



MOUNT BARKER
WALDORF SCHOOL

Term 1
Week 9 – 2026
Newsletter

From the Principal

Dear Mount Barker Waldorf School Community,

Here we are at the end of term, with Easter already past us. It arrives each year differently. This year it was a small pause. A long weekend that felt like a breath in, before the longer exhale of the term break that follows.

Easter is, in many ways, a time of renewal. A chance to slow down, to share a meal, to step outside the usual routines, or simply to do a little less. Sometimes it is not about what we did, but that something shifted. A slightly slower morning. A walk that went a little longer than planned. A moment where no one was rushing anywhere. A chance to set the tone for what is about to come.

As we now move into the longer term break after Friday, there is an opportunity to take that feeling and stretch it out a little further. The temptation is that these days easily fill themselves, and before we know it we are back into a different kind of busyness that involves being separated from each other. This is a gentle invitation to be conscious of that pull, particularly towards screens and devices which can quietly take more space than we intend. I would invite you to see if you can create a small rhythm in your days where you step outside instead. Into the garden, the bush, the hills around us. Even a short time in nature can do something quite profound. It settles. It reconnects. It gives children, and us, something real to meet and most importantly, the chance to meet together.

A big shout out to our students who put entries into the recent Mount Barker Show. We had many prize winners across a range of areas, and our Art display, so thoughtfully set up by our Art teachers, received many awards including "Best in Show" ribbons. It was a wonderful showcase of the talent and care that lives within our school. Thank you also to those who came past our marquee. The smiles, the conversations, the sense of connection throughout the day. It really did feel like a coming together of the Hills community.

As we finish the term, I would like to wish you all a safe and restful break. May it be filled with a bit of renewal, a bit of nature, and a slightly slower pace.

A reminder that Term resumes on Tuesday 28 April. The Monday prior is Waldorf Day, where teachers from across South Australia will gather at Willunga Waldorf School. It is always an inspiring beginning to the term, and we look forward to bringing that energy back into the classrooms.

Take care, enjoy the break, and we look forward to welcoming you back next term.

Warmly,
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 6 April

Public Holiday: Easter Monday
All day



Tuesday 7 April

Class 10 Practice Hike
Mount Crawford Forest
7/4/2026 - 9/4/2026

Class 9 Australian History Main Lesson
SA Army Museum
9am - 3pm

**Inkpot 2026 Springboard Creative Youth
Theatre Ensemble**
Eurythmy Room
6pm - 8pm

Thursday 9 April

Class 11 Retreat
Locations around MBWS

Friday 10 April

Last day of Term 1
12:30 finish



Autumn Trading Table
LAC Verandah
11am - 2pm

TERM 1, 2026

**Monday 2 February
to
Friday 10 April**

Cover Image: 2026 Class 7 Mandala making



Are you seeking inspiration for ways your family can connect with nature over the break?

Have a look at suggestions from Nature Play SA to help you dream into local adventures...



School Holidays

Monday 13 April 2026
to
Tuesday 28 April 2026

The front office will be open during this time; however, will be on reduced hours of 9am to 3pm.

Term 2 will commence on Tuesday 28 April 2026.

Mt Barker Waldorf Kindergarten

AUTUMN TRADING TABLE

Friday April 10th
11am - 2pm
Living Arts Centre
(LAC - by the school oval)

Craft, Food, Children's Secondhand Winter
Clothes & Secondhand Toys



Eurythmy for Adults

Mondays
9 am - 10 am



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



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

Become a Volunteer at Mount Barker Waldorf School

Volunteers play a vital role in the life of Mount Barker Waldorf School, enriching our community and supporting the work of our teachers and staff. Their involvement helps nurture the learning, wellbeing, and experiences of the children and young people in our care.

Whether you are listening to reading in the classroom, assisting in our gardens, supporting class excursions, helping with school events, or contributing your skills in another way, there are many opportunities to be involved and make a meaningful difference.

Mount Barker Waldorf School strives to be a safe, inclusive, compassionate and respectful environment for everyone. As part of our commitment to child safety and our responsibility to meet South Australian child protection and Work Health & Safety requirements, all volunteers must complete specific checks and training.

All volunteers are required to:

- Hold a current not prohibited South Australian Working with Children Check
- Complete the Mandatory Notification Training (RRHAN-EC)
- Sign a Volunteer Confidentiality Agreement

If you are interested in joining our volunteer community, please email office@mbws.sa.edu.au.

