

# BALAKLAVA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

We are aware that we are meeting and learning on the land where Kurna people have lived for thousands of years. We respect that their connections to this land and their cultural beliefs are still as important today as they will be in the future. We promise to look after all the living creatures and plant life whose survival depends on the water, air and environment of Kurna Country.

## THANKYOU TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED OUR END OF YEAR CONCERT ON MONDAY NIGHT!



## IMPORTANT DATES

### SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2026

#### Term 1

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January -  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April  
(11 Week Term)

#### Term 2

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April -  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July  
(10 Week Term)

#### Term 3

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July -  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September  
(10 Week Term)

#### Term 4

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October -  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December  
(9 Week Term)

### REGISTRATION DAY

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January  
2026

1:30pm - 4:00pm

Please see page 14 for more details



From the  
*Principal*  
*Dianna Jarman*

## SEE YOU IN 2026

I cannot quite believe we have reached the end of another school year. The year seems to have flown by. As I look back on the year, we certainly have packed it full of wonderful learning opportunities both in the classroom and outside the classroom. No wonder the students, families and staff are exhausted!

I have put together a year in review. See pages 9 - 12.

Have a wonderful break and we will see you all back here refreshed and ready to tackle 2026!



## END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

### End of Year Celebration – Thank You

A massive thank you to everyone involved in the preparation and running of our End of Year Celebration on Monday evening. Having a theme is something we haven't done for a while, and the Era's Tour was a hit, with a wonderful variety of music enjoyed by all.

We also tried something new this year by introducing grazing boxes, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts on whether they were a success. Lisa and the Lions Club did a roaring trade and the snags sold like hot cakes. Shelby Creams were very disappointed to break down just outside Balaklava, which unfortunately meant they were unable to attend.

Karl did a remarkable job with the sound—yet again. We are incredibly fortunate to have him and his expertise. Karl gives up his entire day to support rehearsals and also puts in many hours at home preparing soundtracks in the lead-up to the performance. We greatly appreciate his time, dedication and ongoing support.



Marty again did a wonderful job as MC for the evening. We continue to be amazed that he manages to come up with a whole new set of jokes each year!

This year, we extend our thanks to:

- **Roberts Haulage** for the use of their tautliner
- **Ralli Park** for the stairs
- **Eddie McArdle** for the cool room
- **Wendy's Café and Cakes** for the grazing boxes
- **Barb Rogers** for delivering the food
- **Foodland Balaklava** for their support

Thank you to Cherie for organising drinks, ice blocks and ice creams as an SRC fundraiser, and to the staff who cooked and served the BBQ.

A huge thank you also to the families and friends who joined us for the evening—your support means so much. And most importantly, thank you to our students, who shone on stage through their class performances, whole-school songs, and instrumental and choir items. Thank you to Heidi, Meriel and Jacob for their support of our students. Also to Abby for her decorations, the friendship bracelets were a hit and very fitting.

At the End of Year Celebration, I was also fortunate to present two volunteer awards.

Please see page 13 where I showcase these two wonderful BPS volunteers.

On the night, our SRC and School leaders sang a song of our year at BPS to the tune of Yellow Submarine. Please see page 19 for the lyrics of the song.

## END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

### Raffle Winners

Thank you to everyone who donated towards the classroom hampers. A very special thank you to our amazing hamper wrapper, Sue Jones! Sue comes in especially to wrap all the hampers, and makes them look great.

Congratulations to the following winners:

- Rm 6: *Keli Calder*
- Rm 7: *Bec*
- Ber 1: *Thomas Would*
- Ber 2: *Jo Wasley*
- Ber 3: *Roger Petch*
- Ber 4: *Tracy Hale*
- Rm 1: *Georgia Merchant*
- Rm 2: *Jim Taylor*
- Rm 18: *Kim Post*
- Rm 20: *Noah Swift*
- Draw 11: *Jade Rad*
- Draw 12: *Dianne Jacka*

# Academic Reports and Class Placement Information

On Wednesday, families received their child's Academic Report by email, along with their class placement and teacher letter (except for Ber 4). We had a few hiccups with the new system, and the process took a little longer than expected. We will use what we've learned this year to improve the process for 2026.

The new reports do look different. Some aspects—like subject box sizes and the inability to include photos—are outside our control. As shared in the Week 3 Newsletter, teachers provided written comments for English, Maths and a general teacher comment. All other subjects for Years 1–6 include an academic grade and effort level only. Reception reports include comments for English, Maths and a general comment, plus an Effort level, but no A–E grade.

If you did not receive your child's report or letters (excluding Ber 4), please email [dl.0477.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0477.info@schools.sa.edu.au) and we'll fix it promptly.

We'll also be asking for your feedback via a short survey next week.

Thank you for your support as we navigate this new system.

## Week 0 Registration

Please see page 14 for details on our Registration Day.

# Staff Announcements and Farewells

Week 9 is always a bittersweet week for our staff, students, and school community as we celebrate those who are returning and say a sad farewll to those who are not.

We are extremely excited that the following contract teachers will remain at BPS in 2026:

- Jazz Gilbertson
- Sam Otta
- Tamara Carter
- Bec Houston
- Prue Mosman
- Sue-Ann De-Vries
- Tegan Maher

These contract teachers will join our permanent teaching staff:

- Marcia Nowlan
- Wendy Richards
- Courtney Durkay
- Abby Silverman
- Jo Michalanney
- Kerri Blackwell

Cherie Cleary will continue in the role of Wellbeing Leader.

