



BORDERTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLINK

Inspire, Challenge, Achieve

ISSUE 13 | 14 December
2023

IMPORTANT DATES

2023

DECEMBER

Year 6 Graduation

(Year 6s only)

Thursday 14th December 7pm

Last Day of Term - Early

Dismissal 2.25pm

Friday 15th December

2024

JANUARY

First day of Term 1

Monday 29th January

MARCH

Governing Council AGM

Wednesday 6th March

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Government
of South Australia

Department for Education



A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

We are coming to the end of a very busy term and year. I have very much enjoyed meeting new children and families and reconnecting with others. It was wonderful to see such a huge audience for our bi annual Songs at Sunset. Both teachers, SSO's and students put in a lot of hard work and effort to ensure it was an enjoyable and entertaining evening.

Graduation

I look forward to celebrating with our Year 6 students on Thursday evening the completion of their primary school education and wish them well in High School. Graduation is a time to acknowledge all of the teachers, student learning and growth over the seven years at Primary School. A special thank you to all out 5/6 teachers for organising a wonderful end to the year for our graduating students.



25km/h past a stationary school bus - this
applies to all traffic in both directions

FROM PAGE ONE...

Welcome

In 2024 we welcome back Karen Prenzler (previously PCW) as a teacher. Karen will join with Jodie Devitt to do choir and also provide some upper primary teaching. Our other appointments are Matilda McCarthy in Junior Primary and Tiarna Murdock in Upper Primary.

Farewells

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Ebony Capurso who is leaving BPS and joining the staff in Keith Area School as Deputy Principal. Ebony has made a significant contribution in her time here in relation to curriculum development and refining many policies and procedures. We wish her all the best at Keith.

Robyn McCallum and Julie Exton are retiring after many years at Bordertown. Robyn worked with all of our teachers over her time here, planning and leading Digital Technologies, Resource Based Learning, and the Inquiry approach to learning. She made our resource centre the hub of the school. Robyn's skill, knowledge and expertise will be missed. We wish her all the best for her retirement.

Julie Exton has had a number of roles at BPS and mainly worked in Junior Primary, often sharing a class. Her commitment to ensuring her students success and wellbeing is to be commended. She was also instrumental in ensuring Choir remained a strong focus at BPS. We wish her well in her travels now that she has retired.

We also farewell Tiarnee Dyer, another long standing teacher who is now teaching at Kaniva. Tiarnee has been part of our Upper Primary teaching team and contributed greatly to the education of many of our students. We wish Tiarnee all the best.

Lastly we farewell Melissa Belluzo who has crossed the oval and works in administration at the High School. Melissa was a valued member of our SSO team and we wish her all the best.

Happy Holidays

Happy holidays and I look forward to working with you all in the 2024 school year.

Mrs Shelley Cameron





A NOTE FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Year 3/4 Poetry

Recently I was visited by some of Mrs Maney's Year 3/4 students who shared their poetry with me. They have been exploring the elements of rhyme and rhythm. It was lovely to hear them read their poems aloud with consideration to pace, prosody and expression.

Quiet night
Cracking fireplace
Cars driving
Cat meowing
Silvery moonlight
Leaves blowing
Rain dripping
Birds sleeping
Lights out
Creaking floor
Eyes closed
-Reanna (Year 3)

I'm scared
He's watching
In Minecraft
Being alone
In darkness
White eyes
Stalking me
Shut down
Can't sleep
Insomnia's here
Restless body
Terrifying thoughts
More coming
Getting anxious
Craziness here
-Ollie (Year 4)

Thank You

This week is bittersweet for me. I am excited for the summer holidays and new challenges, but sad to say goodbye to the wonderful staff and students at Bordertown Primary School. Thank you all for being so welcoming, helpful and working with me towards our teaching and learning goals.

BPS was my first leadership position and I have learnt an incredible amount from all of you. Next year, I will be closer to home, in the Deputy Principal role at Keith Area School. I can't wait to be able to walk my son to school as he starts his own school journey in Reception.

Some of my highlights at BPS have been cooking Filipino food with my EALD class, watching my choir students perform on stage, looking on in awe at the students MARCHING for Sports Day and listening to the rich discussions our teachers have about their practice and seeing it in action in the classrooms.

