

# Parent Update

Term 4 | Week 4  
3rd November 2023



**APPLECROSS**  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL

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## Finalists

### Excellence in Teaching and Learning (Secondary)

Applecross Senior High School  
Ashdale Secondary College  
Manea Senior College  
Western Australian College of  
Agriculture Cunderdin

WA Education  
Awards 2023

## IMPORTANT DATES

### 5th November

- WA Public Schools' Vocal Festival

### 6th - 17th November

- Year 11 Exams

### 7th November

- School Tour
- Year 5 Super Science

### 9th November

- Year 5 Super Science
- Year 10 Catch Up Immunisations

### 10th November

- Drama Club Production

### 14th November

- Year 5 Super Science

### 15th November

- Year 9 Introduction to VET Connect, General and ATAR Courses

### 16th November

- Tennis Presentation Evening
- Year 5 Super Science

### 17th November

- Music Department Under the Stars Picnic Concert 6:30 - 9:30pm

### 20th November

- End of Year P&C Sundowner

### 23rd November

- Year 7 Immunisations 2nd Round

### School Activities and Student Achievement

Keep up with all the exciting activities and student achievements that occur in the school by regularly checking our webpage, Facebook, Instagram or YouTube pages.

Website <https://applecross.wa.edu.au/>  
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ApplecrossSeniorHighSchool/>  
Instagram [https://www.instagram.com/applecross\\_shs/](https://www.instagram.com/applecross_shs/)  
YouTube [@applecrossshs5058](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8qj5058)  
School Calendar <https://applecross.wa.edu.au/parents/calendar/>  
Parent Update <https://applecross.wa.edu.au/parents/parent-update-newsletter/>

## Update from the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians

As we approach the halfway stage of Term 4, the school is very busy with Year 12 WACE exams currently underway and Year 11s soon to commence their exams (Weeks 5 and 6), followed by Year 10s (Week 7). We are reminding students in other year groups to ensure that they work hard over the next few weeks to ensure that they consolidate their learning and finish the year strongly in the lead-up to the final Student Reports for 2023. Parents are requested to ensure students arrive at school in time for the first siren (8:20 a.m.) as there has been an increase in lateness recently.

Reports will be available on SEQTA:

- Year 11                      Week 8                      Wednesday the 29th of November 2023
- Year 7-10                  Week 10                     Monday the 11th December 2023

### WA Education Awards

It was wonderful to learn that Applecross SHS has been announced as one of four finalists for the Excellence in Teaching and Learning (Secondary) category of this award. This is a nice acknowledgment of the quality of our teaching staff, our improvement strategies and the achievement of our students over the past few years.

You can read more about the awards and the list of 20 finalists on the [Department of Education website](#). The winners will be announced on 4th December, so fingers crossed.



### World Teachers' Day

Thank you to those parents and community members for sending messages of acknowledgement and appreciation to the school for World Teachers' Day on 28th October. It was very nice of our Local MLA, Kim Giddens, to take the time to come to a staff morning tea on Friday. Kim spoke of the important role that teachers play in society and in shaping the minds of our young people and thanked our staff for their commitment and dedication.



## Update from the Principal Continued

### Applecross SHS wants you to become a School Board member

A reminder that there is still time to submit nominations for Parent and Community Representatives on the School Board for 2024-26. The closing date for nominations for the Parent member position will be 9am Friday 10th November and the Community member position is 9am on Friday 17th November.

