

# The Heights School

# **NEWSLETTER**

**ISSUE 8** | 29 August 2024

- > Educating young minds
- > Serving our community

**REMINDERS:** 

SCHOOL

**CLOSURE DAY:** 

Monday 2 September

PUPIL FREE DAY:

**Tuesday 3 September** 

> Instilling values and embracing our future



A Fair Go Have a Go, Go Hard, Keep Going! Go Together

# **ISSUE** HIGHLIGHTS:

- Book Week 2024
- Wakakirri
- Year 7-9 Awards
- SALA Exhibition and 2024 Winners

Pictured: Wakakirri

## **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/calendar

# School Calendar

# PUPIL FREE DAYS/ SCHOOL CLOSURE 2024:

#### Pupil Free Days 2024

Term 3 Tuesday 3 September 2024 (Term 3, Week 7)

Term 4 Thursday 12 December 2024 (Term 4, Week 9)

School Closure Day 2024

Term 3 Monday 2 September 2024 (Term 3, Week 7)

## CONTACT

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# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This Newsletter finds us half way through Term 3. It includes articles capturing some of the wonderful events that take place this term.

On Friday night in Week 4, I was very fortunate to attend our school's Wakakirri performance. It was a spectacular performance.

Our students were fantastic, performing Bollywood Ball (an adaptation of Cinderella). The story telling performance was great and the connection to the theme of belonging was clear.

Our cast consisted of approximately 100 students from Reception to Year 6 which was such excellent participation from our students and families!

A huge thank you and congratulations to Penny Phillips on her dedication and enthusiasm, knowing no bounds, to provide an opportunity for our students. An amazing feat to bring it all together for our students.

Congratulations to all the students that took part - it was a great performance.

Students in Primary and Secondary years participated in some fun and interesting Science Week activities.

Our staff and students once again embraced Book Week in Week 5 with this year's theme being 'Reading is Magic'. Our Primary students enjoyed their Book Week parade with many incredible and creative costumes representing students' favourite books with magical themes. This is always a highlight of the year. There was lots of fun, enjoyment and high fives throughout the parade. Once again, it was wonderful to have parents there to enjoy the parade.

Subject selection for 2025 is now underway for Years 8 through to 11 students. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact our Assistant Principal Kelly Spalding for subject specific information or Assistant Principal Dylan Muzyka for assistance with online subject selection. For any Ignite specific questions please contact David Eglinton.

Parents/Caregivers of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students should have received their NAPLAN results. If you have not received them, please notify reception.

#### Staffing Update

As of Week 5 this term, our Deputy Principal Val Westwell has taken up a promotional role within the Department for Education. Val joined The Heights team in 2021 as an Assistant Principal and in 2023 became the Deputy Principal. I would like to thank Val for her work at The Heights and for her commitment to improving the learning opportunities for our students and public education. I would like congratulate Val and wish her the very best in her new role as the Director of Learning and Teaching.

(continued over)



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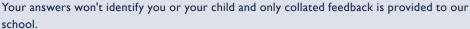
# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

## The Department for Education's Annual Parent Survey

The Department for Education's annual parent survey is underway for parents/caregivers and closes midnight Sunday 8 September. For more information please visit the <u>department's website</u>.

This survey aims to get your views on:

- · what we're doing well
- · where we can improve
- what's important to you as a parent/carer.



You should have already received a link to the survey via email or SMS. Reminder emails are currently being sent to you unless you have completed a survey or have unsubscribed.

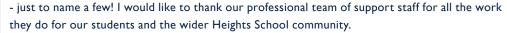
Please take the time to complete the survey, this is valuable information for our school. If you cannot find the previously sent link, then please use this one:

Parent Survey Link for The Heights School

https://survey.education.sa.gov.au/sc/kCp3iYp32IGz0IhoeVtrAw2

#### **SSO Appreciation Week**

This week we are celebrating SSO Appreciation Week and we will be taking the opportunity to acknowledge the work of our support staff across the school. Roles range from supporting students with their learning, administration, finance, IT, grounds and maintenance, Resource Centre support, internationalism, Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden and Science Laboratories





Meg Fay Principal

# **OSHC NEWS**

# Out of School Hours Care

October Vacation Care is fast approaching and bookings are now open! We have put forward a fantastic schedule with many fun and engaging experiences for the children.

