

# News Update

## Term 1 – Week 3



February 2021

### From Barb

Welcome back to a whole new year of learning!

We hope your family had a great holiday, with some fun time together. It's been a good start to the year and children are settled and busy.

We have absolutely loved having families back in the yard, at assembly, Acquaintance Night and the 1:1 meetings that Teachers have also had on request. We thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for honouring our Covid Safe expectations and helping to keep the whole community safer as we move into another year.

The first few weeks of our year focus on **Community, Belonging, Relationships and Values**. We want children to feel safe and confident, and this is key to success at school and in life. Learning how to solve the kinds of 'kid sized' problems they encounter at school with confidence, responsibility and empathy is critical to wellbeing and learning.

Staff spent some time in Week 0 reviewing the school values, winnowing them down to four focus areas: **Respect, Responsibility, Integrity and THRIVE!**

It's not enough for children to **Know** these Values, or **Do** activities based on these Values; we are looking to support children to actively choose and use the Values as part of their growing sense of identity. We are supporting them to **THRIVE** at school through the **Four Pillars of Education (The Treasure Within)**;



**Learning to Know, Learning to Do, Learning to Be and Learning to Live Together** ([Delors Report - Wikipedia](#)).

Each day presents us with new opportunities for school and home to work together to help children be someone who:

- ◆ acts with growing **Integrity**
- ◆ takes **Responsibility** for their learning, relationships, choices and behaviour
- ◆ is **Respectful** of themselves, other people and our school
- ◆ **THRIVES!** - engaging Head, Heart and Hands in the school experience.

We as parents are all responsible for creating and nurturing a thriving Community here at Bridgewater. We love it here in the Hills and are very grateful for all that you, Barb and all the other Teachers do for our children. We are looking forward to another great year ahead.

Parent communication following Acquaintance Night Meeting.

**From Barb - continued...**

Children have been working with their Buddy Classes to explore and understand our Values, and this work will continue throughout the year. Our assembly this week was a celebration of the work they have done so far.



TERM 1 DIARY DATES	
<b>WEEK 4</b>	
Mon 15/2	S1/S2/S3/S4/S9 Badminton
Wed 17/2	CHOIR - S1/S9 Excursion 9:-10:45am
<b>WEEK 5</b>	
Mon 22/2	S1/S2/S3/S4/S9 Badminton
Tue 23/2	GOVERNING COUNCIL AGM Staffroom 7pm
<b>WEEK 6</b>	
Mon 1/3	S1/S2/S3/S4/S9 Badminton
<b>WEEK 7</b>	
Mon 8/3	PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Wed 10/3	GOVERNING COUNCIL SITE REVIEW 7pm
<b>WEEK 8 - Harmony Week</b>	
Mon 15/3	School Photo Day
<b>WEEK 9</b>	
Mon 22/3	S1/S2/S3/S4/S9 Badminton
<b>WEEK 10</b>	
Thur 1/4	BE ACTIVE DAY
Fri 2/4	PUBLIC HOLIDAY Good Friday
<b>WEEK 11</b>	
Mon 5/4	PUBLIC HOLIDAY Easter Monday
Wed 7/4	Oakbank Athletics Day
Thurs 8/4	Daggy Day
Fri 9/4	Early Dismissal 2:15pm

## 2021 Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Why don't children have time to eat?**

**A:** They do. There are supervised eating times every day; children have fruit/veg eating time in class in the first hour of the day, followed by recess eating time and lunch eating time with their Teacher. Children are supported to take responsibility and have a conversation with parents if they are not eating what they have in their lunchbox. They may prefer something different.

**Q: Does Bridgewater have Student Support Officers (SSO's) to help with children's learning.**

**A:** Yes, we do.

**Gina** who works mostly in the Junior Primary (Heron Learning Area). Gina is a qualified Teacher who supports Literacy intervention in Studios and small withdrawal groups.

**Catherine** who works mostly with older children in Heysen Learning Area. Catherine is a maths whizz and has added Literacy to her repertoire in recent years.

