

BALAKLAVA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Students enjoyed Casual Clothes Day last week! Some even had an Easter twist to their outfit!



Balaklava Primary School acknowledges that we are meeting on the Traditional Land of the Kurna people we recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs, and relationship with Country. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the continued importance of the relationship of country to the Kurna people living today. We promise to look after all the living creatures and plant life whose survival depends on the water, air and environment of Kurna Country.

IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL

10th Last Day of Term 1
2:10pm Early Dismissal

27th Term 2 Begins

30th Winter Hub @ Blyth -
 Football & Netball

MAY

7th Tennis

8th Community Assembly
 - 2:15pm for 2:20pm
 start - OSU Well
 (Library)

11th Cross Country @
 Burra

12th Finance Meeting
 Governing Council

14th Tennis

Community Assembly

Term 2 - Fridays
 Week 2, 4, 6 & 8

2:20pm start

OSU (Open Space Unit) Well
 (Library)

ALL WELCOME



From the Principal Dianna Jarman

Time flies when you are having fun. It was wonderful to return to BPS this week. I thoroughly enjoyed the past six weeks and learnt a great deal, but it has been equally exciting to return and reconnect with our students, staff and community. The welcome back that I have received has been truly heartwarming.

I would sincerely like to thank Jo for the wonderful job she did in the Principal role during my leave. Jo worked tirelessly and achieved a great deal in a short time, and for that I am extremely grateful.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Kym for his support over the past ten weeks –both in assisting leadership while we were without a Deputy Principal, and in supporting Billie’s transition into the role. Thank you also to Leah for stepping into the Rm 18 teaching role. Thank you must also go to everyone else who has picked up extra workload, to cover my absence. I am truly grateful to you all.

Farewell

This fortnight we have farewelled two ancillary staff members (classroom-based SSO staff).

Airlie has secured employment outside the Department for Education, and we are delighted she has found her dream job. During her time at BPS, Airlie was instrumental in driving the work of the Reconciliation Action Group and contributed significantly to our Reconciliation Action Plan. She built strong relationships with students and staff, who greatly valued her initiative and commitment. We wish Airlie all the very best for the next chapter.



Jess has been at BPS for two days a week during Term 1.

She brought wonderful energy to the classroom and a



wealth of experience from her work in an Adelaide school, which she generously shared with us. We have particularly appreciated her passion for Indigenous native foods and the learning this has inspired. We thank Jess for her contributions to BPS and look forward to working with her again in the future.



Goodbye

Working Bee

Thank you in advance to those who have generously offered their time to assist over the weekend. The focus of the working bee will be digging out the compacted softfall in our Ninja playground so it can be replaced to the required depth of 30 cm of certified softfall, which meets legal requirements for schools.



We did explore increasing the border height around the Ninja playground to accommodate the required depth; however, a compliant solution was estimated to cost in excess of \$46,000. Instead, we will be digging down to ensure that 30 cm of softfall can be achieved within the existing border.

Thank you to Jo and the Grounds Committee, who have been instrumental in progressing this project, which has been in discussion for the past 12 months.

Site Learning Plan

You may recall that in 2025, our Site Learning Plan focus at BPS was building student resilience. The data, collected at the end of 2024, showed that students were becoming more capable of navigating day-to-day challenges; however, when learning became difficult, some students were still giving up, reporting that they felt unwell, removing themselves to the Engine Room, or demonstrating a fight-or-flight response.

To address this, teachers discussed where we currently were (based on data), where we wanted to get to, and what we needed to do to achieve this.

As a result, teachers introduced a Daily Maths Review as a way to safely challenge students. We chose this approach because our work



with the Systematic Phonics Routine. This had already shown that students were demonstrating greater resilience in Phonics lessons. This improvement is largely due to consistent, predictable routines, which help reduce cognitive load. With these predictable routines, students didn't need to use all of their brain power on thinking or worrying about the lesson, instead, they knew the structure of the lessons like the back of their hand and could put all of their energy into the learning tasks.

This work is led by Jo in her role as Pedagogy Coordinator. On page 9 you can see our plan. Jo will share our 2026 Inquiry Cycle and outline key focus strategies in the Term 2, Week 1 Newsletter, with ongoing updates provided each fortnight. This graphic shows our Strategy for Public Education, improvement planning journey.

Another positive outcome of the Daily Maths Review has been an increased willingness among students to attempt more challenging tasks and to view mistakes as opportunities for learning. The graphic above outlines our Inquiry Cycle, which guided this work in 2025.

During our recent Student Free Day, we again analysed data aligned with the Department for Education's Strategy for Public Education. We gathered feedback from staff and students across four key areas: Wellbeing, Equity and Excellence, Learner Agency, and Effective Learners.

