



MOUNT BARKER
WALDORF SCHOOL

Term 1
Week 5 – 2025
Newsletter

From the Principal

Dear Mount Barker Waldorf School Community,

Thank you to those who have contributed to our Strategy survey, the process has been moving along nicely guided by Virginia and Darren from Conscious Education. We have had meetings with the Strategy Working Group – a group made up of SLT, Board and CLG members who will help guide the process, and we will be bringing you updates as the process continues over the next few months, with the aim of having our next Strategic Plan ready to go by Term 3.

There are a couple of interesting ideas that are arising in this process that will and support us to move to new ways of thinking and being within our school. One of those is looking at the world with an abundance mindset. Often, our thinking can easily slip into what is not going well, or what could/should be happening in each situation. With an abundance mindset, instead of working with fear as a motivating factor we look at possibilities and opportunities. One of the great things about having an abundant mindset is catching people doing things right, instead of catching them doing things wrong.

When you change what you are looking for, you inevitably change what is seen as well. This is so true in the classroom – our students respond to being seen for what they are doing well, rather than chastised when they make a mistake. They will then give you more of what it is that has been praised, rather than being fearful and trying to avoid what has been called out as wrong. This goes for our teachers as well. We do this in our teachers' meetings by focusing on the things that are going well in the classrooms and recognising those qualities in our teachers that give rise to this. We also allow for reflection on what could be done better, not in a way that diminishes what has been done, but in a way that empowers healthy change.

These and other aspects of abundant thinking are critical to the healthy growth and development of our school. I am looking forward to working with them more consciously as a community, and to the unfolding process as the Strategy for our school takes shape.

Have a wonderful week.

Liam Waterford
Principal

27 Sims Road (PO BOX 318)
Mount Barker SA 5251

08 8391 0411
office@mbws.sa.edu.au

mbws.sa.edu.au

Key dates this week

Wednesday 5 March

School Tours

9am and 4pm

Reserve a spot online [HERE](#).

OSHC

Monday-Friday AM

6.30am–School start
(\$20 flat rate)

Monday-Friday PM

School finish–6.00pm
(\$30 flat rate)

To book, please email
oshc@mbws.sa.edu.au

TERM 1

**Monday 3 February to
Friday 11 April**

Last day of term 12.30pm finish

CORRECTION:



The issue around accessing the Language Survey has been resolved. [Please click here to access the form.](#)

Cover Image: Classes 2-5 Water safety

Premier's Reading Challenge is on again!

The Premier's Reading Challenge is now open and there has been much excitement across the school, particularly in the Primary School where there are a number of excited first time participants. Students have now had the opportunity to collect a reading record and ask any questions.

The challenge is as simple as reading 12 books and yes, reading *to* your child is absolutely included and encouraged. In the younger years students need to read 8 books from the list: [Book List | Premiers Reading Challenge SA](#) and 4 of their own choice. While the list has year level guides please do include whichever level of books your child most enjoys reading.

Your child will have received a folded booklet as a reading record, please help them to fill this out in pen and add your initials for each book read.

Should you have any further questions please feel free to reach out to me at aconnor@mbws.sa.edu.au

Upcoming important dates

Monday 10 March

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Adelaide Cup Day



Tuesday 11 March

MBWS PTA Meeting

Beehive

6pm - 8pm

Wednesday 12 March

NAPLAN Starts

Classes 3, 5, 7 & 9

March 12-24

Friday 14 March

Duke of Edinburgh Award Presentation

Select Class 10 & 11 Students

LAC

during High School Assembly



Eurythmy for adults

Mondays
9.15am - 10.15am



Friends of the Plant Nursery

Tuesdays:
9.15 - 10.45am

Meet at School
Plant Nursery



Beehive

Tuesdays
9am - 11am
Cafe and Shop



Yoga Thursdays

A slow pace yoga class
suited for everyone.

Teachers: 8-8.30am
Students: 8.30-8.55am
Parents: 9.15-10am

Around Our School

Classes 2 - 5 Swim Safety Lessons

In Week 3 classes 2,3,4 and 5 had a week of swimming and water safety lessons at the beautiful outdoor Mountain Pool in Mt. Barker. Children enjoyed the novelty of bus rides to and from the pool. The children worked hard to improve their skills and abilities over the course of the week, with instructors commenting on how much progress they were able to make. The children learnt fundamental safety and rescue skills, as well as swimming strokes in the 'big' pool and water familiarity in the shallower pool.

