



MOUNT BARKER
WALDORF SCHOOL

Term 2
Week 7 – 2025
Newsletter

From the Principal

Dear Mount Barker Waldorf School,

Winter is here and the festival is near! With two 4-day weeks for the students, it feels like the term is rapidly coming to a close, but we still have a last Main Lesson to look forward to.

The inner mood that comes about at this time of year is one of introspection and reflection. It is one where we can sometimes be focused on the gathering darkness and forget about the coming light – particularly when looking at the current global picture. However, the wisdom of this season is that no matter how dark things get, there is always a light guiding the way; the season of cold and dark always passes to one of light and joy. This is the beauty and symbolism of the winter spiral and lantern walk.

These words of a round that is often sung during the winter festival beautifully capture the mood:

*Through the darkness we shall go.
With our lanterns all a-glow.
Hearts grow warm, our way grows bright,
As we journey in the light.*

*Though it's dark and cold this night,
We can trust in this small light.
If we hold our lantern true,
Courage grows our deeds to do.*

As the adults who are supporting and shepherding our children and young people as they grow and develop, it is important to remember that we also need courage. Growing up in these times can be challenging and requires trusted adults to be conscious of the experiences they are allowing their children and young people to participate in. Sometimes, saying no is the hard but nurturing answer.

Please remember, we all have an inner light that we can call on to give us the courage we need to do what is right.

Have a lovely 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

Monday 9 June

KING'S BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY 

Tuesday 10 June

Class 8 Orienteering Practical

Totness Conservation Park
12noon-2.45pm

Wednesday 11 June

**Class 12 Art History Main Lesson
Excursion**

AGSA, The MOD and SAMSTAG Galleries,
10am-3.15pm

Class 11/12 Geography Excursion

Laratinga Wetlands
11.55am-1.15pm

Class 8 Fire Twirling Practice

Oval
3.45pm-4.30pm

Thursday 12 June

Class 9/10 Soccer (select students)

Sturt Lions Football Club
10am-3pm

MBWS by Moonlight - All High School

Classes 7 - 12 Students (Middle/Senior)
6pm-7.30pm

TERM 2, 2025

**Tuesday 29 April to
Friday 27 June**

**Last day of Term 2, 2025
is a full day.**

Cover Image: Class 5 Egyptian Paintings

Winter Festival

Nightingale Kindy

Tuesday 17 June 2025

9am-12.30pm

Banksia Rose Kindy

Melaleuca Kindy

Friday 20 June 2025*

9am-12.30pm

Primary & High School

Friday 20 June 2025*

4pm-6pm

*Kindy and Primary ONLY will be having a half day.

There are no buses for early pick up.

Primary will return to school at 3.45pm for the festival.

High School will be a full day as usual.

Upcoming important dates

Monday 16 June

Class 8 Fire Twirling Rehearsal

MBWS

3.45pm-4.30

Tuesday 17 June

Nightingale Kindy Winter Festival

Nightingale Kindy

9am-12.30pm (half day)

Wednesday 18 June

School Tours

9am and 4pm

Thursday 19 June

Class 9/10 Soccer (select students)

Sturt Lions Football Club

10am-3pm

Friday 20 June

Banksia Rose/Melaleuca Kindy Winter Festival

Kindergartens

9am-12.30pm (half day)

Primary & High School Winter Festival

MBWS Oval

4pm-6pm

Kindergarten Lantern Walk

Melaleuca

Saturday 21 June 2025

5pm - 6.30pm

Banksia Rose New Date

Sunday 22 June 2025

5pm - 6.30pm

OSHC

Afternoons Only

Monday-Friday PM

School finish-6.00pm

(\$30 flat rate)

To book, please email

oshc@mbws.sa.edu.au



If you have any feedback for the MBWS Board, please contact them via email at: secretary@mbws.sa.edu.au



MOUNT BARKER
WALDORF SCHOOL



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

Fridays

9am - 12 noon

Parent Craft



Yoga Thursdays

A slow pace yoga class
suited for everyone.

Teachers: 8-8.30am

Students: 8.30-8.55am

Parents: 9.15-10am

Education Support Officer Position Available - Semester 2, 2025

Mount Barker Waldorf School is looking for an experienced Education Support Officer (also known as SSO or Classroom Assistant) to work across the school. The applicant has a passion for working with children in a school setting and some understanding (or willingness to learn) of Steiner Education.

