

**Rob Houston**  
Principal

**Andrea Hayden**  
Deputy Principal

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to term 4! We are very excited to be moving into our last term of the year. We have a lot of exciting calendar events coming up including 2024 reception transition, working bee, Sports Day/s, Music Night, Year 5 & 6 camps, Year 6 Graduation, Carols evening and the Blackwood Christmas Pageant.

Welcome back to Ms. Kristen Bowden who is returning from maternity leave and will be teaching year 3/4E on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with Ms. Bec King who will remain with the class on Thursday and Friday.

## 2024 CLASSES

We are beginning our process for the creation of classes for 2024. Forming effective classes is about putting together a group of children who can learn and be taught together in the most favourable learning environment. Usually this means creating a group of students that has a gender balance, a range of learning abilities and a range of behavioural and social needs. Factors such as friendship groups, learning styles, social and emotional maturity are also considered when making up class groups.

To assist us in meeting the above criteria we use the program 'Class Creator' to help develop our classes for next year. Teachers complete surveys for each child in the areas of academic achievement, social emotional / behaviour and special needs. A first draft of classes is generated from this information and then further work begins.

Parents are also invited to contribute to the class placement process. This is not a forum for choosing a teacher; classes are well developed on the above criteria before a teacher is allocated. We value parent suggestions in regards to their children on things such as; particular learning needs, social emotional development, views and opinions on the best type of class and aspects of their education which have been successful.

Parent input needs to be returned to the school front office by Friday 27th October, marked as confidential and addressed to the principal, Rob Houston. Alternatively this can also be marked as 'Attention Rob Houston' and emailed via [Belair.ps415@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Belair.ps415@schools.sa.edu.au)

Students also participate in the process by creating a list of 5 other students who they would like to be with in 2024 for consideration.

## 2023 DIARY DATES

### TERM 4

#### October

- Mon 23 Sports Committee Meeting 6pm
- Wed 25 Parent Association Meeting
- Fri 27 Assembly hosted by Music Quiz Night 7 – 9pm
- Mon 30 Yr 5 Arbury Park Camp Mon – 2 nts
- Tue 31 Education Committee 6pm

#### November

- Wed 1 2024 Reception Parent Info Night
- Thur 2 School Tour 9.30am  
Finance Committee 12.45pm  
Yr 6 Debating Presentation Government House
- Fri 3 Grounds Committee Meeting 10am
- Sun 5 BPS Working Bee 8.30am-12.30pm
- Tue 7 2024 Reception Transition Visit 9.15am-12noon  
Governing Council 6:30pm
- Thur 9 2024 Reception Transition Visit 9.15am-12noon
- Fri 10 Assembly hosted by 5C
- Mon 13 BPS Music Concert 6.30pm
- Wed 15 R-2 Sports Day
- Thur 16 Yr3-6 Sports Day

[2023-FAMILY-Yearly-planner-1.pdf \(belairps.sa.edu.au\)](#)

After consulting with staff, parents and students we aim to provide the best learning environments to meet the needs of our range of learners within the scope of the available structure. It is the responsibility of the Principal to make any final decision on classes and placement of students.

Classes should be finalised around week 8 of this term and families will be informed by Thursday of week 9, the last week of term.

If your child is not in year 6 and will not be attending Belair Primary School in 2024 please make contact with the front office if you have not already done so.

## BUSHFIRE PROCEDURE & CATASTROPHIC DAYS

It is extremely important as we move into the fire danger season that all school community members are aware of the Belair Primary School Bushfire procedures. Information on this matter is available on the school website.

Please remember that our school and OSHC are closed on days that are classified as catastrophic in the Mt Lofty Ranges fire district.

We are required to practise our bushfire procedures during the bushfire season. We will be having 2 practices before the end of November.