It was a special week for one of the instructors, Jenny Duffield, who after teaching our Waldorf children swimming for 35 years as an instructor, Instructor in Charge, as well as being a mother and grandmother in our school community for 40 years, is retiring from school swimming programs. We thank her for all her care, love and dedication towards teaching 1000s of our children to swim and love the water.

Some of our older primary school children went on last week to represent the school in the annual Courier Cup Swimming Carnival, with several coming first in their heats, and a few coming first, second or third in their strokes and age groups, qualifying them for selection to represent the Barker district later this year at the Marion Aquatic Centre. Four of our year 7 students, Posy, Alice, Noah and Maddison, also swam in the School Sport SA High School Swimming Championships, experiencing the excitement of racing in a 50m Olympic sized pool.

Congratulations to all- keep on swimming!

Elise Duffield
Assistant Principal



Primary School Clubs

The Primary School clubs kicked off to a good start. Many Children from class 1 to 6 participated in the drawing club.

Using block crayons of only three colours, red blue and yellow, the children created colour magic with infinite possibilities. We focused on the image of the dragon copying from a beautifully illustrated children's book. First we blocked in the colours and form and then we added finer details.

The variety and expression was beautiful.

Emily Dallwitz
Class 3 Teacher



Senior School Geography

This semester, the Senior School Geography class is exploring the different ways that landscapes and places are constructed and interpreted through human use. We are currently gathering data to explore how people connect to a sense of place in the Mount Barker region. Our findings will inform our first assessment task with the goal of producing a report on this topic and sending it to our local member of parliament. Considering this, we have produced a survey with which we are hoping to reach out to members of our Community.

This is where you come in! If you have five minutes to spare, please consider taking our survey. (Even if you don't live in the area, we'd still love to hear from you!)

Warm regards,
The Senior Geography Class

Click on the [LINK HERE](#) or scan the QR code:

Sense Of Place.



Class 11 Big Ideas Main Lesson

In Week 4, Class 11 travelled down to Ngarrindjeri Yarluwar Ruwe (Sea Country) to complete some geographic fieldwork for their Big Ideas Main Lesson.

They visited the CLLMM Research Centre, a collaborative partnership of First Nations peoples, local community members, and university scientists. Here, students worked with researchers to investigate the significant challenges posed by climate change to the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth region.

Students then engaged in some hands-on learning, completing fieldwork near the Murray Mouth to assess how people are using the area (land and water).

Data gained from this trip will be used to write a research report on the CLLMM region, and students will make recommendations of the actions we could take to ensure the future health of this significant ecosystem.

Rebecca Hill



Kindergarten Information Session - 2 April 2025

Save the Date

Kindergarten Information Session
Wednesday 2 April 9.30am to 11.30am
in the Living Arts Centre

Please see flyer for all the details.

Please note: If you have a child currently enrolled at our school and have not yet submitted an application form for a younger sibling, please note that this step is necessary to secure a place. For children born in 2022 to be enrolled in 4-year-old kindergarten in 2026, it is essential an application form is submitted by 21 March to avoid disappointment due to limited spots.

If you have any questions or need to confirm whether your child is on the waiting list, please contact me.

Warmly,
Deborah Bottin
Registrar



(08) 8391 0411
office@mbws.sa.edu.au
27 Sims Road, Mount Barker

Kindergarten information session

Come and experience the purposeful, play-based curriculum that nourishes and enriches your child's whole being.

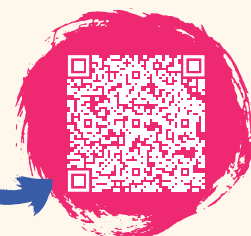
Our teacher-led Kindergarten information morning will open your eyes to Waldorf education and the warmth and care we bring your children.

This morning experience is for parents only.

Applications are for children turning 4, 5 and 6. To enrol in 2026, attendance is required.

Please RSVP by Monday 24 March 2025.

Online at mbws.sa.edu.au/book-a-tour
or email us at office@mbws.sa.edu.au



How Parents can access Schoolbox

Welcome to Schoolbox!

'Schoolbox' is our learning management system. It is a bridge between school and home.

<https://schoolbox.mtbarkerwaldorf.sa.edu.au/>

Schoolbox is

- a communication portal for teachers and parents,
- a learning management system for High School students.