We also say a big thank you and wish the following staff all the very best as they undertake different roles in 2026:

**Sarah:** Sarah, you have a way of approaching each day with such calmness and kindness. Your caring nature has been felt by everyone, and you've been wonderful to work with. We've really enjoyed getting to know you this year – not just as a colleague, but as a person. We've all loved your stories, your sense of humour, and the little moments about yourself and your family that you've shared with us along the way. Those things have brought warmth, connection, and plenty of smiles to our days. We're all wishing you the very best for what comes next.



**Shelley:** For anyone that knows you or has been lucky enough to work with you, knows that you give everything 110% of your time and nothing less. You are so incredibly passionate and dedicated when it comes to your work and both the staff and students at BPS are so appreciative of that. Reading Doctor, 1:1 speech work, small and large group intervention, OT, testing, library work, reading and volunteering are just a few of the many things that you have done during your time here. You come with a wealth of knowledge and love for everything that you do and for all the kids that you work with.....I know that often they fight over the time they get to spend with you because they value it dearly. While we will all miss you so much here at BPS...particularly in the Room 6/7 block, we wish you all the best for next year as you take a year of leave and hope that you enjoy your well-deserved down time!



**Alicia:** We have decided to allow our newsletter editor and clever digital designer, Alicia, to take Newsletter 1 and 3 time off as she prepares for the birth of her and Bradey's third baby - we think we are being very kind! In all seriousness we wish her well for a safe and healthy delivery and very much look forward to her rescuing us by Newsletter week 5 next year.



**Emily M:** Emily's warm and 'get in there and do it' way of life will certainly be missed next year at BPS. Emily has certainly been a favourite with the students and parents of those in her classes over the years. We wish Emily and Tate all the very best as they prepare for the arrival of their little bundle of joy. We look forward to Emily returning to BPS in 2027.



**Andrew:** Andrew's enthusiasm and well-planned approach to PE have been a true sign of his dedication. He made lessons fun, with many skills being learned at the same time. He was always willing to listen, taking time for everyone and helping whenever and wherever he could. He has been an integral part of the NIT team, consistently offering support and participating enthusiastically in meetings. In 2026, we are restructuring our 0.4 NIT role and including this as part of a 1.0 teaching position. At this point in time, Andrew is not able to undertake a 1.0 teaching load due to his family commitments, and therefore will not be continuing in the PE role for 2026. Andrew has been a valuable member of staff this year, and will still be a regular at BPS as a TRT.



**Caroline:** Caroline, What an interesting and adventurous time you have had this term. You started the term at Clare and then, next minute, you were at Balaklava, and I must say you have fitted right in. With a friendly, professional manner and a good sense of humour it soon felt as if you were part of the BPS fabric. We have appreciated your enthusiasm for any task that has come your



way and I have really enjoyed the working relationship we have built. The adventure for you will now continue as your next chapter is that of Principal at Tarlee Primary school. We would like to thank you for all you have done in your short time at BPS and wish you all the best at Tarlee. They are lucky to have you as their next principal.

**Mandy:** Mandy has been a kind and caring presence in our school, always willing to step in and help any teacher who needed support. Throughout the year she has popped into classrooms across the school, delivering engaging and meaningful activities that our students have absolutely loved. Her support has extended to every student who needed a helping hand, and her positive impact has been felt by staff and students alike. She has been an important part of BPS and the wider Balaklava community for many years, and her dedication has never gone unnoticed. While we will miss having her as part of our teaching staff next year, we are very much looking forward to welcoming her back as a regular TRT in 2026.



**Louise:** Louise has brought to the classrooms kindness, heart and caring that has made a huge impact on the students. Students were excited when she came and they all wanted to get time to spend with her. She was a huge emotional support resource for students who needed that extra care in the classroom. We are so grateful for all that she did and she will be missed. All the best for your retirement Louise.



**Jess B:** Jess has extended her leave from BPS and will be undertaking a Arts position at Burton Primary in 2026. We look forward to welcoming Jess back to BPS in 2027.



**Kim M:** Kim Maynard joined us midway through Term 3 and immediately jumped into the deep end, rebuilding relationships with staff and students alike. Kim headed off on a long-awaited holiday to Egypt just as she was starting



to find her groove. Upon her return, at the start of Week 1, she received news that she required knee surgery, and consequently finished up at the end of that week, spending the remainder of Term 4 on leave.

Kim is recovering well. We thank her for her short but impactful time at BPS and wish her all the very best as she begins her new position in 2026.

### **Michelle Pudney**

We said a very sad “farewell for now” to Michelle at the end of Term 2 when she took on a short-term Principal role at Owen. Many of us suspected we may not see Michelle return to BPS, though that didn’t stop us crossing our fingers and toes that she would return.

We now know officially that Michelle will not be returning to BPS. While we will miss Michelle enormously—for so many reasons—we are absolutely thrilled that she has won the Principal position at Watervale Primary School for the next 10 years.

BPS holds a very special place in Michelle’s heart, just as she holds a special place in the hearts of our students, families and staff. We will miss you greatly, Michelle. All the very best for this next exciting chapter.



### **Farewell to Jenny Rowland**

Jenny has been an outstanding educator and a passionate advocate for BPS, consistently going above and beyond what could ever be expected of a teacher. This year, Jenny was recognised for an incredible **50 years** of service to the Department for Education—every one of them spent here at Balaklava Primary School.



Over her remarkable career, Jenny has inspired generations of students, supported countless families and been a trusted, caring colleague to so many. Her strong numeracy focus saw her lead the school as Numeracy Coordinator, and her passionate involvement in grounds and facilities has contributed significantly to many improvements over the years.

Jenny will be taking leave in Term 1 next year and is then looking toward retirement. Once her decision is official, we will formally farewell her. In the meantime, we know we

can still rely on Jenny’s extraordinary memory whenever we need to recall anything about past students, families or former staff.

Jenny, we wish you all the very best for your well-earned leave in Term 1.

