

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Heights School Art Exhibition Competition
- Letters of Gratitude
- Technologies

DIARY DATES

PLEASE VISIT THE PARENT
CALENDAR VIA THE WEBSITE
FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION
REGARDING THE CANCELLATION
OR POSTPONING OF ALL
SCHOOL EVENTS

PUPIL FREE DAYS 2020

Monday 7 September
Term 3, Week 8

*Please note there will be another
Pupil Free Day, date to be confirmed.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY 2020

Friday 4 September
Term 3, Week 7

[Click here](#) to view our
online calendar

CONTACT

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 /heightsschool



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Attendance

87% of our students have been attending over the last two weeks. Our teaching and learning programs are increasingly returning to normal. We would like to see our attendance rates back over 90% as soon as possible. We want all of students to do well and before you can do that you must be attending school regularly!

This week Department for Education employees, other than our staff are permitted on site and we will see Instrumental Music Teachers restarting their programs face-to-face.

Thank you to parents for continuing to practice social distancing and not enter buildings or balconies until we are advised that these restrictions can lift too.

Numeracy

Our Primary Teachers have spent the last two Monday afternoon meetings on two programs the school is investing time and energy with. They are Big Ideas in Number and Scaffolding Numeracy in the Middle Years. This is important work as we deliberately move some attention from working in an emergency management climate to one of learning and improvement again.

End of Term Reports

Even though this semester has been interrupted by increased student absence and teachers moving to online flexible learning for a brief period of time, teachers will use their best professional judgement to provide student reports at the end of term. Not all areas will be covered as comprehensively as they have been previously though you will still get a fair indication of your child's progress.

NAPLAN

In case you are not aware NAPLAN testing which normally occurs at this time of the year has been cancelled for 2020.

This doesn't mean literacy and numeracy is not still on our agenda. It is and will continue to be integral to our improvement work and we will be closely monitoring our PAT Testing in Maths and Reading for students in all year levels prior to SACE.

National Volunteer Week

We are yet to re-invite all of our volunteers back into school and continue to wait for further advice about this.

This doesn't mean we don't value the contributions our volunteers make and with 170 registered volunteers we certainly do appreciate your assistance and support of our students and school.

We will have a recognition event in due course.

Reminder and Advanced Notice

Our remaining staff professional development / student free days are being planned for Friday 24th July, Monday 7th September and Monday 7th December. We will communicate further once this is confirmed.

Friday 4th September will be a School Closure.



Nigel Gill
Principal



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M&S CHARGE & BUILDING FUND REMINDER 2020

The Finance Office would kindly like to remind families the importance of paying or making payments toward 2020 Materials & Services Charges. The school offers many helpful and convenient ways to make payment and we encourage you to make contact with us so we can offer assistance. Payment of your child/children's Materials & Services Charges ensures the delivery of high quality resources and services for all and directly relates to higher educational outcomes.

If you are currently experiencing financial hardship due to a change of circumstance; such as a decrease to income or extensive medical expenses, please allow us to help with the application for Government assistance, alternatively applications can be completed online: <http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/financial-help-scholarships-and-grants/school-cardscheme>

We would also like to take this opportunity to inform the community of our School Building Fund.

Contributions to this fund are completely voluntary. All donations are tax deductible and receipts are issued for this purpose. Building Fund contributions are solely used for the upgrade of student used facilities and building improvements (flooring, painting).

Previously we used these funds to fully upgrade our kitchen facilities accessed by our Secondary students.



BEFORE



AFTER

We appreciate many families may have recently been affected by COVID-19 in various ways, please remember we are here to assist.

We kindly thank families who have already made payment this year for Materials & Services and/or the Building Fund. We are grateful of your ongoing support. We thank others in advance for future payments.

The Finance Office is open Monday-Friday 8:30am-3:30pm.



WAITING LIST FOR PRESCHOOL 2021

LET YOUR CHILD GROW WITH US

The Heights Preschool is an integral part of The Heights P-12 School. We provide an engaging and stimulating learning environment for children. Our philosophy revolves around play as a tool for learning. We encourage children to be curious and to seek answers through learning, underpinned by a partnership with family and the community.

If you would like to request a Preschool Registration Form for 2021 please contact Daniella Dunne on the details below.