Congratulations to Emily and Tate who welcomed a Baby Girl, Ollie into their family! We can't wait to meet her.

Our data shows strong growth from 2024 to 2026. One area identified for further development is within Effective Learners, particularly the subdomain of Strategic Awareness.



You can learn more about the strategy by visiting the Department for Education website: [Our strategy for public education in South Australia](#)

In 2026, our focus will be on supporting students **to know what to do when they don't know what to do**. Our Inquiry Cycle will centre on building a range of practical strategies that students can draw upon in everyday situations.



BALAKLAVA PRIMARY SCHOOL

CASUAL CLOTHES DAY

WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL





Balaklava Primary School

Term 2 Crossing Roster



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:25am	FLETCHER R	FLETCHER R	PRUDENCE W	PATRICK P	GEORGIA M
8:45am	ARCHER W	ARCHER W	FRED L	DECLAN M	SAGE F
	BILLIE WILLETT	BILLIE WILLETT	DIANNA JARMAN	BILLIE WILLETT	DIANNA JARMAN
3:05pm	CHLOE M	WYATT S	SAGE F	EVAM	TIM B
3:20pm	HELP NEEDED	REMY H	PRUDENCE W	LILLY W	INDI H
	DIANNA JARMAN	BILLIE WILLETT	BILLIE WILLETT	DIANNA JARMAN	DIANNA JARMAN

Reserves: TBA :

If you are unable to do your crossing duty, please swap with someone else or ask a reserve. Please let Mrs Jarman or DP know when you have swapped.
DON'T FORGET YOUR HAT!

Be Safe, Be Kind, Be your Best

Every learner engaged, stretched and achieving.

We are still seeking a student to volunteer Monday Afternoons. If your child is 10 years or older, completed the training last year and is interested, please text the school mobile on 0428026285. Thank you to those who have volunteered for Term 2!

SAPSASA
CROSS COUNTRY

IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED -
PLEASE SEE MRS MAHER FOR MORE
INFORMATION

SAPSASA schoolsport 5

Room 14 Newsletter Item:

SURVIVAL SHELTER CHALLENGE

Room 14 have enjoyed combining HASS and Tech together for a survival shelter challenge. Students had to design and engineer a shelter using choices of natural and manmade materials to withstand the elements of weather patterns we have in South Australia. Groups decided to build lean-to shelters, mud huts, debris huts, A-frame shelters, log cabins, and Teepee shelters. Students then predicted what would happen to their shelter structure with a high wind test, and if their structure would protect a Lego man from getting wet in three rain events.



THANK YOU

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the people who have Volunteered throughout the Term!

- Megan Arthur
- Chris Bennett
- Duncan Crawford
- Diane Gregor
- Rose Haahesey
- Sal Haahesey
- Paul Harvie
- Dianna Jarman
- Jeremy Lomman
- Nikki McCracken
- Lauren March
- Amy May
- Jo Michalanne
- Tammy Nicholls
- Rhiannon Penhall
- Alisha Senior
- Emily Stowers
- Lucy Sutton
- Ali Tiller
- Leigh Wright
- Sam Wright
- Angela Battle
- Marty Brice
- Cherie Cleary
- Kevyna Gardner
- Murray Gregor
- Shelley Litzow
- Kym Merchant
- Kerry Michalanne
- Mel Moulds
- Helen Patch
- Barb Rodgers
- James Rundle
- Stacey Thompson
- Gary Wilson
- Naomi Rohlach



A poem was read out by the School Leaders at the Volunteers Morning Tea on Wednesday:

Good Morning. We are the Balaklava Primary School student leaders.
Our names are: Patrick, Lucy, Lacey & Lans.

We would like to welcome you here today for our special celebration of term one volunteers.
Our school appreciates all of the time and effort you put in, to make our school a great place.

Today we would like to share with you the type of people who choose to volunteer.

Very kind people who help every day,
Offering smiles in a warm, friendly way.
Lending a hand when there's work to be done,
Using your time to help everyone.

Never too busy to brighten our day,
Thank you for caring in your special way!
Even when things get a little bit tough,
Everyone knows that you're strong and not gruff.

Remember, dear volunteers, we think you're the best -
And we hope this morning tea will pass the taste test.

Thank you for being a Volunteer.

Congratulations!



Congratulations to the Year 5/6 Choir on a very successful assessment for the Festival of Music on Tuesday. They passed with flying colours receiving an A!! Well done!

