



**BLACK FOREST
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



Newsletter

Term 4 Week 1 No. 17 – 14th October 2021

Diary Dates

Reminder

Next GC Coffee Mornings

Friday 22nd October

Sports Day

Friday 29th October

Pupil Free Day

Monday 1st November

Xmas in the Forest

Thursday 2nd December

School Closure

Friday 3rd December

END OF TERM

Friday 10th December - 2:10pm dismissal



From the Principal

Welcome Back

It was lovely to see all the children, and some parents, back at school on Monday after two week's break. I think I say this at some point every year but at different times it feels like the year has taken forever but it is also hard to believe we are beginning Term 4 already!

I hope your children enjoyed some time away from school and some, if not most, of you were able to spend some extra time with your children over the past two weeks. As is always the case we have quite a few events occurring throughout Term 4, including Sports Day, Reception Transition to school, Xmas in the Forest, and of course this year we are farewelling our Year 7 students AND our Year 6 students. Next year will be the first year that all Year 7 students will be in high schools, not primary schools.

Information about all of these events will be coming out over the course of the term, as we work out what is possible under current restrictions. As with our Book Week Parade last term we are working hard to find ways to safely (and therefore legally) have parents attending these events.

Colour Run

What a great way to end Term 3. The afternoon was an explosion of colour in more than the obvious way. The entertainment and joy this event brought to the students was pretty clear to see. There also appeared to be way too many adults enjoying throwing colour at the children and making them as messy as possible!

Our fundraising for this event was once again outstanding, raising over \$23,000 in total, with more than \$13,500 coming directly to the school and, as our Student Parliament elected to do, also meant that over 1800 trees have been planted across the country. Well done to Mel Milne, Brianna Jordan and our parent fundraising committee, led by Jemma McQuinn. Thank you all, and all others who supported the event.

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Government of South Australia
Department for Education

"From the Principal" continued on next page

South Road Tunnel

I met with a representative from the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) earlier this week to discuss the recent notifications of land acquisition in Glandore and how this will impact the school. We believe at this stage that the school will not be directly impacted by land acquisition (which means our school grounds won't be impacted), however, it is clear that several families of BFPS will be impacted.

Our understanding is that in a couple of weeks more detailed drawings of the tunnel design will be released by DIT. I, along with many others, eagerly await these drawings being released so we can see what the 'map' looks like for BFPS and our community.

Whilst we appear safe from land acquisition our thoughts go out to all those homes and businesses who are facing some uncertain times while they wait to find out what next and the prospect of losing their family homes.

Learning Achievement and Values Awards



RESPECT ENDEAVOUR COLLABORATION RESPONSIBILITY CREATIVITY

Congratulations to the following students for demonstrating
School Values:

Endeavour: Mali L (R16), Shelby H (R8), Harpreet B (R23)

Creativity: Charlotte W (R6), Matilda H (R1), Michael C (R11),
Kara O'M (R8)

Responsibility: Lachlan P (R6) Ezra M (R10), Jack W (R12)

Respect: Sofia S (R6), Clara P (R11), Keenan S (R20)

Collaboration: Sid G (R2), Ivy D'S (R4), Amy C (R4), Kole L (R8)

Learning Achievement Award:

Luke W (R1), Lily E (R2), Henry S (R6), Daniel G (R6), Sophie F (R6),
Emma B (R10), Karlo M (R16), Kamil C (R20), Annabella Y (R4),

Robel K G (R8), Archie H (R23), Daisy H (R12)

Finance News

Commemorative Uniforms

Last call for Commemorative Uniforms for Year 6 students in 2022. Please send order forms to the finance office and make sure payments have been processed on QKR before Friday the 22nd October.

NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Excursion / Event Payments

Please check if you have any outstanding credits before paying for excursions this term. The finance office is sending out regular statements via the classroom so you can check balances. If you have a credit to apply to an excursion you can pay the balance owing on 'balance of excursion' on QKR under the excursion tab. If you have enough credit to pay the whole excursion do not make any payments.

Years 6 & 7

During the last week of term the year 6's and 7's have a few excursions and the Graduation to pay for so if you have outstanding credits for students in these year levels please ensure you do not pay full price for these events until the credit is used up. If you are unsure of the amounts you need to pay, please call the finance office.

Any outstanding credits at the end of the year for students that are leaving will require paperwork to be completed to obtain refunds through a bank transfer. We cannot give out cash refunds for any outstanding credits.

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The Colour Explosion Run for Fun on the last Friday of term was a fabulous and colourful success! Thank you to the many hands that made the day work, particularly to Jemma McQuinn from the Parent Network, Brianna Jordan and our Student Executives. We are overwhelmed with the generosity of our school community, as together we raised over \$21,000 which contributed 1388 trees and shrubs!



