great camp at Morisset, and a beautiful graduation mass in the chapel followed by lunch in the boarders’ dining room. The boarders’ had a number of special treats with Ms Trina taking them on quite a few night drives which are a real favourite in the boarding school. We’ve all had our Christmas party with a visit from Santa whom all the girls still believe in and each dorm has had its own dinner with their supervisor and a sharing of Kris Kindle presents.
One of the highlights for me this term was the boarders’ family mass and dinner on 10 November coinciding with the Year 7 orientation. We had a lovely mass in the chapel and then the fathers put on a BBQ. All present were able to catch up with other boarding families both current and new and share stories. Many new boarders had a sleep over giving them a taste of what their life will be like next year.

Speech Night this year was one of the best ever, sounds a bit like each Olympics, but it was a great night. The guest speaker was Marita Cheng, Young Australian of the Year 2012. She really connected with the students sharing her story and passion for robotics. Her message was clear and strong: young people can do anything they set their minds to regardless of their background or circumstances; She clearly reinforced our theme of gratitude with her dedication to encouraging young women to enter the field of engineering and her determination to liberate and improve the lives of the disabled through her robotic inventions.

Many successes in the final and grand finals of Touch, Water Polo, Basketball and Volley Ball; congratulations to all! We also have students heading off in the holidays to play rugby in Alice Springs. Our annual adventure to Jamberoo was again a most enjoyable day and just some of the fun that has filled this fast flowing term. Each of your daughters has grown so much. They have embraced the opportunities offered them by boarding at Schols. It is wonderful being part of this journey when they share their wisdom with you. How apt from the mouths of babes.

All here are looking forward to your return next year, supporting and encouraging you to meet the challenges of becoming educated, independent, young women; aware of your responsibilities to make this world better for you having been part of it.

I wish each of you a joyous Christmas, a great New Year and a relaxing time together over the holidays.

All the best

Annie
Use the holidays to get the rest you need....

During the holidays let’s maintain what’s necessary for our health and wellbeing as this allows us to have a happy and successful life. You will all receive your reports very soon. This will give you very useful feedback on what you did well and what you need to continue working on to meet those challenges in your learning. So many of you brought to the boarding school news of great grades and impressive pieces of work; all indications that you have the talent and ability if you have the will to achieve. There’s a very true saying “whether you think you can or you can’t, you’re right”.

Now you’re on holidays focus on maintaining what is needed for a healthy, happy life: nutrition, exercise and sleep. We’ve all read lots about what to eat and what not to eat and the importance of regular daily exercise. This for the boarders over the holidays is very important as their weeks no longer have their regular training sessions and Saturday sport. What I want to focus on is the sleep. This is becoming more tricky particularly as we’re surrounded by technology. Reading and playing games on an iPad may be nice at the end of the day, but there is growing concern that these habits can affect sleep. Smart devices with liquid-crystal displays emit light similar to a computer screen or television and sleep experts claim this can reduce the secretion of melatonin, which helps prepare the body for sleep. The older the child the more time they spend using technology. This can affect sleep when using these devices prior to bed time. A lack of sleep may affect concentration, cognitive capacity, decision making and the ability to complete a task which can inhibit a child’s capacity to learn. Young people should be encouraged to use other ways of resting prior to sleep such as relaxation exercises or reading a book.

Sleep is vital for our health; it allows for recuperation and recovery, to regenerate and recharge our batteries. Spend the holidays developing good sleeping habits which will all help for a more successful year at school when you return.
Something from Mysti

We all have a favourite place. But for each and every one of us the best place in the world is home, where is your home?

Well, for me my home is Halls Creek and it is the best place in the world.

My family, my culture and the community are there and they all connect with each other and this makes my home the best place in the world. Halls Creek is found in Western Australia in the Kimberley, it has a beautiful outback land, amazing swimming holes and deadly plants and animals.

Halls Creek... I cannot imagine life without living there.

If you came to visit you could take a tour or scenic flight from Halls Creek to the World Heritage listed Purnululu National Park and Bungle Bungle Range. It’s beautiful. Visit the second largest meteorite crater in the world at Wolfe Creek Crater National Park. Marvel at the China Wall, a six-metre high wall of quartz rock believed to be part of the longest single fault of its type in the world.

