



NEWSLETTER

Week 11 Term 1 2024



Principal: Kris Robson
Deputy Principal: Clare O'Neill

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An IB school valuing, supporting and inspiring a community of lifelong learners

Important Diary Dates

Friday 12 April
Colour Explosion

End of Term 1
2.20pm early finish

Monday 29 April
Student Free Day

Tuesday 30 April
Start of Term 2

Friday 3 May
Assembly 2.30pm
Year 5/6 classes presenting

Tuesday 7 May
SAPSASA Netball Carnival

YELP Green Team excursion

PFF mtg 6pm

Tuesday 14 May
SAPSASA Cross Country
Gov Council 6pm

As the term comes to a close the BPS staff have been reflecting on the many learning opportunities and achievements that the students and teachers have engaged in over the past 11 weeks. We are sure that along with the staff you are ready for the holidays and some well deserved rest. We wanted to share some of the learning that has occurred at Blackwood Primary over this term.



Each Year Level team has engaged in a whole day of planning and preparation for the teaching term. All of our students from Reception to Year 6 have created pieces of writing that have been assessed by classroom teachers and next steps for each student's progression have been taken into consideration for the planning of the following lessons on our Brightpath assessment platform. During this planning day the teachers also met with our IB Coordinator to ensure that curriculum is mapped and covered over the two year learning plans that we use as an IB school. These planning sessions mean that the cohorts are covering the same learning journeys and there is consistency between the classes of the same year levels. During this process teachers are looking at the individual feedback and interests of students to ensure that we use student agency and interest to drive our lesson and learning and that learning is engaging and current to the students interests while also aligning with the curriculum requirements.

Teachers have enjoyed being able to meet with families across the school in both formal and informal settings, at BPS we have hosted Acquaintance Night and 3 way Conferences this term as well as attending the Twilight Picnic where the pillars of our school (staff, students and families) can get together to share ideas and celebrate community together. As always teachers are more than happy to meet and discuss concerns you may have around your student, so send them a Seesaw message or email if ever you have concerns that you would like followed up or support with, the team at BPS is well versed across all areas of learning and supporting students towards their own personal success while under our care at school.

Across our Health and PE learning the students have been very busy, our Reception and Year 1 teams engage in coordination lessons in addition to their PE lessons with Mr Bates and work with student mentors to build physical literacy skills. This also enables our senior students to develop coaching and leadership skills within a classroom/sporting setting. This week the Year 6 cohort travelled to Port Noarlunga for Aquatics as part of their curriculum learning and our Reception to Year 5 students will have their annual swimming lessons during Term 2. Many middle primary students have engaged in Golf Clinics and it has been great to see students engaging in physical activity both before and after school with their friends as they prepare for the day or in between grabbing some brekkie at Breakfast Club.



School Information

Student Absence

If your child will be **absent** from school, please send a txt through the

Space Talk App

or

SMS Text to

0427 016 460

Term Uniform Shop Opening Hours

Monday 8:15 – 9:15
Wednesday 12.45 - 1.30
Friday 8:15 – 9:15
3:00 – 3:45

Ph: 0431 776 713

KickStart Breakfast

Every morning

8:30am

Outside the Canteen

Lost and Found

Ensure all items are clearly labelled so we can return them to you and check the lost and found cupboard for missing items.

BPS Playgroup

Thursdays

0 – 4 year olds

9am to 11am

OSHC Room

School Tour Days

We offer school tours for new families & new students.

Contact Reception on 8278 5355 for the next tour date and to book.

To join, search for Blackwood PS Scene in Facebook and click on the Join button.



Statewide assessments continue to be a requirement for the students in SA and our BPS students have engaged in NAPLAN and PAT Testing - we thank the teachers and Judy Adami for facilitating these sessions. Student results are used to help drive professional development for teachers so that the needs of our cohorts of students are looked after. As a school we are acutely aware that a test is a snapshot of a student's understanding at a certain point however these assessments are monitored across the school life of a student and track growth and areas for improvement across a multitude of curriculum areas.

The Junior Primary and Middle Primary students all attended an RAA incursion to talk about community systems and ways we keep ourselves safe. The Year 3/4 students have been looking into systems in our community and were researchers during our trial Emergency Procedure in the event of a local fire.