ROOM 10'S WETLANDS EXCURSION

Term 3 Room 10 went on an excursion to the Urrbrae Wetlands. This excursion supported our learning about insects, spiders and environmental care and sustainability. The children had a wonderful time and thankfully we had great weather too! Here are some of the highlights from the day....



"Trash racks keep out all the rubbish and leaves."



"We collected samples of water from the inlet and outlet and tested them."



"We found out more information about wetlands on the computers."

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"We saw lots of animals like koalas, turtles, birds and invertebrates."



"We looked at invertebrates under the microscope to see them up close."



"We had a talk from the Nature Education Staff who showed us Australian animals like snakes, lizards, frogs and insects."



"We would like to thank Fiona, Bec and Tanya for helping on the day."

Senior Leader News

Recently a hit TV show "Squid Game" hit the Netflix streaming service and has had a profound impact on the world around us. For those who you are unaware, it is a show where adults from different walks of life play a set of children's games with deadly penalties for losing, all for the chance to win a high prize. The show is incredibly violent and due to the stardom, has found it's way onto almost every form of social media, including Roblox, TikTok, Youtube and many others. We have also unfortunately heard many students, some as young as year 2, conversing about this TV show in the last few days after returning from holidays. The following article that has recently has been shared explains the dangers of the exposure to the show, and how to have a conversation with their kids about it if they have.

https://digiisocial.com/lets-talk-squid-game-and-childrens-exposure/?fbclid=IwAR0C0gh_bHfp7dnZvxn-3EbB58XJH1Btmyb0_Jm9f0F6zRU9tl4VSfocPW4

We can assure that services like Netflix and Youtube can't be accessed at school, but obviously at home these types of websites and applications (depending on your filtering at home) can certainly be accessed.

As a school we understand that there is often a lot of pressure coming from kids about accessing these applications or viewing certain shows (Not just Squid Game!) because "Johnny is allowed to use that/watch that at his house," and that ultimately it is a home decision around when you expose your kids to certain media types. We implore you though, to look at the age restrictions on each of these media types, as these experts fully understand what is appropriate for that age group, using evidence-based practices.

The other side of this is that maybe these things are being viewed, shared to your kids via other friends online without you knowing. A couple of strategies you can use to ensure you are always monitoring their use:

- Install web filtering to your devices/router
- Allow access to devices only in common areas of your house, e.g. no bedrooms
- When watching Youtube, ensure headphones aren't being used (This may be annoying- but will allow you to hear the content being viewed)
- Change the settings on Netflix accounts to ensure that kids can access only content you allow them to see.

I have attached a few websites and clips to show you how to do some of the more technical things if you wish!

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/07/netflix-parental-controls-how-to-set-up-and-use-them.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rxB-i3WXdU&t=182s>

Thanks for taking out the time to read this, monitoring devices in 2021 is certainly a complex beast, but if we all work together, it makes things a lot easier.

Aaron Bayliss - Senior Leader

Grounds and Facilities Report

This year a lot of the planning and work of the facilities of Black Forest has been centred around the \$5 million Better Schools Funding Grant we received a few years ago. We have been through the planning phase and early budgeting and then consulted Governing Council and staff on some of the early ideas. Using feedback from teachers and Governing Council, we have now reached the stage where we are in concept design, and are closing in on finalising this. This would see, in very general terms (as a lot of the finer details will come through the tender process):

- A revamped Upper Primary area
- A revamped and newly designed Library Area and Art space
- A facelift for the current Junior Primary building
- Fresh and new toilets for the Junior Primary students!
- Some minor changes to the Kertaweeta building to allow for years with large year level cohorts, and some functionality improvements.
- A new multi-purpose space (which will also be shared with our OSHC family!) to be constructed in the area where the shipping containers sit currently.
- A relocated staff room and improved functionality for our office spaces.
- A budget for furniture and equipment which will help to modernise the school furniture.

Again, these are just very basic 'headings' for each section we are improving throughout the school, and we will keep you updated with some more designs/drawings as concept design comes to a close and it is out to tender! Exciting times!

New Storage Shed

You would have seen recently, the completion of our new storage shed adjacent to the Junior Primary playground. The three bays will provide storage for our P.E department, general storage and music and arts storage, and lastly a section for our Parent Committees, including Sports and Fundraising. This will see our shipping containers become redundant very soon, and we will have these off of our site very soon! Yay!

Gymnasium Gutters and Downpipes upgrade

As you would have noticed, for some time now (!!) the downpipes and gutters around the Gym were in desperate need of replacing. The amount of money it may have costed out of the school's pocket to replace these was quite large, so rather than take the money out of what we could have been spending on improving student outcomes, we decided to apply for department funding. After a bit of a lengthy process, we have received the funding and the services are currently out for tender. This should see completion by the end of the year, in a lovely new Ironstone tinge!