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At this point in time, we are yet to fill the Deputy Principal position.

Please see page 21 for the 2026 map. This map was also included in the class placement letter, which you should have received on Wednesday.

### **Staff Recognition**

This week, I was fortunate to award Mandy Tiller with her Recognition Certificate for 30 years of service for the Department. Congratulations Mandy on this wonderful milestone.



### **Volunteer Morning Tea**

Thank you to our volunteers who were able to attend the shared volunteer thank-you morning tea on Wednesday morning. This year, we decided to acknowledge our volunteers each term by inviting them to a morning tea and gifting them a free drink from Lisa’s Lattes — a small token of our appreciation.

We believe this has been a successful way to recognise and thank our volunteers, and we will look to continue this next year.

We received feedback that it would be helpful if the free drink from Lisa’s Lattes could be redeemed at the End of Year Celebration evening for those who are unable to attend the morning tea. We think this is a great idea and will endeavour to offer this next year.

On Wednesday, our leaders read a poem to our volunteers to thank them for their dedication and time. Please see page 6 where we have included a copy of the poem.

Congratulations to Cherie and the leaders for their work on this acknowledgement.



# SOCIAL MEDIA

## Social Media Age Restrictions

From Wednesday, new social media age restrictions came into effect across Australia. This means social media platforms must now prevent children under 16 from having an account. Importantly, the responsibility for this sits with the companies themselves—not with parents, carers, or schools.

Premier Peter Malinauskas and Minister Blair Boyer have shared information with families about these changes, along with details about the Wait Mate program, which supports children to reduce their smartphone use. This letter was emailed to families on Wednesday and can also be found on page 8.

## SeeSaw – Save Photos Now

Over the last couple of years, Jess Bushnell has managed the SeeSaw accounts across the school. This has worked well while Jess was at BPS, and even this year while she has been on leave, we have been able to continue using the account she set up. However, in 2026, Jess will require access to her account at her new site. This means we will no longer be able to use it, and a new SeeSaw account will be created for BPS.



If you wish to save any messages or photos from the current SeeSaw class, please do so before the end of next week. At that point, the 2025 class will be archived and we will no longer have access.

2026 SeeSaw codes will be included in your child's January Registration pack.

## SCHOOL TIMES



**First siren 8:25am. Students allowed on-site. Siren at 8:45am for students to go into class and rolls are marked.**

**Lesson 1 begins - 8:55am**

**Recess - 10:35am - 10:40am (Eating)  
10:40am - 11:00am (Play)**

**Lunch - 12:40pm - 12:50pm (Eating)  
12:50pm - 1:20pm (Play)**

**End of Day - 3:10pm**



# 2026 TERM DATES

## TERM 1 - 11 WEEKS

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Jan - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April

## TERM 2 - 10 WEEKS

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

## TERM 3 - 10 WEEKS

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Sep

## TERM 4 - 9 WEEKS

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Oct - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec



As we close 2025, I would sincerely like to thank each and every person who has contributed to our wonderful school this year. A special thank you goes to the hardworking and dedicated members of our Governing Council, Parent Coordinating Committee, Bus Committee, Finance Committee, Grounds and Facilities Committee, and Canteen Committee.

I deeply value the time these volunteers commit each term. Their feedback, support and advocacy for Balaklava Primary School are truly appreciated.

I look forward to continuing our strategic work together in 2026.

# DIARY DATES

Remember to pop these dates on the calendar:



**MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026**  
Public Holiday - Australia Day

**TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026**  
First Day of Term 1, 2026



# BPS Volunteer - Thank you Poem

Good morning everyone. We are the BPS school leaders.

On behalf of all students at Balaklava Primary School, we would like to say a huge thank you to our amazing volunteers. You give up your time to help us in so many ways.

We would like to present the:

## Ode to Our School Volunteers

Some read with our young ones, oh patient and kind,  
Listening to stories— yes, it's reading time!  
Others appear, when the whistle is blown,  
Setting up sports days— they're never alone!

Timers at races, with ribbons in hand,  
Cheering on swimmers and runners so grand.  
Who packs up at sunset, when all have gone home?  
Volunteers, of course, never leaving alone!

They come on excursions (with snacks and a hat),  
Surviving the chaos— imagine that!  
Who cleans out fridges (oh, what a surprise),  
Finding old sandwiches rotting inside.

Some sit on committees— what *heroes* you are,  
Debating and planning both near and far.  
On photo day morning, when hair just won't stay,  
Volunteers rescue us — hip hip hooray!

Cakes are baked, and on sports days are sold.  
Coming on camps, you are certainly bold.  
Some drive to SAPSASA, the kids pile inside,  
With snacks, pep talks — what a wild ride!

Supporting fundraisers, working the till,  
Helping in the canteen, they do it with skill.  
For every odd job, both big ones and small,  
Volunteers like you— we thank most of all!

So here's to your spirit, your laughter and care,  
Balaklava's heart— you're always there.  
We'd be lost without you, our school's dearest friends,  
Our volunteers' tale? It never quite ends!

You might not realise it, but you make a big difference in our learning and in our lives.  
Because of you, we feel supported and encouraged to do our best. You help make our  
school a better place, and our education richer and more fun. So, thank you for everything  
you do—for your kindness, for your patience, and for all the time you spend helping us. We  
appreciate you more than words can say!

We hope you enjoy your morning tea.



## THE HON PETER MALINAUSKAS MP

PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Dear Parent / Caregiver

Last year, the South Australian Government released a report outlining our plan to implement a social media ban for children in South Australia – and made the case for national adoption.

Now, the Federal Government's world-leading, nationwide social media ban for under 16s commences. Social media platforms are now required to prevent those under 16 years from holding an account - with the responsibility on the companies, not parents, to comply with the law.