I hope you can all enjoy some fun and rest these school holidays.

Mrs Ebony Capurso

SONGS AT SUNSET







Year 6 Graduates



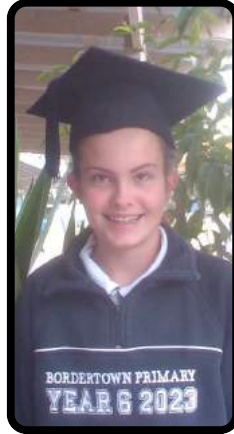
As we look back on 2023 we asked the year 6 graduates:
“What is your most precious memory of primary school?”



Amelia
Having lots of kind teachers



Amsyar
The fun end of year activities



Asha
Winning Sports Days and having fun in PE



Blair
Going to Natanda and playing 52 bunkers



Brandon
Going to Natanda and playing 52 bunkers



Claire
Coming first in SAPSASA netball



Craig
West Beach camp with my friends



Daniel
Going on year 6 camp to Adelaide



Daiwik
An excursion to the water park



Deon
New people and performing at Songs at Sunset



Ethan
Going on year 5 camp to Woodhouse



Eve
Being House Captain and the Sapsasa events



Fransika
My teachers, my friends, my subject and my art



Gabby
Having a farewell party for Ms Pan in year 3



Gabrielle
Having Miss Hinge as a teacher.



Year 6 Graduates



Harry
Winning the knockout footy grand final



Henry
Winning Sports Day this year as House Captain



Jayda
Year 6 camp



Jensen
Being able to do lots of Art



Keisha
When I met Stella, we were painting together



Lincon
When I did the bikeathon in Reception



Logan



Louis
I have loved doing lots of cooking



Luke
My first day in Miss Niess' class



Macy
When I was voted in as Kids Voice Chair person



Mason
Going on year 6 camp to Adelaide



Max



Mia
When I got voted in as McLeod House Captain



Myah
Playing knockout netball with my friends



Nate
Friends



Year 6 Graduates



Riley
Winning the knockout footy grand final



Saffron-Rose
Playing knock out netball with my friends



Sophie
Being Kids' Voice Treasurer



Stella
When I met Kiesha, we were painting



Sophia
Doing end of year activities and being with friends



Summer
When the French room caught on fire



Tate
When we won the grand final for knockout football



Teddy
West Beach camp



Toby
I enjoyed doing Canva in Digital Tech



Warren
When I met Mason in Reception



Zane
West Beach camp with my friends



Zelig
Leading Milne on Sports Day as House Captain

We wish all our 2023 graduate students the best of luck for their future and hope they look back at Bordertown Primary School with fond memories.



YEAR 6 BREAKFAST



Many thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who have helped at Breakfast Club this year. We are truly thankful for your help.

Also many thanks to Bordertown Bakery, Food Bank and various families who have donated food items for breakfast club. We really appreciate your support.

If you would like to help with Breakfast Club in 2024, please chat with the Wellbeing Team, we would welcome your involvement!



Thank you to all of the teachers for your effort this year.

Thanks to your dedication and involvement, everyone has learnt so much. We all appreciate the hard work you do.

Thank you to all of the SSO's for the hard work you do. You do such an amazing job.

Thanks Chelsea for doing Breakfast Club, lunch time activities, and everything else you do for the students.

Thank you to the front office staff for keeping the school up and running.

Sophie, Maisie & Craig

Updating your family's information

Its important to notify the school of any changes to your address, phone numbers and emergency contacts as soon as there are any changes. This can be done via Sentral or by contacting the front office.

2024 Materials and Services Charge

Thank you to those families who responded to the Materials and Services Charge Online Poll. The Poll was successful and the 2024 Materials & Services Charge of \$360.00 has been adopted as the legally recoverable amount.

In 2024 the Government of South Australia will again be providing \$100.00 Materials & Services Charge rebate for each student so the net amount payable per student will be \$260.00.

For those families who have a credit balance on their account we request that you use this amount against your Materials & Services charge and only pay the remaining balance.

2024 Materials and Services Charge invoices will be sent out early in the new year.

2024 School Card Scheme

Low-income families who attend government school can get financial help with school fees.