Visit our OSHC webpage <u>here</u> to download the Vacation Care Program. Bookings can only be submitted via the online booking form.

Bookings close Thursday, 26 September 2024.

Stephen Calio
OSHC Director



## SCHOOL CROSSINGS

To ensure the safety of all pedestrians around our site, there is infrastructure in place that families interact with every day which enables traffic management to be as smooth and as safe as possible. During peak times (before and after school), the grounds and roads around our site become very busy. To ensure the safety of our school community, The Department for Infrastructure and Transport, along with the Tea Tree Gully Council have a number of process in place that support pedestrians and motorists around our site.

### Koala (Flashing Light) Crossings - Brunel Drive

Each year, our Year 6 cohort and staff are trained as road safety monitors and support the management of our two Koala (Flashing Light) Crossings on Brunel Drive. As part of this role, students monitor pedestrians and motorists with the use of stop signs, whistles and high visibility vests. Our Year 6 students and yard duty teachers do an excellent job managing these crossings (rain/hail/shine) and primary students look forward to this responsibility each year. Although our monitors play a pivotal role in managing these crossings, we are fortunate to have student monitors each day as legally this is not a requirement.

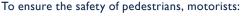


Whether there are monitors present or not motorists:

- · Must adhere to speed limits, signage and infrastructure (flashing lights, flags, marked lines etc.) in place at all times.
- Must stop when any pedestrian or bicycle rider is on, or entering, a children's crossing, or when instructed to do so by a crossing
  monitor.
- Must not proceed until there is no pedestrian or bicycle rider on, or entering, the crossing, or until instructed to do so by a crossing monitor.
- Motorists can only be stopped by a trained crossing monitor with school crossing stop signs.

#### Emu (Flags) Crossing - Augustus Street

Each morning and afternoon, flags are erected on Augustus Street which signals that our Emu Crossing is in operation. Similarly to Brunel Drive, Augustus Street becomes very busy during peak times and to support the safe management of our school community, our functioning Emu Crossing ensures that pedestrians have safe access to and from our site.



- <u>Must adhere</u> to speed limits, signage and infrastructure (flashing lights, flags, marked lines etc.) in place at all times.
- Must stop when any pedestrian or bicycle rider is on, or entering, a children's crossing.
- Must not proceed until there is no pedestrian or bicycle rider on, or entering, the crossing.

The Heights School would like to acknowledge our community and the excellent role we all play in managing the safety of our staff/ students/families. By continuing to be safe around our site and school crossings, we can ensure that school drop off and pickups remain safe for the Heights School community.

#### Mr Dimou

For further information on the responsibility of motorists and the safe management of our crossings, please refer to the useful links below.

#### **Useful Links**

Koala Crossing Fact Sheet: Koala-Crossing-Fact-Sheet.pdf (police.sa.gov.au)

Emu Crossing Fact Sheet: Emu-Crossing-Fact-Sheet.pdf (police.sa.gov.au)

City of Tea Tree Gully Safety Around Schools: <a href="https://www.teatreegully.sa.gov.au/">https://www.teatreegully.sa.gov.au/</a> data/assets/pdf\_file/0021/1613730/safety-around-schools-brochure.pdf

SAPOL Being Safe at School Crossings: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAqLvblpF4k">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAqLvblpF4k</a>



# **BOOK WEEK 2024**

Thank you to our wonderful students and families at The Heights School who certainly did a fine job of displaying how "Reading IS Magic" during our Book Week celebrations last week.

From author visits – (thank you Allayne Webster and Mike Lucas who shared their stories with various classes), to our Character Parade where favourite characters came alive and the Book Week Quiz, an exciting time was had by all.



Classes are continuing this week with Shadow Judging and page displays.