As with any major reform, things will not go perfectly, and not all issues will be solved overnight. However, the world-leading laws are a huge step toward creating a safer online environment for our young people.

Having led the world on the ban - and implemented our comprehensive phone ban in schools - the State Government will now make the Wait Mate program available to every public and private school in the state.

Wait Mate is designed to reduce smartphone use among children to reshape social norms around early phone adoption. The program empowers parents to unite, delay smartphone introduction, and support each other through shared commitment.

Supported by resources, presentations, and an online pledge system, parents commit to encouraging their children to wait. Once ten families from the same year level at a school have committed, a local email community is unlocked to help them stay connected and reduce peer pressure for phones at school.

State Government funding will provide the opportunity for Wait Mate to present to parents at all South Australian primary schools during 2026-27, and all high schools during 2027-28.

Smartphones can be a gateway to social media, constant connectivity, and often, exposure to harmful content, cyberbullying, and addictive algorithms.

Research suggests that delaying smartphone ownership supports a child's cognitive development and learning, allowing them to build academic confidence and executive functioning skills, as well as strengthen focus and attention span without the constant pull of a device. Importantly, a delay provides more time for your child to experience the real world – supporting healthy development.

Like seatbelts and smoking in the past, every generation has its challenges requiring widespread cultural change and regulation – we believe smartphones and social media unregulated in the hands of children, are one of the modern challenges of our time.

We are proud that South Australia has led the way on important reform that will ensure our children and young people are protected and well-equipped for the world they are growing up in. Further information about Wait Mate may be found here: <https://www.waitmate.org.au/>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Malinauskas".

Peter Malinauskas  
**PREMIER**

10 / 12 / 2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Blair Boyer".

Blair Boyer  
**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING AND SKILLS**

10 / 12 / 2025



# THE YEAR THAT WAS 2025 - TERM 1

Term 1 was a positive and energetic start to the year at BPS. We welcomed our new Reception students along with several new families, beginning the year with 224 students across ten mainstream classes and one Disability Unit. Our staff team also grew, with Prue Mosman, Tamara Carter, Mandy Tiller, Sarah Kenny, Airlee Carr and Lee-Anne McCracken, joining us. Although we had anticipated welcoming Chloe Waldren in Term 1, she was unable to join us due to family circumstances in Ireland. Later in the term we were pleased to welcome Chris Bennett as our new Groundsman. We said a sad farewell to Aunty Marg, a much-loved volunteer whose contribution to our school community will long be remembered.

Students jumped enthusiastically into leadership opportunities. School Captains were appointed, with Scarlett, Penelope, Sid and Cameron proudly taking on the role for 2025. House Captains stepped up quickly to help organise both the Swimming Carnival and Sports Day, and we also celebrated the appointment of our Performing Arts Captains. Reception students began their reading journey with their "Welcome to Balaklava" books, and Reading Awards together with our Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Our Best awards remained highlights of our Community Assemblies.

Significant facility upgrades took place throughout the term. Disability access improvements were completed, including a new ramp into the OSU, electronic doors, a wheelchair platform in the Well, and widened automated doors into the Admin building. A verandah was installed over the Red Brick toilets, along with fresh paving and a wider path from Room 8. Air conditioners were replaced in Rooms 1 and 2, and by Week 9 Room 7 received its upgrade – a welcome relief for Emily. Irrigation was installed across the school grounds, helping transform the oval back to lush green. Three new shelter seats were installed on the oval by Diane, Murray, Sam and Leigh and have been incredibly well used. Scott from Rusted Tin returned to repaint the Rebound Wall mural and create new artwork on the OSU western wall and Room 20 bag rack.

The term offered many memorable learning experiences. Our Year 6 students enjoyed a fantastic camp at Victor Harbor while Reception to Year 5 students participated in swimming lessons. The whole school embraced the Swimming Carnival with great enthusiasm, and Preston took out the win with several records broken on the day. BCCC kindy students began their transition visits, and our Year 3 and 5 students completed NAPLAN in Week 7. SAPSASA events featured strongly, with students participating in softball, cricket, tennis, swimming and 3-6 volleyball. The engaging African Soul Hands on Rhythm workshop incursion was a highlight.

Clubs and curriculum enrichment thrived across the term. Science Club launched on Tuesdays with strong student interest, supported by Anastasia, Teagan and a team of eager helpers. Minecraft Monday was another popular lunchtime offering. Our Festival of Music Choir began rehearsals under the guidance of Heidi Zerk, and we introduced a Year 3/4 Choir. The FOM Choir received glowing feedback at their assessment, and we were delighted to welcome special guests Mrs Bushnell and Wolfgang to hear them perform. The Premier's Reading Challenge also took off early, with many students already joining the "reward flight with pilot Jarman."

We enjoyed a mix of special events and unexpected surprises. Welcome Night was a scorcher weather-wise, yet families still turned out to connect with staff. Lisa's Lattes proving very popular. Pre-Sports Day events created plenty of excitement in the lead-up to another successful Sports Day, once again won by Preston. A particularly hot day brought an unexpected power outage, and with no clear restoration time, the Department directed the school to close for the remainder of the day. Toward the end of the term, we farewelled Mrs Fiegert as she commenced maternity leave and wished Miss Behn all the best for her upcoming wedding. We even received a cheerful surprise visit from the Easter Bunny.

Behind the scenes, important governance and organisational work continued. The annual financial audit was completed, and the Governing Council AGM was held, where Paul Harvey was appointed as Chair, taking over from Kirstyn Rundle, while Ali Tiller continued as Chair of the PCC. This year, the PCC agreed to operate without a separate AGM, with subcommittees now established. As a school community, we revisited and reaffirmed our core foundations: our Vision – *Every Learner Stretched, Engaged, and Achieving*; our Expectations – *Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Your Best*; and our Motto – *Believe, Participate, Succeed*.

