I was at a restaurant in the hills a couple of weeks ago with my family. There was also another family eating there. The two children were about 6 and 4. We stayed for about an hour and throughout this time both children were engrossed with their iPads, and parents with their iPhones. I took particular attention of the conversation the parents were having with their children and concluded that no quality communication had taken place. I wondered how often this lack of communication occurred in this family and what the long term effects on family relationships might be.

There are mounting concerns by all teachers regarding a child’s lack of exposure to good quality communication. Recent research has warned that some children have heard 23 million fewer words by the time they start school than other children. We are experiencing the effect of this on student achievement, social relationships and well-being in our schools. We all need to understand what good communication looks like. Good communication with children is about:

- encouraging them to talk to you – and listening so they can tell you how they feel
- being able to really listen and responding in a sensitive way to all kinds of things – not just nice things or good news, but also anger, embarrassment, sadness or fear
- focusing on body language and actions as well as words, and interpreting nonverbal forms of communication.

I came across the article below that suggests that technology may be having an adverse effect on child development and family relations.

**Is Technology harming social and family relationships?**

Electronic devices are making our lives richer, more accessible and more exciting, but are we now spending more time with technology than we are with our loved ones? Once upon a time the biggest technological nuisance for the family was the phone ringing during dinner time. It is now common to see our loved ones hunched over their phones or tablets as they take one distracted bite of their food after another. It doesn’t take long for children to understand that technology takes first place at home, and their needs come second. The behaviour we model is ultimately what we get back in return.

Children learn by watching us. If we want them to feel connected with the world around them rather than the cyber-world, they need to see us enjoying activities grounded in the real world.

If we want them to grow into adults who value family and meaningful bonds with each other, we need to make time to give them our undivided, technology-free attention.

**Adapted from article by Dr Joanne Orland a lecturer at the University of Western Sydney Technology harming family life? SMH July 9 2013**

**So, how can a parent find the right balance?**

Figure out which triggers are most distracting for you. Watch your children’s cues constantly, and always acknowledge their basic needs. Schedule specific tech-free family time. Think twice before using a mobile device while you’re with your children. Check email before the kids get up, while they’re at school, or after they go to bed. Walk in the door unplugged after work.

Phil Garner, Principal
Meet our new Governing Councillors

Hi there, my name is Amy Offler and I have three boys at Blackwood Primary. Their names are Samuel (Year 7), Max (Year 4) and Finlay (Year 2). We joined the school in Term 3 of last year. I joined Governing Council and the OSHC Committee this year as I love being involved with the school community. My husband Jamie and I love Blackwood Primary and have been so happy with the professionalism and dedication of the teachers, the space both inside and outside the classrooms, the sports that the school offers and the positive learning environment. In my professional life I am a Nurse and Midwife at Flinders Medical Centre where I work permanent night duty. In my spare time I love photography, gardening, camping, travelling and generally enjoying life with my family and friends. You can contact me on: thommo04@hotmail.com.

Thanks.

My name is Kirrily Burton. My son Jay joined Blackwood Primary as a year 5 in term 4, 2015. I run my own small accounting practice, and happily put my hand up to be part of the Governing Council and the Sports Committee this year, as Jay is an avid sportsman. You will often find me on the sidelines of cricket, basketball and footy games as my husband and I really enjoy watching Jay as he takes on every sport he tackles with great focus and determination. I am so impressed with Blackwood Primary and the positive learning environment that is provided, through strong leadership and the dedication and enthusiasm of the staff. Our only regret from moving from a local school is that we didn’t do it sooner!

Hi all, my name is Karen Drysdale. My daughter Dior started at Blackwood this year in year 2 and my older son has just commenced year 8 at the Blackwood High School. Currently I work fulltime as a Director and study part time with the Federation University. I have been employed in the field of Education and Care for many years and am very passionate about quality education and care for all children. I feel privileged to be on board the BPS Governing Council and am looking forward to learning more about the school and getting to know the teachers and families. Please feel free to contact me any time.

Regards Karen

directors@camdenparkccc.com.au
New OHSC Director Profile

Nigel Jamieson is the new Director at OHSC. Nigel comes with a lot of experience in the field having spent the past 17 years as Principal Lecturer of TAFESA’s Centre for Recreation, Sport and Tourism. He has also worked in the Sport Studies unit of the University Of SA School Of Education with relevant subjects such as play studies and sporting mind and body as well as lecturing in sport management in the USA. Nigel is a registered teacher, has directed a number of OHSC programs in the past and recently was a District Convenor for SAPSASA before a “tree change” move to Strathalbyn. He has had what he calls a “gap year” after TAFE and looks forward to continuing the fine work of the program at OHSC.

