

From Barb

We always start the year with a bang at BPS. The younger children head off to the pool and come back full of **pride in their achievements**. The older children have camp, where they learn some valuable **team skills, independence and resilience**.



Swimming Week 2



At **Acquaintance Night**, teachers had the chance to meet their 'new' parents and catch up with the 'old' ones.

Conversations included the important Studio routines and how parents can help their child with their learning.

Professor **Martin Westwell** shared with us the research around **Quick Think and Slow Think** and how these critical skills are an integral and growing part of the learning experience at our school. (We have an article in the Front Office if you would like to read more).

Teachers were delighted to have longer chats with families at the **Two Way Learning Conversations**. These are an important part of how we report children's learning to you, but they have the added bonus of providing another way for families to help teachers better understand children and their learning.



2014 Year 7's in their Senior Jumpers

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !



Teacher Professional Learning

Staff have been learning more about:

- **Differentiation** – providing the right literacy stretch for all children within the classrooms setting
- **High Yield Strategies** – evidence based strategies that ensure the best possible literacy learning for all children

❖ Pupil Free Days – 5th & 6th May

In **Week 2, Term 2**, there will be **two Pupil Free Days - Monday 5th May and Tuesday 6th May**. These days will be used to continue Literacy and Philosophy learning, adding detail and planning for practice. The Minister for Education has approved four Pupil Free days for 2014.

OSHC available- bookings essential.

❖ School Closure Day – Advanced Notice – 5th September

There will be a **School Closure Day** on **Friday 5th September**, Week 7 in Term 3, in line with Heathfield High School as a day of local significance for the Royal Adelaide Show.

Positive Education & Thinking

Peer Mediation is under way again. Peer Mediators are on duty in the yard most lunch times. We are in the process of reminding older children of the process and teaching our new children how to use effective mediation skills, either through the formal process or on their own as a competent manager of conflict.



Stop Press – Parent Workshop:

We are negotiating with Bill Hansbury to run a parent workshop for us in Term 2. Bill has co-written a new book - 'Raising Beautiful Kids' and his presentation would be a great way to help families develop their repertoire of effective strategies to deal with those common, everyday issues and problems that wear people down.

We will let you know the date and more information next term.

KITCHEN GARDEN PROGRAM

A call to action!

Nicki and Daryl (and a few phantom gardeners who snuck in, did some weeding and disappeared without a trace) kept the garden going through the summer heat waves. Nicki worried that the planting she and the children had done last year was lost, but it was amazing to see the garden spring to life with that first drenching rain.



An Invitation...

The Kitchen Garden was initially funded by the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. These funds were fantastic in helping establish the garden and kitchen but now we need to keep this amazing program fresh and alive. There are some brilliant and creative ideas going around

so it is time to get our heads together and make plans.

You are invited to attend a meeting on Thursday 1st May at 9:15am (straight after drop off) **in the Staff Room** (Week 1 Term 2).

RSVP to tina.wake754@schools.sa.edu.au or barb.jenkins151@schools.sa.edu.au or by calling 8339 1600 or adding your name at the front desk.

If you are keen and can't attend that morning, we may schedule a second meeting one evening – just let us know.

When a past BPS student was asked if she was doing any cooking at high school, she replied "Yeah, we're learning how to bake potatoes but when I was at Bridgey we were making our own gnocchi from scratch!"

Nude Food

BPS is a Nude Food school. This means we strongly encourage families to choose healthy, rubbish free food for their lunches and snacks. Nude Food is a fantastic way to teach children about how their every day, simple actions can impact on the environment and their health.

Focussing on the positive message of

'Nude Food = a healthy body + a healthy planet' we invite

you to please think about how you can reduce the

packaging and increase the nutrition in your child's lunch

box – and at the same time reduce the rubbish going to landfill and the litter in our yard.



Heating and Cooling Update



The unprecedented hot weather caused significant discomfort for children and staff in the first weeks of school. Our heating and cooling project has now been taken over by Mike Lindner, Project Manager in Spotless. Mike is an aircon technician and has managed many of the large government air con contracts. The delays in progression of our work were put down to the complexity of meeting regulations for air quality and oxygen levels in a building with our unique features. Mike has very quickly progressed the work and it is anticipated that the work will begin in the **July school holidays**.