# *THE YEAR THAT WAS 2025 - TERM 2*

Term 2 began with a strong sense of community and pride as Scarlett, Penelope, Cameron and Sidney represented Balaklava Primary School at the Balaklava ANZAC Day Dawn Service. Supported by Cherie and Jo, our School Leaders carried out their roles with maturity and respect, and we were grateful for the way they represented our school.

During the holiday break, the Department for Education reviewed enrolment numbers in our Disability Unit. With enrolments remaining low, the Department made the decision to inactivate the Unit from the beginning of Term 2. Although this was a significant change, the transition was handled with care and support for the families involved.

We welcomed several staff changes during the term. Jazz Gilbertson, who had joined us late in Term 1, stepped into a full-time teaching role in Room 2 following Jess F's maternity leave. We also welcomed Andrew Jettner, who taught PE two days each week, allowing us to re-establish our specialist PE program with greater consistency. Tegan Mahar joined the team to provide teachers with valuable Non-Instruction Time support each week.

Throughout Term 2, staff reviewed the number of extra-curricular activities offered across the school. We found that participating in every event on the calendar would result in additional commitments almost every week, reducing classroom learning time. As a result, we made a conscious decision to balance enrichment with our priority of providing strong learning programs in the classroom. Certain events, such as Walk to School Day, were acknowledged and encouraged, but not run as formal staff-led activities.

Several key events brought the school community together during the term. The Mother's Day Stall was a great success thanks to the support of our volunteers, and school photos ran smoothly with the help of parent helpers. SAPSASA events featured netball, football and cross country, giving students opportunities to participate and compete beyond the school gate.

A standout moment for our younger learners was the Junior Primary Olden Day Dress Up Morning, held as part of their HASS learning. Reception to Year 2/3 students had been exploring life in the olden days and celebrated their learning by arriving at school in charming vintage outfits. They enjoyed traditional games, danced the Heel and Toe Polka, and experienced a fun and educational glimpse into the past.

Reconciliation Week was another highlight. Students participated in boomerang art, face painting with traditional colours, and painting with natural materials. Thank you to Michelle, Sal, Sue Ann and Sammi for planning meaningful activities that helped deepen understanding of Kurna culture and the importance of reconciliation. Throughout the week, the school embraced the Kurna greeting "Niina Marni!"—hello.

We also celebrated National Simultaneous Storytime on 21 May, joining thousands of schools across Australia to read *The Truck Cat* by Deborah Frenkel and Danny Snell. Mrs Cleary and Mrs Jarman delighted students by performing the story, bringing humour and heart to the adventures of Tinka the truck cat and his human, Yacoub. Students were thoroughly engaged in this warm and memorable session about belonging and friendship.

Author Harry Dall returned during the term to share his book *When My Worries Get Too Big*, prompting thoughtful discussions about emotions and wellbeing.

Toward the end of the term, we held a Volunteer Morning Tea to express our appreciation for the many parents, grandparents and community members who generously give their time to support the school. Crazy Hair Day was another highlight, filling the yard with colour and creativity while raising funds for SRC. We concluded the term by farewelling Michelle Pudney as she moved to Owen Primary School to take on the Principal position.

# *THE YEAR THAT WAS 2025 - TERM 3*

Term 3 was a busy and exciting time at Balaklava Primary School. We began the term by warmly welcoming our mid-year intake of Reception students, along with new staff member Jo Cleary and the return of Sally Holmes to our ancillary team. We were also pleased to confirm that Jazz Gilbertson would continue teaching in Room 2 for the remainder of the year. Midway through the term, we welcomed our new Deputy Principal, Kim Maynard, who settled quickly into her new role.

A major highlight was the launch of our revamped school website, giving our community a fresh, modern platform for information and updates. We also reviewed the way we present Reading Awards, moving away from group photos taken after assembly and instead using general school photos in the newsletter – a change we plan to continue into 2026.

This term also provided an opportunity to recognise the incredible dedication of our staff. At our Staff and Volunteers Morning Tea, we celebrated three significant milestones: Stacey Thompson (10 years), Wendy Richards (30 years), and Jenny Rowland (50 years) of service to Balaklava Primary School. Their commitment and contribution to public education acknowledged with appreciation.

Students enjoyed a wide range of learning experiences and events. Our Year 4/5 students had an adventurous and memorable stay at Woodhouse Camp, and our Festival of Music choir attended rehearsals in Adelaide before performing at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre. Science Week activities and our ever-growing Science Club continued to inspire curiosity and hands-on learning across the school.

Our students also experienced success in sport, with SAPSASA Basketball progressing to the next round in Kadina, and SAPSASA Athletics held in Saddleworth. SAPSASA Soccer was also held. Thank you to those who made these opportunities possible.

Book Week was once again a standout celebration, filled with morning story times, daily lunchtime activities, a vibrant visiting performance, and our much-loved street parade. Classrooms opened for families during our Open Morning, creating a wonderful sense of connection across our school community.

Our Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) adventure continued, with Mrs Jarman, pilot, taking students on journeys across the world. Students visited Vikings on the high seas, astronauts in outer space, jungle explorers, and even the Pride Lands with the Room 6 Lions.

Behind the scenes, several important operational developments took place. We farewelled Audiri as EMS transition preparations began, including the introduction of new absence-reporting systems via Forms. A joint Fundraising, Facilities, and Grounds meeting proved extremely productive, and will be something we will look to regularly feature in 2026. Parking around the school continued to require attention, with WRC repainting yellow lines and installing clearer signage to support safer and lawful parking. This continues to be an area for improvement.

