

The Heights School NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 | 16 February 2023

> Educating young minds

> Serving our community

> Instilling values and embracing our future



The Heights School has received in excess of **\$13 Million** over the past three years. Major redevelopments include two architecturally designed buildings incorporating state of the art furniture and equipment in addition to refurbishment of existing learning spaces. These facilities will provide a modern and contemporary learning environment which will inspire innovation and spark curiosity.



Have a Go, Go Hard, Keep Going!

Go Together

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS: • Year 6 Crossing Monitors

- Primary Years Collaborative Classrooms
- Out and About!
- Year 12 Guest Speaker: Mark Bickley

Pictured: Welcome back to school for 2023!

DIARY DATES

Please check the parent calendar on our website or by using the link below. Please note that this calendar is continually updated and we ask that families check for school events from time to time.

https://www.theheights.sa.edu.au/link/ <u>calendar</u>

PUPIL FREE DAYS/ SCHOOL CLOSURE:

PUPIL FREE DAYS

Term I Thursday 6 April (Term 1, Week 10)

Term 2 Monday I May (Term 2, Week I)

Friday 9 June (Term 2, Week 6)

Term 3 Tuesday 5 September (Term 3, Week 7)

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY

Term 3 Monday 4 September (Term 3, Week 7)

CONTACT

Ph: (08) 8242 8900 Fax: (08) 8242 8999 www.theheights.sa.edu.au

/heightsschool



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2023 school year at The Heights School.

AN INVITATION

A special welcome to our new Preschool, Reception and Year 7 students and their families to The Heights School Community as well as all other students and families new to The Heights.

We have had a very busy and productive start to our school year. Our amazing Preschool and Reception students have done a great job of adjusting to the new routines. Our Year 7 and 12 students took part in orientation days on Monday 30th January. At the start of this year it was wonderful as a staff to reflect on, and celebrate the achievements of, the class of 2022.

The class of 2022 worked diligently throughout the year, supported by their families and staff. Their work resulted in many students achieving high tertiary scores and receiving offers to university and tertiary courses. The Heights Year 12 results saw A grades at 26% and A and B grades at 68%. As well as this 7 students completed certificate III courses.

(Continued over)



Parents and Friends of The Heights School Community are cordially invited to the

Celebrate the success of 2022

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2023 6.00pm

Find out what we aim to improve in 2023

Enjoy nibbles and a drink

Conference Room (Administration Building)

To nominate for Governing Council please email dl.1430.info@schools.sa.edu.au to obtain a nomination slip or collect one from the Front Office. Nominations are to be returned to Dani Dunne by 9.00am on Tuesday 28 February prior to the AGM.

Choose to be a part of the Governing Council to support future improvement **briorities**





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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Our Dux of 2022

Gemma Blake with an ATAR of 99.15

Two students achieved A+ grades with merit Aimee Wilson in Biology Olivia Vallelonga in Food and Hospitality

Students who received ATARs above 90 Gemma Blake Paul Cyril Lachlan Blake Yaxuan Zhu David Maslov Aimee Wilson Sanabell Syjil **Amelia Sanders** Anthony Gouws Aida Norishaam Saya Kikuchi **Dominic Saing** Grace Hor Lovanya Mittal Hae-Yun Kim Asees Kaur

134 grades from A+ to A- were achieved

On behalf of the staff at The Heights School, I extend congratulations to the class of 2022 on their achievements and wish them every success as they pursue their future endeavours.

We welcomed 21 new or returning teaching and ancillary staff, many very experienced and specialists in their field, some taking up leadership positions while some staff who are very new to the teaching profession.