# WAKAKIRRI

On Friday 9th August, the Wakakirri students set off to the Norwood Concert Hall with teachers and volunteers for our performance day. It was very busy with dress rehearsals, applying make-up, costumes, hairstyles, watching other schools rehearse, a student function and pizza dinner before our performance.

Our story, Bollywood Ball is a retelling of Cinderella in Bollywood style. We had lots of fun over the year preparing and rehearsing the creative movement, acting and dance. Our cast enjoyed performing on the night and received some great Show Awards and feedback which you can read below.

Students were very excited to perform again on Thursday 15th August for our Primary school and they received some lovely feedback from students and teachers. Ms Penny was thrilled to be acknowledged for her 20 years of coordinating Wakakirri at The Heights

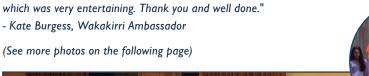
School. She is very proud of all the students, and wishes to give a big thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us with our Wakakirri!

#### **Show Awards**

Creative Production Award for Overall Costume Design Lead Cast Award for Performance in Dancing and Acting Storytelling Award for a Great Blockbuster Production Style Production Award for Soundtrack Storytelling Award for Great use of Drama

#### Ambassador feedback

"I love the story of Cinderella and I really enjoyed the way you took that story and made it your own in a really fun and unique way. This was really well constructed and thought through production, I loved each choice made with the costumes, especially the addition of the chickens and then each individual costume design was phenomenal. A fun blockbuster style production







# WAKAKIRRI (CONTINUED)



# FESTIVAL OF MUSIC - MAGIC MILLIONS

On Wednesday in the very early hours of the morning, 24 of our Year 5 and 6 Festival of Music Choir students travelled to Morphettville Racecourse for their first rehearsal with more than 350 other students from schools all around our state. They all worked incredibly hard, singing their parts and enthusiastically performing their choreography. This was their opportunity to get a taste of what the concert performance will be like when they perform on the Festival Theatre stage.

The concert consists of 14 songs. Some are original works written especially for the Festival Choir. The whole concert is wrapped up with several well-known ABBA songs all topped off with some amazing choreography. Tickets for the concert are available on Ticketek – The Heights School's concert is number 10 and we perform on the evening of 19th September. Don't miss out on this amazing event and seeing our students sing and dance the night away!



## ST JOHN AMBULANCE NATIONAL YOUTH FIRST AID COMPETITIONS AND CAMP

In the first week of the Term 2 holidays, Year II student Aidan Ratcliff, and Year I0 student Skye Jenkins, went to Alice Springs as part of the SA contingent for the St John Ambulance National Youth First Aid Competitions and National Camp.

As well as participating in the competitions, Aidan and Skye visited many organisations and attractions in and around Alice Springs. Highlights included camel riding; visiting Standley Chasm, a sacred site for the Western Arrente, where they gained their First Nations Proficiency Badge; and attending the formal Gala Presentation dinner at the Earth Sanctuary World Nature Centre.

As well as meeting other St John Youth members, Aidan and Skye were thrilled for their SA team to place 3rd in Australia for the Competitions, and 2nd in the Spirit of St John Award, which is for outstanding dedication and camaraderie.

An amazing experience for them both!





## YEAR 5 CONNECT FOUR TOURNAMENT 2024 AND NATIONAL CAMP

Over the past two months, Year 5 students displayed their strategic prowess in the highly anticipated Connect Four tournament. With 52 competitors vying for the top spot, the event was filled with intense matches and nail-biting moments. After matches in this knockout tournament, only one student emerged victorious: Ryan Li.

In a fitting end to the competition, Mr Dimou, presented the trophy to the triumphant Ryan Li. The entire Year 5 cohort congratulated Ryan on his achievement, marking the end of a thrilling and memorable event.



