



MOUNT BARKER
WALDORF SCHOOL

Term 1
Week 4 – 2026
Newsletter

From the Principal

Dear Mount Barker Waldorf School,

How are you feeling as we head into the fourth week of term? Our hope is that you are feeling like you are just getting into the groove. This is the part of the term where great work will be happening, where we live into the rhythms and routines that we have set up through the first few weeks of term. This is something that is called an 'etheric rhythm' in Waldorf Schools. As our bodily rhythms and ways of being now work more harmoniously with the rhythms of the day and the week, our capacity to be in flow and to really knuckle down into learning grows. And your rhythms at home are just as important to this overall breathing of the day, we are all working together to support our young people to develop.

It is exciting to walk around the school during Main Lesson time and hear the hum of classrooms working through their daily routines and seeing the different activities that are happening. In some classrooms there is movement, singing and storytelling. In others there is quiet focused time on literacy or numeracy work before breaking into activity and movement. Each class has a different rhythm that matches the age of the students and the curriculum content they are covering. The lower classes may spend more time working through the will and feeling realms, using movement, music, song and verses to support the learning. The higher classes may spend more time in the thinking and feeling realms as we allow our students to work with their own judgments and conclusions to come towards the concepts. Every area in the school is geared towards bringing the right thing at the right time for the students who are in the class right now.

This is the beauty of our school – we are teaching young human beings, not content. Sometimes the temptation is to focus on a curriculum lens e.g. I am a maths teacher, but in our school, we are first and foremost teachers of children, and more specifically, your children. This rhythm that is now established, through hard work over the last three weeks, now bears fruits beyond the content. As in everything we do in a Waldorf School, the learning goes much deeper, and across our school we have young people who are gaining a living understanding of how routines and rhythms support us in our learning and growth. I hope you are feeling a sense of rhythm and continuity in your connections to our school too.

Warm regards,
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 23 February

School Photographs - Primary, Middle and High School

Includes Student ID photos
All day



Tuesday 24 February

NAPLAN Practice Test Day

Classes 3, 5, 7 & 9

Class 12 Parent / Teacher meeting

IRC

6pm - 7pm

Thursday 26 February

Courier Cup Swimming Carnival 2026

Select student team

Summit Aquatic & Leisure Centre

9am - 3.15pm

OSHC ~Afternoons Only

Monday-Friday PM

School finish-6.00pm

(\$30 flat rate)

To book, please email

oshc@mbws.sa.edu.au

TERM 1, 2026

Monday 2 February
to
Friday 10 April

Cover Image: Drawing from Santa Cruz Waldorf School

Early Collection of Students - Front Office

Dear Families,

Please note the following for everyone's safety:

- **Early pick-ups from the Front Office only**
- **Organise with the Front Office for your child to be collected prior to your arrival (call ahead/email)**

To help us care for both our environment and, most importantly, our students, I'd like to gently remind families of our procedures around early collection. While many schools use fencing and other protective measures to manage safety, our setting requires us to be particularly mindful about who is on campus during the school day.

Your child's safety and wellbeing are paramount to us all. For this reason, outside of drop-off and pick-up times, we ask that any early collections take place through the Front Office. Our team will happily arrange for your child to be brought to you promptly. This process helps us ensure that everyone on site has the appropriate clearances and that our learning environment remains calm and secure for all students.

We are grateful for your understanding and partnership in supporting these practices. Together, we can continue to provide a safe, welcoming and nurturing environment for every child.

Warm regards,
Daniel Hickey,
Assistant Principal

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 3 March

Inkpot 2026 Springboard Creative Youth Theatre Ensemble

Eurythmy Room
6pm - 8pm

Please note:

Eurythmy for Adults is returning this Term on **Mondays from 9am - 10am**. Please remember to sign in at the Front Office upon arriving.

The Beehive Cafe & Shop will be reopening on **Tuesday 3 March from 9am - 11am**. There is still availability, within the group of parents if you are interested in helping.



Eurythmy for Adults

Mondays
9 am - 10 am

We're back!



Friends of the Plant Nursery

Tuesdays:
9.15 – 10.45am
Meet at the School's Plant Nursery



Beehive

Tuesday 3 March 2026
9am - 11am
Cafe and Shop

We're back!



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

Casual Position Available - Inclusion Assistant (1:1 Support)

Hours: 3 mornings per week, 9:00am–12:00pm

Location: Waldorf Kindergarten (Mount Barker Waldorf School).
Contact Debra Lutze, Student Support Coordinator at 8391 0411
or dlutze@mbws.sa.edu.au

Commencement: TBC February 2026



Job Description

To provide compassionate, developmentally appropriate, individualised support to a kindergarten-aged child who is non-verbal, intellectually disabled, and has limited mobility.