Staff joining:

Jacinta Dolman

Beau Ayers – Grounds support Stephen Calio – OSHC Director

Theodora Andonopolous – Primary Years - Year 2 and 4

Natalie Brooks – Primary Years Science Jordana Callisto – Secondary Years Humanities and Psychology

Sidney Dunn – Secondary Years English Henry Edward – Secondary Years English and The Arts

Shaun Fogarty – Secondary Years Spanish

Josh Hart - Primary Years Science

Janna Lewis – Leader - Technologies

Clay MacKenzie – Secondary Years English and Humanities

Heidi Morelli – SSO - Curriculum Support Brian Palmer – Secondary Years Mathematics Daniel Roberts – Secondary Years The Arts Leah Ryan - Secondary Years English Lucas Spiniello – Health and Physical Education and Mathematics Jacobus VanHoof – Secondary Years technologies

Staff returning:

Mark Damm – Secondary Years Technologies Angel Galotta – Primary Years - Year 3 Annette Slater – EAL

Alex Spalding – Leader - The Arts

I would like to take this to congratulate Rebekah Goodall (our Assistant Principal P- 6). For Terms I and 2 this year Rebakah is undertaking a Principal Consultant role. We wish her all the very best in this role and look forward to her returning to The Heights School in Term 3.

The Executive Leadership Team includes:

Deputy Principal – Val Westwell Assistant Principal, Primary Years Leaders – Laura Tambe

Assistant Principal Student Support 7-12 – Nathan Elliott

Business Manager – Vicki Cook

I encourage our families and our students to keep up to date with our school through Daymap, Class Dojo, our school calendar on our website, Facebook and Newsletters. It is where you will see what is happening in our school and the events ahead. It's a way for us to connect on a regular basis with you in a small way.

It is important for us to work in partnership, as this leads to better outcomes for our students, increased connection to school life and generally better lifelong outcomes.

Thank you for being a partner in your child's school and this very important time in their lives.

I look forward to working with you all this year.



Meg Fay Principal



REPORTING A STUDENT ABSENCE

Students are absent from school or late at times for all sorts of reasons. Could you please let the school know if your child is going to be late or absent and the reason, so we can record the absence correctly and keep track of where students are during the school day.

You can report your child's absence in the following ways:

- Phone the school on 8263 6244
- Email student services on dl.1430.studentservices@schools.sa.edu.au

If your child arrives late to school or needs to leave early, it is very important that they go to Student Services and sign in or out, so that we know when students are on site. Could you please provide a note in your child's diary or email student services if your child needs to sign out early for any reason, as we need parental permission before we can let your child leave the school grounds.

Similarly, a note or email is also helpful when your child signs in late so we can mark the absence correctly, otherwise it will be marked as an unexplained absence.

Thank you.

Student Services

FINANCE

The Finance Office would like to inform families that statements have been posted



home. If you are yet to receive your statement or believe your statement is not up-to-date please contact a member of our Finance Team.

We wish to extend a warm thank you to families that have already paid their accounts or set up payment plans and acknowledge those that have been able to contribute to our Building Fund. Contributions to our Building Fund go directly to upgrading facilities such as student toilets, new carpets or minor building improvements and the best part is they are completely tax deductible for you.

We would also like to prompt families that may be experiencing financial hardship due to a change of circumstance; such as ceasing employment or extensive medical expenses, to please contact the Finance Office to apply for government assistance. The Finance Team can assist with completing these forms, alternatively applications can be completed online

https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/ financial-help-scholarships-and-grants/school-cardscheme

Any families yet to apply for government assistance this year and believe they may be eligible can speak with the friendly Finance Team. The Finance Office is open between 8:00am-3:30pm.

Finance Office



All types of School Card applications **are now online.**

You can access the online forms from any device that gets internet, including mobile devices, such as tablets and smart phones, as well as laptops and computers.

Applying online is easy! Simply follow the steps below.

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TEP 1	Visit sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard
TEP 2	Select the type of School Card you would like to apply for (for example 'Type A') and follow the prompts.
TEP 3	Complete all mandatory fields. Please note: you cannot submit your application unless all mandatory fields are comp
TEP 4	Once you have completed a page click on the 'NEXT' button.
TEP 5	Once you have filled out all pages click the 'SUBMIT' button. Please note: if you exit the form without clicking 'SUBMIT' your details will be lost.