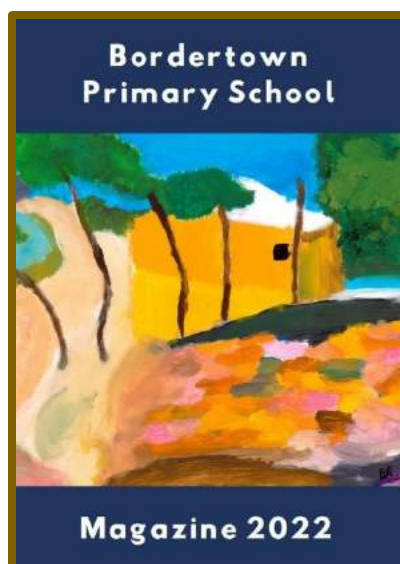
Families eligible for the 2024 school card scheme will be exempt from paying the Materials & Services charge and therefore are not eligible for the \$100 Materials & Services Charge rebate.

School card applications for the 2024 school year will be available early in 2024.

You can access school card information and application forms at:

[SA.GOV.AU - School Card scheme \(www.sa.gov.au\)](http://SA.GOV.AU - School Card scheme (www.sa.gov.au))

If you are unable to submit the form online please contact the front office for a hard copy.



2022 School Magazine

The 2022 School Magazine is available in digital format.

This will be emailed to families.

FROM OUR PASTORAL CARE WORKER

From me to you, a very Merry Christmas to you and your family. What a wonderful year it has been getting to know your children and I'm excited to continue this journey into 2024.

For some of us, big change is ahead. A new year can bring a lot of 'news'. Maybe a 'new job', a 'new town'... for our year 6's it means a new school.

Below are some expert tips from Michelle Mitchell for those who are off to High School next year. (If you haven't read her book *Tweens* yet, I highly recommend it) But even if you aren't at this stage, Michelles tips are equally pertinent for helping our children to be confident, fun loving, resilient children.

Enjoy the summer break. I hope it is a chance for you to catch your breath, enjoy balmy summer nights under the stars, create some life long memories, enjoy company with someone you may not have seen for a while, and take time to reflect on how truly unique, special and loved you are!

Chelsea March

[From the blog of Michelle Mitchell:](#)

(please see her website for the full blog page, excerpts only here)

Firstly, let's acknowledge that leaving primary school is a big transition, and that some kids will find it easier than others. Leaving primary school means letting go of the familiar without fully knowing what will replace it. Unlike the transition into primary school (remember when they wore cute, tiny uniforms and we walked them to class!) they are well aware of the potential losses than can come with change.

So, how can we best help them?

Big picture first. I want you to step back for a moment and consider three things that kids NEED in order to thrive in high school. Early in my career I taught in alternative learning centres (for young people disengaged in regular school). EVERY TIME, one or more of these elements had broken down and led to explosion or truancy. That's why I want you to safe guard these things. Hedge around them, and protect them, as they are foundational to the school experience.

They need to believe they can LEARN.

They need to feel as though they BELONG.

They need to see PURPOSE in the school experience.

On the following page are twelve my of top tips for those entering high school based on these three essential things. Each one is purposefully connected to them. I've tried to be practical, because that is what makes our homes go round each day!

TIP 1

Try and finish anxious conversations with positive, actionable ideas. I call them SO I WILL takeaways. (For example: I am worried about making new friends, SO I WILL...think about how I might start conversations with new people and remind myself that I can still connect with old friends). Together, you and your young one can create SO I WILL MOVES for anything.

TIP 2

Help them set realistic expectations for their first day. This might mean you have to dial down your enthusiasm. Instead of saying, "You are going to have a GREAT, AMAZING, FANTASTIC day" you might consider saying, "Today is going to be the beginning of a wonderful journey." Sometimes our encouragement doesn't leave a lot of room for the real ups and downs of school life.

TIP 3

Setting up a workstation on Sunday night is a great way to prepare for the week ahead. Remember that for ALL our kids, completing something feels good. Small wins, even if it is setting up their desk, will build their confidence. Helping them kick goals early in the year generates an "I can do this" vibe.

TIP 4

Many young people hit academic overwhelm very early in the year, and some don't ever regroup. Term 3 becomes a compound of half completed assignments, under average grades and deteriorating communication with teachers. Much of the time, procrastination plays a big part in the downward spiral. Make a JUST DO IT pack with your young one. Doing things NOW (before gaming, before you tube, before over thinking and talking yourself out of it) will feel good!