There was a lot to celebrate as well: our school disco was a huge hit with students of all ages, and the Balaklava Eisteddfod was a tremendous success, both through enthusiastic student participation and the amazing volunteer support. PCC worked hard to fill the show roster, and a dedicated group of helpers ensured all BPS dads received gifts from the Father's Day Stall.

We enjoyed a visit from Professor Flint, who brought dinosaurs to life for our students with his engaging presentations. Late in the term, I was proud to attend the Service Recognition event where both Marcia and Cherie were honoured for an outstanding 50 years of service each to the Department for Education.

We wrapped up the term with our much-loved Volunteer Thank You Morning Tea, a special moment to acknowledge the generous people who support our school in so many ways.

# ***THE YEAR THAT WAS 2025 - TERM 4***

Term 4 was a significant and eventful end to the year at Balaklava Primary School. We officially welcomed the arrival of EMS and said farewell to EDSAS, marking a major shift in our administrative systems.

We began the term by farewelling Kim Maynard, who had served as our Acting Deputy Principal from Week 5 in Term 3. Kim took unexpected leave and finished up at the end of week 1, and we extended our warm wishes for her future. Soon after, we welcomed Caroline Charnstrom as Acting Deputy Principal from Week 2, for the remainder of the 2025 school year.

Our students enjoyed a wide range of excursions and learning experiences. Rooms 6 and 7 visited the Adelaide Zoo, while Rooms 1, 18, and 20 toured Parliament House and were fortunate to meet Penny Pratt during their visit. Students also participated in a cricket workshop organised by Andrew Jettner and delivered by BBL and WBBL stars, which was a highlight for many. Our successful SAPSASA Basketball team continued their journey, competing in Adelaide following their achievements in Kadina.

Mrs Cleary and I proudly attended the Children's University Graduation at Adelaide University, where our graduates were recognised for their dedication and effort.

Term 4 also included important community events. Although there was no official Remembrance Day service at the Triangle, Room 18, Room 20, and our four School Leaders joined Balaklava High School Leaders for a thoughtful and respectful commemoration. Our students spoke beautifully about the significance of the day before laying a wreath on behalf of BPS.

We were thrilled to welcome the BCCC transition students, who visited over three Wednesdays as they prepared for their Reception year, while our own Year 6 students began their transition to high school. Across Terms 3 and 4, all students enjoyed engaging Taekwondo sessions, which were enthusiastically received. The choir continued sharing their talents, performing at Walara.

Several important facility updates occurred, including the installation of new blinds on half of the BER shelter and the removal of the large BER tree after it did not pass a DfE safety risk assessment.

Our students continued to excel and participate in school wellbeing and engagement programs. Students who completed the Premier's Reading Challenge were rewarded with an Amazing Race celebration, while those who participated in the Be Active Challenge received their certificates or medallions. We also enjoyed a two-day visit from Paul Rutter, who ran a drawing workshop with every class, sparking creativity across the school, and the JAM Band once again proved to be a hit.

Unfortunately, extreme weather forced the cancellation of excursions for BER 1, 2, 3, 4 and Room 2, but staff quickly arranged alternative activities to ensure students still enjoyed memorable experiences.

The Balaklava Show was another success, thanks to the coordination of PCC and the many volunteers who donated time, help, and items. As one of our major fundraisers, we deeply appreciated the efforts of everyone involved.

Our End of Year Celebration embraced the fun theme of the BPS Eras Tour, with music and dance spanning from the 1920s through to today. It was a vibrant and joyful evening enjoyed by students, families, and staff alike.

Year 6 students enjoyed their graduation excursion to The Beachouse, while the Year 4/5 classes celebrated the end of the year with a day full of bouncing fun. We closed the term with our "epic" Volunteer Thank You Morning Tea, which also included staff farewells – a bittersweet but meaningful way to finish the school year.

*Throughout 2025, Balaklava Primary School embraced its **Vision: "Every Learner Stretched, Engaged, and Achieving," Expectations: "Be Safe, Be Kind, and Be Your Best," and Motto: "Believe, Participate, Succeed."** It has been a year of learning, leadership, and community, and we look forward to 2026 with excitement and optimism.*

# School Community Award

On Monday, at the school concert, there was two volunteer awards presented, the first one being the Tom Venning MP School Community Award.

This award was presented to Gary Wilson. Gary has made, and continues to make, a significant contribution to BPS. Every year in the lead up to Sports Day, you will see him at BPS helping students learn, prepare, and train, and guiding staff with his expertise and wisdom. You will also find Gary here on event days. He is often the first to arrive and won't leave until the last job is done. Gary helps at events such as Swimming Carnivals and a range of SAPSASA events, and he is often a volunteer on Room 6 excursions. The JP vine also wouldn't look like it does if he didn't tend to it so diligently. If he doesn't put his hand up himself, he is usually volunteered by someone he knows well. Gary will never say no, always comes with a smile on his face, and has the willingness to pitch in from start to finish.

We are extremely grateful for his ongoing support, which has spanned a number of years. We appreciate his willingness to do whatever he can to help. His support is unwavering, and for that, we are truly grateful. Once again, thank you very much Gary.

# Minister for Education Volunteering Award

The second award presented was the Minister for Education Volunteering Award.

This award was presented to Shannon Petch. Shannon is a volunteer who quietly gives so generously always going above and beyond for our school community. Shannon often gives her time from behind the scenes, supporting in countless ways. Over the years that her son has attended BPS, she has listened to reading, assisted in classrooms, and supported many events - baking homemade treats and soups, providing for Breakfast Club, fundraising, serving on the Bus Committee, and attending and organising excursions, to name a few.