You can save the form, and return to complete it at another time, by clicking on the 'SAVE' button.

sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard



SUPERVISION BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

We would like to remind families that yard duty supervision begins at 8.25am Monday-Friday. There is no supervision for students before this time. Yard duty supervision in play areas and the Resource Centre finishes at 2.50pm on Mondays and 3.25pm on Tuesdays-Fridays. The Resource Centre will close and students will be asked to leave at the conclusion of yard duty with the exception of students participating in scheduled supervised after school activities.

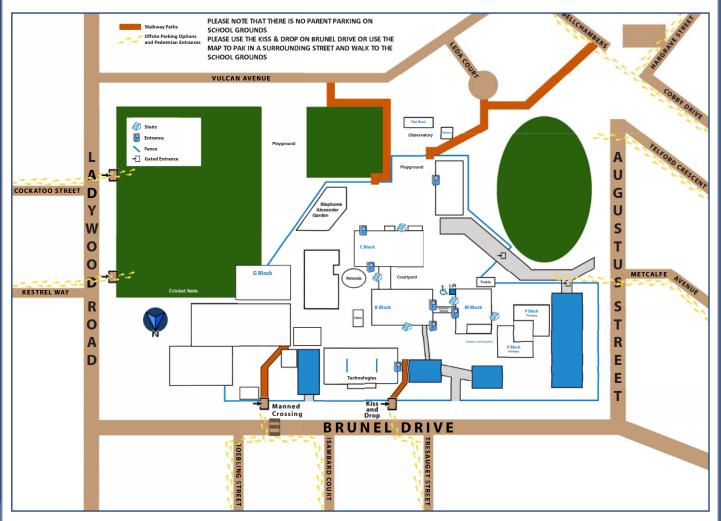
Please make arrangements to have your children collected by the conclusion of yard duty supervision or speak with our Out of School Hours Care Service to arrange enrolment if you need care for your children outside these times. Leaving children on site without supervision is a safety issue and we would like to ask for your assistance in ensuring the best care for your child.

CAR PARK SAFETY

We would like to advise families that we do not have any on-site parking for parents to drop off and collect their children.

If you need to park and exit your car for pick up/drop off, please check the map for streets around our school which can be used for parking and enter the school grounds on foot. We do advise that you check parking signs when you park your car in adjacent streets so you do not incur a fine from the council. For students old enough to be dropped off and collected without parent assistance, please use the drop off/collection lane on Brunel Drive, this area is designed for your child(ren) to exit and enter both your vehicle and school gate safely.

We appreciate that car-parking at these busy times is challenging and thank you for your co-operation to ensure the safety of both students and families.





THANK YOU BUILDING FUND DONORS!

With the continued support of the school's Governing Council, and families and parents who contribute to the Building Fund, further upgrades have been made to our student toilets.

During the Christmas holidays, refurbishments were completed across our four M-block toilets blocks.

The Student Representative Council are working together with school leadership to encourage ongoing respect of these vital facilities.

Kellye Rowe, Facilities





BEFORE



AFTER

AFTER



BEFORE

Middle School Girls Toilet











2022 YEARBOOKS ARE IN PRODUCTION

ESTIMATED DELIVERY TO SCHOOL IS TERM 1 WEEK 6

IF YOU HAVE PURCHASED A 2022 YEARBOOK THEY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO STUDENTS VIA HOME GROUP TEACHERS UPON ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

IF STUDENT/S NO LONGER ATTEND SCHOOL A COPY WILL BE POSTED TO THE MAILING ADDRESS WE HAVE ON FILE



BECOME A School Volunteer









Volunteers are an integral part of The Heights School.

Studies show that volunteering can have a positive impact on your child's learning, attendance and attitude, while showing that you are directly interested in their school and education. Being a volunteer provides an opportunity to build a closer connection to our school community.

We understand the pressures of everyday living and therefore cherish any involvement no matter how small.