Success at Australian Age National Diving Competition

In the last week of Term 1 Rianna competed at the Australian Age Nationals Diving Competition held at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre.

Rianna competed in 1 metre and 3 metre springboard, 5 metre platform and 3 metre synchronised events.

Rianna won a bronze medal in her platform event and a silver medal in her 3 metre individual event.

Well done Rianna!

Largest Intra-school cricket carnival hits Blackwood Primary School

With 24 teams on 12 ovals across the primary and high school playing at the end of last term it was the largest Intra-school tournament SACA had held. The tournament involved students from Year 3-7 including the AIP. Great fun was had by all.
Excursion to Adelaide Hills International Sculpture Symposium - Hahndorf

On the last day of term, Room 5 and Room 6 attended the 2016 Adelaide Hills International Sculpture Symposium in Hahndorf. The students got to observe master sculptors from around the world carve ten unique sculptures.

The sculptors worked on a selection of South Australian stone. These pieces of art were commissioned by various Hills towns and communities and once completed they will be installed, and include on the Hills Sculpture Trail.

Each student was given a piece of Mount Gambia sandstone, a brief lesson on sculpting before they were able to carve their own piece. The students used saws, hammer and chisels and a selection of rasps to create. This was by far the best part of the excursion, everyone enjoyed the chance to work on their own piece of stone, and the challenge was to create a 3D piece.

Korean Student Study Tour

We are hosting a Study Tour for students from South Korea, Cheongju province again this year. The tour will be early in term 3 for a 3 weeks. We are still looking for host families to provide home stay accommodation during this time. If you are interested in hosting a student please contact Judy Adami at Blackwood Primary 8278 5355 or judy.adami18@school.sa.edu.au ASAP for further information.

This a valuable time for the both host family and the International Student as we share our Australian culture with them.

2017 Reception Enrolments

Enrolments are now open for 2017. If you have a child that you would like to enrol in 2017, please call into the reception office to collect your enrolment form and or book for a tour if you are a new family.
What’s been happening in Japanese?

Language and culture are influenced by each other. In all societies there are various levels of speech used for different occasions. This is particularly so in Japan. In Japanese lessons all classes learned how to introduce themselves and how to talk about their family members. Students learned that when speaking of anyone else’s family, polite and formal speech is used, while more humble speech is used when referring to one’s own family. Students also learned that in Japan people often use only their surname when introducing themselves. Senior students were able to introduce their family, in more detail, to the class. Games, puzzles and a song were used to help learn the language.

We completed the term with a culture study of ‘ohanami’. During March and April, spring is welcomed with cherry blossom trees throughout Japan flowering for a brief time. Japanese people enjoy spending time with family and friends, having picnics under, or near, blossoming trees. The delicate flowers have become a symbol in Japanese culture. Students created paper blossoms, lanterns and pictures during classes. Some classes made ‘teru teru bouzo’ to hang up wishing for fine weather for our ‘ohanami’ assembly outdoors, followed by our picnic lunch on the oval. It worked, as the dark clouds and showers passed over and the sun shone.

Room 11 with their pictures making the pictures.
Students above enjoying a real obento lunch

Cricket Update Term 1 2016

Term 1 was a successful and enjoyable term of cricket for our students. We fielded three teams- Kanga Cricket, C Grade & B Grade in the Sturt District Cricket Club Primary School Hills Zone.

The Kanga Team enjoyed their games in this entry level, introduction to cricket. Thank you to Shahab Mazhar for coaching and managing.

The C Grade, after a couple of cancellations due to forfeits and hot weather had a great term, improving and applying themselves at training and in matches. Thank you to Michael Shanahan for all his efforts at training and matches coaching and managing.

The B Grade had a very good term of cricket, being undefeated in Saturday morning matches and putting in a strong performance, going down narrowly in the SAPSASA Knockout match. This was a great effort considering the age of our group, being a team made up of Grade 5/6’s playing against Grade 6/7 teams. Their application and love for the game was fantastic to see. Thanks to Bruce and Kirrily Burton for their assistance with this group.

Looking forward to another great Term of cricket in Term 4!

Scott Beckham, Cricket Co-ordinator/B Grade Team Coach
Premier’s Reading Challenge at Blackwood Primary School

http://www.premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au

The challenge asks for students to read twelve books before September 8th, eight from the special Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) list and four of their own choice.