- A Certificate III in Education Support (or enrolment or currently towards) is preferable.
- Position is for school hours (9am to 3.30pm) full-time to commence on Monday 21 July, 2025 (Semester 2).

We are committed to developing our Waldorf pedagogy to nurture students' imagination, creativity and skills for the future. The school will support you in your knowledge of Steiner Education and your professional development.

To apply please send a cover letter, CV, and three references to the Principal, Liam Waterford at lwaterford@mbws.sa.edu.au. All positions require a valid WWCC and RRHAN-EC certificate and a valid First Aid Certificate preferred.

Applications are due by Friday 27 June 2025.

For preliminary confidential enquiries or conversations about this position, please contact Liam Waterford, Principal at the school on (08) 8391 0411.



Site Works and Traffic Impacts

Dear Parents, Caregivers and the wider School Community,

As you will have seen, demolition of the building lost to fire in April is all but complete. Excavator, skips and temporary fencing will be removed by the end of this week. Once the area is clear we will remove the remaining bunting directing foot traffic from the bus stop area to the Front Office, and normal access can resume. Some carparks immediately below the bus stop will be available for parking once more, but please note that the lower portion of the former Kiss and Drop loop will remain blocked off to vehicle traffic to ensure pedestrian safety.

From here, we are aware that heavier than usual traffic is travelling through the site to the LAC and Primary School parking areas ongoing. Additional and new traffic controls around site will be required and to further this we have now engaged the services of a Traffic Management Consultant. The Consultant will develop a site Traffic Management Proposal, for review by our Board.

In the meantime, **PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC “HOT SPOTS”:**

The internal road down near Bush Kindy: our younger students are enjoying time in Bush Kindy at present, so please be additionally careful of very small children at drop off. We have installed additional signs as a temporary measure (please refer photos) to enhance awareness,

The temporary “Kiss and Drop” is subject to heavy traffic flows at drop-off and pick-up: to try to alleviate risk and improve safety we have added to Staff presence at these times, where possible, and created a new pedestrian crossing to generate awareness in motorists and a safer place for children to cross (refer photo). Please give way to children at this crossing.

Primarily, **PLEASE SLOW DOWN** when driving onsite. This is the most effective measure we have as a community to keep our children safe. While all this is happening, thank you for your ongoing patience and support.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via rkennedy@mbws.sa.edu.au.

Beck Kennedy
Business Manager



Wellbeing

Seen The Film

On May the 9th our school hosted a screening of the Documentary 'Seen'. We had a great turnout of parents from across the school, with over 70 attendees. Snacks and drinks were kindly organised by the Beehive parent group. Huge thanks to Bec Haynes and the other parents involved!

At the end of the film there was a list of support and further resources shown on the screen for parents to look into further. Please find below for you to access.

I am also pleased to announce that Melanie Deefholts from 'Developing the Self: Developing the World' will again be visiting our community in September, working with students in class 5 and above with the 'Healthy Relationships to Self and Others' program. Please save the dates of Wednesday the 10th and Thursday the 11th of September for her parent talks. More details to follow.

Elise Duffield
Assistant Principal

Click [HERE](#) to access: Seen, Further Resources and Support Services



Learning & Sharing Pictures of Learning

Taking in the View or capturing learning through reports (metaphor inspired by conversations with our High School students recently back from camp...)

As we near the end of Term 2, it's easy to forget how far we've come while 'climbing' together. Yet when we pause, we can take in some truly beautiful views—moments of growth and connection as well as shared effort throughout the semester.

Our teachers are now preparing student reports—a formal reflection on each child's journey so far. These mid-year reports offer a snapshot: highlighting strengths, growth areas, and next steps in your child's learning. While valuable, they are just one way we share with you the story of your child's development. Thank you for walking alongside us this semester—joining parent evenings, interviews, festivals, and conversations. This ongoing collaboration deepens our shared understanding of your child and enriches the reports we are now preparing. Each one reflects not only classroom learning, but also the shared insights and relationships that surround your child's growth.

