Welcome back. It was lovely to see all of the students again, looking well rested and ready to meet the year. At the Rose Ceremony on Wednesday we welcomed the new Class 1 children and their teacher Carly Sheard into the school, with the Class 12s giving each Class 1 child a rose. It is wonderful how awkwardly tender the exchange is for both the 12s and the 1s. Quite a number of new students have joined us in the Primary and High School this year. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Henry, Millie, Keira, Bella, Harri, Luke, Toby, Jayde, Charlotte F and Charlotte M, Keisha, Myles, Mitch, Tom, Silvana and Valeria, and of course our new cohort of Kindy children.

We also welcome several new staff members. In the High School Giulius Canteri, an experienced Steiner Teacher from South Australia, joins us as an Outdoor Ed, Science and Math teacher. In the Primary School we welcome two new teacher aides, Mychelle Wellsmore in Class 3 and Jordan Devine in Class 4. Jordan completed his entire schooling at SVSS and is 3 years into an Education degree. It is wonderful to welcome a past student back into the school. We also welcome Marian Jerrim who joins us as a Steiner Teacher Intern. Marian and her family have recently relocated from Ballarat Steiner School and Marian will be working as a teaching assistant in Classes 6 & 7 and will undertake, along with Simon, much of the relief teaching work in the Primary School. Marian is the second Teacher Intern we have employed as part of an initiative begun in 2015 to offer training to qualified teachers interested in becoming Steiner teachers through an “apprentice” type model. Zoe Akeroyd, a highly experienced violin teacher, joins the music department and will be working largely with Classes 3 & 6 teaching individual instrumentals and ensembles with Eleanor. In the Kindergarten we welcome Astrid Edwards as our Star Gold assistant and of course we look forward to welcoming John Davidson into the role of Primary and Early Childhood EA in March.

The teachers were back at school for most of last week preparing classrooms and undertaking professional development. On Wednesday the High School Teachers spent an enriching day with David Garb, a highly experienced Steiner Teacher and Adolescent Counsellor from Christchurch, exploring the world of adolescence through our own personal biographical experience. On Thursday we worked in separate faculties on Curriculum and Child Development activities and on Friday, all teaching staff and aides spent the day at beautiful Lake Samsonvale experiencing a condensed version of the Class 8 Main Lesson, The Physics of Air and Water. Tim and John Davidson “threw us”, without instruction, into the boats that the Class 10s have built and challenged us to discover on our own the dynamics of sailing. It was a wonderful day which left us all feeling inspired and invigorated for the journey ahead; ready to enjoy the calm waters with gratitude and meet the rough seas with humour and courage!
Next Wednesday morning in the Hub, we will be hosting a morning tea to welcome the new families to our community. I look forward to seeing as many existing families as possible at the morning tea to help us extend the warmest of welcomes.

Construction will commence on our new High School Hard Craft facility next week, with an estimated completion date of the beginning of term 2. Construction of a Hard Cover for the High School Basketball Court and a specialised Eurythmy Room (finally fulfilling Jan’s 20 year-long dream!) will also commence in the next few months with all projects completed within this school year. We are greatly looking forward to being able to offer these new facilities to the students.

Warmly

Pep Wright
Director
**HIGH SCHOOL NEWS**

The High School has become very lively, it is especially noticeable after a few very quiet weeks leading up to the start of the term.

It is great to see everyone back with enthusiasm (staff & students) and to welcome the Class 8 students into the High School – they are a class that are full of energy.

There are 2 new staff members to the High School – Giulius Canteri, who previously taught at Mt Barker and Carla Deiana, who is not new to the school but new to the High School – a big welcome to them both.

We wish everyone a great year and please remember if you have any questions about anything just pop into the office and we will help you out.

*Mercedes*

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**WELCOME MORNING TEA**
**FOR ALL NEW FAMILIES (K-12)**

**Wednesday 3rd February, 9am at The Hub**

All school families (new and current) are warmly invited to welcome new parents to the school.

Come along and meet members of the Senior Leadership Team, the School Board, Craft Group and other parents.

Note: All are welcome to stay on for Craft Group after the morning tea.

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**ENROLMENT NEWS**

A big welcome to all the new families.

The holidays have been pretty busy enrolment wise with many interviews happening. We have new students right across the school which is fantastic to see, please welcome any new families into your class warmly and help them transition into the school with ease.

If you are new and have a question for any part of the school please either contact the front desk in the Primary School or the office in the High School, any of the admin staff will be able to help you out.

*Mercedes*

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*Class 1 children started their first lesson in writing – drawing straight lines.*
**PARENT CRAFT GROUP**

We hope everyone enjoyed the holidays, welcome back to a new year of craft. This year we have Avril, Alice, Emma and myself coordinating the parent craft group. Come along on a Wednesday morning after drop off for a lovely social morning of crafting, chatting and delicious morning tea, meet new friends or socialise and catch up with old friends. Children are very welcome too. Everyone is welcome regardless of whether you have children at the school or not.

Next week we are wet felting, always a fun activity with water for a warm day, children also enjoy helping with this too. The following week we will be making your piece of wet felt into a tooth fairy pouch to hang on the end of a bed for the tooth fairy collection, of course if you had something else in mind for your piece of wet felt that’s fine too, some other ideas are a needle book, pencil case or scroll, knitting needle holder, wall hanging - whatever you like. Patterns and other materials will be available for tooth fairy pouches, we are happy to help if you prefer to make your piece into something different.

This year we are also trying to make extra items for festiValley 2017 - yes seems a long way off but we are getting our preparation in early. If you are happy to make an additional tooth fairy pouch or piece of wet felt for festiValley your cost will be half price for any of the projects we craft this year. We certainly have some wonderful projects planned this year and can’t wait to get crafting.

Hoping to see some new faces as well as the familiar faces at craft next week.

Warmly
Tracey

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**NEW FAMILY FORMS**

A reminder to all new families, to please return the New Family Information form that was emailed earlier this week. The form has important information that the school needs to know about your child.

Thank you for your assistance.

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**WANTED: Table Tennis Tables**

Do you have a table tennis table you would be willing to donate to the school?

If so, please contact Katrina in the school office.

Thanks.