Those nominating have been asked to include a photo, together with some brief information about themselves. This will be collated and used in the voting process. The Community Representatives will be selected by the current School Board and the Parent Representative by the parent body. While it is not necessary for the Community Representative to be a parent, it is permissible. If you know someone who is not a current parent, who might be interested in applying for these positions please pass the details on to them. Enquiries should be directed to the Principal, Mr Paul Leech on 9314 9393. The closing date for nominations for the Parent member position will be **9am Friday 10th November** and the Community member position is **9am on Friday 17th November**. Please [click here](#) for the nomination forms which can be emailed to the following address: [amelia.tuck@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:amelia.tuck@education.wa.edu.au)

### School Board Awards

Each year the School Board recognises staff, students or parents who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in making a unique contribution to the school. Award recipients receive a certificate and letter from the School Board Chair as a way of recognising their contribution to the school. Staff can nominate staff, students, or parents with a brief description of why they are being nominated. Nominations can be sent to the Principal (via [amelia.tuck@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:amelia.tuck@education.wa.edu.au)) or any member of the School Board and must be received by 13th November.

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## Finance Reminders

by Janine Jenkins | Business Support Officer

Thank you to all parents and caregivers who have paid the School Fees for 2023. If you have not made the payment, your immediate attention is requested in finalising your account for 2023. Please contact the Finance Department at your earliest convenience if you wish to discuss payment of your children's school fees. Please be reminded that debt collectors are used for all outstanding school charges.

\*\*Please note that if compulsory subject cost remains unpaid, students may be removed from high-cost subjects and timetabled into alternative lower-cost subjects.

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## Calling all Future Engineers | Binar Space Program

by Erin Nicol | Mathematics Learning Area

*Binar (BIN-ah) is the Noongar word for "fireball". We're a space program, building the next generation of Australian small spacecraft, at Curtin University's Space Science and Technology Centre. Binar will advance our understanding of the solar system and lower the barrier for operating in space – Curtin University 2023*

Applecross Senior High School has been selected to be part of Curtin University's Binar Space Program. We are looking for future engineers who would like to work on the design and construction of a Ground Base Radar Station. Your construction will be a main source of data tracking for the Binar cube satellites.

For further information on the Binar space project visit <https://www.binarspace.com/>

If you are interested in being part of the team or would like further information, please contact Ms Nicol at [erin.nicol@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:erin.nicol@education.wa.edu.au) by Friday, 24 November.

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"Would you like to represent your community group within Applecross Senior High?"

Would you like to learn more about the hard work that goes on 'in the background' to help educate and nurture your child?

Have you ever considered joining the School Board?"



Now is the time to step up, and nominate to become a Community or Parent Board Member.

The role of the Board is one of advisory and approval. You need to be open minded, solution focussed, and a team player. The Board does not intervene in the control or management of the school, but rather partners the school on their journey to deliver exceptional education.

Your commitment includes attending two Thursday night meetings each term from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm, along with the opportunity to attend school and community events to represent the Board.

What you can bring to the table through work and life experience, as well as connections to various industry and community groups, is always a value add.

To find out more, follow these links below for specific Board information.

[SCHOOL BOARD](#)

[ROLE OF THE BOARD](#)

If you are ready to apply, follow this link for an application pack.

[BOARD APPLICATION FORM](#)

**PARENT MEMBER**

Voted by school parents

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE**

**10/11/2023**

**COMMUNITY MEMBER**

Voted by the Board

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE**

**17/11/2023**

## Academics Update - Year 7 2024

by Paul Currie | Associate Principal Academics Years 7 - 9

Applecross SHS works with our six network schools to ensure that the transition to high school is a major focus for us all, it is one of our three network priority areas. I would like to acknowledge some of the excellent work that has been occurring in two aspects of this important area.

### Academic Extension Testing 2024

The success of our academic extensions and academic enrichment programs (see below) has resulted in a 50% increase in applications over the last two years.

2022	
4 AE	96.1
3 AE	96.7
2 AE	92.0
1 AE	91.7

*The average 2022 ATAR score for a student who had been in all four of the Year 10 AE classes was a tremendous 96.1*

The popularity of our AA and AE programs has seen us test 160 students this year, we have since offered 76 places to AA programs and 88 into AE, (some crossovers occurred hence the odd numbers). Our acceptance rate is now 98% an increase of over 30% in some of our recent years.