The actual PRC list is divided into different year level. In our library these books are marked clearly with different coloured dots on their spines:

- Green for Years Reception to Year 2
- Pink dots for Years 3 to 5
- Red dots for Years 6 to 7

Other points

- Sometimes it is hard for students to move up to the challenge of reading more difficult books. There are easier books in each of the categories.
- Sometimes students are already reading the more difficult books from the older reading list. They can certainly add these books to their form.
- Books read together with an adult can be added.
- Each class manages their forms in a different way. You may need to be signing the form to acknowledge that the books have been read. Please check with your child’s class teacher if you are unsure.
- Reception students’ forms are filled in at school with titles and authors read as a part of their learning, and signed by their teachers.

Students receive their award at an assembly in November. Students receive a different award for each year the challenge is finished. For instance, they start with a certificate and move onto bronze, silver, gold medals etc.

Students transferring from another school in South Australia have their precious records moved with them. Fortunately, students who transfer from another state can also have their records transferred.

We expect every child to complete the challenge. Reading twelve books before September is well within the reading expectations for our students. When students have handed in their signed form to the Library staff, their name is written on the Premier’s Reading Challenge Treehouse. It is easy to check if your form has been handed in. the first class to have everyone complete the PRC receives a prize.

If you have any questions or require any help, please come and see us in the library. We have records of your child’s borrowing if needed.

Barbara Garner, Teacher Librarian
Sharing the Planet Room 7

At the end of Term 1 Room 7 had a very special incursion called ‘Animal Capers’ to support their Unit of inquiry about caring for living things and endangered animals. Animal Capers was a fun experience where the students got to handle, pat and feed some animals. Below are two recount experiences written by some Room 7 students.

Yesterday a girl called Jodie came in from animal capers. She showed us lots of animals like a barn owl, a blue tongue lizard, a leaf insect, a turtle, a ferret and a goanna.

My favourite animals were the Barn owl because it pooped and did a wee, the leaf insect because Jodie let the people who wanted to climb their tummy and the ferret because he acted like a dog and he was funny.

I learnt lots of things like that barn owls fly silently, that ferrets act like dogs and that ferrets are very curious and are very, very, very, very funny.

Ben - Year 3

Yesterday Jodie from Animal Capers brought in some animals. The animals were so cute. Some animals were scaly and some were funny. The ferret was funny because it ran over our backs. There was a blue tongue lizard and a goanna. The goanna had sharp claws and the blue tongue lizard licked our noses. The turtle had a hard shell and a long neck. It was fun.

Nathan - Year 3

Gabi - Year 2

We followed our incursion experience with a very special guest speaker-Steve McKee the Zoo Keeper. Steve came to speak to the student about his exciting work in the Adelaide Zoo. He brought along some tools that help to keep him safe (he works with the carnivores!!!) and shared the purpose of zoos as well as information about a range of animals and why some of them are endangered. The students prepared some questions to ask Steve and they thoroughly enjoyed learning directly from someone who works really closely with animals.

Amanda Gulliver/Mel Sutton, Teachers Room 7
Young Leaders Day Conference

On the 22nd of March, all the Blackwood Primary school captains (Tiana, Rose, Paige and Ashlee) and Mr Wyskamp went on an excursion to the Adelaide Convention Centre for the National Young Leaders Day Conference. Approximately 1,000 students attended. Four leaders spoke: Manal Younus, Dylan Parker, Nathan Want and Leonie McKeon. Each left us very inspired.

**Manal Younus:**
Manal Younus is a storyteller who believes that what she does is one of the most powerful skills one can possess. Manal was a finalist of the Australian of the Year. She believes that by using her poetry she can tell a message and create change. She wants everyone to be able to find and use their voices. Manal released her first book of poetry called ‘Reap’ in 2015. We were able to hear some of her work, one of them was written in the form of a child in Neverland. She was one of the deeper speakers out of the whole conference. Manal said: “Find your passion, don’t let other define you, it’s brilliant to be different, believe that there is always someone that will get something about what you say or write.”

**Dylan Parker:**
Dylan Parker is a world paper plane champion. In 2009 he won third in the world championships. He returned home to start a professional paper planes sport team which would travel around to schools to perform and teach children how to fly and build the perfect paper plane. Dylan Parker played a big part in the filming of the Australian movie ‘Paper Planes’. For this he was able to fold 4,000 paper planes in 3 months. Dylan wants to be able to inspire people to discover the world of paper planes and realise that anything is possible if you really want it! Dylan said: “Try something new every day, your story is told by the choices you make, little things add up over time, small things often make you what you are and are usually what makes the most impact, small opportunities can often lead to big ones and focus on positive people.” During the conference Dylan flew paper planes that he had just made, including a new one called the String Ray (as it flew like one).