Teachers can

- share course information,
- share resources for learning and extension,
- proactively track student progress during the learning,
- share student progress with you during the learning.
- Communicate key dates and events, share resources
- Celebrate learning and community with you



As a Waldorf school we use technology with intentionality and at the 'right stage'. Students will use Schoolbox as part of their staged engagement with our curriculum and skills-building only in their High School years. For more detail, see the Schoolbox table below.

Need help logging in? When you join our school, you will receive log in details by email. If you encounter any issues with setup, please contact the School's front office for support.

Enjoy sharing in your students learning. You will see our pride for Waldorf pedagogy shining bright!

What can parents find on Schoolbox?		
All Parents	Communication about schoolwide event dates and information Class updates and news on your class communication page	
	Learning	Social aspects of school life
Early Childhood Parents	Communication about your child's learning program	Sharing some special moments, resources for the season
Primary School Parents	Picture of your child's learning, Sharing some learning highlights Detailed feedback on your child's progress in their learning areas twice yearly to complement their summative reports	Class news: sharing ○ dates, ○ particular class info, ○ resources, e.g. camp booklet ○ sharing some learning highlights
Middle School Parents	○ Picture of units of learning, learning expectations ○ Sharing homework tasks, resources, due dates etc. ○ Track homework completion ○ Communication of student progress during course and on completion of course ○ Sharing some learning highlights	○ Communications from Guardians about events, camps, resources, class celebrations, etc. ○ Sharing some highlights of their learning and life at school together
Senior School Parents	Additionally, ○ Communicate student's progress during the course and on its completion (including grade/ percentage) ○ View written feedback shared with students	

From the Canteen

HOT FOOD

Spinach & feta triangle (V)	\$ 5.00
Vegetable roll (V)	\$ 5.00
Sausage roll	\$ 4.50
Pasty (contains meat)	\$ 5.00
Meat pie	\$ 5.00
Toasted sandwich	\$ 4.50
on Brezel bread	
<i>Cheese & tomato (V) or</i>	
<i>Ham & cheese</i>	

SNACKS

Simply DK Potato Chips (90g bag – Classic or Purple)	\$4.00
Fresh Brezel pretzels	\$ 2.50
Anzac cookies (Vegan)	\$ 0.50
Choc chip biscuits	\$ 0.50
Choc chip biscuits (GF)	\$ 0.50
Daily baked treat	\$ 3.50
Bliss ball (Vegan)	\$ 1.00
Juicies ice block (tropical or lemonade)	\$ 2.00

DRINKS

Spring water 600ml	\$ 2.50
Mountain Fresh juice 300ml	\$ 3.00

(V) – Vegetarian
(GF) – Gluten Free

**For all special dietary needs, please speak to the Canteen staff – we can accommodate all requests!*

LUNCH SPECIALS

\$7.50

Monday

Vegetable and corn slice
With garden salad.

Tuesday

Falafel wrap or bowl
With hummus and salsa (tomato, cucumber and parsley).

Wednesday

Sushi
Chicken or vegetarian.

Thursday

Vegetable curry (Cauliflower and chickpea)
In a coconut milk base with basmati rice, raita and papadum.

Friday

Banh-mi roll
With chicken or crispy tofu.



Birthday party's and Workshops

CLAY PLAY

**LOCATED AT MY
HOME IN MOUNT
BARKER OR I CAN
COME TO YOU.**

DURATION /MY DETAILS

1 - 1.5 hours
I am a qualified primary
school teacher
0403703842
katrina.board@gmail.com

COST

\$35/Child
Minumum 6 Children
Maximum 10 Children

OPTIONS

Animals
Wall pockets
Rainbows
Pinch Pots
Fairy House and
Toadstool 🍄

TIMES

10, 11 or 2 on a
Sunday
4pm on week days

OTHER DETAILS

Option to bring a cake
Operating in the Adelaide Hills or
further away at an extra cost. Small
gift for the birthday child. Clay and
firing included as well as drinks.
Firing pick up to be organised at a
later date.