## EMAIL & SEESAW

Teachers at Belair Primary are highly committed to maintaining effective communication with parents and carers. Email and Seesaw, are a great way of getting in touch with your child's class teacher. When contacting classroom teachers please always consider the following:

1. Belair Primary School staff prioritise time spent teaching and building a positive learning environment, and they will often not get the chance to check messages or emails during the school day. If you have an urgent message for your child's teacher, e.g. after school arrangements such as OSHC, please phone our front office staff, who will pass on the message.
2. Teachers are encouraged to only check or respond to emails and seesaw during working hours (8am—5.00pm) and not during teaching time, at night or on the weekends. For urgent matters, please phone the front office as this will ensure your message is received. For non-urgent matters, teachers will respond to your email / message when practicable.
3. If you would like to raise a sensitive or complex issue with your child's teacher, please send a brief email outlining your concerns. Seesaw is not for this purpose. Teachers will make a time to talk about the matter in person or over the phone so that the issue can be given the depth of discussion it deserves.

## ICAS COMPETITION

Last term a number of our students participated in ICAS competitions. Students were able to elect to participate in six literacy and STEM papers, including English, Mathematics, Science, Digital Technologies, Writing and Spelling Bee. The questions aim to push students to their academic limits, as well as test higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills.

Many of those who participated were acknowledged last term at our Week 10 assembly and previous newsletter. I would like to congratulate the following students whose results we have now received for

*ICAS Science*

**Merit** Tyson H, Samuel M

**Credit** June L, Leo W

**Distinction** Jessica H

Look out for information early next year about ICAS in 2024

## PASTORAL CARE WORKER

Dear Families,

The following excerpt is from an article by Wilson McCaskill. It notes the importance of working hard and it really made me stop and think. Interestingly, Wilson McCaskill is the founder of the Play is the Way program.

*The Unhealthy and Unrealistic Pursuit of Endless Fun and Happiness - by Wilson McCaskill*

We have been seduced by the idea that having endless fun and being constantly happy is not only desirable it's attainable.

I worry about the damage this idea is causing and I fear for our children as rapidly increasing numbers of adults become complicit in the countless ways and means used, each and every day, to convince them that if they're not constantly happy and having fun, then something is wrong.

Fun. "Have fun", is as frequent a parting salutation as, "see you later" or indeed, "bye." Nowhere is this more apparent than in primary schools where countless thousands of children slide from the seats of cars to head into classrooms supported by the warm tones of parents entreating them to, "have fun."

This request is reinforced at the end of the day when re-entry into the family car is met with the hopeful question, "did you have fun?"

Work. There was a time when the expectation was that you would go to school and work hard. Perhaps that expectation was a little harsh and implied that school was a cold and brittle place to which little children went to toil and mine for information.

Schools today are certainly not cold and harsh. They are warm, welcoming environments to which teachers and students commit much time and effort to reflect the colour, movement and spectacle of learning.

Yet, amidst this stimulating environment the requirement for work, effort and application remain as much a necessity for learning as they have always been.

So, would it help to ask children to go to school prepared to have fun working hard? I think it would and I think they should be occasionally reminded to work hard even if they are not having fun.

Life isn't always 'fun'. The incessant bombardment of our children with the notion that constant fun and happiness is their rightful expectation has markedly reduced their ability to deal with the everyday trials and tribulations of life. We have made fun the end point of all endeavours. Consequently, when fun ceases so does endeavour, and with it go all the associated benefits.

So convincing have we been in marketing this idea of perpetual fun to our children that too many react as though their rights have been violated when teachers fail to supply a constant stream of it.

Gaining self-respect. Children can, and many do, labour in the pursuit of noble causes. They can toil to reach a higher goal. They can suffer for the sake of self-betterment. And when they do, they transcend the

fleeting experience of fun and reach the promised land of self-respect.

What can we do about it?. Well, let's first of all choose not to be unwitting partners in this unsustainable and destructive pursuit. And secondly, when our children complain that we are not supplying enough fun and happiness let's stay calm, remain confident, ask and expect them to soldier on, and comfort ourselves with the knowledge that along with the many opportunities for fun and happiness we do offer, we also invite them to participate in the adversity that has, and always will, shape character.

I believe it's time for us to get off the fun and happiness bandwagon and realise that our effectiveness as adults, parents and teachers must not be measured by how well we make our children happy but how well we empower our children to make themselves happy.

Sara Walding, Pastoral Care Worker

[Sara.Walding521@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Sara.Walding521@schools.sa.edu.au)

In school: Tuesday afternoon; Wednesday and Friday – all day

## PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

### Supporting Children Experiencing Anxiety

Tuesday 31st October: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Areas covered in the presentation will be:

- What is anxiety?
- When is it a problem?
- What is an Anxiety Disorder and what are the causes?
- How can parents and carers help their anxious child?