**Nathan ‘Dubsy’ Want:**
Nathan Want is a youth leadership trainer. He helps young people to learn skills and supplies them with the equipment to navigate life. Nathan spoke about mastering the little. At the moment he represents the Halogen Foundation as their "Foundational Leadership Speaker". He says that to master the little you must: “Focus on a goal and tell the truth.” Nathan seemed to have caught a lot of attention as he was a very confident speaker.

**Leonie McKeon:**
Leonie McKeon is a business strategist who believes if you want to learn about negotiation you might as well learn from the best. After living in the Greater China Region for several years she has studied their tactics and discovered that everything can be negotiable. She said: “From little things big things grow and good leaders understand what is important to others.” Her top saying was: “It’s not difficult, it’s just different.” She also gave us a bit of a language lesson.

Overall the day was spectacular. It was a brilliant learning experience for all of us, and we couldn’t have asked any more from the speakers. On behalf of the school captains I would like to thank Mr Wyskamp for accompanying us to the conference.

Written by Tiana
ANZAC Day Ceremony

On the 25th of April, or more commonly known as ANZAC Day, we arrived at the Blackwood War Memorial at 6:15am for the ANZAC ceremony. The ceremony was almost full, with mourning people spilling on to the road. This included the 1st Blackwood Scout Group, the Local CFS Cadets and St Johns Cadets who had been standing a vigil of respect during the previous night. The opening ceremony was chaired by a representative from the Country Fire Service Cadets. The Chairman of the Blackwood RSL began the ANZAC Day ceremony, talking about stories of courage, honour and sacrifice. He then said the ANZAC Ode, to which we replied “Lest We Forget”. We then lay down a wreath to pay our respect on behalf of our school.

Written by Joe and Paige

Entertainment Books

Books NOW available at the Finance Office.

Call in to buy your copy today!

Garden Shed for Sale

Blackwood Primary School OSHC has a

GARDEN SHED FOR SALE

Size:
1.7m wide X 1.5m deep X 2m High

Inspection can be made in the OSHC outdoor area from behind the Ashby Hall

Price:
Best Offer Price

Emailed to dl.0565.info@schools.sa.edu.au by close of day 27th May 2016.

Please note the successful buyer will be required to dismantle and remove this shed.
Governing Council Meeting: Class Updates  
Tuesday 17th May 2016

In the second half of the first term the classes participated in assorted sports clinics, a primary school sports carnival and Autism Awareness Day.

Other news around the classes includes:

**PE** - an intra-school cricket carnival with 24 teams took place at the end of Term 1. Many children were involved and 11 people from SACA came to assist. Cross country training is currently in progress. Last week students went to an early morning training at Belair National Park, in preparation for the competition next Friday. Jump Rope for Heart is on at the moment. There are 12 stations for students to participate in and there is a demonstration by the Jump Rope team on Wednesday morning.

**Japanese** - all classes are learning about animals in some way: pets in the JP, the Japanese version of the “Brown Bear Brown Bear” book in Year 3/4, forest animals in Years 4/5/6 and wild animals, including endangered species, in Year 6/7.

**Music** - classes across the school are all involved in drama and characterisation, performing skits and writing scripts. Both Mixed Berries choir and Big Sing are going beautifully, with great songs being sung by children. The Senior Choir has just been assessed as B++.

**AIP** - our AIP classes are expanding, with numbers almost doubled from last year. Students have recently been on excursions to the zoo and the movies, provided by the ladies of Variety. Autism Day was a success and has helped to broaden knowledge and understanding of Autism in our community. The AIP staff have recently attended the Aspect Autism Conference in Melbourne and found it very beneficial.

**R/1** - the current unit of inquiry “Forces” includes lessons about magnetism, air force, friction and gravity. Graphing and number work are currently the main ideas in Maths.

**1/2** - children are investigating how food gets from farm to table. They are creating flow charts to show the production and delivery process. Room 10 has begun a Big Play session on Fridays and are creating their own stations for construction, science, numeracy and role play.

**2/3** - The unit of inquiry is about caring for living things, especially endangered animals. Steve McKee talked about his role at the Adelaide Zoo and during a visit from “Animal Capers” the children were able to hold various animals.