Email: Dani.Dunne687@schools.sa.edu.au

Website: <https://www.theheights.sa.edu.au/preschool.html>



RECONCILIATION AT THE HEIGHTS

Ngadlu tampinhi ngadlu Kurna yartangka tikanthi.

(Translation: We acknowledge we live on Kurna land)

At The Heights School, we pay respect to past, present and future Traditional Custodians of the land in which we live. We are committed to reaching meaningful reconciliation and together will work towards a positive shared future where the rights, interests and wellbeing of all Australians are fostered and respected in our community.

Important dates this term:

26th May	National Sorry Day
27th May – 3rd June	National Reconciliation Week
1st June	'Virtual' P-12 Reconciliation Assembly
7th – 14th July	NAIDOC Week

This year we will be acknowledging these upcoming special events in a slightly different manner to last year. Due to social distancing restrictions, we are no longer able to host the special guest performers we had planned for our Reconciliation Week assembly but will instead be holding our very first P-12 'Virtual Reconciliation Assembly' shared with students through a digital platform. Students will remain in their classrooms to view the assembly online through the Webex platform. This assembly will be in acknowledgement of National Sorry Day through reflection of the stolen generations, as well as an opportunity to showcase some of the outstanding learning that has been carried out by students in recognition of National Reconciliation Week. Please stay tuned for the upcoming newsletter where we will be sharing some of this work with you.

Aboriginal Education Team



NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME

Please don't forget that at 11.00 am on Wednesday May 27 students, families and friends throughout Australia will participate in this year's National Simultaneous Storytime.

We will all be having fun reading the book "WHITNEY and BRITNEY CHICKEN DIVAS" by the Australian author Lucinda Gifford.

Let's all participate and help reach the target of 1 million viewers! You can join in at home or the office but please register first online: <https://www.alia.org.au/nss>



BOOK WEEK 2020

Book Week 2020 at The Heights School is going to be celebrated during WEEK 5 in TERM 3 (17 – 21 August). Please mark the date on your calendar.

(Due to the current conditions the official organisers of Book Week (CBCA) changed the date from Term 3 to Term 4 which conflicts with our calendar hence the regular timing.)

We are looking forward to reading and exploring the shortlisted books and getting involved in some exciting activities.

Please go to <https://www.cbca.org.au/shortlist-2020> to view this year's selection.

"Curious Creatures: Wild Minds" – What does this year's theme bring to your mind?



ICAS TESTS - CHANGE TO TESTING & PAYMENT DATES

Please be advised that ICAS have made a change to the final payment date for all ICAS tests which was communicated in Term 1. The online payment portal will now only be open until **Friday 17 July 2020** and payments for all tests must be made by this date.

The following tests have also been cancelled for 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19 on schools. This decision has been made by the UNSW Global Assessment team. ICAS has decided not to offer the following assessments in 2020:

- ICAS Writing (all year levels)
- Year 11 and Year 12 ICAS tests (all subjects).



- > Educating young minds
- > Serving our community
- > Instilling values and embracing our future

The Heights School has completed the **\$3.5 Million** upgrade to student facilities, providing vital new learning spaces and opportunities in **Science, Technology Engineering & Maths (STEM)**



Additionally, The Heights School has received a **\$10 Million** grant to provide brand new buildings with state of the art furniture and equipment to enhance student learning.

Planning has already commenced.

we create we provide
we encourage we care

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

19 May 2020

We are delighted to inform you that The Heights School will be participating in the world-renowned ICAS Assessments again this year. ICAS is developed by UNSW Global, a wholly owned subsidiary of the University of New South Wales, with over 35 years' experience in educational assessments.

ICAS is designed to target students' higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills in English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Digital Technologies.

Each assessment celebrates students' accomplishments by providing opportunities for recognition. Every student will receive a certificate and an online result report. Top performers will be eligible for medals and are invited to attend special award ceremonies to have their academic excellence publicly recognised.

We encourage you to consider entering your child into ICAS this year. The assessments are suitable for students wishing to extend themselves academically and take up the personal challenge of competing in an international assessment. Your child will be presented with high-quality, expert-developed questions, allowing them to apply their learning without the need for prior study or revision.

ICAS Assessments are now online, a move that reflects a sector-wide transition to computer-based assessment. This allows greater accessibility for students and faster delivery of results.