School Cricket Pitch

Through local council funding and SACA funding, the school has had the opportunity to install a cricket pitch on our oval. After consultation with Governing Council committees, we have had the approval to install a cricket pitch on the oval. This will benefit the school in many ways, having the opportunity to play cricket during P.E, play SAPSASA cricket games on site and some staff vs. student games to name a few. It will also give the cricket teams a chance to play some match simulation on the pitch during trainings in summer. The pitch will be centralised between the two softball diamonds to ensure minimal disruption for our softball teams, and be covered over in winter so winter sports can still go ahead. The Goodwood Cricket Club, which is home to a number of girls and boys of Black Forest, will also use the oval on Friday nights and Sundays. A great result for the school!



SAPSASA News

Late last term I was unaware that one of our B.F.P.S. STATE METRO ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIP students won 2 events on the day. Winning two GOLD medals (10 y.o Boys 4x100m Relay and 800m) against South Australia's best track and field athletes is an amazing achievement and something Owen B is extremely proud of. Owen's family are always out and about exercising, running, playing soccer and enjoy trying new sports to be with school friends and meeting great people along the way. It's always a pleasure watching our Black Forest students excel in a variety of extra school curricula activities, and I'm glad that we still have Owen for another year to have a go and compete in other sporting events and challenges.

Congratulations Owen!

Marc Zinndorf



Instrumental Music at Black Forest Primary - Strings

Our Strings Programme offers tuition in VIOLIN, VIOLA and CELLO to students in Year 3 and above.

This year we have had 37 students involved. Students have weekly lessons with Strings teacher Tom Helps.

Early in Term 2 Continuing students performed at our Garden Open Night, and at the end of that term all students, including Beginners, were invited to showcase their emerging skills as guest artists at the Year 1&2 Choir Concert. We also try to offer more performance opportunities, both within school and the greater community; however this has been limited in the last couple of years due to Covid restrictions.

INFORMATION & EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR 2022:

COST: Lessons are provided free of charge through the Department, but instruments (if not owned or purchased privately) must be hired, either from the school (subject to availability) at a cost of \$180.00 per year, or through a retailer. If hiring through the school, **payment must be completed by Week 5 of Term 1** (students are not permitted to take instruments home until full payment has been made). Parents will be required to sign an agreement to pay for any damage caused to the instrument. There may also be small, ongoing charges for music books and accessories.

COMMITMENT: Students are expected to commit to a **FULL YEAR** of tuition if they are accepted into the programme (ie from early Term 1 to late Term 4). We also expect a decision from you by early Term 4 about whether your child will continue lessons the following year.

Students are required to practise regularly at home (10-30 minutes at least 4-5 times each week; preferably daily).

Students are expected to attend Strings lessons promptly and to be pro-active in catching up for time lost in their regular class.

Early this term, in Music lessons, I will be asking students currently in Years 2 – 4 if they are interested in applying for the Strings programme in 2022, and will outline the above commitments. Those interested will be given a slip to take home and discuss with parents. On return of the signed slip they will be invited to attend a "Come & Try" session with Tom, during which he will assess their suitability.

Last year many students came to the "Come & Try" session, which was wonderful; however Tom only has limited places available. He has a great deal of experience in selecting students to begin Strings, as well as the most suitable instrument for each, and he takes this task very seriously. Sometimes it may be that they are not quite physically ready, but should try again the following year if still interested. We expect parents to accept Tom's professional decision. We will advise all candidates before the end of Term 4, whether or not they have been selected for 2022.

Please feel free to see me for further clarification.



A MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS FROM

Professor Nicola Spurrier,
Chief Public Health Officer



Dear parents and caregivers,

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a worrying time for all of us.

The Delta COVID-19 variant is twice as infectious as the original COVID-19 strain and there are now more cases in children and young people.

Vaccination is the best way to protect you, your family, and your friends from getting sick, and reduce the risk of outbreaks and school closures.

I encourage everyone aged 12 years and over in your household to get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible.

COVID-19 vaccines in Australia are safe and many millions of Australians are already protected.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has recommended both the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for people aged 12 years and over in Australia.

Consent from a parent/caregiver for COVID-19 vaccination is required for anyone under the age of 16.

To find a location to get vaccinated and book, visit covidvaccine.sa.gov.au

SA Health has lots of information to help answer questions, including videos, fact sheets and a range of other resources. For more information, visit covidvaccine.sa.gov.au

Thank you for keeping South Australia COVID safe. Please join me in being a fully vaccinated family.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Spurrier'.

PROFESSOR NICOLA SPURRIER
Chief Public Health Officer
Health Regulation and Protection