Please visit our school website for more information www.theheights.sa.edu.au or if you have any questions please call our Community Liaison Officer on 8242 8900.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES IN:

Classroom Excursions Camps International Exchange Student Program Performing Arts Grounds / Facilities Resource Centre Stall Events Stephanie Alexander Kitchen / Garden

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The Heights School Sports Day 2023 Friday Week 6, Term 1 10th of March



DEFENCE SCHOOL MENTOR PROGRAM

Hi! For those who don't know me, my name is Lauren and I've been working at The Heights since January 2022. You can find me working in different areas throughout the school, including the treatment room, front desk, and student services, but I also work with our wellbeing team as the Defence School Mentor. Defence School Mentors work specifically with students and families impacted by the



Defence lifestyle, providing opportunity for students to connect with one another, implementing relevant programs and support for students, and connecting families to appropriate resources. Part of the role also includes raising awareness within the school community of the impact of the Defence lifestyle on students. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the program, please don't hesitate to email me on <u>Lauren.Archer6@schools.sa.edu.au</u>, or call the front reception on 8242 8900.

Lauren Archer, Defence School Mentor

YEAR 6 CROSSING MONITORS

On Wednesday 8th February, students from Year 6 completed their training to be Crossing Monitors. Andrew, a Police Officer from the SAPOL Road Safety Centre, taught students how to safely operate the pedestrian crossing (otherwise known as a Koala crossing) on Brunel Drive. Keep an eye out for our new crossing monitors before and after school and be sure to follow their instructions and guidance to keep our school community safe.

Jess Goldstone Year 6 Teacher







INTRODUCING THE ABORIGINAL EDUCATION TEAM

Naa Marni and welcome to Term I. We are the Aboriginal Education team at The Heights School.

My name is Aaron Murray-Raschella and I am the Aboriginal Secondary Education and Transition Officer (ASETO). I have a focus on wellbeing and engagement and our two Aboriginal Education Teachers (AET), Ms Kirsty Williams and Mr Luke Barmby have a focus on high expectations and improving outcomes for Aboriginal students through the key learning areas of literacy and numeracy.

It has been a pleasure to work with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students these past 5 years. Our students have been incredibly eager to learn more about their own culture and the culture of others and share their knowledge with their peers. Our team looks forward to supporting each student's wellbeing, education, and cultural



learning needs for the rest of the school year and bringing a greater cultural awareness to The Heights School community.

In case you were wondering about us, here is a bit of background information...

My father migrated to Australia as a child from Calabria, Italy, and my mother was born in Adelaide and raised in Coober Pedy, having Wamba Wamba/Wiradjuri roots. I've grown up in a diverse household, which has given me a great deal of respect for the multiculturalism that is Australia. Having worked for many years in Aboriginal Education in the Northern and Western suburbs, I have really enjoyed following my passion for Aboriginal culture and children's education.

- Aaron Murray-Raschella

Naa Marni, my name is Kirsty Williams. The Heights has been a part of my career for 5 years now teaching in the English curriculum Years 7 to 12. I spent time in Point Pearce, Leigh Creek and teaching in the Northern suburbs. I am excited to meet the students of our wider community and work closely with staff, students and families in this new role throughout 2023. - *Kirsty Williams*

Hi my name is Luke Barmby and I have been teaching for over 11 years with middle school experience and as an Aboriginal Education Teacher. My family is from Australia, with my father's side descending from Wilcannia, the Barkindji people. I grew up with my two brothers unsure of my ancestry and the cultural ties of being Indigenous so I am passionate to work with students to learn about Aboriginal culture, develop their skills as learners and increase their engagement at school. - Luke Barmby

If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to chat, please feel free to contact us at the school Monday - Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm.

Aaron Murray-Raschella Aboriginal Secondary Education & Transition Officer Wemba/Wemba, Wiradjuri Nations

OUT AND ABOUT!

Please enjoy some happy snaps of our students and staff settling into new classes and routines for 2023.



PRIMARY YEARS COLLABORATIVE CLASSROOMS

Collaborative Classrooms Program – Setting our students up for success!

Welcome back for 2023! And what a beautiful, positive start we have had! There has been so much learning occurring in classrooms and across the school and it has been fantastic to see our students showing so much courage in their learning and with their peer interactions.