2020 ICAS Subject availability / Year levels / Cost / Dates

TEST	YEAR LEVELS	COST (inc GST)	ONLINE PAYMENT CLOSING DATE	TEST SITTING DATE
Science	2-10	\$15.95	Friday 17 July 2020	August 17-21, 2020
Digital Tech	3-10	\$15.95	Friday 17 July 2020	August 24-28, 2020
English	2-10	\$15.95	Friday 17 July 2020	August 24-28, 2020
Spelling	2-7	\$15.95	Friday 17 July 2020	Aug 31-Sep 4, 2020
Mathematics	2-10	\$15.95	Friday 17 July 2020	Aug 31-Sep 4, 2020

Prices shown include GST

PAYMENT

Payment is not accepted through BPoint or the Finance Office at the school. Please follow the steps below to complete purchase and payment for ICAS tests:

- Visit the ICAS Parent Payment System at <https://www.theheights.sa.edu.au/icas>
 - Enter your child's details and select the tests you wish to purchase and then process your payment.
- *You can add extra students to your order if ordering for more than one child.

Online payments for all tests will close on Friday 17 July 2020.

The link below provides information about ICAS as well as sample questions to help students prepare:

<https://www.unswglobal.unsw.edu.au/educational-assessments/products/icas-assessments/>

Partnering with UNSW Global, we are proud to offer our students the ICAS Assessments, and look forward to some fantastic results later in the year.

Yours sincerely,

David Eglinton
Coordinator Ignite, Science
and STEM Industry Skills

Nigel Gill
Principal



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THE HEIGHTS SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION COMPETITION

SALA

“Wish you were here... With love.”

Postcards Exhibition 3rd August to 7th August

As a result of government restrictions, the SALA Festival in 2020 will look a little different. Many exhibitions will go to online galleries and physical exhibitions may have limited visitors. The Heights School will have an exhibition viewable from outside the gallery; artworks will be displayed in the windows of our gallery space.

As many of us have just spent a considerable amount of time at home and separated from our family and friends, the theme of this year's exhibition will be “Wish you were here...with love.”

Soon, we will be distributing a postcard sized piece of art paper, with an entry form, to every student in the school. We are inviting all of our students, from Preschool to Year 12, to submit an artwork to be displayed in the windows and be eligible for various prizes totalling \$200.00! Staff are also invited to submit an artwork. The only limitation will be the size; postcards must be 100mm x 150mm. Subject matter and medium will be open to individual choice.

So it is time to start thinking about getting creative, practising your drawing and painting skills and working on ideas for this year's SALA exhibition. More info coming soon.

For enquiries contact the Visual Art Department.

We look forward to seeing your contributions.

Catherine Bourn, Visual Art Teacher



YEAR 9 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

In a Personal Development lesson, students were asked to write a message to someone in the community offering encouragement and support in these difficult times. This is the message from one of the 903 students.

Marilyn Middaugh, Home Group Teacher

Dear Students,

The year 2020 will go down in our history books as one of the most terrifying and stressful for students, not only in our nation but the world. So many of our schools have either shut down entirely or have half of its students missing. All of this has made your school year quite challenging, to say the least. I'm a student as well, although I only have Year 9 essays to worry about instead of exams that ultimately decide my future.

Students, like yourself, who are graduating university or high school this year have stress levels stretched to the max. Even before this pandemic, your stress on average was a 5.8 score on a 10-scale compared to the average adult which was 4.9. You may not be able to control every situation and its outcome but you can control the way you think about it. You've been told to stay home, so stay home and work on yourself, mentally and physically. Come out of quarantine with a full glow up and a great mindset to match. It is important to remember that even though no one can change the current situation, you and others can change your attitude about it.

Take time to make yourself happy. Engage in activities that make you happy, makes you feel less overwhelmed and provides a much need distraction. Be strong now because things will get better. Just take a breath and reflect on yourself in a positive way. Do the things you've wanted to do for such a long time but never had free space on your schedule for.

The world has been through many circumstances like this and we made it out stronger and in one piece, so who's to say we won't make it out of this one? Start each day with a grateful heart, be thankful that you and hopefully your family are not being affected by Covid-19 directly. Be thankful for the fact that you are facing this with the whole world at your side, because this is a global problem and we are all facing it together, not alone.