MBWS OSHC and Vacation Care News

Dear Mount Barker Waldorf School Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you for your ongoing support of our Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) and Vacation Care programs; we have important news to share.

After careful consideration School Leadership has made the difficult decision to increase charges for both OSHC and Vacation Care.

This is in response to ever increasing costs to deliver our safe, nurturing and educational programs. Whilst fees have been held steady to now, despite the inflationary financial environment, unfortunately the programs can no longer absorb the increases and it will be necessary to raise fees by the minimum amount required to remain sustainable.

The small adjustments are as follows:

- **Effective Monday 13th April 2026 (Week 1 Holidays): Vacation Care charges will increase to \$80 per child**
- **Effective Term 2 Commencing Monday 27th April 2026: afternoon OSHC charges will increase to \$35 per child**

Thank you once again for your support of these programs.

Kind regards,

Rebecca Kennedy
Business Manager

Around Our School

Nightingale Autumn Festival

During the term we have been working towards our autumn festival and recently we were able to share in the bounty of autumn's gifts. We had a beautiful autumn festival morning with our Nightingale children and their families.

We began with a walk together and along the way we found bark to collect which we will use later for starting our warming fires. We then gathered inside for a puppet story, the little brown bulb.

The sun came out as we gathered on the grass for our autumn picnic. We enjoyed corn peeled by the children and dragon bread with butter that the children made.

The children left with full baskets, a polished apple, a piece of corn, bay leaves for warming soups at home and their own little brown bulb to plant in their own garden.

Dimity Shopova
Nightingale Kindy teacher



High School Courage Games

Last Wednesday, Wednesday 18 March 2026, our High School students took part in the Courage Games to welcome Autumn and the cool change in weather. The Games was a culmination of weeks of planning, teamwork, and creative thinking as students worked in their newly formed house elements of Water, Fire, Air and Earth.

Throughout the term, students worked closely with their electives teacher to design, test, and refine each of the games featured on the day. Their goal was to create activities that encouraged teamwork, problem-solving and most of all FUN !

The afternoon was a great success with lots of students and teachers commenting on the connections between year levels and teamwork that was shown on the day. A special mention needs to go to our Class 11 students who lead the activities and supported their group throughout the day and of course to the teachers who were cheering on their house from the sideline.

We look forward to continuing to build connection across our year levels and building a sense of pride within our Elements. Nic and Cathy
High School Faculty Chair's

Class 12 Special Project Spotlight - Kheng Yin Wong

I sat on the wooden floor, watching my brother practice his violin, thinking that he was the most talented violinist in the world and I wanted to be just like him. And soon, I started learning the violin after a lot of begging and promising my parents that I would practice every day. Two years later at the age of eight, I was inspired to become a violin teacher because who doesn't want to talk about something they're passionate about for an hour? At one point, I decided that music was too difficult and doubted myself, questioning my ability to convey my understandings and knowledge to someone else. It was only recently that I rediscovered the pure joy I feel when teaching someone and being part of their journey. For my Year 12 Project, I'm going to be exploring how effective teaching methods influence and enhance students' musical development and enjoyment in performance, theory knowledge and ensemble participation. I'm going to observe a variety of teachers and collect data based on their approaches and apply it to my own students around the age of twelve, giving them the best quality of all effective teaching methods joined together.



Over the years, I realised how underappreciated learning an instrument is. Why? The teacher's approach towards the student's education is critical. It determines whether the student will quit the next day or go on to University and perhaps be the next Beethoven, Mozart or Tchaikovsky. It is the hope that one day I'll get the privilege of witnessing this which inspires me to learn how to be the kind of teacher that helps a student pursue a musical career.

When a student begins learning an instrument, it is difficult and frustrating. However, when you get to the point of sitting on a huge stage with tall resonant walls, surrounded by melodies and harmonies beside brilliantly capable people your own age, every frustrated practice makes it worth it.

I want others to be able to see and feel this for themselves, for music to speak for them when words fail to.

From Addiction to Actively Managing: Children and Screens



**Steiner
Education
Australia**

Podcast from Steiner Voices XYZ -

<https://steinereducation.edu.au/steiner-voices-xyz/>



Mary Heard returns to Steiner Voices to discuss screens and how to protect children from the dangers of their addictive use. Although the evidence of the negative impact that screen use has on young people is well established, parents can still feel they are swimming against the tide in a society where screen use for children is so widespread. Screens have an inherently addictive quality designed into them, and Steiner schools have always advised parents to first restrict and then manage their children's use of phones and digital devices. Mary outlines useful strategies that families take to actively manage screen use, so children can grow up using screens in a responsible and intentional manner. Mary is a long term parent in Steiner schools, and is now a parent educator working with the program Simplicity Parenting: her website has many valuable resources for further reference.

www.maryheardsimplicityparenting.com

Click the icon to listen via Apple or Spotify.





SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

15th
April



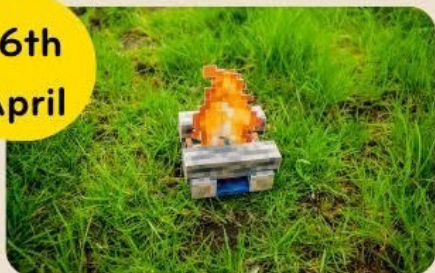
SURVIVAL SCHOOL

21st
April



WILD ART SCHOOL

16th
April



MINECRAFT IN THE WILD

23rd
April



WIZARD TRAINING ACADEMY

17th
April



PIRATES & TREASURE

24th
April



ENCHANTED FOLK FESTIVAL

20th
April



MEDIEVAL KNIGHTS

For more information and to book
visit: www.forestschoolsa.com

fun!

Uraidla Hotel &
local community present:

markets

stalls



drinks

**food
trucks**

Quinox
April 18 2026
Uraidla Hotel

**live
music**

from 1pm - evening

**childrens'
parade 4pm**

childrens' activities

1 Day Autism Workshop for Parents and Carers

Hahndorf, SA



Scan the
QR code or
[click here](#)
to register



Free workshop

This workshop is for parents, full time carers and grandparents.



Wednesday
26 May, 2026
9:15am to 3:00pm



Adelaide Hills Convention Centre
145A Mount Barker Rd
HAHNDORF SA 5245

Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided



Interpreters available upon request

During the workshop you will learn about:

- The diversity of autism
- Sensory processing
- Working together with your child's school.

Learn more about autism and neurodiversity-affirming ways to strengthen the partnership between home and school.

For more information or to register visit:

 www.positivepartnerships.com.au/PC

 jcousins@positivepartnerships.com.au



0473 004 024

Raising BodyKind Teens

Webinar for parents and carers



EVENT DETAILS

Date: Thursday 9 April 2026

Time: 7pm - 8.15pm AEST
(+15 min for questions)

Via: Zoom. Time limited
recording available.

Cost \$15

Join the experts at Butterfly and learn practical strategies to support your teen's body image, including how to reduce the focus on appearance and body comparisons, increase self-compassion and body appreciation, support healthy eating and movement, respond to negative self-talk and appearance teasing, as well as what to do if you are concerned. [Register here:](#)

Makerspace Adelaide Hills

Put your
entries in!

ADELAIDE HILLS
YOUTH
FILM
FESTIVAL

24th-26th July 2026
Adelaide Hills Venues

Entries close
July 2026

Registrations
<https://shorturl.at/2YHyR>



Cash and other
prizes to win

 **The Christian Community**
Movement for religious renewal, Australia & New Zealand



Preparing and Caring

At The Christian Community
3 Anzac Ridge Road
Bridgewater

Sat April 18th 2026, 9.30 – 4.00pm

For people interested in Palliative Care incorporating Art and Music, Workshops with Art therapist Ellen Sallows and The Adelaide Threshold Singers. (\$50 / \$35 concession)

Contact: damien.gilroy@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON!

at your Community Centre

April 2026

Date

Time

Community Connections Program contact: 8391 2747

A free 12 week program providing support to build connections with your community

English for Fun	Thursday 26th March	4.30—6pm
Pride of the Hills Celebrate Pride and Inclusion! <i>Stephen Street, Mount Barker</i>	Friday 27th March	5—8pm
Inclusive Dance All ages All abilities	Wednesday 1st April	4—5pm
Mount Barker Photography Interest Group	Tuesday 7th April	2—4pm
Womens Shed Workshop	Monday 13th April	9am—2pm
Easy Dinners for Teens Cooking Workshop for young people	Tuesday 14th April	3—5pm
Easy Dinners for Adults Cooking Workshop for adults	Thursday 16th April	3—5pm
Floral Art	Thursday 16th April	1.30—3.30pm
Stardew Valley Foods Cooking Workshop for young people	Monday 20th April	10am—12pm
Watercolour Art with Bethany Neck 10-week program	10 week program starts Tuesday 27th April	9.30am—12pm Or 1—3.30pm
Creative Writing Group meets weekly	Fridays	10.30am—1.30pm

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