CULTURAL LEARNING

TAILORED WORKSHOPS



Experience an interactive workshop that weaves cultural knowledge and experiences through a hands on workshop. Explore cultural connection, Identity, and Country. This interactive session fosters creativity, reflection, and deeper understanding of First Nations histories and cultures

1 hour, from \$750, upto 30 ppl, all ages

EVENTS/ASSEMBLIES

IMMERSIVE WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Jade is a Kaurua Custodian with cultural permissions to perform Welcome to Country. She shares the meaning of this ancient practice in an engaging, interactive, and thought-provoking way.

30 minutes, from \$750, upto 150 ppl, all ages

WORKSHOPS

PD FOR STAFF

Jade loves to work with teams on feeling confident, around how to embed First Nations perspectives into their planning and daily practice - perfect for educators and corporate settings



ON COUNTRY WALKS

Grab your hat, water bottle and walking shoes as Jade takes you on a guided walk on Kaurua Yerta sharing her families stories, history and Country



ART WORKSHOPS

Jade offers a beautiful learning experience, creating a connection story through art, tailored to inspire and engage all ages



CUPPA AND A YARN?

Didn't see exactly what you need? Let's co-designing something that suits your budget, time, and group size.

Reach out today and have a yarn.

0434862291

Jadebrookworkshops@gmail.com



ALSO CHOOSE FROM.....

Jewellery making - Weaving - Nature Play - Student Mentoring sessions - Tarnda (Red Male Kangaroo) - Tiwu (Yellow Tail Black Cockatoo) - Kudli (wild dog) - Ngungana (Kookuburra) - Commission art pieces - Consultancy - Program designing - Markets - Tasting plates - Paint and sips - Team building - Logo designs - Curriculum planning - Early years sessions - Indigenous planting - Yarning Circles - RAP plans

BOW MAKING & ARCHERY

WITH LARS RICHTER



MARCH 29 - 30
SUMMERTOWN SA

Make Your Own Traditional WOODEN LONGBOW!

(Kids under 14 require an adult helper)

Join us for this incredible two-day annual event on a stunning property in Summertown.

- Craft your own authentic wooden longbow using traditional techniques
- Bond with your child—camp overnight on Saturday (optional, bring your own gear) or head home and return refreshed the next day
- Engaging hands-on learning—covering design & technologies, history, math, science, and PE

Limited spots available—book now before tickets sell out!

MBWS PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

A community voice for parents, students and all MBWS stakeholders.

WHO - parents, guardians, teachers, students (stakeholders).

WHY - To promote the best possible education and learning environment for our students and teachers.

HOW - Involvement gives stakeholders a voice and the opportunity to play a significant role in the shared vision for leadership and governance for the school, by:

- Bringing stakeholders into close co-operation, to share their ideas and perspectives and promote the interests of the school.
- Assisting in promoting the welfare of teachers and students.
- Encouraging community participation in the activities and events of the school.
- Encouraging community participation in educational and other issues.

WHEN - Next meeting Tuesday 11th March, 6pm in the Beehive.

If you would like to be involved, please come to the meeting, join the Whatsapp group via the QR code or contact us at the email address below.

CONTACT: mbwspta@gmail.com



WHAT'S ON!

at your Community Centre

March 2025

Date

Time

Womens Shed Workshop with Rose Squire	Monday 24 February	9am-2pm
Endometriosis Support Group Topic: Body Image and the impacts of Endo	Wednesday 5th March	6pm—7.30pm
International Womens Day Afternoon Tea Celebrating local women in Government! Guest Speakers: Rebekha Sharkie MP Sam Jones Deputy Mayor Councillor Jessica Szillassy	Friday 7 March	2pm—3.30pm
Building Positive Futures for Young People Living with Autism	Wednesday 26th March	5pm—7pm
Spark Conversation join us for a coffee and a chat!	Oak & Iron Tuesdays Britannia Kanmantoo Wednesdays	10am—12pm
Mount Barker Youth Tunes Play music, have fun and meet other musical young people	Tuesdays	5.30—7.30pm
Arthritis Information Session	Friday 11 April	2pm—3pm
Autism Family Day <i>Connect Thrive Belong</i> at Auchendarroch House	Tuesday 15th April	10.30am—2pm
Mount Barker Mens Group	Thursdays	10am—1pm

Bookings essential for all events. Most events can be booked online:

<https://events.humanitix.com/host/mtbcc>



MOUNT BARKER
COMMUNITY CENTRE

Like us and share mtbcc.org.au 83912747 enquiries@mtbcc.org.au | 3 Dumas Street Mount Barker SA 5251