The Inclusion Assistant supports the child's safe participation in the daily rhythms of a Waldorf Kindergarten, while honouring Steiner early-childhood principles of warmth, imitation, rhythm, and sensory protection.

Personal Qualities

- Gentle, patient, and attuned to children's needs.
- Respectful communicator who builds trust with children and adults.
- Reliable and able to maintain consistent rhythms and routines.
- Creative, flexible, and able to adapt to the flow of the kindergarten morning.
- Values inclusivity and child dignity above all.

Essential Key Skills & Qualifications

- Certificate III in Individual Support (Disability) or equivalent qualification. Proficiency in Auslan for use with a non-verbal child or working towards.
- Experience supporting children with intellectual disability, limited mobility and complex communication needs.
- Ability to follow therapy plans and utilise Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) strategies.
- Warm, calm, consistent presence suitable for a Waldorf early childhood environment.
- Strong observational skills and ability to respond sensitively to the child's cues.
- Physical capacity to assist with mobility support and safe transfers as needed.
- Current Working With Children Check (WWCC)
- First Aid Certificate – Education setting
- Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect-Education and Care (RRHAN-EC) current

Around Our School

2026 Class 1 Teacher - Renee Cooper

Hello! My name is Renee Cooper and I have the honor of beginning this year as the Class 1 teacher. I have grown up in the hills and I love the community! I live in Littlehampton with my family: my husband and 2 boys...and a menagerie of pets.

When we are blessed with the time I like travelling, bush walking and spending time with my family. I enjoy being creative and find joy in Historic sewing and cake making (and tasting!) I am very passionate about education and meeting children where they're on their journey. I am looking forward to what the year ahead holds.



The Learning Enrichment Team at MBWS - Who are they and What do they do?

Hello! Many of you will know us already; we are the learning enrichment team. We are committed to supporting students through a wide range of meaningful and purposeful practices. We deliver targeted Literacy and Numeracy intervention programs, alongside support for self-regulation strategies, readiness for learning, and the development of social and emotional skills. These supports are designed to meet students where they are and help them build confidence, resilience, and independence.

Our staff work collaboratively with teachers, families, and support services to develop and implement individual learning and behaviour plans. We also provide ongoing support for satellite classes and offer calm, safe, and supportive spaces where students can regulate, reset, and prepare themselves to re-engage with learning.

Adding a unique and engaging element to our team are some very special members—Loki the bearded dragon and Spotty the goldfish. Through caring for and feeding these animals, students are given opportunities to develop responsibility, empathy, and positive nurturing behaviours in a supportive environment.

We proudly celebrate and participate in events such as Harmony Day, Reconciliation Week, and whole-school festivals. These occasions strengthen our sense of community and belonging, while promoting respect, inclusion, and shared understanding across the school.



Team members include (pictured in no particular order):

Debra Lutze – Learning Enrichment Coordinator, Arran Stierman – High School Learning Enrichment Teacher, Nicole Ash – Primary School Learning Enrichment Teacher, Student Support Officers – Kelley, Avi, Kris, Hera, Ann, Amrita, Judith, Olivia, Monica & Zezette.

Back to Front Maths in Action

We are delighted to have begun working with the Back to Front Maths programme in our classes. This addition to our maths teaching encourages pupils to think deeply about mathematical concepts. The programme is helping to strengthen problem-solving skills, reasoning, and mathematical confidence across our classrooms. It has been wonderful to see such high levels of engagement and enthusiasm from our students. Interestingly, the 'answer' is the least important part of their mathematical thinking, we are focussed on how we get there.

Debra Lutze

Head of Student Support & Learning Enrichment

House Elements in High School

Dear High School Families,

This year, our High School is focusing on building Pride, Connectedness, and Belonging across Classes 7–12. As a supporting initiative we have introduced the Waldorf House Cup and all students are now part of a House element. Water, Fire, Earth, or Air and they will remain with this element throughout their Waldorf journey.

These Elements are made up of students across each year level and include multiple teachers too. Through these collaborations, students can build a sense of belonging across the high school including and beyond their class groups. Within houses, there are also opportunities for senior students to step confidently into leadership roles and develop their confidence in these spaces. Having houses will provide students opportunities to form broader social networks, build teamwork skills, and connect with more teachers who can serve as 'go-to' adults for support. We are already seeing strong relationships forming and a positive energy building across the High school.

Over the past few weeks, students have been busy creating House banners, songs, and chants, as well as designing a fun, challenging game to run during our Courage Games Day in Week 7. It has been wonderful to see students collaborating across year levels, showing enthusiasm, creativity, and growing pride in their House identity. There is a lovely recapitulation in the student's experience to the Class 5 Olympics they enjoyed long ago. It has been a pleasure to see how quickly new friendships and relationships are blossoming within house groups as the joy and collaboration grows.