ATHLETICS DAYS 2014

Congratulations to everyone that participated in this year's Athletics Day at Oakbank Area School.

AND THE WINNER IS ...

BRIDGEWATER PRIMARY SCHOOL !!!

AND OUR OTHER WINNER IS...

Della Griffith - Best Female Athlete (with Imogen Scherer of Stirling East)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN STUDIO 6?

Studio 6 and Studio 9 have been involved in a cross age buddy program each Friday.

Getting to know each other and working together have had many benefits for both studios. A key outcome has been developing a sense of community for our new Receptions so that they feel comfortable, safe and confident to approach others in the yard.

Activities have included sharing literature, developing 'All about Me' and 'Family Tree' posters for Studio 6 and 'Play is the Way' social skills games.



Using natural materials to create animal paintings

'Legs in the Air'
Play is the Way game



Doing work with Studio 6 has helped us with our organising skills as well as getting to know them and helping them in the yard.

Noah S9

I liked making elephants. Our big buddies are our friends.

Lukas S6



Use of pattern and line to create frogs



Most recently

Studio 9 planned and ran three groups on a rotational basis with a focus on children's literature and art.

Working collaboratively to plan, organise and implement appropriate tasks helps to develop valuable skills in working with peers and younger students.



Working with Studio 6 has helped us with our leadership skills as well as getting to know and having fun with each other.

Tulia S9

YEAR 6 & 7 AQUATICS CAMP 2014

The Year 6/7 camp was a complete success. We arrived at the Murraylands Aquatic Centre (after a lot of hassle with the bus) and lathered ourselves in sunscreen and got straight into our activities.

We were split into groups of seven and each did a water based activity which included; knee-boarding, catamarans, and sit-ons. Each group was assigned to an instructor, who we would bond with over the three days we were to be staying at the camp. They were to be our supervisors, and look after us during our activities.



The groups consisted of students we normally didn't work with, which was good because it helped us use communication skills and to work out of our comfort zone even more so than the fact that we were doing water activities that most of us had never done before.

After we had finished and endured our activities, we got showered and changed, and we met the lunch lady who would be making us food. We were told we would have to wash our own dishes much to our dismay, before then being instructed to where there were cookies and fruit. Almost immediately the cookies were gone! After the

cookies and the fruit (mostly the cookies), we headed back up to our dorms, where most of us played Truth or Dare which involved other dorms getting mixed into the mess.

After a while, we went down to have dinner, which was spaghetti Bolognese. Once we finished that and washed our dishes (and of course had dessert because dessert is fabulous), we played games in the sailing club.





The next day, the groups did water-skiing/knee-boarding, small boat handling, catamarans, canoeing, and kayaking. That night we had butter chicken and rice.

The final day we were there, we did one last activity, and packed our stuff away. The cleaning was chaos, but after a while it was done. We got changed into our clothes and had hotdogs for our early lunch. After lunch while we were waiting for the bus, we did a Nature Hunt. The bus finally came for us just as another school came. After a lot of complaining about a shoe that wouldn't be claimed, we left the Murray Bridge Aquatic Centre. We thought we were going home but took a quick stop off at the playground for a camp photo. After lots of silly faces, we finally went back home whilst watching Ice Age 2.

Overall, camp was pretty fun and we think we can speak for everyone that we all had a good time.

By Charlotte and Amber S9



THE BIG BRIDGEY BUSH BASH

What a huge success the Big Bridgey Bush Bash was again this year! Congratulations to all involved.



**Just under
a whopping
\$12,000
was
raised**





The 'Timbers' Band
By Oliver S6





The beginning... (created by Studio 7)

HARMONY DAY, 2014

By Studios 7 and 8

Students and families collected heaps of things from nature so we could make a whole school mandala.

Studio 7 children bought flowers, seeds, berries, seed pods, shells, petals, rocks and leaves.

First thing on Harmony Day morning, Studio 7 started the mandala on the red circle.

Tina had bought in a Bunya Nut that we put in the very centre of the mandala. All the other studios came and added to the mandala over the day.

Then the whole school came together to celebrate Harmony Day with a song and some questions to think about.

Each studio was invited the walk around the mandala at the end of the celebration.

We would like to make a mandala every Harmony Day.