Practically speaking, the learning measures in reports are based on year-level standards, where 'achieving' (a C grade) means a child is progressing as expected. Most children sit comfortably in this range, with variations that reflect their unique strengths. Teachers also bring their insight into each student's journey, which you'll find in their written comments. When reading the report, we encourage you to celebrate your child's successes, as well as the areas where they are ready to stretch and grow. It's easy to skip over what's going well—but it's so important to take that in, too.

Of course, where these summative reports matter most—in the senior years—our students' reports clearly reflect their academic progress in percentages and grades. For those on a university pathway, reports are designed to provide detailed context about how each student is tracking toward their final marks and scores. These reports may look quite different to others in the school and offer specific assessment information for students and families as they work toward individual goals and graduation requirements—information which you've been updated on through Schoolbox over the course of the semester.

We look forward to sharing some final special moments with you before the term ends. This Thursday, High School families are warmly invited to **MBWS by Moonlight**—an evening to engage the head, heart, and hands, featuring stories from our alumni and moments of connection around learning. And, of course, our Winter Festivals will bring a fitting close to the term—a moment of stillness and celebration, before we begin the next climb.

Eleanor Waterford
Assistant Principal

Be sure to attend the MBWS by Moonlight event this Thursday 12 June 2025.

There will be a High School Art Exhibition afterwards.



Reflections on the film, *Seen*

After watching the film 'Seen' alongside many in our school community I was reminded of this poem that I discovered early in my teaching career. Not long after my first child was born I placed it on my refrigerator as a regular reminder.....

Leesa Kerr

Early Childhood Educational Leader

If I Had My Child to Raise Over Again

If I had my child to raise all over again,
I'd finger paint more and point the finger less.

I'd do less correcting and more connecting.

I'd take my eyes off my watch and watch with my eyes.

I would care to know less and know to care more.

I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.

I'd stop playing serious and seriously play.

I'd run through more fields and gaze at more stars.

I'd do more hugging and less tugging.

I would be firm less often and affirm much more.

I'd build self-esteem first and the house later.

I'd teach less about the love of power

And more about the power of love!

by Dianne Loomans



Walk to School Day

On Friday 16 May 2025 students, teachers, parents and pets all gathered in the chilly Autumn air to embark on the annual 'Walk to School' journey.

Many moments of connection, joy and laughter could be seen as we meandered along the various pathways. It is moments like these that weave the threads of our community together. Towards the end of our walk we could almost hear our tummies rumbling and the anticipation building for the delicious breakfast that was waiting for us upon arrival. Pancakes, fresh fruit, bacon and eggs, all prepared by our wonderful Grounds staff and Teachers greeted us on the LAC verandah.

Thank you to all the students, parents, staff and helpers who come together each year to make this a successful and enjoyable event for all. We hope you will join us next year for another Walk to School.

Nicole Ash
Student Support Teacher



MBWS at the Statewide Volleyball Tournament

On Thursday 22 May 2025, our Class 9/10 student team represented the school at the statewide volleyball tournament held at Aberfoyle Park. They were competitive in every game they played and approached the tournament with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship. The team displayed fantastic teamwork, supporting one another on and off the court.

It was wonderful to see their skills and confidence grow throughout the day. My highlight was seeing students from different classes building connections and friendships and seeing their joy and passion in representing our school. Well done to all involved!

Nic Massacci
High School Faculty Chair



MBWS at the Steiner Early Childhood Australia Committe Meeting

Recently, Christy Schaeffer and I travelled to Sydney to meet with our Steiner Early Childhood Australia (SECA) colleagues for our annual in-person committee meeting. Christy currently holds the position of Registrar and I am the SA/NT regional representative. Although we meet regularly online, we take the opportunity each year to have more productive and robust discussions about ways that we can best support our members and friends who work in early childhood.

We are excited to share that our biannual 'Star Weavings' publication will revert back to a hard copy after being online for a number of years. Star Weavings is a wonderful resource full of articles, songs, stories, book reviews, craft and more that support all who work with young children. We will also be launching our new website soon, which includes many resources for our members, educators and parents.

SECA is also pro-active in providing professional development and we have an upcoming workshop on 'Curative Education in the Classroom' with Robyn Brown - 18-20 July 2025 and next year our colleagues in Victoria will host 'Vital Years Conference' at Warranwood Steiner School during the winter holidays.