The program coordinators have noticed a marked increase in test scores and next year's cohort looks very promising. This is a huge vote of confidence from our local community.



### Transition Activities

Our transition to high school program is so successful, that Statewide Services are monitoring us as an example of best practice. I would like to acknowledge, Ms Morrison, Mrs Dickson, Mrs Sloan & Mr Saxton amongst others who have all placed a lot of time and effort into this well-oiled process.

Our program this year involves the following:

- visits to all six network schools from staff and former primary school students to discuss high school life
- a handover program where primary school Year 6 teachers are invited to high school to share best practices and provide us with pertinent student performance data
- a Future Leaders program inviting potential student counsellors to undergo our training and preparation program
- an Amazing Race Adventure for students needing some additional support moving to high school
- classroom observation in our Network School to gather data and useful information on students needing additional support
- two full school acclimatization days towards the end of Term 4 for all incoming students
- a Parent Information session on what to expect in high school
- two 'Big Days In' at the start of 2024, where students are prepared and trained for success in high school. They will meet their Year 10 student mentors during this program



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## P&C Second Hand Uniform Shop Volunteers Needed

by Kerri Gur | P&C President

The P&C are opening a second-hand uniform shop at the school and to get the shop operational we are seeking the help of parents/caregivers to **volunteer**. If you are interested in volunteering, we are happy to discuss days and times that are suitable for you, so if you can spare a few hours to support the uniform needs of our school community please contact the AXSHS P&C Association at [axshspsc@gmail.com](mailto:axshspsc@gmail.com)

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## NAPLAN 2024 (Years 7 and 9)

by Donna Levar-Uppill | NAPLAN Coordinator

The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing period will fall between **Wednesday 13th of March – Monday 25th March 2024**.

In preparation for the official testing period, **Practice Tests will take place in Term 1, Week 5, Monday 26th February**. All Year 7 and 9 students will formally complete one practice test, the Omnibus (Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy), in the same fashion as the official NAPLAN testing period.

It is important that your child attends school and participates in these assessments. Although NAPLAN is not directly linked to school reports, it provides a valuable 'snapshot' of academic performance and development. The achievement of minimum benchmarks in Literacy and Numeracy is linked to Secondary School graduation, as well as TAFE and university entrance.

Applecross SHS students will not be permitted to complete the NAPLAN Online on a Chromebook or tablet device. Additionally, Android devices are not supported by NAPLAN Online. Students are also required to bring in their own plug-in headphones (no Bluetooth headphones).

Parents will receive further updates regarding NAPLAN 2024 at the start of the school year. Please feel free to email me if you have any queries or concerns at [donna.levar-uppill@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:donna.levar-uppill@education.wa.edu.au).

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## Vaping: A Growing Concern for Schools and Families

Vaping is a serious public health issue that is affecting schools across the country, including Applecross. While the school has an Alcohol and Drug Policy in place that includes curriculum and other preventative measures, it is important for parents and community members to have up-to-date information about vaping so that they can talk to their children about this issue.

The WA Government's website Clear the Air (<https://www.cleartheair.org.au/>) is a comprehensive resource on vaping. It includes information on the following:

- What is vaping and why is it harmful?
- The health risks of vaping, including addiction
- How to talk to your child about vaping
- Resources for quitting vaping

Families can use this website as a basis for discussion with their children about the dangers of vaping and how to stay safe.

If you believe that your child is addicted to vaping, please take them to see a doctor or other healthcare professional. There are resources available to help your child quit vaping and stay smoke-free.

***Together, we can help to keep our children safe from the dangers of vaping.***

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## Amazing Car Quiz Rally 2023

by The Fathering Project

Join the Fathering Project for our final event of the year, the Amazing Car Rally! This family-friendly event is open to all family members on **Sunday, November 19th from 2:30pm to 5:00pm**.

