

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Year 12 Parade and Breakfast
- Academic Awards
- 2024 National STEMIE Challenge Final
- South Australian Space School Experience

Pictured: Year 12 Parade and Breakfast (1202)

- see more on pages 5-6



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

IMPORTANT DATES IN TERM 4

See the following page for important dates in Term 4.

PUPIL FREE DAYS:

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

CONTACT

The Heights School
Brunel Drv, Modbury Heights SA 5092
Ph: (08) 8242 8900
Fax: (08) 8242 8999
E: dl.1430.info@schools.sa.edu.au
www.theheights.sa.edu.au
f /heightsschool



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Volunteers Appreciation Morning Tea was held on Friday 15 November. One of the many things that makes The Heights School such a wonderful place to be is our volunteers. We are very fortunate to have approximately 40 people that have volunteered their time and provided a valuable service to our school community. I would like to thank all our volunteers for their help and support of our school and its programs.

Transition visits for new Reception children have begun this week and will also occur next week. Parents of Term 1 2025 Reception children will be welcomed to our school by our Primary Years leaders and teachers. For students beginning Reception in Term 3 2025, we will be organising transition visits in Term 2 next year. These are very exciting times and we are looking forward to working with our new families.

On Wednesday 20 November, we held the Year 12 graduation at Sferas for the Class of 2024. For our Year 12 students the graduation is the final formal farewell and celebration of their achievement with the friends they have made throughout their journey at The Heights and is an opportunity for families to share in acknowledging and celebrating their child's school journey. It is the culmination of many years of schooling that has involved regular and positive encouragement, challenge, and support, learning to best prepare our graduating students to work towards productive, happy, and healthy futures. Thank you to Arthur Roubanis, Julie Williams and Kelly Spalding for the time and effort given to organising of the graduation ceremony; making it a memorable event for the Class of 2024. Keep an eye out for the photos in the next newsletter.

103 and 303 hosted the Primary Years Assembly this week. The theme was *courage* and the host classes did a wonderful job. The Honourable Blair Boyer Minister for Education, Training and Skills acknowledged the amazing efforts of The Heights students who participated in the Premier's Reading Challenge this year.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the safety of our students is of extreme importance to us. Now in Term 4, I would like to take this opportunity to remind our school community that supervision for students begins at **8.25am from Monday-Friday**. This is when students should arrive at school. Yard duty supervision finishes at **2.50pm on Monday** and **3.25pm Tuesday to Friday**. If you are unable to drop off or collect your primary school aged child(ren) within the supervised times, we request that you access before and after school care where OSHC staff provide and a program that maintains supervision outside these times. To assist us in the delivery of OSHC we request that families please leave the school grounds by 2:50pm on Monday and 3:25pm Tuesday to Friday, unless they are meeting with a member of staff.



Meg Fay
Principal

ADVANCE REMINDER:

PUPIL FREE DAY:
Thursday 12 December
LAST DAY OF TERM 4:
Friday 13 December
(12.45pm Dismissal)

CONTENTS

Principal's Message.....	1
Important Dates in Term 4 2024.....	2
OSHC News	2
Volunteer Appreciation Morning Tea.....	3
Parent Forum: Our Children as Mathematicians.....	3
R03 Teams up with UniSA for Monster Fun!	4
Year 12 Parade and Breakfast.....	5-6
Academic Awards.....	7-8
Mathematics.....	9
2024 National STEMIE Challenge Final	10
South Australian Space School Experience.....	11
Student Leadership Planning Day	12
Her Tech Path: Dare to Dream.....	13
Engaging with the Spanish Speaking Community	13
Aboriginal Education	14
Student Achievement.....	14
Community Notice	14

IMPORTANT DATES IN TERM 4 2024



Across School Events	
29/11	Celebration of Success (Years 7-11)
12/12	PUPIL FREE DAY
13/12	Last Day Term 4 (Early Dismissal 12:45pm)
Year 11 Students	
20/11 - 25/11	Year 11 Exams
Year 10 Students	
25/11	Last Teaching Day for Year 10 students
27/11 - 29/11	Year 10 Exams
Year 7-9 Students	
6/12	Year 6 to 7 Transition Day
Primary Years	
21/11	New Reception Transition Visit 1 (Thursday Group)
26/11	New Reception Transition Visit 2 (Tuesday Group)
27/11	Primary Years Disco
28/11	New Reception Transition Visit 2 (Thursday Group)
29/11	Year 6 Celebration Assembly
10/12	Primary End of Year Concert

OSHC NEWS

Bookings are now open for the following sessions of care:

- Summer Vacation Care
- Annual Bookings 2025
- Pupil Free Day: 12 December 2024 (Bookings via email only)

Visit our OSHC web page [here](#) to submit bookings for Summer Vacation Care and Annual Bookings for 2025.

