



Transcript of the Principal's End of Year Message – Alumnae eNews Summer 2021

Hello. It is with joy and hope that I reach out to you, our treasured alumnae community, at the start of this special Season of Advent. And special it is... Advent comes for us here at Loreto Normanhurst at the very end of the school year, so it always prompts deep reflection on the many achievements, celebrations and challenges that have unfolded over 12 months of learning. At the same time, in our Catholic faith, Advent is a time of renewal and promise... of creating space for the change and growth that is to come.

And so, as I join you now from our beautiful grounds at Loreto Normanhurst, I take the opportunity to look back in gratitude on the year that has been, and to look forward in hope.

2021 was the Year of Felicity for Loreto schools around Australia and joy certainly characterised many moments throughout the year. We were delighted to see some of you in person for special events at the start of the year, including our Women of Influence Evening and our Music Festival at the International Convention Centre.

It is fortunate that connectedness and community are so central to who we are as Loreto people. It has meant that we have been buoyed by a sense of friendship and of belonging despite the physical separation that we faced during extended lockdowns. Even while we were apart, together we cheered on Liz Clay and Ellen Roberts at the Tokyo Olympics, heard from alumnae during National Science Week, Careers Week and Sprint Week, and began our Loreto Normanhurst Cookbook Project.

We were thrilled to launch the 'Normo Network' in April, our online hub dedicated to keeping our ex-students connected. It has been wonderful to see this platform thrive. I encourage you to join if you haven't already for the chance to get in touch with your peers, keep abreast of alumnae news and so on.

I wish to offer heartfelt thanks to the many ex-students who supported our Bursary Program this year through our Annual Giving campaign and inaugural Alumnae Year Group Challenge. Through your generosity and the generosity of our Ex-Students' Association, the Year Group Challenge raised \$76,000 to assist families in necessitous circumstances access a Loreto education. This year we have also been pleased to honour alumnae generosity by establishing our 1897 Society for those members of our community who give to the future of our school by making a bequest.

My congratulations again to the newest alumnae among the ranks – our graduating Class of 2021! We were so pleased to be able to celebrate our modified farewell rituals with them onsite in November and look forward to their Graduation Dinner later this month. We know many adventures await the Class of 2021 in 2022 and beyond.

Indeed, there is much excitement that awaits in 2022. Upon the approval of our State Significant Development Application, we will progress with the first phase of construction under our Master Plan across these summer holidays. We look forward to welcoming a third class in both Years 5 and 6 of our Primary School, as well as the many families joining us for the first time in Years 5-12. As you will know, 2022 marks Loreto Normanhurst's 125th anniversary; 125



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years of history, tradition, holistic learning and community of which you are all a key part. I invite you to keep an eye out for information to come about these special birthday celebrations!

I conclude by offering my sincere thanks to Sam Wegner and the Ex-Students' Association for their collaboration and friendship in 2021. I also express my gratitude to Liane Giuliano, Director of Philanthropy and Community Engagement, and the wonderful Community Engagement team for their exceptional efforts in building community and a spirit of togetherness in a year when looking out for each other has been more important than ever.

After a full and felicitous 2021, I wish you and your families all the very best as we approach Christmas. I am certainly looking forward to a wonderful celebration and know our students are too as they prepare for their holidays! You may even like to enter into the Christmas spirit by purchasing a bespoke Normo jigsaw puzzle or advent calendar on the Normo Network!

May you enjoy every blessing and a safe and happy holiday. Know that we look forward to embracing you warmly soon when we can gather in person once again.

Thank you.

Ms Marina Ugonotti

PRINCIPAL