Teams will work together to answer questions and complete challenges as they drive through a predetermined course. There will be prizes for the top teams, as well as team photos and more. Pizza and drinks will be available at the end of the rally.

This event is a great way to bond with your family and have some fun at the same time. Spaces are limited, so RSVP early!

To RSVP, please visit: [Amazing Car Rally Details and RSVP](#). **We hope to see you there!**

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## Under the Stars 2023 Picnic Concert

Celebrate the year's musical achievements and enjoy a relaxed, informal event where you can bring your own picnic dinner, rugs, and/or deckchairs.

Tickets are available now from TryBooking:  
[www.trybooking.com/CMRLE](https://www.trybooking.com/CMRLE)  
Adults \$15, Concession \$10 (pensioners and students)

There will also be door sales, but we recommend booking your tickets in advance.

The event will be held on Friday, November 17th, from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm in the C Block at Applecross SHS.

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate the best of music with the Applecross SHS community!



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## 2023 Grad Show Shines Bright!

by Joanna Sweetman | Arts Learning Area

The 2023 Year 12 Grad Show opened on Friday 27th October and was an evening of celebration, as the gallery was adorned with artworks that reflected innovation, sophistication and interactivity. The audience enjoyed a range of artworks across the Visual Arts, Design and Media courses embracing diversity in concepts and media. Traditional art forms showcased ceramics, sculptural assemblages, textiles printmaking and paintings alongside contemporary digital graphics, photography and interactive digital video works.

The Annual Canteen Art Awards drew an appreciative crowd, and Arts HoLA Stephen Armitstead officially opened the exhibition with an acknowledgement to Country and congratulated students on their commitment and achievements in the Arts at Applecross SHS.

Ms Cre Millar, the Canteen representative, continued her dedication by selecting this year's Canteen Prize Winners. The awards were presented on the night by Kerri Gur President of the P&C.

- Yujie Chen - Canteen Visual Art Prize
- Kayla Perkins - Runner up Canteen Visual Art Prize
- Heidi Wong - Canteen Design Prize

Year 12 Subject Award winners were also showcased in the exhibition

- Miriam Kruza - ATAR Design
- Sophie Collins - General Design
- Heidi Wong - ATAR Media
- Jayden Cai - General Media
  
- Kayla Perkins - ATAR Visual Art
- Matilda McLnerney - General Visual Art



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# EYES on VET

by Melinda Kennington - VET Manager

## Welcome to another edition of Eyes on VET!

Year 11 VET Connect students have a terrific opportunity to use the exam break to catch up on any work they may have been behind in from school or their external course, while some have taken advantage of this extra time off to pick up more Workplace Learning to increase their total hours for the year. All hours completed in the Workplace Learning program will show on the Year 12 Statement of Results, so this total can be very impressive for alternative university entry, TAFE or other external courses, as well as for employment and apprenticeship opportunities.

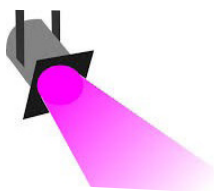
With only 3.5 weeks left of Year 11, I will be working closely with the VET Connect students to check that they are all set to start any new courses in Year 12 and Workplace Learning in **Week 1** next year. Year 11 VET Connect students need to make decisions about their Workplace Learning plans for next year... some students may choose to continue with their current placements, while others are keen to take the opportunity to gain some work experience in a new industry area, or same industry, but with a new employer. Either way, students have all been given an Employer Details Form which they need to return to the VET Office when they return from the exam free period, on **Wednesday, 22 November (Week 7)**.

External course offerings from TAFE and Private RTOs have been coming through over the past two weeks, and it has been fabulous to see so many students gain places into programs of their choice.

Congratulations to Seth Mack (P2C) on winning the Apprentice Employment Network WA School Based Trainee of the Year Award. Seth also received a special recognition award sponsored by Karrinyup Rotary Club. The awards were celebrated at a formal event at Burswood on the Swan on Friday evening, 20 October. Well done, Seth!



