CGS PRIMARY MASTER PLAN: DISCOVER THE POTENTIAL
The most important ingredient of good education is the quality of relationship between students and their teachers. Students flourish when their natures, their interests and their needs are known and cared for by those with a passion for the human business that is teaching and learning. There is no substitute for that, and I’m proud of the extent to which it is the reality of life at Canberra Grammar School. May it ever be more so.

Nonetheless, good learning takes place in a good learning environment. Our surroundings profoundly affect our emotions and our relationships; the standard of our context sets the level of our expectations; the quality of our classrooms influences the quality of thinking that takes place within them; and the nature of our shared experience shapes the culture of our community.

That’s why the School has committed so much in recent years to improving the quality of our campus and its facilities. Despite financial constraints, we have found ways to restore our ovals for the betterment of our sporting experience; to relaunch our boarding accommodation for the wellbeing of our boarders; to extend our Early Learning Centre to ease pressure on young children and families; to reconfigure our English, Mathematics and History Departments to enhance more open and collaborative learning; and, of course, we’ve had the extraordinary gift of the Snow Centre to ignite our Foundation and to stand as a flagship for the School’s educational aspirations.

I am now delighted to announce exciting plans for the future of our Primary School campus at Red Hill. Long in preparation, the new Primary School Master Plan aims to enhance significantly the quality of our Primary learning facilities. It also seeks to address a number of enduring problems with the layout and fabric of the Primary campus, including road access from Alexander Street, a lack of adequate reception and staff facilities, the insufficiency of the John Lingard Hall, and physical limitations on our capacity to offer places to families who want to join the School in the early years.

I am very grateful to the School Board for its foresight and support, to Rosalie Reeves, the Head of Primary, and to everyone who has contributed to the plan, which has been prepared by Daryl Jackson Alastair Swayne Architects, the designers of the Snow Centre. It will guide substantial changes to the Primary School in coming years, starting from mid-2015. I am particularly pleased that it can be executed with minimal impact on the daily educational operations of the Primary School, although there will be some disruptions to traffic later this year while we construct far better arrangements for road access to the Primary School for the long term. I am also pleased that the plans will allow upgrades to continue in the Senior School in the years to come as well.

There’s plenty yet to be done, but I am buoyed by the School’s progress to date and enormously grateful for the community’s on-going support in making Canberra Grammar School – Primary and Senior – all it can be as a vibrant centre of learning for the twenty-first century.

With warm regards, sincerely,

Justin Garrick
Head of School
1 May 2015
**PROJECT A: ALEXANDER STREET**

Despite recent improvements, Alexander Street has long been the bane of many parents’ daily experience of the School. Starting at the end of Term 3 in 2015, pending approvals, the existing drop-off loop will be completely redeveloped, with major excavation of the central island providing new short-term parking spaces and a new double-lane roadway for drop-off along the frontage of the Junior School and linking into the existing Southside carpark. Buses will be removed from the loop, with new bus stops built into a layby off the street edge and pedestrian crossings installed from the bus stops into the School. Consultation on this project has been extensive to say the least and the problems manifold, but we look forward to significant easing of tension on the street once work is complete for the start of 2016. Please stand by for details of how road access to the Primary School will be managed during the necessary excavation and construction period. Please also stand by for details on driveway access at Northside.

**PROJECT B: SOUTHSIDE RENOVATION**

Starting in mid-2015, work will begin on renovating the current Southside building to provide brighter and fresher learning facilities, additional space for Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 and better linkage to the rest of the Primary School. The existing Primary Music classrooms will be moved to join the current Year 5 classes and the Primary Enrichment team in the adjacent International Centre, which can now be substantially vacated by the Senior School following the opening of the Snow Centre. The existing Music rooms will then be converted to classrooms with a number of the other rooms refurbished and reconfigured to provide a new open learning and reception space at the heart of the Southside building. There will also be a new entrance to Southside from the landing outside the John Lingard Hall. The playground will be extended towards the Health Clinic and International Centre, and the back patio will be redeveloped. Work will be conducted during school holidays and in areas during term time that will minimally affect classes. As a consequence, we will be able to offer additional places at Southside, for the start of 2016, providing scope for the future and opening much needed entry points to the School between Pre-School and Year 3.

