A Bear Story

Pembroke bears have been created at the School now for 25 years, with about 60 being made and given away each year—all of them by the students.

I would sincerely like to thank Ms Nicholls for her guidance of students in this activity in 2010. The Year 10 student group made bears to give to children in many places in South Australia and for children in orphanages in Haiti. The Haiti earthquake in early 2010 caused many children to suffer and Pembroke students were able to offer some comfort. It was a special opportunity for them to make a bear, and to join with different communities from the far north of SA to make bears, and send them to the people who suffered as a result of that tragedy.

Dr Patrick Duigan, an old scholar who was working in Haiti, was instrumental in ensuring that the bears reached the children—not an easy task to carry 68 bears on a flight to Haiti when you only have one seat booked on the flight.

For the past decade bears have been made in a classroom in the John Moody Technology Centre on the Middle School campus. This year we have moved to the Senior School Art rooms where we can continue this compassionate process for the benefit of others. I would like to thank staff of the Art department for accommodating us.

In 2011 there are more than 35 students so far giving of their time to create their own Pembroke bears to give away to deserving people. I am thoroughly grateful to the students in Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 who do this—many are already extremely busy with other endeavours but still find the time to share a sense of community and spirit for someone else who may be in a far worse place than them. Our hope is that the gift they are creating will help the recipient enjoy life a little more.

It seems we have bearly(!!) begun the year and already there are so many people in places in our world who will need our support with a bear.

Robert Lang
Teacher