We shared information from around the various regions across the country and globally. Our international representative who had recently returned from Europe, gave us some insight into what is living for young children and for our international colleagues. We look forward to hearing more about the '100 year anniversary' Waldorf early childhood conference being held at the Gotheanum next year.

Although it was a full agenda, we managed to enjoy together a eurythmy session, a meal and a walk to see the sights of Sydney Harbour.

Leesa Kerr
Early Childhood Educational Leader



*'Freeing the Spirit of
Childhood'*

High School Guest Speaker - Sahil Jha

At our High School Assembly recently, the students had the opportunity to hear from Sahil, who comes from India and who is on an amazing journey to promote the importance of soil health around the world.

At just 19 years old Sahil has started a 20,000 km bicycle journey across four continents and 20 countries. Sahil began on 21 March 2025 from Bundaberg, Qld, and will take him across Australia, Asia, the UK, Europe, and the United States. Sahil's mission is to raise awareness about soil health and advocate for sustainable agricultural practices that can restore soil health. He will visit schools, universities, environmental groups, and politicians, on his mission.

This is not Sahil's first endeavour! At the age of 16, Sahil cycled 15,000 km in 15 months across India, raising awareness about soil degradation and its far-reaching consequences. His advocacy and activism have made a significant impact, and his current journey is a continuation of his tireless efforts to protect soil, one of our planet's most vital resources.

Sahil shared with us how soil degradation can have severe consequences that affect our nutrition, climate, biodiversity, and food security. A healthy teaspoon of soil can contain from 100 million to 1 billion bacteria.

Part of the answer lies in improving soil health by increasing the organic content in soil. This not only improves food quality but also helps restore biodiversity. Sahil believes that by implementing global policies to protect soil, it will help ensure a sustainable future for all.

The High School students showed great interest in Sahil's journey and were inspired by his actions and the courage he has shown to support a cause he feels passionate about. It has given us the opportunity to reflect on our own practices and how we can act on a small scale (at school or at home) by continuing to improve soil health through composting, mulching, applying horn manure, crop rotation and green manuring. All of which are organic and biodynamic practices and topics that are covered in our Class 6 to 10 Horticulture programme.

If you can help and would like to donate to support Sahil's cause he has a Go-fund-me page: www.gofundme.com/f/19-year-old-sahil-to-ride-across-4-continents-to-save-soil

Sue Catlow
Horticultural Teacher



LOKMAT TIMES Teen on mission to bring in change

With an aim of traversing almost 27 states of the country to bring in the awareness for saving our soil, Sahil Jha stands out from the typical social media savvy millennials, thus giving serious goals to many.

Bhavana Parvathi
Bhavani Menon
LOKMAT NEWS NETWORK, NAGPUR

Some jobs once said, 'The misfits, the rebels, the trouble-makers, the round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, but you can't ignore them. They are the ones who change the world.'



The bicycle Sahil started his journey with. When we asked this young lad about his future for education, he promptly replied, 'After I achieve this feat, even if I get an offer for free education from foreign universities, I would not be opting for it. I want to spend my time studying the environment and I would not do that in the closed walls of an educational institute, instead I would like to be out there, studying the environment in the open air.'



19 Year Old cycling across the world to



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
Garlic Bread (Monday only)	\$ 3.00
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

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

Pumpkin soup

With garlic bread. Vegetarian and gluten free option available.

Tuesday

Nachos bowl

Vegetarian bean sauce with salsa, sour cream, cheese and corn chips. Vegetarian and gluten free.

Wednesday

Chicken curry (Palak paneer)

Vegetarian option available.

Thursday

Baked potato

With bean sauce or coleslaw, sour cream and cheese. Vegetarian and gluten free.

Friday

Beef or Veggie burger

With Tuckshop special sauce, tomato, cheese and lettuce.



