



# NEWSLETTER

Week 8 Term 1 2024



Principal: Kris Robson  
Deputy Principal: Clare O'Neill

4 Seymour Street, Eden Hills 5050 Phone: 8278 5355 [www.blackwoodps.sa.edu.au](http://www.blackwoodps.sa.edu.au)

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

## Important Diary Dates

**Monday 25 March**  
School Photo Day

**Wednesday 27 March**  
Easter Raffle Draw

**Thursday 28 March**  
SAPSASA District  
Track & Field

**Friday 29 March**  
Good Friday  
Public Holiday

**Monday 1 April**  
Easter Monday  
Public Holiday

**Week 10**  
3 Way Conferences

**Tuesday 9 April**  
Year 6 Aquatics

**Friday 12 April**  
Colour Explosion

**End of Term 1**  
**2.20 Finish**

Welcome to our third newsletter for the term, our school community has been focused on our Units of Inquiry learning and celebrating the sunshine during our outdoor learning times. Please make sure you read on to find out more about the learning opportunities that our students are engaging in.



### 3 way - conferences

Today an email and Seesaw message was sent to all families in regards to our upcoming 3-way conferences being held in week 10. These conferences are a great opportunity to meet with classroom teachers with your child to discuss their learning progress as well as help develop some further learning goals for the year ahead.

3-way conferences allow for students to have a voice in their learning. They help build and strengthen home/school relationships so that students can see their parents working in partnership with their teachers to support their learning.

### School learning

Our Reception and Year 1 students have remained focused on their Who We Are unit and have really settled into the spoils of school life. Buddy classes have engaged together to ensure that the younger students have familiar faces to locate during the day and as the term has progressed their confidence has grown and their personalities are shining through during play times. The Year 1 and 2 classes are learning about caring for different places through their Sharing the Planet learning and lots of research has been undertaken with learning how to create an information report and with mapping skills in numeracy.

Room 19 and 9 (Year 2 and 3) are challenged by looking at how people make decisions with fairness and equity and this has brought about many discussions about our values and how they differ from school to home to ensure a harmonious community. The Junior Primary classes and the Year 3/4 teams all engaged in an RAA incursion which helped us learn about keeping ourselves safe and systems that are used in the community. Rooms 12 and 7 have investigated systems that we use at school and at home and many families would have engaged in discussions at home about systems that help us stay organised.

The upper primary teams have been very busy using their research and inquiry skills to learn about the varied nature of our natural world. They have been investigating various parts of the world and their features. The 4/5 classes have just started their unit into digital systems, we are sure that lots of inquiry will be occurring in the lessons.

Across the whole school our UR Strong learning has continued and students have been using monthly focuses to help develop their areas of friendship. March has seen students focus on Courage.



## 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**

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### 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

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### KickStart Breakfast

Every morning

8:30am

Outside the Canteen

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### 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.

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### BPS Playgroup

Thursdays

0 – 4 year olds

9am to 11am

OSHC Room

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### 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.

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



## Easter

Student Leadership have been responsible for the sale and collection of Easter raffle tickets and we would like to thank them for all their hard work to support the PFF team for this fundraising event. Thank you also to those families who have donated prizes, there will be some very exciting prizes that students will have the opportunity to win. Please be reminded that next Wednesday we will have our Easter assembly where all Easter prizes from the raffle will be drawn.

## Social Work Students

This semester we welcome two new social work students, Abel and Paul, to our site. In the next newsletter both students will formally introduce themselves, but in their short time here both Abel and Paul have enjoyed getting to know our staff, students and families and look forward to working with us until the end of next term.

The kiss and drop area has been running smoothly both before and after school, we would like to thank the parents and students for promptly getting in and out of the cars in a safe manner. A brief reminder that when in the queue to collect, park in the kiss and drop zone please ensure that you move your vehicle as far forward as safely possible so that more cars can collect students. Leadership will continue to remind students not to touch or stand in the gutters whilst cars are moving and we would like to remind everyone to obey the speed limit as we would hate for an incident to occur. By working together we have been able to ensure that children are safe in this zone with minimal waiting times for families.

## BPS Student Free and School Closure Days 2024

Term 2: Monday 29 April – Student Free Day (first day of term 2)

Term 3: Monday 22 July – Student Free Day (first day of term 3)

Term 3: Friday 6 September – School Closure Day

Term 4: Monday 14 & Tuesday 15 October – Student Free Days (first 2 days of term 4)

## Parents, Families & Friends Committee





# Harmony Day



On the 21st of March our school celebrated Harmony Day. We were able to share our culture and celebrate the diversity of our wonderful school. We were really proud and impressed with the students who wore cultural dress or outfits that celebrated their uniqueness. The shared lunch was a wonderful success with all classes sitting with their buddies and engaging in conversations across the year levels. We have a strong focus on building community and belonging at BPS this year and believe that days like Harmony Day encourage students to be open-minded and learn about each other.