Nic Massacci and Cathy Burnard
High School Co-Chair's

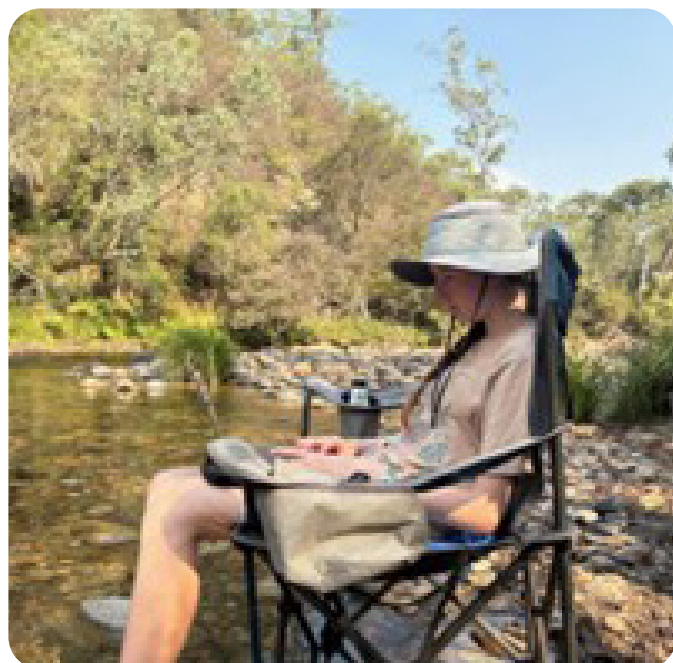
Remote Summer Learning

Over the summer holidays I did a short University topic called a Primer of Marine and Antarctic Science with the University of Tasmania. This topic is available to year 11 and 12 students and is taught completely online.

I listened and took notes on video lectures about a variety of topics related to marine science and participated in two zoom calls per week. There were several assignments throughout the course including an essay on environmental stewardship of the oceans, and an exam at the end on everything we had learnt in the video lectures. I learnt so much about marine life, ocean systems, climate change, and restoration and conservation projects.

Doing this topic was very helpful for me to figure out which area of marine biology I am most interested in for my future and to get a feel for what university is like. I would definitely recommend the course to anyone who is interested in studying marine biology.

Charlotte Burrows, Class 11



Remote studying by the river in Kosciuszko National Park.

EURYTHMY

Harmonious movement
For the health and
wellbeing of body and soul

EVERY MONDAY | 9.00.AM TO 10.00AM

From 2nd to 30th March

MOUNT BARKER WALDORF SCHOOL

*Embark on a journey of harmonious
movement!*

Explore the world of Eurythmy, where
movement meets sound and awakens
your inner creativity.

Delve into the language of the zodiac
and planets through gesture and
sound.

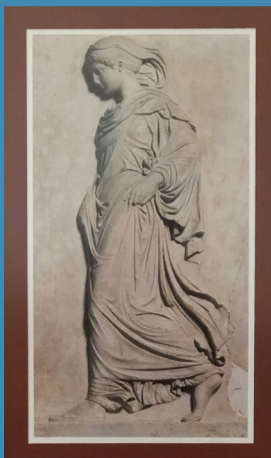
Discover how geometric forms connect
you to your inner world, and nature's
beauty.

Develop rhythmic movement and be
part of a supportive community.

***Sign up at the front office before
the session begins.***

For inquiries: call Anna 0468 783 454

BEAUTY BEFORE
ME, I WALK





DOLL MAKING WORKSHOPS

91a Old Princes Highway, Littlehampton

WALDORF DOLL MAKING WORKSHOPS

Classes over 2 days 9:30- 2.30pm

Some sewing skills required

Please call or text to register interest with

Kelly 0411450654

GROUP 1 ~ March 1st AND 14TH (1 place left)

GROUP 2 ~ March 21st AND 22nd (places avail)

\$135 including doll materials

Hair and clothes are extra



***WORKSHOPS HAVE
LIMITED NUMBERS*
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
PAYMENT REQUIRED ON BOOKING
PHONE OR TEXT
KELLY ON 0411450654**





LEARN TO PLAY A BRASS INSTRUMENT

Hahndorf Band Hall, 15 Balhannah Road Hahndorf

www.hahndorftownband.org



Hahndorf Brass Academy Classes every Monday during school terms

☆ New Learners 5.00pm ☆ Repeat Learners 5.30pm ☆

All enquiries to Kathrine on 0402 422 310 or email: secretary@hahndorftownband.org