**Heather VK** is our Artist in Residence. Heather works with every Studio in her Tech Room. Heather takes half of the class at a time so teachers have a smaller group to work with on targeted learning, this is a great benefit for every child regardless of where they are in their learning (half a day every week).

**Jill** works with the children in Heron until Recess time every day, supporting them in the Studio or individually on programs designed by the Teacher. Some of you may know Jill from our Out of School Hours Care.

**Ed** not an SSO but he is a former student who has returned during his gap year to support students with learning or social difficulties, and to get our 3D printing program up and running for 2021.

All of this time is directed at targeted students who need help with an aspect of their learning or extension in things they are already good at, and to enable teachers to work with their class in smaller groups. Your child's teacher can give you more information about their Studio.

"You may notice me using an upper case T when I write Teachers this year and E when I use the term Educators which includes our fabulous Student Support Officers (SSO's) and C when I talk about our Community.

This is to acknowledge how important we all are in ensuring children are safe, happy and learning through these difficult, unpredictable and stressful times.

Many of us are frontline workers. Many of us have grieved the loss of important family events, from final goodbyes with loved ones, wedding celebrations and hello cuddles with new babies, through to the Community events that are important features of our school.

I tip my hat to our amazing, supportive Community.

I tip my hat to the amazing Educators I have the privilege to work with. I am both grateful and impressed when we, as a Community, rise to the challenges, take 'next level' in our stride, and keep going for our kids.

We have stayed safe and we have stayed open. We have seen significant learning growth across the school despite the challenges we had to deal with. Thank you for your part in this!

Barb

## Nude Food

### Do we care about and respect the environment?

We have a lot of food packaging coming to school and some of it ends up in the yard and probably the waterways. We want our children to be mindful about the impact of packaging on the environment. The Nude Food movement addresses this issue.

Nude Food means that children bring food in containers or wrappings that they take home, wash and reuse, or better still, bring food that doesn't need wrapping e.g. fruit and vegetables because they have their own packaging.



The advantages to the school, your family and the environment are self-evident:

- ◆ You don't pay for expensive packaging
- ◆ You don't pay for the advertising on the packaging
- ◆ Your children are less likely to be eating high salt, high sugar snacks
- ◆ We aren't filling our yard or waterways with litter
- ◆ We aren't contributing to landfill
- ◆ We aren't contributing to the unnecessary resources to manufacture packaging
- ◆ Our children are developing a sound understanding of sustainable living
- ◆ We are sending a clear message to manufacturers that we don't want this and we won't pay for it.

Sometimes it might be appropriate to go semi-nude – food wrapped in greaseproof paper that can be recycled, or 'food cloths' can be rewashed.

We encourage children to put their rubbish or uneaten food back into their lunch box for recycling or disposal at home.

Please join us in the conversation with your child and encourage them to be an active participant in increasing the amount of 'naked' food they bring to school.



**If we care about the environment this is one important thing we can all do, on a daily basis that will make a big difference. Let's go nuddy!**

[Nude Food \(wow.sa.gov.au\)](http://wow.sa.gov.au)



## Communication with Families

Over the years staff and Governing Council have reviewed the ways in which we communicate with families. With so much information coming home each week, busy families are often challenged to keep pace. We regularly hear that families didn't get important information. Here's a summary of the communication tools we use and their purpose so that you never miss a message.