Be thankful, have faith.

Sincerely,

Ava Wheaton



LETTERS OF GRATITUDE

During Personal Development this term we have been focussing on student wellbeing. For one of the tasks students were asked to write a letter of gratitude to someone in our community. The last few month's things have been tough in different aspects of life for many different people. These people are a key part of our community, which include teachers, nurses, the elderly, doctors, child care workers, emergency services, business owners and families. Our Years 7-9 students produced amazing letters that were well thought out and showed genuine care and understanding. During times of high stress and uncertainty it is important that school communities and the wider community can work together to ensure there is a way to move forward. Showing gratitude is one of them. Thank you to the students for their letters.

Daniel Brzezinski & Suzanne Ierace, Student Wellbeing Leaders

Daniel.brzezinski598@schools.sa.edu.au Suzanne.ierace378@schools.sa.edu.au



Dear Health Care Workers,

I am a Year 7 student at The Heights School. Right now everything is different and I want to thank you on behalf of the school and the community for all you have done during these difficult times.

We appreciate you taking all the measures to ensure the safety of all your patients and residents, and we wish that you stay safe amidst the unpredictable atmosphere. We know you are working tirelessly, and we wish you keep doing your jobs with a positive attitude. We want to assure you that this will be all over eventually and the more precautions we take now, the sooner it will all end. We appreciate you changing your daily lifestyle and habits to keep us safe. We want you to know that we are also experiencing changes, but we will find a way around this.

We wish that you continue to see the brighter side of things right now, such as your kids staying home may give you more quality time with them. Even though the pandemic seems bad, pollution rates have dropped giving us fresher air to breathe. And people have never been more kind and appreciating towards all the people working. I hope this letter has given you something to smile or feel good about.

Stay Positive.

Dear Teachers,

I am a Year 9 at The Heights School. I am writing this letter to thank you all for your hard work, patience and help during these tough times. I understand that these are stressful times for everyone, including myself. I have found it difficult to keep up with what is going on in the world, and I have been stressed. It is difficult to maintain time management, as I find myself losing track of time. I'm sure you have all been struggling with the same thing, which is why you deserve thanks for still providing us with the help and encouragement we need in order to still get an education during this COVID-19 pandemic. I hope you all stay safe and remain positive. We must be optimistic about the situation and remember that it will all be back to normal soon enough. For now, we work together to maintain a strong and positive community. Thanks again for being so amazing!

Dear residents of aged care facilities,

Hello, I am fourteen, and attending The Heights School. This is a letter of reassurance in these tough times, I hope that for just a moment this can help ease your mind a little. I want to start by assuring you that although your family and/or friends might not be able to see you face to face right now, they are still thinking about you daily; never forget that you are loved and cared for. The thing that has been particularly difficult for me during quarantine has been trying to manage schoolwork and home life in the same setting. However, when things start to feel overwhelming, I remind myself that this isn't going to last forever and although it sounds cliché, there is always a rainbow after the storm and the greater your storm, the brighter your rainbow. I'm sure it has been a difficult time for you in one way or another but I'm hoping you'll try and keep a positive attitude. Do things you enjoy and keep in touch with others. I hope you have a great day.

LETTERS OF GRATITUDE (continued)

Dear Teachers,

I am a Year 9 student at The Heights School. I am writing this letter to thank you for all the extra work you have put in during this trying time. I'm sure you have received many worrying emails and phone calls from parents that at times may have overwhelmed.

Thank you for doing your best to keep the students safe and informed as well as having the safety of your own family in mind. I really appreciate your effort in keeping the students informed as I for one was very unsure in whether I should continue attending school because of the social distancing rules.

Since beginning online schooling, I was thankful to some of my teachers for the enormous amount of resources and help they provided to us. It was quite nice to see some of my teachers online over video call, after being isolated for so long and seeing the smiles on their faces really improved my day.

"Always look for something positive in each day, even if some days you have to look little harder."

Dear Childcare workers

I am a Year 9 student from The Heights School.

You people are having a hard time aren't you? With childcare being free and the situation you are all under, it must be hard to work. I have written to notify you that it will all be over soon; the vaccine is underway, and isolation is working out to be better for the economy. This will work in the long run and it may not seem like it now, but it is. If you have any concerns call the Covid-19 24/7 hotline for confirmation of your questions about these. Thank you for working tirelessly in our community to keep our kids safe.