Questions posed by children in Studio's 7 and 8:

- ❖ How can we live in harmony with each other, with the environment and all other living creatures?
- ❖ Why do we need Harmony Week?
- ❖ How do you know when you belong?
- ❖ Do different people like to do the same things?
- ❖ Are we all the same on the inside?
- ❖ How do you feel when you belong?
- ❖ Do all people want to belong?
- ❖ Should we share with people who are different from us?

Mandalas created by Studio 8 children



Life returns to Arbury Park bush



Bridgewater primary students study the new life returning to the bush following last year's fire at Arbury Park School.

By Genevieve Cooper

Like the Phoenix from the ashes, the burnt stringybark forest at Arbury Park Outdoor School is slowly coming back to life after bushfire swept through 10ha of the Aldgate property late last year.

Bridgewater Primary recently became the first school to trial student learning activities developed by Arbury Park staff to focus on how the Australian bush recovers from fire.

Arbury Park principal David Doherty said it was fitting that the Years 3, 4, and 5 students visited the school on a record day of summer rain at the end of a February heatwave.

"The dripping, sodden forest was a far cry from the smoke and heat of the bushfire, and the parched conditions over most of the summer," he said.

"The bushfire of November 2 was a dramatic event for Arbury Park Outdoor School.

"The loss of stringybark forest

habitat had a big impact on our educational programs and the wildlife of this precious pocket of remnant bush.

"Now, over three months later, there are positive signs that the forest is beginning to recover."

The new activities involved the students comparing the structure of the forest in the burnt and unburnt areas, looking at how the understorey and groundcover layers were different.

They were also provided with a set of photos taken in five different places before the fire, the day after the fire, and two months after the fire.

Understanding

Their task was to correctly group and sequence the photos.

"With nearly half of our school grounds burnt, we needed to develop activities to help students understand what had happened and what the future could be like," said Arbury Park teacher Louise Petherick.

Bridgewater Primary teacher Liz Sanderson said the bushfire created

the "perfect opportunity" to look at resilience in nature and the ability of flora and fauna to survive and regenerate.

"One of our school values is 'resilience' so we used this as a starting point," she said. "We wanted to include human as well as environmental aspects of resilience."

The staff at Arbury Park also showed plenty of resilience after the fire, spending many hours working in the burnt forest to protect the bare fire ground from erosion.

The work involved strategically placing sandbags in drainage lines.

The school used washed sand to minimise weed seed contamination.

Staff also used fallen burnt timber lying on the ground, turning lengths to run across the slope rather than straight down the slope.

"It has been a nervous waiting game as temperatures soared through January and February, and the plants and animals at ground level felt the full brunt of the summer sun," Mr Doherty said.

2014 – Children and Teachers

We finished last year with 165 children in 6 classes and began this year with **189 children** in 7 classes, an increase of 46 children since 2011.

Our Non Instruction Time (NIT) teachers this year are:

Pam – Asian & Cultural Studies

Claire – Music and Voice Reception – Yr 6, and Science with some Studios

Barb – has done some work with the Yr 7s on Learning to Learn

NIT teachers are also supporting Kitchen Garden and fitness for some Studios.

We also have welcomed three new staff members:

Jonah Haines – Jonah lives in Bridgewater and has a daughter at Bridgey Kindy. Jonah worked at Mylor Primary School last year and has a strong background in inquiry and maths. Jonah is working full time in Studio 9 with the Year 7s and has a contract with us for all of 2014. Jonah has also taken on the role of SAPSASA coordinator at BPS for 2014.



Sharon Shepherd – Sharon is a highly experienced early years educator who has worked in leadership positions for many years. Sharon was successful in winning a Coordinator appointment with us, with a focus on Literacy, and she has a three year tenure. Sharon has been meeting with teachers once each fortnight in Learning Teams to discuss strategies for literacy in each Studio, with a focus on evidence based teaching strategies and support for children who are most in need.

Cheryl McLean – Cheryl is a respected and experienced early years educator and she works with Sharon in the Reception class one day a week. Cheryl's other job is in state office where she works with teachers on the development of literacy skills. Cheryl is currently finishing off the development of some great resource books on reading and writing. Next term Cheryl will be joining us two days per week to help with Literacy and Kindy connections.