Tool	What	Why
<b>Skoolbag/ SkoolMail</b>	This is our main communication tool. This is the way we communicate important whole school information and some Studio information that involves the Front Office (e.g. excursions, choir, etc).	Skoolbag allows families to manage information sharing with partners and extended family as everyone can have the app on their phone and receive the same information. It also means you have information at your fingertips, where ever you are, whenever you need, as this app lives on your devices. If you make sure you have alerts selected, and register for Skoolmail you won't miss a message. <b>It is very important you check for messages regularly. If you are having trouble with the app, you may need to delete and download the latest version. Visit <a href="http://www.bridgeps.com.au">www.bridgeps.com.au</a> for Skoolbag/Skoolmail information.</b>
<b>See Saw/ Class Dojo</b>	This is a direct line of communication between you and your child's teachers.	These apps are a window into your child's Studio. Teachers and children share what's happening in learning programs, the challenges children are taking on, exciting successes, and the general things teachers want you to know about expectations, deadlines, learning growth and Studio news. This is one way to stay in touch with how you can help your child's learning at home. This is a two way communication and you can initiate conversations with staff, pass on important information and check in on your child's learning. <b>It is very important you check for messages regularly.</b>
<b>Paper Notes</b>	These may be sent by the Front Office or Studio Teachers.	Often paper notes are because we need a permission signature from you. Other times it is because the information is important. At times we back up the Skoolbag/Skoolmail note with a paper copy to make sure you receive the information. <b>It is important that children have a routine where they remember to pass notes to you on the day they get them. Your child may need help in developing this responsibility.</b>
<b>SMS Messaging</b>	The Front Office use this tool to send short messages to the mobile phone number we have on file. Please ensure we always have your current mobile information.	These messages are usually time critical, emergency information (e.g. bushfire), some medical incidents or administrative requirements (e.g. attendance). <b>It is very important that <u>you contact the Front Office</u> by 9am if your child is not attending school each day with a reason i.e. unwell or family. Contacting Front Office staff can be via email <a href="mailto:dl.0636.info@schools.sa.edu.au">dl.0636.info@schools.sa.edu.au</a>, SMS to 0458 810 681 or phone 8339 1600.</b>

**Our school values of RESPECT, INTEGRITY, RESPONSIBILITY AND THRIVE apply to all communication in our school; adults and children.**

# Staff Profiles

*We hope you enjoy the following brief profiles of all the staff at BPS.*



Barb  
Principal

I'm Barb, and I've had the privilege of working at BPS as the Principal for the last ten years. My favourite part of the job is when I get to work in Studios with the children, which doesn't happen as often as I would like. I also love working with this talented and exciting group of educators and lovely families. I live locally, in 'The House of Perpetual Renovation'. We have four adult children living in different parts of Australia, one adorable grandbaby, a couple of scruffy dogs and a lovely bush garden to care for.



Jonah

I'm Jonah and I have been at Bridgegy for almost a decade now! I live locally and have two of my three children at the school. This year will be a new experience for me as I will be working full time as the Deputy Principal. I am looking forward to working with teachers to continue delivering world class pedagogy to support children in growing as learners and people. Outside of school I love to read, collect records and cheer on Adelaide United and Tottenham Hotspur.



Hilary

I'm Hilary Agar. This year I will be teaching in Studio 6 with Monica. We have a straight Year Two class this year. I have been at Bridgegy for the past four years and it's just the best school in so many ways. I live at the bottom of the Freeway in Glen Osmond on a massive block clinging to the side of a mountain. I have been teaching for over 30 years, in lots of different schools in the country and in the northern suburbs (where I grew up) and I still love it. I'm looking forward to teaching some of the old crew from 2020 and getting to know the new crew and their families.



Monica

Hello!! My name is Monica. On Thursdays and Fridays, I get to work alongside Hilary and all of the Super Star Year two kiddos in Studio 6. I love having students engaged in outdoor learning opportunities and getting kids moving too! I live with my family in Nairne ... and love living in the beautiful Adelaide Hills. I have been teaching at BPS since 2008 and believe that I have the best job in the world!



Wendy

Hello! My name is Wendy and I have the privilege of teaching the Receptions in Studio 7. I am new to BPS and have been teaching at Murray Bridge North Primary for the past 11 years. I have taught Receptions for 8 years and then Year 1's and 2's as I am Junior Primary trained. I have also had various leadership positions over the years. Previously to working with children, I was travelling the world and working in hospitality. I live in Mount Barker with my lovely husband, two adult daughters and my gorgeous grandson who is 9 months old. I have a fur baby called Candy and she is a Cavoodle. If I get any spare time my new hobby is painting. I paint by numbers for de-stressing and when I have time to think I have challenged myself with acrylic painting from photos. My philosophy in teaching is building happy, resilient, strong independent children who love to learn in various ways.