TIP 5

My youngest son doesn't have great organisational skills. Homework was always a struggle in our home. He and I eventually managed to negotiate a 20-minute homework cycle, that we would set on repeat. He would spend 15 minutes studying, 5 mins boxing (yes, he had a boxing bag in his room) and 5 minutes eating. In between each cycle he would pause, chat, re-group and repeat. Is it a lot of fuss to get some homework done? Yes, but we couldn't have gotten through school without the boxing bag and that sandwich maker.

TIP 6

All of our kids need to see school is a safe place that they belong to. After all they do spend much of their lives there! They don't have to be the most popular or the best, but they do have to feel as though they are known, heard and seen. Getting involved in the community of school, by signing up to small groups and programs, is one way to connect with like-minded people and become a part of that community.

TIP 7

Getting to know a broad range of people (the broader the better) is so important in high schools. Besties are fine, but they need MORE than this in high school. According to Michael Carr Gregg and Sharon Witt, one of the greatest predictors of success in high school is a large friendship base. It offers them multiple levels of support.

TIP 8

May I encourage you to shift gears? Your teen's social life needs to become your highest priority. I can assure you that it is about to be theirs. Prioritising a "get together" in the first week or two of the school term can kick things off to a good start. Say to your child, "If there is anyone you want to have over next week it's okay with me". That way, if the opportunity arises, you have already eliminated the need for them to ask you.

TIP 9

For most kids, the learning experience in and of itself is not enough to keep them motivated. What makes all the difference is a strong connection to at least one TEACHER who cares. Kids often learn through their teacher rather than through their subject. Please appreciate those high school teachers, especially those who connect with your child! Primary school teachers get bucket loads of gifts, but high school teachers often miss out. I think they need gifts even MORE. And keep lines of communication OPEN. If in doubt just ASK, or email.

TIP 10

This one can be complicated. Teenager's brains release melatonin (the hormone which makes us sleepy) about 2 hours later adults do. You might set bedtime at 9pm, and their body may set it at 11pm. Their melatonin also takes longer to wear off in the morning, so they will be sleepier for longer. All this usually calls for parents to have a lot of patience, especially in the morning.

Set a realistic bedtime for YOUR child, and establish boundaries (like no phones in rooms after 8pm and a quiet bedtime routine to help their mind unwind.) They may also need to sleep in on the weekend as they are constantly accumulating a sleep debt.

TIP 11

Year 6 students often get access to social media or have their own phone in the lead up to high school. It's new. It's exciting and opens up a whole lot of issues for them (and you)! Group texts, late night emergency calls and friendship drama now make their way into our kid's lives. It's a lot for parents to manage and navigate, so prepare yourself and get educated. If there is ONE THING I'd like to you consider, it's make sure they don't have their phone in their room at night when they need to be sleeping. (They are not equipped to be Kids Help Line.) Without sleep, everything goes pear shaped.

TIP 12

As they move into new environments and experience new things, the safe place called home is more important than ever, so protect your time together. It's the base line that allows them to journey into the world. Continue to place priority on their relationship with siblings and special time with them. In fact, plan for it.

And lastly parents, all those small touches matter. A fancy set of lunchboxes, a new desk and bookcase, glitter pens (lol), plans for afternoon tea together after their first day, a newly predesignated place for bags, shoes and those pesky socks.... they all scream I'M BACKING YOU UP. There is nothing that come close to that type of support.

Bordertown's Christmas Street Party

FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER, 5PM
BIKE PARADE 5.15PM (FOR 5.30PM)

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING
CHRISTMAS MARKETS
FOOD STALLS
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
TREK
KIDS BIKE PARADE
(THEME: SANTA'S HELPER)
+ SANTA'S WONDERLAND



SEEKING DONATIONS

We are seeking donations of empty water boxes, chicken wire or old DVD/CDs for upcoming art projects. These donations are greatly appreciated and can be delivered to the front office.



Lost Property

If lost property is not collected by the end of the term it will be donated to the Good Country Community Op Shop



We
WISH YOU
A
MERRY
Christmas