## Spotlight on Year 10 Work Experience in Week 9



Just a reminder that Year 10 students all have the opportunity to complete a week of work experience in Week 9. Work Experience encourages students to engage in employment in a particular field of personal interest. The students gain invaluable skills and experience from participating in this opportunity, and it is beneficial to be able to include this work in a Resume for casual employment and TAFE or Alternative Entry to University applications in the future. It can also assist students in making decisions about their future pathways.

Students can still collect information about Year 10 work experience from the VET Office or from Connect. Employer details for placements need to be returned to the VET Office ASAP for processing. To date, 159 students have submitted their forms. Site checks and paperwork for all these workplaces have commenced.

I look forward to seeing these students take up this great opportunity.



# EYES on VET

by Melinda Kennington - VET Manager



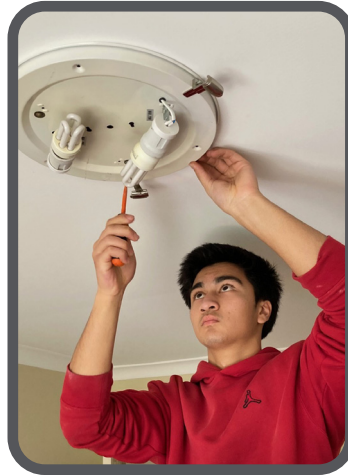
## Snapshots around the workplace...



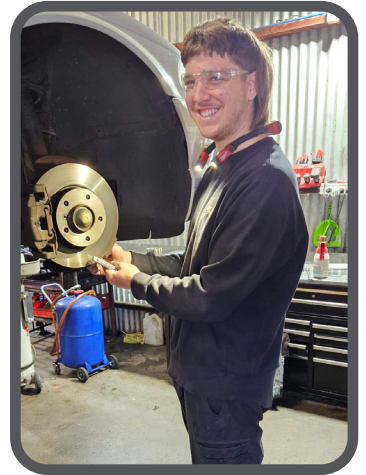
Cale Harris at Winthrop Primary School



Chloe Davies and Ilah Poppy Hodson at Opal Healthcare



Jack Thompson at Aka Electrical



Will Butler at McCoy St Auto



...to **Lachie Caddy (Year 11 VET Connect)** who gained his Private Pilot Licence for planes under 5.7 tonnes. He has also completed 4 exams out of 7 towards his Commercial Pilot Licence. (Pictured below)

...to **Angus Dodd (Year 12) and Denham Pearse (Year 11)**, who were successful in gaining work experience with the ADF in Army Familiarisation at Irwin Barracks.

...to **Seth Mack (P2C)**, who was named Apprentice Employment Network WA School Based Trainee of the Year 2023



Please keep your **EYES on VET** in the next Parent Update.

Best wishes  
Melinda Kennington - VET Manager 😊

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## P&C Canteen Volunteers

### Canteen Volunteers Needed

We hope you are enjoying the start of Term 3! As you know, Term 3 is traditionally a busy time for our canteen, as students are hungrier than ever after a long summer break. However, this year we are facing a particular challenge in finding enough volunteers to staff the canteen.

Our regular volunteers are often away on holidays or have other commitments during Term 3. This year, we also face the added challenge of staff shortages due to illness and unexpected absences.

As a result, we are currently relying on our teaching staff and even our canteen staff on their days off to fill in the gaps. This puts a lot of pressure on our team and makes it challenging to provide our students with the quality service they deserve.

That's why we are asking for your help. Please consider volunteering at our canteen if you have a few hours to spare each week. We need 3-4 people daily to help serve food, clean up, and take payments. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

We know many of you are busy, but we hope you will consider this request. Even a few hours of your time can make a big difference.

If you are able to volunteer, don't hesitate to contact the canteen manager at [cre.millar@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:cre.millar@education.wa.edu.au) or call 0449 808 008.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

P.S. Don't forget to mention this to your friends and family. Every little bit helps!