In the first two weeks of school, all Primary Years classes have been immersed in our Collaborative Classrooms program. The program is based on the 5 Play is the Way "Life Raft" concepts and 7 Virtues, including good manners, respect,

including good manners, respect, courage, resilience, tolerance, compassion, empathy and friendliness. Our students have been working hard to get to know each other, share their own individual strengths and goals and learn skills for collaboration. Some of the exciting learning topics covered in Collaborative Classrooms include:

- The Golden Rule: "Treat others as you would like them to treat you"
- Effective communication skills
- · Problem solving strategies
- Managing uncomfortable feelings by learning about our Zones of Regulation
- eSafety "Safer Internet Day' live online workshops

Classrooms will continue to build on and refer to these skills throughout the year.

URSTRONG Friendology: Creating a kinder world by teaching children friendship skills!

As part of our Collaborative Classrooms program, this year we are very excited to launch a new friendship program called 'URSTRONG – Friendology' which aims to equip our students with the specific skills needed to make and maintain healthy friendships and resolve conflict respectfully, so we can all be 'Friendship Ninjas'. In the first few sessions, our students learn about the importance of being their own 'best friend' and then they begin to practice key skills for communicating with others.

As the term progresses, we will be starting to teach our students about the '4 Friendship Facts', the URSTRONG 'Friend-o-Cycle' and the 'Friend-o-Meter'!

This program was researched and recommended by our 2022 Student Representative Council (SRC) members, after some SRC discussions that discovered that friendships can be hard sometimes and students wanted to learn the skills to be able to resolve their own friendship difficulties successfully.

We will be sharing more information about URSTRONG Friendology as we progress through the program. However, if you would like to know more, please feel free to visit the website: <u>https://urstrong.com/</u>. There is a parent section full of some excellent resources and information!

Kind regards

Suzanne Ierace, Student Wellbeing Leader Primary Years













PRIMARY YEARS COLLABORATIVE CLASSROOMS



YEAR 12 GUEST SPEAKER: MARK BICKLEY

On the first day of the year our Year 12 Cohort in 2023 had a guest speaker, Mark Bickley. Mark Bickley is best known for captaining 2 x AFL Premiership's for the Adelaide Crows. He is also an AFL hall of Fame member and was also an assistant coach for six seasons.

He was recruited and made his AFL debut in 1991 as an inaugural member of the Adelaide Crows squad. Mark impressed many observers with his courage, strong tackling and excellent team sense. He was a mainstay in Adelaide's line-up from the club's inception in 1991 to 2003, racking up 272 games and captaining the team to both the 1997 and 1998 AFL premierships.

Following retirement from the game in 2003, he kicked off a career in broadcasting as a presenter with Nine News Adelaide and on nationally broadcast programs, The Footy Show and The Fox Footy Channel. Mark was a presenter on National Nine News and Postcards and gained extensive radio exposure on 5AA.

In 2009 he left broadcasting to return to football, this time as assistant coach of The Crows. In the same year, he was inducted into the Australian Football Hall of Fame. During his playing career, he was selected in the Crows Team of the Decade for the first 10 years and awarded Best Team Man of the Decade. Mark was made a life member of the Crows in 1999. More recently Mark was inducted into the Adelaide Football Club Hall of Fame.

Mark has been Chairman of SA Great, an All Australian selector for the AFL, and is currently the Deputy Chair of the Adelaide Football Club Past Players Board.

Mark was able to speak to our year 12 students focussing on leadership, resilience, team building, personal wellbeing, work/life/school balance and motivation. We has able to take us on his journey from a child growing up in a country town to becoming one of the greatest AFL players in our state. He spoke about the challenges and barriers throughout his personal life as well as his professional career. He spoke about mentors, how to ask for help, what to do when things aren't going well and what strategies he used to overcome tough times. He shared information about success, and what success looked like for him throughout the years. Students were able to make connections between his stories, and things they can do throughout their time in year 12 to have their own success, and achieve any goals they have set.

Student comments after the presentation:

"It showed me I have to be good at organising and structuring time, so I know what to do and get work done on time."

"Always manage my time and balance out my school life, work life and social life to prevent burn out and stress."

"Don't be indecisive when you decide to do something, just got for it full on, that will provide you with the most success."