# **YEAR 7-9 AWARDS**

In Week 4, we held our Term 3 Academic Awards Assemblies for our Middle School students (Year 7-9). This was a time to celebrate the hard work and commitment of our students across the Secondary Years. The Principal's Awards were presented to students who demonstrated outstanding success across all their subjects (all A grades), whilst the Academic Achievement Awards were presented to students who achieved all A and B grades. The parameters on these awards are different depending on the Year Level and the number of subjects studied by the student. This Term, we introduced Significant Improvement Awards, which recognised those students who have been able to action teacher feedback and improve their grades across a range of subjects.

I am excited to share that the Year II Band performed two pieces for our middle school students. This was a wonderful experience as our younger students were able to see what being a part of the school's music program means. The Year IIs demonstrated perseverance, creatively and joy in performing for their peers.

Congratulations to all our award recipients and thank you to the Year II Band, led by, Mr Roberts and Mr Spalding.



Principal Award



Significant Improvement

(continued over)



# YEAR 7-9 AWARDS (CONTINUED)





Year 7 Academic

Year 8 Academic



Year 9 Academic







Band

# **MATHS COMPETITIONS AND QUIZ**

As part of our commitment to fostering a love for mathematics and enhancing students' problem-solving skills, this month a number of students from Years 7 – II participated in a national and local maths competition and a maths quiz. Below is a summary of the events.

#### I. Australian Maths Competition

The Australian Mathematics Competition is Australia's longest running and most well-known maths competition for school students. The competition contained unique problems designed by leading educators and academics to challenge and extend students' problemsolving skills. Results have yet to be published and regardless of results, all students that competed gave it their best and we would like to extend our congratulations to all participants for their hard work and enthusiasm.

#### 2. Math Ouiz

Students from Years 7, 8 and 11 participated in MASA's Maths quiz held at Kings Baptist Grammar School. Our students showcased amazing teamwork, perseverance and exceptional skills when tackling a range of challenging problems, whist competing against some of the best minds from neighbouring schools. Below are quotes from participating students.

"The quiz allowed us to apply our maths knowledge in a fun and competitive setting." - Hetanshi and Mahi

"An enjoyable experience." - Hazell and Kayanaat

"It was so much fun." - Levi

### 3. South Australian Investigating with Mathematics Competition

The theme for this competition was for students to think and be like a mathematician. Students explored a real-life topic or situation of their interest focussing on the mathematics involved. They researched a topic then proved or disproved their claim via mathematical calculations. Throughout this competition, students developed their creativity and critical thinking of mathematics with the real-world. We wish all students the very best with their submission.

Students' enthusiasm and engagement were truly the highlights of these competitions. We look forward to seeing more students at future events and continuing to celebrate the joy of learning.

# Maria Provatas

Year 7-12 Maths Leader













# PRACTICAL LEARNING IN MATHEMATICS

This semester the Maths Faculty are trialing a new initiative: Practical Maths Learning for Year 10 students. Practical Maths Learning integrates real-life scenarios into our maths curriculum, so that students will explore how maths is used in various aspects of daily life. This program is incorporated into regular maths classes, in which students will work on assignments that relate to real-life situations, allowing them to see the practical applications of their learning. The Practical Maths Learning comprises two projects with the first being Botanical Gardens. Botanical Gardens is well underway with Year 10 students applying their mathematical knowledge in measurement, design and finance to create a landscaped garden bed.

We are excited about the opportunities this program will bring and look forward to seeing our students thrive as they discover the practicality of mathematics.

Maria Provatas Year 7-12 Maths Leader









## SCIENCE ALIVE EXCURSION

#### **STEM Day Out**

On the 2nd August, 1006 and 1007 went to the STEM Day out by Science Alive held the Adelaide Show Grounds. With over 80 exciting and hands on exhibits, students were able to engage with young early career scientists and engineers, interactive workshops and take up different STEM challenges. It also provided an opportunity for students to see a variety of STEM careers available. Our students enjoyed various activities such as manoeuvring submarines, creating catapults, watching a chemistry stage show, viewing robotic competitions in action and much more. See students' feedback below.