The students took notes on the procedure, offered suggestions for improvement and action and learnt along with the staff about the process and systems that take place during a school emergency procedure. This was a great experience for the students who got to see first hand how certain systems work within our school setting.

The Parents, Friends and Family team have been working non-stop this term with Twilight Picnic, Easter Raffle, and our end of term Colour Explosion Event to complete the school term. Thank you to Room 4 for supporting PFF with ideas and maps for the Colour Explosion, it will be a colourful way to end our term.

The school leaders hosted a Whole School Wellbeing assembly during week 10 to share the learning that we have been engaged in during our UR Strong lessons, every class had items and learning to share and the program is full steam ahead across the year levels. On top of all of the above mentioned learning opportunities that have been happening in our school we certainly haven't covered it all, we have many wonderful teachers who work above and beyond the scope of the classroom and look at supporting their peers in areas for development. At BPS we have Literacy and Numeracy coaches as well as advocates for other areas of student needs to support our school, teachers who run before and after school clubs, to ensure our students are offered many opportunities to see their talents shine our weekly Bike Track is back up and running, debating clubs, the Green Team / YELP groups are in operation and we look forward to celebrating our successes with you in 2024.

We hope that everyone has a wonderful and restful break, and we look forward to seeing everyone back ready to begin learning again in Term 2.

2024 School Captains Introduction

Shabdita

After everyone I have read about here writing this speech, I never thought I would be one of them. I guess my hard work, perseverance, and buttering up the teachers, paid off. I am super excited to work with staff and students this year and I hope to make a positive impact at this school, so don't be scared to say, "Hi". I love reading and writing, and firmly believe in all types of equality, justice and how amazing the Indian cricket team is.

Innrish

I can't believe it! I actually made it! After weeks and weeks and well.....weeks of hard work, it all paid off! The relief was great when I was named a school captain for this year. My name is Innrish and I am one of the school captains for BPS this year. It is my last year of primary school, so I am excited to make a change!

Bandi

Hi, my name is Andras. But as many of you know, everyone calls me Bandi. I'm super excited to be a school captain this year. A few interesting things about me: I have strong European roots as I was born in Hungary, and so I am bilingual. We moved to Australia when I was 4 and a half years old. I'm dedicated to make as many improvements as I can as a School Captain. I'm also open to any suggestions if anyone has any to make our school a great place to belong to. Something I'm passionate about is to creating an award system, which I have named "Greenies". I hope it will come to life this school year.

Victoria

Oh my goodness! Finally, after weeks of sweat, tears and hard work, I am one of our school's school captains this year! My name is Victoria, but everyone is welcome to call me V. I am extremely excited and enthusiastic to help Blackwood Primary School be the best it can be this year. I want to make sure that students feel happy, safe and included.



Social Work Students

My name is Abel Rajan. I am thrilled to join your vibrant school community as a social work student currently completing my placement. With a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and a background in Psychology and social work, I am deeply passionate about working with children and fostering an environment where they can thrive. My approach is rooted in trauma-informed practices and strength-based strategies, focusing on nurturing the holistic well-being of each child. Over the course of my 500-hour placement, I am eager to learn from and contribute to the dynamic and supportive atmosphere of our school. As I look forward to a future working with the Department of Child Protection or supporting Aboriginal communities, I am excited to embark on this journey of growth and discovery with the staff and students here.



My name is Paul Akinseye. I am currently pursuing a Master of Social Work degree at Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia. Presently, I am undergoing my first-year practicum field placement with Blackwood Primary School as a Social Work student, a journey that commenced in February 2024. I am a compassionate and meticulous individual with experience in providing support for young people navigating trauma and mental health challenges. I am deeply committed to empowering children to become positive contributors to the community. Alongside my academic pursuits, I have a profound passion for sports, particularly soccer. My favorite soccer team is Manchester United Football Club in England, and I often find myself fervently discussing their matches. I am looking forward to having a great time during my practicum field placement at Blackwood Primary School.



Year 5/6 Boys Knockout Cricket

On Friday of Week 8 our school played in the Statewide Schools Knockout first round at Belair Primary School. We played Coromandel Valley Primary School and narrowly lost 79 runs to 91 in the Twenty20 match. Well done to our team made up of Oscar F, Amon C, Max M, Akshaj, Tyson M, Ashby, Hudson, Taite, Max G, Campbell and Will S. A big thank you to Jason Foran and Casey Turner for coaching the team and to the parents who supported the team on the day.