Check out the old Halls Creek town site, a reminder of the town’s mining history. Enjoy the peace and beauty of the fresh water springs at Palm Springs or Caroline’s Pool. Or head out to Sawpit Gorge for a swim, picnic and a spot of fishing. The people are just amazing! They are very welcoming, they are the best people to have fun with, especially my cousins, uncles and my dad.

You can never get bored in Halls Creek. At school we played heaps of sports but most of the times we just chilled, we laughed a lot and made jokes; we did the weirdest things, played loud music and danced mad ways. On weekends we go out bush, fishing, camping and hunting. Sometimes when it’s cool we go horse riding in the hills on the bore road, we even just stay home and watch funny movies.

Yep! Halls Creek is definitely the best place in this world.

I have given you the best description of the best place in the world so now, one day you all should visit my town and see these places for yourself.
2013

Coming to Schols I was extremely nervous and had no idea what to expect or even if I was making the right decision to board. All I really knew for sure was I wanted to take on new opportunities and become more independent. The first night here was quite nerve racking but I felt very welcomed and reassured I was making the right decision. As the term went on within the first week I felt like I belonged here and made really close friends very quickly. Overall Schols has been an amazing opportunity which I haven’t regret taking. It has made schooling much more enjoyable and has made me a more independent person - Isabelle

I have enjoyed every minute of this year. But the highlight has to be Jamberoo – where I controlled the action! - Lilia

The best thing about this year has been being with my friends and doing stuff what I wouldn’t be able to do at home. – Sarah Jane

This year has been very busy. We started the year with energetic anticipation and high hopes for what was to come. We had dances, sport, outings, dinners, late nights, camps, assessments and exams, which had us working as a team, exploring Sydney, meeting new people, learning from mistakes, meeting boys, and becoming a more connected and wise group. We ended the year with Jamberoo, camp, and lazy days. Overall we have learned to become independent and have had fun doing it. – Year 10
Christmas Dinner:

A highlight of this term was on Monday the 25\textsuperscript{th} of November when Santa Claus (aka Mr Eussen) and his little elf Sophia, paid the boarding school an early visit to give us all a special present of a beautiful pendant. This night was super exciting as we all enjoyed a festive feast of ham, turkey, chicken and prawns and even more desserts - the food was delicious! We are all so thankful that we could have a Christmas dinner with our boarding family at our home away from home!

We would like to commend and give a big thank you to the kitchen staff, Chris and her team for all the hard work that they put in throughout the entire year, we all really appreciate it!

Bridgitt and Lauren.

Jamberoo:

Another great part of the year was the Year 11’s outing to Jamberoo on the 20\textsuperscript{th} of October for a day of fun in the sun. The 2 hour bus ride went quickly as we were filled with anticipation for the day ahead. When we arrived we quickly prepared and raced to the rides - for us, we went to the funnel web. The day that followed was full of excitement and before we knew it we were packing our bags ready to return.

Thank you to Ms Miranda and Ms Trina for taking us and making our day wonderful!

Abbey and Maddie.

Young leader given a big opportunity:

From the \textit{Daily Advertiser 23 November 2013}:

A Cootamundra student has been selected to get a head start on her journey to become part of the next generation of industry leaders. Hannah Yager, who studies at St Scholastica’s College in Sydney, is among 100 young people from across the country who were chosen on merit to attend the University of New England’s inaugural Generation2050: Project Feed the World conference in Armidale.
We have updated the Boarders’ Handbook and will give you a copy when you arrive on Tuesday 28 January. However if you would like to access it beforehand, it is on the Schols website www.scholastica.nsw.edu.au

Some very important things to remember for next year so that we can all keep our girls safe:

**CONCERTS AND EVENING EVENTS** - The boarding college closes each evening by 10.30pm. Occasional exceptions can be made for a late return of 11.00pm. If your daughter is unable to return by this time from a concert, party or event, then alternate accommodation must be found for the night. We expect that you will always check with boarding staff BEFORE booking tickets to evening events.

**DRIVING AND TRAVELLING IN CARS** - Boarders are not permitted to have cars at the College. Boarders may only drive under the direct supervision and in the presence of their parents or a person authorised by their parents. **No Boarder is to ride as a passenger in a vehicle driven by another Boarder, a Day Student, or persons under 21, without WRITTEN parental permission.**

**‘IN’ WEEKENDS** - Boarders will not be granted leave on our ‘in’ weekends unless there are exceptional circumstances. These weekends coincide with our Family Mass and Dinner events which for 2014 are 15 – 16 March, 2 – 3 August and 8 – 9 November.