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## P&C Treasurer Needed

The AXSHS P&C Assoc Inc is seeking a suitably qualified Treasurer to join the new, dynamic Executive Team for 2023. Ideally, it would be a Chartered Accountant or CPA who can volunteer a couple of hours each month.

A thorough handover will be provided.

Our current Treasurer is unable to continue beyond the next meeting so we need someone who can support the P&C with the following:

- payment of fortnightly wages for Canteen Staff
- payment of EOM supplier payments (monthly)
- meet with the Canteen Manager when required
- review monthly P&L provided by the Bookkeeper
- attend one general P&C meeting per term and provide an update on the P&C finances (Bookkeeper generates the required reports)
- attend Executive Committee meetings when required
- work with the paid Bookkeeper to ensure all payments are made and to ensure compliance for employment of staff
- provide information/access to MYOB for the Auditor at the completion of 2023

The current Treasurer has already:

- set up the 2023 Budget
- completed ACNC and AssociationsOnline compliance for 2023
- appointed the Auditor for 2023

To put forward an Expression of Interest or gain additional information, please contact the P&C President, Kerri Gur, or the Secretary, Narelle Pearce, at [axshspc@gmail.com](mailto:axshspc@gmail.com).

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## P&C Liaison Officer Needed

The AXSHS P&C Assoc. Inc seeks an enthusiastic person to promote the P&C and its activities to the wider school community. This role would suit an organised and enthusiastic person who has a public relations flair.

This is a new role we have created within the P&C, and we are looking for someone to act as a liaison between the P&C committee and the school community.

Your main role will be to assist with marketing events and activities undertaken by the P&C. The P&C has a number of activities each term and requires a dedicated person to market these events via the school newsletter and the school's Facebook page.

If you are interested in this fun new role within the P&C, please contact the P&C President, Kerri Gur, or the Secretary, Narelle Pearce, at [axshspc@gmail.com](mailto:axshspc@gmail.com).

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# Community Notices

**mastermind**  
AUSTRALIA

**2024 JANUARY JUMP-START PROGRAM**

Tuition for all students Entering Year 7 to 12  
Including NAPLAN & OLNA

**15 January to 20 January 2024**  
Venues

- Christ Church Grammar School
- Hale School

The January Preparation Program aims to prepare students for Term 1 (2024) before the academic year begins. The classes will revise those important components from the 2023 syllabus that are vital for success in the new year. The program will also preview what students can expect in their courses in 2024.

**\*20% school discount per subject\***

**ENROL NOW**  
www.mastermindaustralia.com.au

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email: admin@mastermindaustralia.com.au

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**ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN FOR 2024**

**YOUTH AGE 13-17 MUAY THAI AND BOXING MYAREE**

Contact us at 0481 169 801 or email info@championsgym.com

**DADS** of high school aged girls,  
**WE NEED YOU!**

Have your say in developing a program that aims to **enhance** the father-daughter **connection** and wellbeing of your teenage daughter.

Complete a 10 minute online survey

A chance to win one of 6 x \$50 gift vouchers

**Scan me!** [https://redcap.link/DDteens\\_fathers\\_survey](https://redcap.link/DDteens_fathers_survey)

The project has been approved by the University of Newcastle Human Research Ethics Committee. Approval No. H-2023-0123

**Parents of High School Girls**

**We want their opinions!**

Help us create a new wellbeing program to support teenage girls.

Register & provide consent for your daughter to complete a 10-minute online survey about:

- ✓ Wellbeing
- ✓ Sport & physical activity
- ✓ Communication & connection with family
- ✓ Their experiences of being a young adult

**\*A chance to win one of: 6 X \$50 gift vouchers**

\*applies to high school aged girls completing the survey

**Scan me!** [https://redcap.link/DDteens\\_teens\\_survey](https://redcap.link/DDteens_teens_survey)

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