## Farewell Assembly - Sensei Gunawan

On Thursday morning during Week 8 our students gathered together to celebrate and farewell the wonderful and talented Sensei Gunawan. Amanda Gunawan has taken a year's leave from BPS after winning a position interstate with the Japanese Embassy. Through her time as our Japanese teacher at BPS, Sensei has been an integral part of lots of school projects and activities to develop the students' appreciation and skills related to language acquisition and learning. Amanda Gunawan worked tirelessly to help build the school's Japanese Garden, prepare and support students during the Hiragana competitions, BluEarth sports day activities and the CBCA Shadow Judging competition. Sensei will be missed by many of our students and staff and we look forward to hearing about her new and exciting role.



## IB Update

Our whole school Unit of Inquiry has been focused on the Transdisciplinary Theme WHO WE ARE, and the Central Idea created by a collaborative staff wellbeing team in 2023 is 'Choices affect well-being'. All year levels have been able to engage in our new Friendology program 'UR Strong' and this has seen students already implementing the language in classrooms and play spaces. The whole school approach through a friendship strategy has seen staff upskilled in the curriculum and our next steps are to offer programs to the parents and families of our students.

Each year level team has been able to co-create their own lines of inquiry based on the needs of the cohort, all classes are however looking at wellbeing literacy as our DfE Wellbeing survey identified that as an area of need to be supported to build community and belonging within our school.

The Receptions and Year 1's are focusing on 'caring for others'. Year 1 and 2 focus on 'how to maintain positive relationships'. Our Upper Primary teams have used Japanese terms to underpin their learning which is wonderful to see the integration of our language learning into the lessons. Year 2/3s are learning about the Japanese concept of 'Moai - もあい' (Supportive relationships) the Year 3 and 4 cohort are looking into - 'Kaizen かいぜん' (Process of continual improvement), the Year 4 and 5 team Omoiyari おもいやり (Empathy) and our senior students in Year 5 and 6 - Oubaitori おうばいとうり (Embracing our uniqueness).

Our classes have been busy each week developing their wellbeing literacy and developing friendship skills that will enhance their personal ability to name and notice both positive and negative relationship behaviours and being able to articulate their needs to their peers and when seeking support in the yard and classrooms. We really think that this program and our linked learning is going to support our students as they move through schooling and beyond.

## Seniors Uniforms

Blackwood Primary School has a proud tradition of presenting our final year students with two additional uniform items. The students co-create the design for the back of their Senior jumpers and the teachers decide on the design of the t-shirts. This year we have reverted back to BPS tradition and opted for red shirts for the senior students. There were a number of reasons behind this decision and discussions took place between teachers and leadership around the best design available for us and our school community. Many of you would have been aware that our Uniform supplier changed last year and this meant that the 2023 design and make was no longer available. Teachers had expressed concern that often student behaviour and demeanor was impacted once the students put on their seniors uniform and that it appeared to be linked to the superiority they felt in the alternate colours. In an effort to continue to build whole school community and belonging, make it easier to spot our students while out in the community and in the yard, the teachers requested that the tops align more with the current uniform and already we have seen the benefits. With all areas of change in our lives (especially in regard to the items of clothing we wear day in and out) there will always be commentary and opinions and we welcome feedback as this helps us make more informed decisions in the future. The leadership team requests that any feedback be sent via email to the school so that we have it formally documented to feedback to our supplier. In the meantime it has been wonderful to see all students at BPS look smart and well presented at the beginning of each school day and there are lots of uniform options available that help students move and participate in learning and play throughout the day.

## SAPSASA Diving and Swimming

Congratulations to Lawson Reynolds who represented our school at the State Diving Championships at the SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre at Marion on Monday of Week 5. Lawson came 1<sup>st</sup> in the 11 Year Old Springboard and 4<sup>th</sup> in the 10-12 Year Old Mixed Synchro Event.

On Friday of Week 5 we had 8 students compete at the Combined City South and Southern Heights Swimming Carnival at the Marion Outdoor Pool. The students who represented our school were Kenzie L, Kawin, Nima, Vihani, Tamika, Lawson, Daniel and Mia A. Well done to all of these students and congratulations to Kawin who came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Ten Year Old Backstroke.

Thank you to Clare O'Neill and the parents who attended for their support on the day.

Chris Bates





# Athletics Day

On Tuesday of Week 7 we held our annual Athletics Day for students 10 years old and above. While the day was very hot, students did a fantastic job competing in seven track and field events across the day. It was great to see students giving their best effort and in some cases taking risks trying new athletic events for the first time.

Thank you to the parents who came and supported their children on the day and to the teachers who ran each of the events.

The overall champion boy and girl in each age group will be announced at an upcoming assembly. Congratulations to the 30 students who will be representing our school at the Southern Heights District Athletics Day at the SA Athletics Stadium on March 28<sup>th</sup>.



Chris Bates

Final Athletics Day House Positions:

**1<sup>st</sup> – THOMSON**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – BRADMAN**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – FRASER**

**4<sup>th</sup> – ROSEWALL**





### What has been happening this term at OSHC?

#### Safety Week

In week 1 we participated in safety week, we practised invacuations, evacuations and the fire drill. We were also lucky enough to have a Police Officer come in and talk to the students about safety. The students had a great time dressing up as police officers and they had all of their safety questions answered!