Her willingness to volunteer to help is truly exceptional. I have greatly valued her feedback; her broad thinking and inclusive approach have been insightful and thought-provoking. Even as her son graduates this year, she is already looking for ways to continue contributing to BPS.

Congratulations Shannon on this receiving this award. We appreciate your wonderful dedication and ongoing support to Balaklava Primary School.

Thank you to both Gary and Shannon for the many years of volunteering towards Balaklava Primary School, we greatly appreciate all the hard work and dedication you provide to making our school a better school.

THANK  
=YOU!=

Dear Parent/Caregiver, **in January you will receive via email:**

- 2026 M&S Charge invoice per student
- 2026 Info-tech levy invoice per student
- 2026 Swim levy invoice per student R-5 \$12
- 2026 Performances levy invoice per student
- 2026 School Card online application form information. **Available at** [School Card scheme](#) page on the SA GOV website **opening mid January 2026.**

• Tips & Reminders  
*Plus where applicable:*

- 2026 Yr 6 Aquatics Camp total invoice
- Statement of credits with and /or any outstanding amounts owed to BPS

**REGISTRATION DAY: for ALL students as per BUS ROAD outdoor car lanes  
 January 2026 Fri. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1.30pm-4pm**

**NB: EXPRESS LANE Click and Collect for those who have made prior payment / School Card application & have forms completed.**

**If working, call to make a time to come in.**

Payment can be made in the following ways:

- Cash
- Eftpos
- Qkr.
- Direct Debit to: BSB: 065 000 Account: 12133346
- Phone on the 21<sup>st</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 between 10am and 2pm

**Instalments** by arrangement prior to 5/2/2026, please email [dl.0477.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0477.info@schools.sa.edu.au)

**Registration Packs will be issued** immediately following the Payment of Fees **OR** Completion of 2026 SCHOOL CARD form **OR** the Payment of \$60/student and where required, an INSTALMENT PLAN AGREEMENT signed.

Students will not receive their pack until contact has been made with the school.

2026 Materials & Services plus Extras, Ready Reckoner

	1 student R-Yr5	1 student Yr6
M&S	310	310
less 2026 M&S Rebate	-200	-200
ICT levy	13	13
Swimming levy	12	0
Performances levy *	40	40
*less early pay discount	-5	-5
TOTAL	170	158
<b>TOTAL before 2/2/25 *</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>158</b>
<b>TOTAL after 2/2/25</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>163</b>
<b>School Card families</b>	<b>1 student</b>	<b>1 student</b>
M&S	0	0
ICT levy	13	13
Swimming levy	12	0
Performances levy	40	40
*less early pay discount	-5	-5
<b>TOTAL before 2/2/25 *</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>TOTAL after 2/2/25</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Additional Payments</b>		

- Yr 6 students \$160/stu Aquatics camp deposit **\$40 by 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb** & balance by 15<sup>th</sup> Feb

- Yr 6 students approx. \$50/stu POLOSHIRT – size, order & pay at TADS by Fri **30<sup>th</sup> JAN**

If you have any questions over the holiday break, email [dl.0477.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0477.info@schools.sa.edu.au).

# EXCURSIONS TO:

**BOUNCE** 3  
FREE SPIRITS UNLEASHED



*The Beach House*



# C H R I S T M A S

# C R A F T





# 2025 END OF YEAR

# Concert



# 2025 END OF YEAR Concert



# 2025 END OF YEAR

# Concert



## **BPS 2025 - Yellow Submarine**

At the start of the year, we unpacked our brand new gear,  
Some nervous little kids, year sixes full of cheer.  
Then Aquatics camp arrived - every moment felt unreal  
Woodhouse camp full of fun - the activities made them squeal

We learned and laughed at Balak Primary School,  
Balak Primary School, Balak Primary School.  
We learned and laughed at Balak Primary School,  
Balak Primary School - the year has gone so fast!

Year three had a sleepover - no teacher slept a wink,  
We splashed at Swimming Carnival, Sports Day came in a blink.

Disco lights were flashing bright and fast  
Flashing bright and fast - the fun just seemed to last  
Mrs Jarman piloted the plane, the reading challenge place  
Adventure was the aim.

Bookweek costumes filled the street,  
Taekwondo the coolest treat  
Lots of excursions filled the year  
each experience brought a cheer.

Friends and memories everywhere,  
A year of learning, laughs and care.  
Raise your voice sing loud and clear,  
What a crazy, happy year!

We explored and grew at Balak Primary School,  
Balak Primary School, Balak Primary School  
We belong together at Balak Primary School  
Balak Primary School, Yes, Balak Primary School

We learned and laughed at Balak Primary School,  
Balak Primary School, the year has gone so fast  
We've had a blast at Balak Primary School.  
Balak Primary School - what a brilliant year!



# 2025 GRADUATION FOR *Year 6's*

## **Masonic Lodge Award (Community)**

- Positive Attitude
- Puts in effort in all areas
- Consistency effort in work and behavior
- Community orientated, helpful and respectful

This student exemplifies the values and qualities recognised by the Masonic Lodge Award. Throughout the year, they have maintained a positive attitude and approached every aspect of their schooling with consistent effort and dedication.

Not only do they strive for excellence in their work and behaviour, but they are also recognised for their commitment to helping others and making a difference within the community.

Their respectful and community-orientated approach inspires those around them, as they are always willing to lend a helping hand by setting up and packing up at local sporting events and fundraisers.

It is with great respect that we acknowledge this outstanding student as the recipient of the Masonic Lodge Award – **Cameron Petch**.



## **High Academic Achiever for 2025**

Each year among the graduating class of Year 6's one of them is one who has excelled academically and shown remarkable responsibility and reliability.

This student has consistently achieved outstanding grades, demonstrating dedication and a passion for learning. Their commitment to excellence and their supportive nature have made a lasting impact on our school community.