Liam

Hi, my name is Liam and I teach in Studio 3. This is my second year of teaching at Bridgewater Primary. I have been a member of the beautiful Bridgewater community since 2016 when I started working in OSHC. I am very passionate about building resilient and confident learners that are always ready for a challenge. Outside of school I like to travel, play soccer, listen to music, spend time with my partner and watch movies. I have been fortunate to grow up as an Adelaide Hills boy in the quiet town of Balhannah. I love the hills and think it is the best place to be. I can't wait for an exciting year ahead.



Cheryl

Hello, I am Cheryl. I live in beautiful Hahndorf with my husband Andy and lovely boy, Charlie. I love belonging to the Bridgewater Primary School community and watching your children grow! I can not believe that my first group of Reception children are now in Year 7! I like to create a fun, engaging and rich learning environment which connects the children's learning to their personal experiences. I work at BPS on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. I am looking forward to working and learning together with our wonderful children and Amanda in Studio 8.



Claire

My name is Claire and I work with all of the children here at Bridgegy. For the past few years I have enjoyed making music with your children. More recently, we have been venturing into the outdoors, both on our beautiful site, and more broadly in our local environment. Apart from music, my role also includes Nature Education, incorporating elements of science, wellbeing, sustainability and the arts. We will explore the role the land has to play bringing up our children. Together we will learn about, and engage deeply with, our wonderful environment and work to create a positive tomorrow. I am looking forward to the children helping to plant the school site with local species, both to support our local wildlife and demonstrate just how beautiful and important indigenous plants are.



Liz

Hi, my name is Liz and I have been working at Bridgegy for over 12 years. I have seen many changes over the years but there is still a vibe to BPS that is hard to find at other schools. Being a small school, we are lucky enough to know most of the students and we, as teachers, take a joint responsibility in helping them grow as resilient and independent learners. I live in Bridgewater with my husband and 2 teenage sons but we spend a lot of time down at the beach, as they are all sailors and surfers. I also love to walk my dog and get to the gym when I can. I am teaching the Year 4/5 group this year in Studio 2. I look forward to welcoming new faces and reconnecting with those I already know.



Richard

I have taught part-time at Bridgewater Primary School since 2017, and am here full time this year. I have lived in Bridgewater for nearly 25 years. As well as teaching in the classroom, in my previous schools I have been a specialist art teacher and a music teacher. I will be teaching in Studio 9 three days a week this year, and teaching STEM in other classes on the other days. Before becoming a teacher, I worked in publishing and bookselling and was a professional cartoonist and book illustrator. I believe in the value of project-based learning, and in Studio 9 this year I'm looking forward to a variety of big, engaging projects, all of which will integrate the general capabilities and learning for Year 6 and 7.



Amanda

About 8 years ago I worked my first day as a relief teacher at Bridgewater Primary School and I am lucky enough to have been with Team Bridgegy ever since. I have taught casually across the school and this year I am very much looking forward to working with Cheryl and the Years Ones in Studio 8. When not at school I spend time writing and illustrating and gardening at home in Mylor.



Richard K.  
(or Richard II)

Hello, my name is Richard. I have lived in Blackwood since 2008 and have two children, Amelie 15 and Lucas 14. This is my second year at Bridgewater PS. I'll be teaching in studio 4 during 2021 and I am very excited to be given the opportunity teach some new students. I graduated from Flinders University in 2011 and have been teaching ever since. I have mostly been focusing in the junior primary and middle primary areas. I'm a firm believer in kids enjoying their time at school and encourage this by creating a positive learning environment.