Lucy Clasohm & Bradley Innes Mathematics and Science Teachers

#### Students' Feedback:

"Should've been an all-day thing, too many things to see for just a half day. However, besides that, had a wide range of interesting science fields (I got to pat a bunch of cool animals and there was a really interesting photography section), and a lot of the workers were very passionate and nice to talk to " - Damia

"I really enjoyed the STEM Day Out Excursion. Through the exhibition, I got to explore more STEM-related career pathways and participate in different activities related to them. One of the activities I particularly enjoyed was building the Da Vinci Bridge. I was quite fascinated by how the bridge was only built with popsicle sticks but was able to hold quite a substantial weight." - Chandulee

"I liked the criminal investigation and the vein finder. The science alive provided an insight into the pathological pathway." - Joshita

"The STEM Day out to Science Alive was an enjoyable experience that involved interesting and interactive exhibits from petting native animals to spectating robot wars which showcased various science and technology careers." - Anna

"I thought that the science alive excursion was an interesting experience. My friends and I got to see a learn a lot of new things, and gained some more insight about various topics and career pathways. The only problem I had was that there wasn't really much psychology related information or things to see, and so I didn't learn too much about my planned career pathway. Overall though, I thought it was a fun experience and enjoyed going there." - Nakul

"The STEM Day Out excursion had a variety of different and engaging stalls. Although our time there was cut short, I enjoyed talking to the stall presenters and petting the exotic animals in the Wildlife Stall." - Liana

"I enjoyed looking at the wide variety of stalls displaying different sciences and the avenues you can explore them through, whether that be personal or professional, handy or theoretical. One stall that stood out to me was the one with the daleks, as it displayed how science could be used in personal life to engineer cool things. I also really liked the place where you could pet the animals that was really cool, and provided a unique and beneficial experience of petting stranger creatures. Science alive didn't really make me reconsider my career pathways, although it has shown me other interesting pathways that I didn't know existed." - Olivia R













## **IGNITE ENGLISH**

### Year 8 Ignite English

Students in Year 8 Ignite English have been learning skills and techniques of persuasive texts. The classes first understood ethos, pathos, logos and a variety of literary devices. Students then dived into target audience, and what makes a product appealing. Many different teaching strategies were used as 'unsellable' products were sold based on language, colours and images. Our assessment then took a 'Shark Tank' approach. After viewing and analysing aspects of sales, students in teams, brainstormed their own product to then 'Shark Tank' to the class with some guest judges. All students were involved, engaged and very entertaining elements were used. Well done to all.

Miss Williams English Teacher

#### Year 9 Ignite English

Students in Year 9 Ignite English focused on a unit titled 'Protest Poetry.' While learning about poetic elements, context and purpose they then dived deeper to look at how poetry can become art. From this, students chose a poem of their choice. After analysing certain poetic elements and devices, they represented their understanding of the poem through artwork. This was further explained in an artist statement about the connection to the art and poem. An important take away for many was 'words have power' further represented by English and literacy not always having to be text. Artworks created were moving and very powerful. Exceptional work by this class.

Kirsty Williams English Teacher

















# YEAR 10 VISUAL ART LARGE FORMAT PORTRAITS OF FAMOUS PEOPLE

Students in Year 10 Visual Art have explored a variety of drawing techniques, leading to the creation of these large format portraits of famous people, inspired by the work of artist Chuck Close. They were completed as a collaborative project with their peers. These artworks are currently on display in the windows of DG2.

Catherine Bourn, Visual Art Teacher



## **SALA EXHIBITION**

# The Heights School P-12 Visual Art Exhibition Incorporating SALA "An Artistic Odyssey" Opening Night 5th August 2024

We were very pleased to welcome approximately one hundred and fifty guests to our 16th Annual Art and Media Exhibition opening night on Monday 5th of August. Special guests included Principal Meg Fay, artist Jan Monks, teachers and former teachers, parents, students and their family and friends.