BALAKLAVA PRIMARY SCHOOL **SPORTS DAY**

Friday 29th May, Week 5



We are developing
Effective Learners who
have **Strategic Awareness**
In 2026,
at BPS we will explicitly teach
Students to know what
to do when they don't
know what to do.

Collective

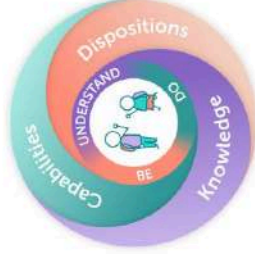
Responsibility

Parents: Together we need to let students safely struggle for a little bit of time in order for them to think about the strategies that they might be able to use when they don't know what to do.

I don't know what to do
but in 2026 I am learning a range
of strategies to put into my toolbox
so when I don't know what to do,
I have strategies I can use.

Belonging
and Safety

Staff will ensure students are safely challenged through learning opportunities so that they can use a range of strategies (which have been explicitly taught) to know what to do when they don't know what to do



Learners at BPS are engaged, stretched and achieving.

TERM 1 - THAT'S A WRAP!

We welcomed our new Reception students at the beginning of the year, along with new ancillary staff members Jess Knight and Brodie Manfield. Enrolments began at 220 students across 10 classes. We congratulated Alicia on the birth of her daughter, Remi. During her maternity leave, our newsletters were a little delayed—thank you for your patience. We also would like to congratulate Emily on the birth of her daughter, Ollie. On the first day back, Ali and Amy supported families with a cuppa and a chat.

Prior to the start of the school year, and continuing into Term 1, long-overdue renovations were completed in the staff toilets and ICT office. These improvements were much needed, particularly as the toilet had been without a hand basin for over 18 months.

Student leadership positions were finalised, with Patrick, Lucy, Lans and Lacey elected as School Captains. House Leaders and Music Captains were also appointed. Welcome Night was, once again, held on a scorching evening—so hot that Lisa's Lattes had to cancel. Despite the heat, we had a fantastic turnout, with many families enjoying the free BBQ after visiting learning spaces.

I also shared the exciting news that I would be taking six weeks of leave to pursue an opportunity as an Education Lead within the Local Education Team. During this time, Jo stepped into the Principal role, and shortly after, Billie commenced as Deputy Principal.

Our new Reception students were formally welcomed at an assembly, where they received their book. Reading awards and School Motto awards were also presented at each Community Assembly.

Our Year 6 students enjoyed the Victor Harbor Aquatics Camp and also received the Year 6 tops.

Parent-teacher interviews were held, providing an opportunity for families to discuss their child's learning and wellbeing.

Due to an electrical fault, the Balaklava Swimming Pool was closed, and swimming lessons were relocated to Owen. This required a change in structure, with students swimming in longer lessons over five days rather than ten. Unfortunately, this also meant the Swimming Carnival was cancelled, much to the disappointment of many.

The Governing Council AGM was held, and we thanked Nicki Greenshields for her contributions as she concluded her tenure on Council.

We held a successful Garage Sale, rehoming much of our excess furniture.

Harmony Day was celebrated, with students encouraged to wear orange in recognition of the day.

We had students represent our school at SAPSASA Softball and SAPSASA Swimming events.



TERM 1 - THAT'S A WRAP!

In early March, Jo organised a mini working bee to relocate timber from the BHS oval. This timber is now a feature in the garden bed along the back of BER, serving as a nod to the beautiful gum tree that once stood there. Thank you to Jo, Kerry, Cherie and Murray for their incredible efforts.

Our first performance for the term was The Mad Food Scientist by The Root Cause. Our second visiting performance for the year was Animals Anonymous.

Sporting Schools for Term 1 focused on tennis, with our R-3 students enjoying their sessions. Pre-Sports Day events were also held.

We welcomed Beth, our new Aboriginal Community Education Officer (ACEO).

The Festival of Music Choir achieved a very successful assessment.

NAPLAN took place this term, with Year 3 and 5 students completing assessments over a number of days.

Students smiled brightly for School Photos—this was the first one I have missed in my 10 years at BPS! Thank you to the PCC for coordinating volunteers on the day.

Our Year 1 students undertook the Year 1 Numeracy Check.

Diane and Megan led a very successful financial audit, and we thank them for their ongoing, diligent work in managing our school finances.

The termly Religious Education session was held late in the term.

The PCC hosted the first Casual Clothes Day for the year, with an Easter theme, and the Easter Bunny made a special visit just before the Easter break. We then returned for the final four days of term, during which we acknowledged and thanked our Term 1 volunteers with a Lisa's Lattes voucher and a delicious morning tea catered by Wendy's Café. Our Term 1 crossing monitors were also recognised and thanked with a small treat.