Cass

Hello, my name is Cass. This is my first year at Bridgewater Primary School. This year I will be teaching in the year 5/6 class in Studio One. I am excited about the wonderful learning we will be doing together. My husband, kids and I moved to Adelaide 8 years ago from Port Lincoln to be closer to our families. We are an outdoor family who enjoy camping, four wheel driving and sports. I usually spend most of my out of school time at Bridgewater Callington Raiders Football Club, organising events and watching my son, Travis, and daughter, Elise, play junior football. This year will be my 20<sup>th</sup> year teaching in Primary Schools and next year I will be moving to High School to teach year 7's and 8's. I have been teaching upper primary and middle school for the past 8 years at Ardtornish Primary School and Mount Barker Primary School. I am looking forward to getting to know the wonderful students and families at Bridgewater.



Juana

My name is Juana. I am an Australian of Spanish origin. I taught in Spain for twenty years from Reception to year 10. I currently teach Spanish at Bridgewater Primary and at Prospect North Primary. I love working with students in primary school because the students learn so much so fast, which I find rewarding. Young students are enthusiastic, energetic and willing to discover and engage in multiple new experiences. I teach Spanish using the immersion method. I always start the class singing and playing games. Students practice pronunciation, reading, translation, some vocabulary and dance. An important aspect of Spanish class is discovering culture and folklore from different Spanish speaking countries. During Spanish lessons, the students' brains work hard and make many new neural connections. Acquiring a new language is difficult, so we use movement and music to boost learning. I recommend two links that lead to games, songs and activities for learning Spanish: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/languagesonline/spanish/spanish.htm> and <https://rockalingua.com/videos>. Have fun!



Fran

My name is Fran. I am a local in the area and a mother of three. I started my teaching journey as a Kindergarten teacher in the country and decided to specialise in Special Needs Education. Since then, I have taught various age groups. I took time off to be a mum, but during that time added to my studies so I could teach birth-year 7. This year I get to work two days a week teaching PE and Science - these are favourite subjects for me, so I am really looking forward to an amazing year.



Heather C.

Hello, my name is Heather and I'm retiring and have been doing so for the last three years! I am again teaching at BPS, one day a week, focusing on maths and science. Obviously I enjoy my job and love BPS staff and students or I wouldn't be here. When I'm at home, I garden and enjoy my grandchildren. This year I intent to work on my golf game and finally learn how to follow a knitting pattern.



Louise

Hi I'm Louise. I have worked at Bridgewater for many years now and love being part of this community. It is a warm and exciting learning environment for both children and staff. I have loved the opportunity to share part time work in different studios with different teachers and different year levels from Reception to Year 3's. This year I am delighted to be continuing my role of teaching the HASS Australian Curriculum area which covers History, Geography and Civics and Citizenship, and also Social Learning programmes that the school highly values for student well-being. I will be working in 5 classes from Reception to Year 4 on Wednesdays and Thursdays. I have adult children and a large extended family with pre-schoolers, primary and secondary aged children, university students, right through to elderly parents. We all love being together on weekends and having fun.



Belinda

Hi! My name is Belinda and I'm appreciative to be part of a school that obviously has a strong sense of community and the kitchen garden program is valuable to the overall learning and pleasure for the students.

My passion for food goes back a long way and I was fortunate enough to have grandparent's that grew their own food and there were always fresh scones or something home made on my Grandmother's table. This led me to pursue a career as a Chef and for ten years I worked in some of Sydney's best restaurants. Fast forward a few years (or decades ) and in 2012 I was employed at Braeview School R-7 in their SAKG (Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden) program as their Kitchen Specialist, where I worked until the middle of last year. A bit of cross over... and at the beginning of 2020 I was employed at Blair Athol North School as their Kitchen Specialist (I was lucky enough to score the job again this year and ongoing into the future). You could say that SAKG runs through my blood. I have also run my own business (Clever Belly Kitchen) where I have facilitated whole food workshops for people of all ages. Last year I began my Advanced Certificate in Nutrition and Health Coaching, which I will complete this year... in my spare time! I will be at BPS on Tuesdays and I'm looking forward to working with your kids in the kitchen and meeting families as part of our valuable volunteering group.