"Do not fall behind and do not procrastinate; get rid of or avoid distractions, create schedules to help time manage, use unscheduled lesson times wisely, study in advance for tests and exams."

"Always know that there are people that can support and help me whenever I need, such as teachers, year level leaders, wellbeing staff, parents and friends."

"Being able to press forward even when people say that I am not able or not adequate to do something. Also, to stay focussed at school and not get distracted."

"Build good relations with people, don't be afraid to ask for help and support, provide support for others, and finding a balance between school and personal life."

"Ask teachers more questions, get as much feedback possible on drafts and work, use class time wisely, stay motivated and prioritise the right tasks at hand."

Daniel Brzezinski Student Wellbeing Leader



COMMUNITY NOTICES

School zones

Drivers must slow their vehicles to 25km/h in a school zone at any time, day or night, when a child is present. A zigzag white line is also usually marked on the road to let drivers know they are approaching a school zone.



School crossings

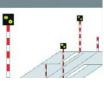
You cannot stop within 20m of the approach side or 10m of the departure side



of a school crossing. This rule applies to all pedestrian crossings.

Koala crossings

A Koala crossing consists of two vellow flashing lights mounted on red and white striped poles



A 25km/h speed limit applies when the lights are flashing.

A driver must giveway to any pedestrian.

We want to ensure the safety of children, pedestrians and motorists around our streets and schools.

Parents and caregivers have a great responsibility to ensure children stay safe in school zones and have a key role in educating children about road safety

Helpful tips for parking around schools

- Allow enough time to take the child to the school gate safely without rushing
- Always observe parking signs and speed limits in and around school zones. They are designed to keep children safe
- Talk about signs and traffic lights with your child. Identify and discuss places where it is safe to get in and out of the car
- Teach your child how to cross the road using the 'stop, look and listen' process – stop at the kerb, look and listen for traffic and then decide whether it is safe to cross
- Park a few streets away and walk your child to school. This is also good exercise and helps teach your child road safety rules.

Note – Council officers patrol school parking in the morning and afternoon during school terms.

Emu crossings

An Emu crossing has a red 'Children Crossing' flag displayed on red and white striped posts.

The speed

restriction of 25km/h applies at any time when a child is present so slow down to be safe and take care of children.

Bicycle lanes

Bicycle lanes run alongside kerbs or next to parking lanes. They are indicated by painted lines, bicycle

symbols and bicycle lane signs, or the word 'lane' painted in white. Some bicycle lanes (or sections of lanes) are painted green.

Some bicycle lanes operate around the clock. Others only operate during peak travel times (as specified on the signs) to allow parking for local businesses and residents.

It is illegal to drive, park or stop your vehicle in a bicycle lane and fines apply.

Common parking problems

No Stopping

You must not park or stop in a No Stopping Zone for any reason. A continuous yellow line marked on the edge of the road has the



same meaning as a No Stopping zone.

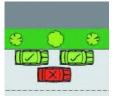
No Parking

You can only stop in a No Parking area for the immediate purpose of picking up or dropping off passengers or goods. You must not leave the vehicle unattended (no more than three metres away).

You can wait in this location no more than two minutes (without moving).

Double parking

Drivers must not stop next to a parked vehicle when picking up or dropping off children, not even for a few seconds. This practice is illegal and creates



dangerous situations at any time on any street.



SAFETY AROUND **SCHOOLS**



Driveways

You may park so that the front of your vehicle is level with the approach or the back is level with the departure side of a driveway to



any private or public property so that vehicles can enter and depart.

Footpaths or nature strip

Parking is prohibited at all times. It creates dangerous situations for pedestrians nd other vehicles in the vicinity. Bus zones

minimised.



70NI You must not stop or park in a bus zone at any time. Kiss and drop This is an area near the school gates for you to drop your child off safely and quickly. The intention is that drivers do not wait in CHILD SAFETY AREA these zones and Drop Off & Pick Up that they stay Only in the vehicle Drivers must not leave vehicles unattend 2 minute limit 8am - 9am & 2pm - 4pm School Days so queues are





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COMMUNITY NOTICES



www.theheights.sa.edu.au