#### Harmony Week

In the lead up to Harmony week coming up, we are learning about what Harmony means. We are currently making posters that represent what Harmony means to each of us. Looking out for each other, accepting and respecting others, peace, and ensuring everyone is included are some examples of what Harmony means to our students at OSHC.

#### Space Week

In week 6 we celebrated space week at OSHC! This was such a fun week for everyone involved. We did so many space themed craft activities including; spaceships, salt pictures and the best one of all... SLIME!! The kids had a ball and learned so many new things about space!

#### Ocean week

This week we are focusing on all things oceans! We have been creating fish, octopuses, jellyfish, whales and even some sand castles! When you come into OSHC you may see some of our new creatures hanging around the room!

#### Kids Choice

Beach day, character day, board games, stain glass craft, sand drawing and creating our own Pokémon/sports cards are some of the kids choice activities we have been doing!



## A message from the OSHC Director – Donna Gunn

Term 1 has been action packed and filled with fun! The students are settling into the term well and enjoying the changes that have been made over the Christmas holidays to the OSHC space. We have some further exciting things coming in the next few weeks including a new wellbeing room fit out where students can use this room as a calm quiet space to take a break, have some quiet reading time or even work on some of their home learning. We even have some exciting new games that the students are going to love, especially when we have our games day in the school holidays vacation care. Keep an eye out in your inbox, in the school office and the OSHC desk as we now have the April vacation care program out! We have jam packed the school holidays with excursions, incursions and home days that are guaranteed to provide something new and fun for everyone.



Reminder, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April (last day of term 1) is an early finish 2:20pm. Make sure you book in for an early finish OSHC day in the Xplor app.

We also have a student free day on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April, the first day back of term 2. The fun doesn't stop at the end of vacation care, we will be having a carnival day with inflatable domes coming to OSHC, snow cones and popcorn, stay tuned for more info!







**Attention:**  
Year 6 Families  
Blackwood High School  
invites you to book a

**Principal's Tour**  
9:00am - 10:00am  
Friday

23 February	15 March	5 April
12 April	12 April	3 May
10 May	7 June	28 June

Bookings required  
To book please visit our website

Please note above tours are only for Year 6 families. Tours for other year levels will be available from August - December and a limit of 2 adults and 1 child per family.




**BLACKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**  
Inspiring Achievement and Respect

4 Seymour Street Eden Hills SA 5050  
Phone: 8278 0900  
[www.bhs.sa.edu.au](http://www.bhs.sa.edu.au)  
[bhs.info994@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:bhs.info994@schools.sa.edu.au)



CRICOS No 00018A



**BLACKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**  
Inspiring Achievement and Respect

**ATTENTION FOOD LOVERS**

**Large Secondary School looking for an experienced person with food handling skills.**

Casual hours up to 15 a week.

CV and Cover Letter to be forwarded onto [sharna.smart837@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:sharna.smart837@schools.sa.edu.au) by Friday 28 March 2024.

For further information on the position, contact Louise Williamson on 8278 0948 during the hours of 1:30pm and 2:30pm.



 **MITCHAM GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL**

**TWILIGHT TOUR**  
**WED 3 APRIL**  
**4:30PM - 6:30PM**

Experience the unique opportunities at Mitcham Girls High School with Principal Rosie Heinicke and a BBQ!  
To register, visit [mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au](http://mitchamgirlshs.sa.edu.au)



**Aberfoyle Park High School**





**OPEN NIGHT**  
Tuesday  
26 March  
5:30-7:30pm



Email: [APHS.Info970@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:APHS.Info970@schools.sa.edu.au)  
Website: [www.aphs.sa.edu.au](http://www.aphs.sa.edu.au)  
Address: 36A Taylors Road, Aberfoyle Park, 5159  
Phone: 8270 4455

**Our 2023 year 12 results:**

- 100% SACE Completion
- 6 Merits (Specialised Maths, English Literacy, Physics & Research Project B)
- Highest ATAR of 99.85
- 5 students with ATAR of 95 and above

**Programs:**

- IGNITE for gifted students
- International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)
- Music
- International Ambassador
- Spanish & Japanese





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## OPEN COMMUNITY EVENT

FOR ALL CURRENT AND FUTURE FAMILIES

Hear about the innovative approaches used from 2025 to improve educational outcomes for young people. Our holistic, research informed strategy will build academic outcomes, a greater sense of belonging, and more successful post school pathways fit for our cohort.

**APRIL 11**  
**6PM - 7PM**

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR BOOKINGS

Wednesday  
**27**  
March

## UNLEY HIGH SCHOOL OPEN NIGHT



UnleyHighSchool



**5.00 - 7.00pm**

Prospective families are invited to experience what Unley High School has to offer (including our Special Interest Programs), meet staff and ask any questions about starting high school.

Principal's address at 5.00pm in the George Cresswell Hall followed by self-guided tour.

Register to attend via  
trybooking  
[www.trybooking.com/CPESN](http://www.trybooking.com/CPESN)



Entry via gate 4  
101 Kitchener Street,  
Netherby