As we look to the future, we are confident that these qualities will lead to continued success and fulfilment,

The recipient of the 2025 Penny Pratt MP Academic High Achiever is **Ruby Milway**.

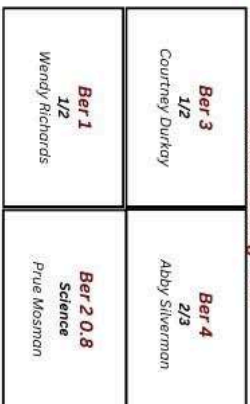
## *Congratulations to Cameron & Ruby*



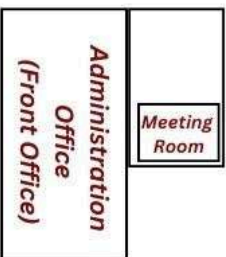
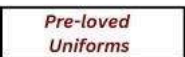
# Balaklava Primary School

## 2026 Classroom Map

### Banksia Building - BER



### Playground



**Non-Instruction Time (NIT)**  
Tegon Maher 0.4 PE

**Leadership for 2025**  
Principal: Dianna Jarman

**Wellbeing Co-ordinator:** Cherie Cleary  
**Curriculum Co-ordinator:** Jo Michalannev  
**Autism Inclusion:** TBA  
**ACEO:** TBA  
**PCW:** TBA

Wallace Street

Wombat Crossing

Main School Entrance & Exit

NO PEDESTRIAN OR VEHICLE ACCESS: BUS ROAD ONLY

0.2 = 1 day

# JAM BAND

FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOV



# WEEK 8 ASSEMBLY AWARDS



## Room 6

Ethan, Zara, Patrick & Emma



## Room 7

Henry, Darci & Saskia



## Room 1

Harper, Mackenzie, Bain & Monty



## Room 2

Kaleah, Dominic & Harriett

# WEEK 8 ASSEMBLY AWARDS



**Ber 1**  
Willow & Charlie



**Ber 2**  
Leo & Amahli



**Ber 3**  
Mia, Hugo, Mason, Saskia & Jaylen



# WEEK 8 ASSEMBLY AWARDS



## **Ber 4**

Jackson, Rosie, Nash, Phillipa & Justice



## **Room 18**

Dylan & Eva



## **Room 20**

Sofia, Tamika & Zakkary

# WEEK 8 LEXILE AWARDS

**BLUE**



Abby

**RED**



Sofia & CJ

**BRONZE**



Lucy

**SILVER**



Kendall

**GOLD**



Georgia

# NIGHTS OF READING AWARDS



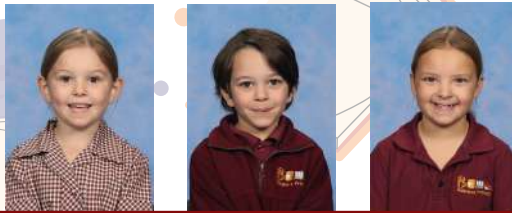
**25 Nights**  
Curtis, Alex & Brody



**50 Nights**  
Aaliyah



**75 Nights**  
Reuben



**100 Nights**  
Claire, Jack & Hazel

# NIGHTS OF READING AWARDS



**125 Nights**

Fletcher, Chelkiah, Riley & Alfie



**150 Nights**

Kate



**175 Nights**

Saskia & Mack



**200 Nights**

Jasper

# NIGHTS OF READING AWARDS



**225 Nights**  
Herc & Georgia



**250 Nights**  
Patrick



# BALAKLAVA CHRISTMAS PAGEANT BPS FLOAT

**DECEMBER 19TH**

WE WOULD LOVE SOME ELVES TO  
JOIN OUR BPS FLOAT! COME  
DRESSED AS AN ELF OR WEAR A  
RED, GREEN OR WHITE TOP.

MEET AT 5:45PM FOR A 6PM START  
BALAKLAVA OVAL



# Community News



**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

FROM THE STAFF AT  
BALAKLAVA PRIMARY  
SCHOOL



**BALAKLAVA  
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

**FOOD, FREE FUN &  
FESTIVITIES FOR ALL!**

FRIDAY	<b>19</b>	DECEMBER
--------	-----------	----------

BALAKLAVA OVAL  
ENTER VIA WHITWARTA ROAD

FESTIVITIES 5:15PM  
PARADE STARTS AT 6:00 PM



**BALAKLAVA COMMUNITY CAROLS**

*Children's Choir*

For Primary school aged children who love to sing.  
Rehearsals Wednesday afternoons  
3:30-4:30pm  
26th Nov, 3rd Dec, 10th Dec  
Horizon Centre foyer.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
AND TO REGISTER YOUR CHILDS INTEREST,  
PLEASE CONTACT RACHEL JENKINS  
0400254180

*Youth Choir*

ANY SECONDARY STUDENTS INTERESTED  
IN JOINING THE YOUTH CHOIR,  
PLEASE CONTACT MELANIE EVANS  
0427796970

CAROLS TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 21ST



## BALAKLAVA COMMUNITY LIBRARY CHRISTMAS & SUMMER ACTIVITES

The Balaklava Community Library have a range of activities available throughout the Christmas & Summer holidays.

Look at their Facebook for more details and booking links.



**FUN FACT: ★**

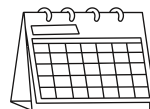
It takes about 50 licks to finish just one scoop of ice cream.



# Farewell to our 2025 Year 6's



## Calendar Dates



**Balaklava Christmas Pageant -**  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
Balaklava Oval



**Balaklava Carols by  
Candlelight -**  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025



**BPS Registration Day**  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026



**Public Holiday**  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**NO  
SCHOOL**

**First Day of Term 1 2026**  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026