Community News & Events

Calendar of Events

Head Heart and Hands Imaginative Play

81A Main Rd Nairne

Workshops in May/June

Workshops in June

Making a Winter Garden

Craft activities for 4 year olds and older
Saturday 14 June at 10am or by appointment
Cost: \$18 includes materials

Making a Winter Bird Tree

for 7 year olds and older
Saturday 21 June at 10am or by appointment
Cost: \$20 includes materials

Making King Winter

for 7 year olds and older
Saturday 28 June at 10am or by appointment
Cost: \$20 includes materials

Making Mother Earth or King Winter

for 8 year olds and older
Saturday 28 June at 10am or by appointment
Cost: \$20 includes materials

Making a Felted Doll with Legs

for 8 year olds and older by appointment
Cost: \$20 includes materials

Bookings essential. Ph or text

0423202784

Opening Hours

Wed to Sat 11am to 2pm

We are happy to open after hours by
appointment

You can find us on Facebook and Instagram

Dollmaking Classes for Adults

Making Large Waldorf Dolls.

Commencing on Saturday 14 June
at 12.30pm to 3pm (3-4 sessions)

Cost: \$100 for the course(not
including materials)

Register your interest now.

Making Small Cuddle Dolls

Suitable for baby's first doll

For 8 year olds and older
(1.5 hour session)

Cost: \$28 (includes materials)
By appointment.

Register your interest now.

Bookings essential. Ph or text

0423202784

Home Schooling classes

Thursdays at 10am(7 to 10 year olds

Fridays at 10am(7 to 9 year olds)

or Fridays at 11am(9 to 12 year olds)

Register your interest now.

Opening Hours

Wed to Sat 11am to 2pm

We are happy to open after hours by
appointment

You can find us on Facebook and Instagram



**click here to learn more
and register your interest**

Steiner Education at Home An Online Course for Parents and Tutors

The Sydney Rudolf Steiner College is pleased to invite expressions of interest for a developing course for Steiner Education at Home.

A course for parents, carers, and educators—whether you're new to home education or experienced—this self-paced, modular program offers practical guidance and inspiration to help you create a nurturing, developmentally aligned learning environment. Rooted in the rich principles of Steiner/Waldorf education, each module is thoughtfully curated to support your unique home-learning journey.

From the Early years through to the primary years, participants will explore practical, artistic and philosophically enriching modules that aim to bring Steiner education to life in your own home.



Expression of Interest Art Therapy Workshop - "My Child and I"

This workshop offers an opportunity to explore both your child's subconscious and your own, helping to improve your relationship with them.

Participants will use specially designed colouring pages to reflect on personal situations with their children and express their feelings about them. The workshop leader will guide all participants and provide feedback on their individual situations. The resolution of each case will largely depend on the parent's readiness to tackle it.

After each meeting, participants will have practical homework to do colouring pages with their children - no special skills are required. Children of any age can join in this essential part of the workshop.

Dates, time, and the format (online or offline) will be discussed with interested participants after they express their interest. Work will be conducted in mini-groups of 5 people. The workshop will be led by a coach, art therapist, and photographer, Natalia Petrenko. \$150 for three sessions, each lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes.

If you have any questions or would like to express your interest, please contact Natalia, on 0434 078 830 or via email at natalia.petrenko@yahoo.com

Gumeracha Spinners and Weavers

Invite You To Their



OPEN DAY

Sunday 15th June 2025, 10am-3pm

Gumeracha Town Hall, 45 Albert St, Gumeracha

FREE ADMISSION

Vendors selling hand-crafted products, yarns, fibres, fleece, equipment. Spinning and weaving demonstrations throughout the day.

Eat Local: The Good Pantry will be open all day (opposite the pub)

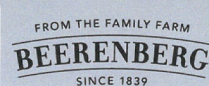
10th HILLS WINTER LANTERN FESTIVAL



**ECHUNGA
COMMUNITY PARK**

**JUNE 14
3-8 PM**

WORKSHOPS - LIVE MUSIC - FIRE MURAL - BAR - FOOD TRUCKS





AYCC **QUIZ NIGHT**

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH
CLIMATE COALITION

Adelaide Hills AYCC Presents: the 2025 By Young People, For Young People Quiz Night!

Saturday the 14th of June

4-7pm

Mt Barker Town Hall

34-38 Gawler St

For ages 12-30

Guest Speakers:

Kate Washington

(Green Adelaide)

Darcey McNamara

(Rising Tide)

FREE ENTRY!

**Some food provided, but
bring a plate of food for
your table!**

Register Here!