**PROJECT C: EARLY LEARNING CENTRE RENOVATION**

Following work on Alexander Street and the main Southside building, the Primary Master Plan allows for an extension of the existing Early Learning Centre to provide much needed staff and reception space, as well as additional capacity for Pre-Kindergarten, again to ease pressure on current limited access to the School between Pre-School and Year 3. Timing of this project is contingent on Projects A and B.
PROJECT D: JOHN LINGARD HALL REDEVELOPMENT

Recognising the current limitations of the John Lingard Hall (JLH), as well as significant community interest in its redevelopment in recent years, the Primary Master Plan presents an exciting proposal for expansion and remodelling of the JLH complex as funds and community support become available. This includes widening the Hall to increase seating capacity and adding an atrium foyer that would at last provide an attractive social meeting space and entry point to the Primary School. It also entails enlarging and opening the JLH forecourt as a new quadrangle and play space in the heart of the Primary School. While other projects are already provided for or recoverable from School operations, this one will need enthusiastic community support, backed by the CGS Foundation, which was launched with the Snow Centre last year. I look forward very much to talking with parents about plans and opportunities in the months ahead.

PROJECT E: NEW CENTRE FOR DISCOVERY LEARNING

The other exciting element of the Primary Master Plan is the New Centre for Discovery Learning proposed for construction with a vista sweeping out over the Primary School Oval towards the magnificent view of Red Hill that should always have been the Primary School's inspiring outlook. Capitalising on the light and sense of scope provided by the natural environment in that location, the new double storey Centre would build conceptually on the School's outward-looking aspirations, as embodied in the Snow Centre, and would match our commitment through the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme to learning through exploration and discovery.

Ultimately providing a new second frontage to the Primary School and replacing a number of its increasingly outdated existing classroom blocks, the new Centre would facilitate better layout of the Primary School for younger children in the infants years and for older students in the junior years. This would also facilitate more rational sequential movement through the School and reinforce the vital sense of unity and community that children and families need within each part of the Primary School. Its replacement of older buildings would also allow the transformation of what are currently very cramped play spaces into a large inner playground in the centre of the Primary School, designed, like the building itself, on the principles of discovery learning.

Like the Snow Centre, such a major augmentation to the School will depend very heavily on the work of the CGS Foundation, but the concept and prospect at last provide a fresh and inspiring way forward for the Primary School campus.
SENIOR SCHOOL RENEWAL UPDATE

While the plan outlined in this document focuses on the Primary campus, the School remains committed to building on significant improvements to the Senior School in recent years, including restoration of the ovals, full renovation of the Boarding Houses in 2011, substantial renovation of the English, Mathematics and History Departments in 2012-13, refurbishment of the lower East Wing of the Quad and, of course, construction of the Snow Centre in 2014-15.

Despite the extent of such redevelopment, much catch-up work remains, with the Art, Design and Technology Centre now badly in need of modernisation, and the Breezeway Building and parts of the Quad complex soon to need significant renovation or replacement alongside work to extend the life of the Pavilion, Pool and Boatshed.

In the near term, the Art, Design and Technology Centre and the remaining classrooms in the East Wing of the Quad are the priority, as are long-overdue improvements to the outdoor amenities of the campus, including seats, lights and signage as well as paving for the current dust track worn daily by hundreds of boys between the School and the bus stops on Golden Grove. We also aim for approval to demolish the derelict cottages on Monaro Crescent so that we can expand parking and reorient the driveways to decrease traffic congestion around the School.

In all this, as always, the support of the community and the commitment of the Board and the CGS Foundation are vital and greatly appreciated.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For input to the Primary School Master Plan, we are very grateful to the students, parents and staff of the Primary School, and to:

Alastair Swayn, Scott Hodgson (Daryl Jackson Alastair Swayn Architects)
John Gasson, Nadine O’Keefe (Construction Control)
Richard Phillips, Zarko Danilov, Peter Sarris
Rosalie Reeves, David Evans, Mike Iliff, Steve Wilde
Twee Phan, Dimity May, Reece Cummings, Graeme Wiggins
CGS Board, CGS Foundation Board, CGS P&F Association