Kerrie

Hi I'm Kerrie. I live at Heathfield with my husband and two children and I'm the Garden Specialist here at Bridgewater Primary. My work is all about sharing the value and benefits of gardening and growing our own food. Each Studio at BPS has around five garden classes each term. These classes provide many opportunities for children to grow and harvest produce, explore, discover, create things, learn and apply life skills, taste-test, work hard and also to relax, breathe and enjoy our beautiful surroundings.

As well as working at BPS, I work part time at a high school as an interpreter for Deaf and Hearing impaired students who use Auslan (Australian Sign Language) to communicate. I often integrate sign language into garden classes as many children are very receptive to a visual language and are keen to learn some signs. I'd love you to spend some time with us in the garden. Find out when your child has garden class and if you're available then you can get in touch with me through the school office. We also plan regular working bees which are a great way to contribute and meet other families from our community. Keep an eye out for those and I hope to see you soon!



Heather VK

Everyone calls me Heather VK, and you will find me in the Tech Room. I coordinate art programs with studio teachers across the whole school. I am a self-taught artist with a passion for recycling in my art. I have been at BPS for nearly 20 years, so when you see my Tech Room, you'll see the years of collecting... and I'm always still looking for different things to collect! At home I keep my husband busy with my ideas and visions. I am a grandmother of three and I adore this role!



Gina

Hi, I'm Gina and I've worked at Bridgewater Primary for over 20 years. I love working in the classroom to support children's learning and assisting teachers. My passion is helping children to develop their literacy skills. I also work in the school's library and enjoy browsing book shops to purchase children's books. In my spare time, I enjoy gardening, walking and the beach.



Catherine

Hi, I'm Catherine and I have been an SSO (School Services Officer) at Bridgewater Primary since 2002 and previously as a student (you can guess what years they were). I assist the teachers in the classrooms. My passion is Maths. I love working with students and seeing their faces light up when it finally clicks. When I'm not at school, you will see me walking the streets of Bridgewater with my dog Dozer.

I'm looking forward to another fun filled year at BPS.



Daryl

Hi, my name is Daryl. As Groundsman, the tasks I perform here at Bridgewater Primary are mostly outdoors, maintaining the substantial grounds, including the oval. Occasionally I get the children to help with special tasks. I also carry out some maintenance and repairs on the building at times, both inside and out. I work at BPS on Thursdays and Fridays.



Adam

I am Adam, an ICT tech SSO who works at Bridgey Thursdays and Fridays. I manage the ICT network and am looking forward to helping the school progress forward by integrating technology into everyday life in positive ways. I am hidden away in the server room next to Studio 6.



Tanja

Hi, my name is Tanja and I am one of the Front Office staff who will be looking after you on the journey through primary school. I can take your calls and try my best to answer your queries, I can provide you with the forms you require, I can take your money, deck your children out in uniforms and bandage them up when they hurt. I have a passion for child wellbeing and my role often involves listening and supporting. I love working at Bridgewater PS and being around the energy and joy of children. I have two teenagers at high school and my weekends are spend at various soccer pitches!



Simone

Hi, I'm Simone and I have worked at Bridgewater Primary School since 2013. I work behind the scenes, managing the finance. I have worked in schools for over 20 years and enjoy the challenging nature of the work. I live in the Adelaide Hills with my husband and two boys.



Janice

I'm Janice (pronounced Ja-niece) and I work as a School Service Officer (SSO) in the administration side of Bridgewater Primary. I often work at the front desk on Wednesdays, but I'm usually tucked away in the back office. I've been working at BPS for 16 years now, and began when my youngest of two children started school here. Seeing all the children grow in every aspect during their early school years is so very rewarding. I have lived in beautiful Bridgewater for 24 years, and I almost class myself as a local! My daughter still lviies at home with me, studying to become a teacher. We have a cavoodle, Charlie, and a very fat cat called Pablo.