The Exhibition was officially opened by artist Jan Monks. In her opening address, Jan reminded us that the artworks on display represent the thoughts and feelings of our students. Jan encouraged our students to seek out opportunities to exhibit their work in the community and to continue to express themselves and be creative. She was impressed with the wide range of media and techniques represented in the exhibition. The theme of this year's show was *An Artistic Odyssey* and many of the works on display certainly told a story and took viewers on a journey.

The Heights School String Quartet provided live music for the evening and guests were welcomed with refreshments and delicious food provided by Janna Lewis, Danielle Brown and our Year 12 Food and Hospitality students.

The exhibition showcased artworks by students from Preschool to Year 12 and also several talented members of staff. It remained on display until Friday 16th August and was visited by hundreds of staff and students. Over twelve hundred votes were received for the People's Choice Award across the two weeks!

Congratulations to all the students that have participated in this year's exhibition.

Keep on creating! We are looking forward to next year's show.

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of this year's exhibition.

Catherine Bourn and the Art Faculty







Principal Meg Fay with art teacher Catherine Bourn and special guest artist Jan Monks



Opening Night



String Quartet



Delicious Food



Tasty Treats



Catherine Bourn and Jan Monks

# **SALA EXHIBITION - 2024 WINNERS**

## Highly Commended

Ryan Suresh Year 1107 #19 True Night Sky



2 Justin Sutton Year 1005 #257 The Flower's Fruitiona



3 Esther Reynolds Year 1007 #244 Shuĭ (water)



### Year Book Cover

Dohansa Samaranayake Year 803 #138 The Reading

Corner



## Principal's Choice

P – 2

Margaret Sumignan Year R04 #75

My Mummy



2 Thanu Pallayil Year 103 #170 Surfing on the Wave



Shiv Gohil Year 204 #270 Super Saki



# **SALA EXHIBITION - 2024 WINNERS (CONTINUED)**



Viaan Ranaut Year 404 #127 Mandala



3 Onasha Mahappu Arachchige Dona Year 502 #182 Magical Jellyfish



Paige Simpson
Year 602
#243
Light the Way



Liya Cojuhari
Year 707
#245
Gandalf, is that
you?



2 Mahi Pandya Year 807 #114 The Blue Summer



3 Allan Saing Year 901 #333 Sitting



# **SALA EXHIBITION - 2024 WINNERS (CONTINUED)**

## 10 – 12

I Liana Cherian

Year 1007 #232

Two Koi fish in a green pond



2 Eliza Cook

Year 1107 #130

Cosmic Breach



Jarod Adcock Year 1202 #255

Matilda



# WINNER!

Shreya Baroi

Year 906

#194

Sirens capture the

Odyssey



# People's Choice

Sheryl Shah

Year 902

#198

Rose Letters



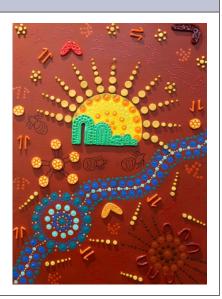
## Karnkanthi Award

Milani Newman

Year 402

#191

Birrang (The Wiradjuri word for journey)



# **COMMUNITY NOTICES**





#### **SIES Parent Forum**

The Parent Forums are an initiative established to inform and engage parents or carers about the services and support available for children and young people with a disability and to provide an opportunity to listen to the voices of their families.

The information presented and the knowledge gained through shared discussions, table talk and workshops with the parents and carers further develop and help inform policy and future direction. The questions raised and topics requested are ongoing, informative and challenging.

The day will include:

- An Inclusive Teaching & Learning and Department Update
- Presentations from Student Support Services Social Work & Truancy
- Learn about the work of Inclusive Educators in the school refusal process
- Hear from Attendance and Engagement and Wellbeing Directorates
- Supports for school refusal / school can't

Next Event - Thursday 12th September 2024

When: I2th September 2024, 9.45am - 2.00pm

Venue: SIES – 72a Marlborough Street, Henley Beach SA 5022

Lunch and light refreshments provided

Contact: SIES
Phone: 82352871

Email: Education.parentforum@sa.gov.au

Please access the link below to register for this event:

https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/parent-forum-term-3-2024-tickets-964714887197