What a term it has been—full, rewarding, and busy. It's no wonder we are all feeling ready for a well-earned break.

At the student led assembly on the last day of term, we share a slide show of the term that was. Please enjoy the slide show, but if viewing before Friday afternoon, please do not show the students and spoil the Student Assembly <https://canva.link/u4ysvickgv3zOk8>

**ENJOY YOUR
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!**

TERM 2 BEGINS: MONDAY 27TH APRIL



IN-HOUSE PERFORMANCE



**CUT THIS PAGE OUT
AND
STICK ON THE FRIDGE**

STUDENT ABSENT FORM

If a student is absent from school (planned or unplanned) **PLEASE** scan the QR code and fill out the form to notify the school why the student(s) are away.

If you have trouble with the form please contact the Front Office on (08) 8862 1660

Absence Notification Form



Community News



Build a flexible, sustainable and rewarding early childhood career.

Become a family day care educator

Family day care is a high quality home-based early childhood and education service, with small groups and flexible hours to support children and families' needs. Educators manage their own family day care service, with support of the Department of Education's family day care team. You'll create a safe and nurturing place for children to learn, play and grow.

“
One of the most rewarding things about family day care is the autonomy for me as an educator and the autonomy for children to drive their own curriculum.”
”

All Fleming, family day care educator

Why choose family day care?

-  Flexible working hours and arrangements
-  Working from your own home
-  Building a long-term, sustainable career
-  Making a real difference in children's lives

Starting a family day care service combines your experience in early childhood education and passion for nurturing and inspiring young children with the flexibility and work-life balance of home-based work and setting your own hours.

Our team is with you through every step in the process of becoming a family day care educator. We can assess your current skill set and help you bridge any gaps to set you up for long-term career success.

Find out more

- www.education.sa.gov.au/family-day-care
- Education.FDCRecruitment@sa.gov.au
- 0427 657 272



Youth Week 2026

Free community events

Balaklava

10 April, 2pm-5pm

Get ready for the action at Apex Park (grass area by the skate park) We're bringing the fun with:

- Interactive Play System Arena
- 9-hole mini golf
- Henna
- Snacks and drinks

Don't miss out—come along and join the fun!

Snowtown

13 April, 11am

Join us at the Snowtown Memorial Hall to watch Zootopia 2 on Council's inflatable cinema. Free snacks and drinks provided. Bring your own bean bag or picnic rug to relax.



NETSET REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!

5 - 8 YEARS OLD

RUNNING DURING TERM 2 - 3:45 to 4:30PM

- ✓ Learn basic skills through games & activities
- ✓ Build confidence, coordination & teamwork
- ✓ Fun games and activities every session
- ✓ Make new friends
- ✓ Stay active and outdoors
- ✓ Pathway into junior netball





CONTACT: CARLY FRIEDRICHS JUNIOR NETBALL MANAGER FOR MORE INFORMATION



EAGLES

WOODVILLE WEST TORRENS
FOOTBALL CLUB SANFL

TERM 1

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLINIC

WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL
CLARE OVAL


10am - 11:30am **BOYS & GIRLS** ages 5-14

EAGLES MEN & WOMEN PLAYERS IN ATTENDANCE
• FREE CLINIC & GIVEAWAYS •

Registration: Scan QR Code



TERM 2 PLANNER

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	27/4 Term 2 Begins	28/4	29/4	30/4 Newsletter Winter HUB @ Blyth - Football & Netball	1/5
2	4/5	5/5	6/5	7/5 Tennis	8/5 Community Assembly - 2:20pm
3	11/5 Cross Country @ Burra	12/5 Gov Council	13/5	14/5 Tennis Newsletter	15/5
4	18/5	19/5	20/5	21/5 Tennis	22/5 Community Assembly - 2:20pm
5	25/5	26/5	27/5	28/5 Tennis Newsletter	29/5  SPORTS DAY
6	1/6	2/6	3/6	4/6	5/6 Community Assembly - 2:20pm
7	8/6 PUBLIC HOLIDAY Kings Birthday	9/6 School Closure (BHS - SFD)	10/6	11/6 Newsletter	12/6
8	15/6	16/6 Gov Council	17/6	18/6 RAA Street Smart	19/6 Crossing Training Community Assembly - 2:20pm
9	22/6	23/6	24/6	25/6 Newsletter	26/6 RE
10	29/6	30/6	1/7	2/7	3/7 End of Term 2 Early Dismissal of 2:10pm

	Assemblies		Student Free Days
	Meetings		Excursions/Camps
	SAPSASA		Cultural Dates

**SPORTS DAY -
CHANGE OF DATE TO:
FRIDAY 29TH MAY**