Chris Bates



Year 6 Aquatics

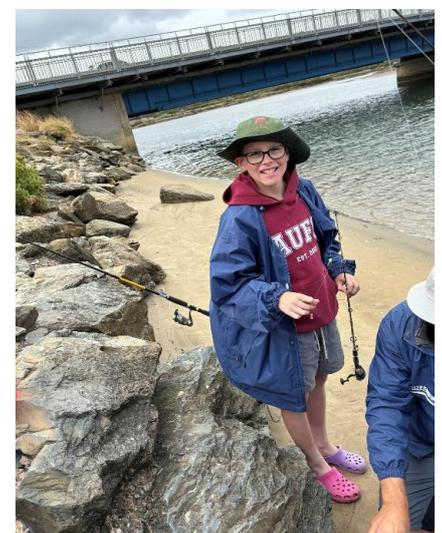
On Tuesday Week 11 of Term 1 Blackwood's Year 6's went down to Port Noarlunga for aquatics. We did multiple activities such as Fishing, snorkelling, boogie boarding, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding and surfing. Although it was cold and windy, my favourite activity was snorkelling. There were lots of fish hanging around the bottom of the jetty and colourful fish at the reef. We had recess then some groups went kayaking and others went stand up paddle boarding. Kayaking was a lot of work and we got tired from all the paddling. After all the paddling we were well and truly ready for lunch and a break. After lunch some groups went surfing but most groups went boogie boarding because of the weather. We would have done surfing but the beach was too windy and the water was too choppy. I was disappointed at first that we were doing boogie boarding instead of surfing. I think most kids were disappointed too, but once we got out there and started boogie boarding that disappointment wore off and was filled with joy and excitement. Lots of kids chafed due to the wetsuits rubbing on our skin all day which was quite uncomfortable but we made it through and were exhausted by the end of the day. An improvement that I think would be great is if we could have taken our wetsuits off in between activities, however this would mean we wouldn't have as much time in the water. But overall aquatics was a great experience and we are lucky to have the opportunity to be able to do these activities in school, because it would be hard to replicate these activities by yourself.



By Max



On Tuesday week 11 the year 6's went down to port Noarlunga for aquatics, we had the opportunity to nominate the activities we wanted to do when organising the day and then we were allocated into groups depending on our choice of activities. When we arrived at port Noarlunga we were greeted by our instructors and then we set off to get our wetsuits on. This was no easy task, some of us had lots of trouble getting our wetsuits on and for some activities we needed to wear a long and a short wetsuit. My first activity was kayaking, I enjoyed doing a wheelie on the kayak and liked it overall as an activity. We then stopped for a recess break and although we were hungry it was very cold sitting in a wet wetsuit. My next activity was fishing. I caught a fish and enjoyed the experience. After lunch I had my final activity which was stand up paddle boarding, I found it difficult but still enjoyed it. Overall aquatics was great but cold and I would love to have the experience again but maybe on a warmer day. We are very thankful that our teachers and school organise such a great day for us to enjoy and make memories.



By Taite



**OPEN TRAILS
AUSTRALIA**

Bike Track

I would like to have a big shout out to the Rotary Club for raising \$9000 to create our bike track in the Gully. The Rotary Club has been a wonderful help not only raising the money but providing guidance and support throughout the whole process. Another big thankyou goes to Kain from Open Trails Australia for creating the track at a discounted price and also in term 2 he will be providing mountain bike training.



You are more than welcome to ride the track after school hours, it is a great way to get into mountain biking on a fairly simple track. We have two trails, the top trail and the bottom trail. The top trail is a simple dirt loop consisting of mostly flat terrain with some bumps. It is a beginner track suitable for younger children who can confidently ride. The bottom trail is a downhill trail with five sweeping turns. At the bottom of the trail is a jump (children can choose not to take the jump) and a small drop off (again with a choice to ride around), this trail is suitable for older students with some experience in mountain bike riding.

At this stage the bike track is open Friday lunch times for students in year 3 and above, that have signed permission. Next term we will have JP riding days as well.



We have some very experienced riders at our school that have been great repairing the track, thanks to Max and his team.

Happy bike riding.