This presentation will be presented by our Pastoral Care worker, Sara Walding. Along with her certificate in Pastoral Care, Sara has a Master of Counselling Practice and is a trained facilitator for a number of social emotional programs for students. Please RSVP via the following link <https://forms.gle/FLLh8keN9kxnGd9GA>

## CANTEEN NEWS

Welcome to Term 4.

Term 4 is always such a fun but busy term with lots happening around the school so make sure you keep an eye out on our Facebook page to see what's happening in the Canteen.

Halloween is just around the corner, come and celebrate with us in the Canteen

Thankyou once again to my helpers that have kindly offered to volunteer in the Canteen this term, it is greatly appreciated. If you would like to join our great group of helpers please let me know we would love to have you.

I will also be in need of some helpers on the 2 Sports Days in week 5 so if you are able to help out for an hour or so please get in touch with me in the Canteen.

As we head into some warmer days I will start to add some more summer friendly items such as salad packs, fruit cups, custard cups and a larger variety of iceblocks.

We are lucky here at Belair to have a Canteen service that is open both for recess and lunch and that is open 5 days a week so please show your support when you can by having a lunch order or some spending money to get a treat. This also enable us to keep our prices low and still have a good range of items to offer.

Thanks

Julie

Canteen: 8278 6439

[Julie.croft558@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Julie.croft558@schools.sa.edu.au)

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB NEWS

Dear families,

Our final Book Club for this year (Issue #7) will come home with students this week.

Please place your orders by **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**.

It is easy to order. The Book Club LOOP platform for parents allows you to pay by credit card. Your child's order is submitted directly to school and the books will be delivered to class. You can place your child's order at [scholastic.com.au/loop](http://scholastic.com.au/loop) or by using the LOOP app, which can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.

All orders help to earn points for our school to purchase more fabulous books.

Thank you for your support!

Another great benefit of LOOP is the Gift Function which enables you to tag Book Club orders that are intended as a surprise gift - great for Christmas shopping.

## PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

**School Quiz Night: Next Week!!!** 27th October (Term 4, week 2). Tickets are still available on Flexischools or at the Front Office, get a table together and join in the fun! Don't forget to dress up! Also, we still would love more wine for our wine wall, any donations would be greatly appreciated!

**Belair Christmas Carols:** Save the date – 26th November, 6:30pm. This is a wonderful school community event, full of fun and singing on the Main Oval, bring a picnic or grab a sausage! Also come join the Belair Family Christmas Choir, rehearsals have started this week. See the link below for all the info: <https://sites.google.com/thelocks.net/2023-bps-family-carols-picnic/home>

**Parent Association meeting:** Our next meeting is Wednesday 25th October at 9am in the staff room. Meetings go for about an hour. Come along to hear what's happening in the school, offer help, or throw your ideas into the ring. All parents and carers are welcome!

**Contact The Parent Association:** If you want to ask the PA a question or make a comment or suggestion, please email [stacey@hargroves.net](mailto:stacey@hargroves.net) and we will respond asap.



# SIGN UP NOW



Cricket Blast is an energetic and fun program for kids up to the age of 10 to develop new skills, expand existing skills and play cricket in a team environment.

## Belair Primary School

Monday 23rd October

3:30pm to 4:15pm

Belair Primary School Oval

**VISIT [PLAY.CRICKET.COM.AU](http://PLAY.CRICKET.COM.AU)**



### CANTEEN ROSTER

Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Tue 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Thu 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct
	Jackie Anderson	Holli Renton	Di Miles	Raylene Sheehan Janet Wooding
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Tue 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov
	HALLOWEEN		Mandy Mason	Sam Betros Belinda Dohring
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Thu 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Ann Phillips	Emily Connor	Holli Renton	Ellie Magarey	Dannii Olsen Catherine Gray
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Tue 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Thu 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov
	Jan Waller	SPORTS DAY 1	SPORTS DAY 2	Sam Betros Penny Nettlefold
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Tue 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov
		Janine Wedding	Di Miles	Belinda Blockow Mary N

*\*If you are unable to work please try and swap with someone else first and then let me know. Thanks*