**3/4** - a Sharing The Planet inquiry is focussing on plant growth, seed growing and life cycle stages. Next week there is an excursion to the Botanical Gardens to do the Aboriginal Discovery Trail. Students tried a new app called Go Noodle which is engages children in fitness and activity.

**4/5** - for a unit about the human body, classes are making lots of models of the body. Room 1 conducted a webinar with the real life actors of the show “Little Lunch” after students completed their own filming of an episode. Their videos will be entered into a competition “Make Your Own Episode”.

**5/6** - two high interest units of inquiry are running concurrently, one about asylum seekers, and one hands on science based inquiry about how electricity works. Students are fascinated with both.

**6/7** - classes have completed a unit of inquiry about abstract art and sculptures, culminating in an excursion to the Hahndorf Sculptors’ Symposium at the end of last term. Students saw professional sculptors at work and made their own sculptures using tools of the trade. The new history based unit of inquiry looks at how people have created change and influenced how the world is today.

**National Reconciliation Week at our local Colebrook Park**

Colebrook Park on Shepherds Hill Road is the site of a former Aboriginal Children’s home which housed members of the Stolen Generations.

Blackwood Reconciliation Group are hosting a public walk for reconciliation on Sunday May 29 starting at 11.30am at the Blackwood roundabout and walking to the Colebrook site. Following the walk there will be a sausage sizzle and some brief formalities. This event is open to all.
Vacation Care

While it may seem a long way off planning is well under way for July Vacation Care. Some of the planned activities include excursions to the movies, ICA for a games spectacular and bowling and lunch at the bowling alley. Of course the in-house activities will be special and include visits from some outside groups who are specialists in providing age appropriate activities for the school holidays.

Advanced bookings for Blackwood Primary School students open Tuesday June 14 and this early bird registration for Blackwood Primary ends 9am Friday June 24th (weeks 7 and 8).

Early bird registration for the surrounding community opens Monday June 20th and ends 9am Friday June 24th. 1st (week 8) so book early to avoid disappointment.

Then all normal bookings (no early bird) open Monday June 27th and ends strictly 9am on Friday July 1st. (week 9)

(only casual bookings if places available after that date will be accepted at an extra charge of $5/child)

The full program will be available on June 14th. – check the school website or drop into OSHC when they are open to collect a copy after that date.

Year 7/8 Transition Information

The Year 7/8 transition Starting Secondary School in 2017 pack was given out to all Year 7 students in the last week of Term 1 with information to help you to select what high school you would like your child in Year 7 to attend.

If you have any queries or concerns with completing the ED176 form in the Starting Secondary School in 2017 pack, please call into the reception desk and speak with Linda Bain who can assist you with the process. Please remember to attach any supporting documentation if needed.

Thank you to the parents/caregiver who have already returned their form, if you have not returned your ED176 forms, please return them to Blackwood Primary School reception by Friday 27th May 2016.

Blackwood Primary School Photos

Tuesday 24th May

Please remember to send in your child’s MSP Photography Envelope on the day
National Volunteer Week - May 9-15

Dear volunteers,

You are usually busy putting other people’s needs first, but this week it’s your turn. Today marks the start of National Volunteer Week when we recognise and celebrate your contribution to our community - especially to South Australian kids.

South Australians can be proud of our record of volunteering. Despite our busy lives, almost 37 per cent of us still find the time to volunteer in our communities - the second highest rate across the country.

This figure includes thousands of parents, grandparents and others who give their time in our children’s centres, preschools, schools and care and protection services. Thank you for all the roles you take on, including coaching kids’ sport, serving on governing councils, listening to reading, helping out in tuck shops or on camps or excursions, teaching languages in our ethnic schools and helping kids in care with their homework, providing transport so they can visit family members or supporting older kids to learn vital life skills.

You make kids’ lives better in so many ways. You support them to develop a love of reading and to know their heritage and culture, you introduce them to the fun of sports and the value of teamwork and you help to establish safe and settled environments for kids in care. And just by being there and sharing your valuable time with kids, you show them they - and their future - are important.

To all of you, I want to say thank you for giving so much to our communities. This week, the spotlight is on you - enjoy your well-deserved celebration.

Susan Close
Minister for Education and Child Development

Join us for ‘A Night of Hope’ – 7.00pm Saturday 25 June (doors open 6.30pm)

A rare opportunity to hear the inspirational story of a former Ugandan child soldier, Grace Arach, with performances by award-winning Australian singer/songwriter Levi McGrath.

Free entry - get the word out... invite your friends!

Click here for more info or visit www.corouniting.org.

Thanks so much.

Blessings, David

David Buxton  Pastor (Children & Families)

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