John

National Ride2School Day

Friday March 22nd was National Ride2School Day. On this day 575 schools Australia wide took part, with a total of 240,000 students participating including many from our school. Our school leaders surveyed students in all classes and found 44 students rode, scooted or skated to school, 38 students walked to school and 6 caught public transport. Well done to these students.

Chris Bates



SAPSASA District Athletics

On Thursday of Week 9, 28 students represented our school at the Southern Heights District Athletics Day at the SA Athletics Stadium, Mile End.

Our students had a very successful day with many registering personal bests in their events. Congratulations to all of our athletes including the many students who finished in the places. Well done to Sanatu who won the 10 year old girls discus and Chiara who won the 12 year old girls shot put. They will now represent Southern Heights at the Metro State Day in Term 3. Good luck girls.

A big thank you to Mrs Robson and Mrs O'Neill for helping to organise and marshal our athletes across the day and to the parents who came and supported our team.

Chris Bates



Parents, Families & Friends Committee

The PFF has had a very busy Term 1 with lots of exciting events on the horizon for Term 2. A big thankyou to all those who volunteered their time helping at the Blackwood Lions Mart in February. In return for our help, the Lions donate money to the PFF committee and it's a great way to raise money from outside of the school community to invest back into the school.

In March the Sports Day t-shirts made by local business 'I Love it More' were a hit. For those who missed out, there will be another opportunity to purchase t-shirts later in the year before Blue Earth Sports Day. Congratulations to all the winners of the Easter raffle and thanks to the student leadership team for selling all the raffle tickets. We hope you had a wonderful Easter break.

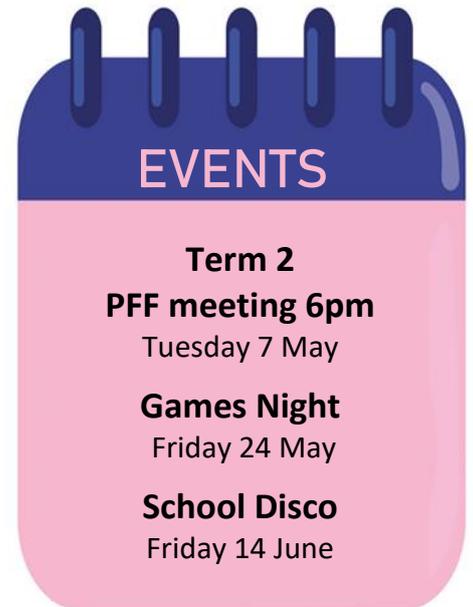
The remaining few weeks of this term have been busy preparing for the Colour Explosion event and finalising orders for the Mother's Day earrings and pins provided by local business 'Wagtail & Wren'. Orders will be made over the school holidays and distributed to students in Week 2.

Ms Sherwell's Colour Explosion Team have been busy designing a fun course for the Colour Explosion event. Thankyou to all who are coming along to help the students ideas come to life. We hope it will be a fun and colourful afternoon!

Next term the PFF have some great events and fundraisers planned including a Games Night on the 24th May (Week 4) and DJ Steve will be back playing the best dance tunes for the School Disco on 14th June (Week 7).

A reminder that the PFF meet in the school staffroom at 6pm on Tuesdays in weeks 2 and 7 and all are welcome.

Wishing everyone a safe and relaxing school holidays!



City of Mitcham BMX jumps tracks survey

The City of Mitcham is seeking the community's input into the experiences of users with its current BMX jumps tracks, as well considering feedback on any future BMX track needs. The survey can be completed for all 4 City of Mitcham's BMX tracks, or there is the option of simply selecting the track/s that are applicable to the respondent.

The consultation **closes at 5pm on Sunday 28 April 2024.**

https://yoursay.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/bmx-tracks?tool=survey_tool&tool_id=bmx-jump-tracks-survey#tool_tab



[BMX Jump Tracks](#)

Help us improve our BMX jump track facilities! We want to hear from you about your experiences and preferences regarding our BMX jump tracks. Your feedback will inform how we manage BMX jump tracks across our city, whether it's upgrading existing tracks or exploring new
yoursay.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au



 **MITCHAM GIRLS**
HIGH SCHOOL

GIFT DANCE
AUDITION

TERM 2: WEDNESDAY, 8TH
MAY 2024 AT 9:15AM

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO
AUDITION, COMPLETE THE DANCE
AUDITION FORM ON THE WEBSITE

MITCHAMGIRLSHS.SA.EDU.AU