Things will get better in due time we just need to wait the virus out and make it hard to spread between people which helps the society. I know you work harder and harder every day to ensure the safety of the people you are taking care of at your institute. You are great people and work very hard, I am grateful for your contribution to the society and appreciate your choice to take good care of the children.

We also asked some of our Primary students what they are grateful for:

I am grateful for my friends. I love being back with my friends because I didn't see them for a long time."
- Year 1 student

"I am grateful for my favourite subject, Drama."
- Year 1 student

"I loved how the teachers organised us lots of work to do at home - I did lots of work!" - Year 2 student

"I love being back at school because I love reading and handwriting." -
Year 2 student

"We are grateful for our teacher who sent us lots of good learning home and all of our passwords so that we could play Prodigy and other learning games." - Year 2 student

"My teacher makes me feel happy. She looks after us."
- Year 2 student



TECHNOLOGIES NEWS

Zero tolerance to mobile phones – in the interests of student learning and safety

The Technology Workshops are a no-go zone if you have a mobile phone in your possession. If you have not put your phone either in your locker or in your bag you need to do so before entering the technologies workshops area. The potential for missing vital safety information and accidents is high if students are distracted by their phone. Students using phones (including wireless ear buds) in the workshop without permission will be asked to place them in the phone safe, shown, to be returned at the teacher's discretion.

Welcome to new Design and Technologies Teacher, Sean Davis

Sean, an old scholar from The Heights School is replacing Craig Holyhrim while he is on leave for the next few weeks. We warmly welcome Sean back to his old school, now as a staff member.



Food and Fibre Technologies Area (Formerly Home Economics)

During the COVID-19 isolation break Food and Fibre Technologies staff were very busy and innovative not only in designing online tasks and programs across multiple year levels but also upgrading handwashing facilities and even painting their own kitchen walls after hours. The incredible dedication of Sarah Rogers, Gen Lempens and Alison Coleman must be acknowledged.

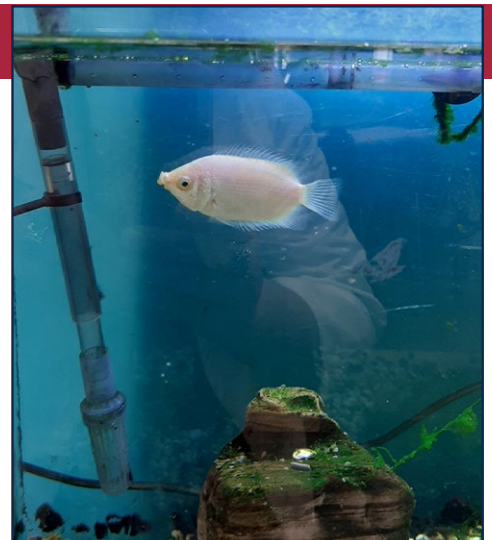


SENIOR SCIENCE FISH GIVE AWAY

Senior Science has a 'Kissing Gourami' fish to give away to a good home as we want to repopulate one of our aquariums with a different mix of fish. Attached is a photo - the fish is approx. 11cm long.

Please direct any enquiries to Chris Docherty or David Eglinton.

Thank you.



Free Parenting SA webinar

Handling sibling conflict proactively so they fight less and stay connected



Free parenting webinar

Are you tired of sorting out sibling conflict? Want better relationships and less stress in your family?

Register to hear Madhavi Nawana Parker talk about:

- why it is normal for siblings to fight
- how to reduce conflict by being proactive
- how conflict can be a chance to build children's skills and strengthen relationships
- keeping yourself calm and positive.

Register at

<https://handling-sibling-rivalry.eventbrite.com>

You will also receive a link to view the webinar recording after the event. This session is designed for parent/carers of children 4-12 years.



Madhavi Nawana Parker,
author, counsellor and Director of
Positive Minds Australia
www.positivemindsaustralia

Tuesday 16 June

When: 7.00pm – SA, NT
7.30pm – Qld, NSW, Vic, ACT, Tas
6.15pm – Eucla
5.30pm – WA

Helping parents be their best



Government of
South Australia