We also encourage families to read through our updated Parent Handbook regarding important policies and procedures.

Stephen Calio
OSHC Director

Out of School Hours Care

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MORNING TEA

One of our many highlights throughout the year is when we get to acknowledge and celebrate those who make a difference to our school community.

Last week, we did just that by hosting a special appreciation morning tea for our school volunteers. We truly appreciate each volunteer regardless of how much time they are able to give our school because it all makes a difference.

Thank you again to all who were able to come and celebrate on the day.

Gjuzide Apat

Community Liaison Officer



PARENT FORUM: OUR CHILDREN AS MATHEMATICIANS

On Thursday, 7 November, parents of primary students were invited to attend an evening forum titled *Our Children as Mathematicians*. The Heights School were fortunate enough to have guest speaker, Dr Kate Quane – Researcher and Lecturer in Mathematics Education, present at this forum.

Dr Kate Quane's session focused on the importance of children developing a positive attitude towards mathematics and the ways in which children think and work mathematically.

Families were given the opportunity to reflect on their own experiences of, and beliefs and views towards, mathematics and engage in some mathematical thinking that can be applied in everyday activities.

We'd like to thank the families who attended this forum and hope they gained some additional knowledge about how to best support their child with mathematics.

Zoe Bower, R-6 Numeracy Coordinator



R03 TEAMS UP WITH UNISA FOR MONSTER FUN!

Recently, Ms McMahon's class teamed up with students from the University of South Australia for a fantastic Technology and Literacy project. Our students designed their own monsters and gave them silly, easily decoded names like Vim (spelled V-i-m), helping them practice blending sounds. Inspired by the story *Nibbles*, the monsters in our class had forgotten their names and went on a mission to find the letters, using positional language to describe where they were found.

Thanks to our UniSA buddies, the students' monster designs were brought to life as soft toys! The project tied into our English unit on imaginative texts, showing how stories can be fun, playful, and silly. The students loved creating and sharing their narratives and are proud of their new monster friends!

Check out the photos of their work!

Kate McMahon, Class Teacher



YEAR 12 PARADE AND BREAKFAST

The last official day for Year 12 students was on Friday, 25 October. It has been a long-standing tradition for the students to come in a costume and entertain the entire school with a parade in the courtyard.

Students witnessed these wonderful costumes and Ms Kelly Spalding, Ms Meg Fay and myself, in their roles as judges announced various winners under different categories. Thank you to all staff and students who made the event a memorable one. Special thanks to the primary students for the preparation and presentation of the "Good Luck" and "Well Wishes" posters and cards.

Thank you also to the home group teachers: Ms Bourn, Ms Van Hoof, Ms Sztekel, Mr Smith, Ms Lewis, Mr Innes, Mr McKenzie, Mr Edward and Ms Roberts. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who cut fruit and cooked a delicious BBQ for the students as well.

Thank you to Ms Sztekel for the photography as well as the brilliant SSO staff including Julie Williams, Sophie De Vries, Lynn McKenzie and Rachel Scott. A huge thank you to our Tech support staff as well.

Arthur Roubanis, Year 12 Coordinator



1204 SMITH



1201 BOURN



1205 LEWIS



1202 VAN HOOF



1206 INNES



1203 SZTEKEL MCKENZIE



1207 ROBERTS EDWARD

YEAR 12 PARADE AND BREAKFAST (CONTINUED)



ACADEMIC AWARDS

In Weeks 3 and 4, we held our Term 3 Academic Awards Assemblies for our middle and senior years students. This was a time to celebrate the hard work and commitment of our students across the secondary years. This time of year is exceptionally busy for our senior students, so it was wonderful to slow down for a morning and celebrate the success of so many students. Ms Provatas was also able to share the accomplishments of our students who competed in the Australian Mathematics Competition. The Year 11 Band and Studio Orchestra also played at the assemblies, showcasing their performance skills to our school community.



Year 7 Academic Achievement



Year 7 Principal's Award



Year 8 Academic Achievement



Year 8 Principal's Award



Year 9 Academic Achievement



Year 9 Significant Improvement

ACADEMIC AWARDS



Year 9 Principal's Award



Significant Improvement



Academic Achievement



Academic Achievement



Maths Award Middle



Maths Award Senior



Year 11 Band



Band

MATHEMATICS

Australian Mathematics Competition Results

In August, a number of students from Years 7 – 11 completed the Australian Mathematics Competition. The Australian Mathematics Competition is Australia's longest running and most well-known maths competition for school students. I am proud to announce the winners of the competition below:

Year 7	Grade
Siddhi	Proficiency
Dipti	Distinction
Chiruhas	Credit
Twisha	Credit
Aadvik	Credit
Aisha	Distinction
Saumya Lotia	Proficiency
Tyler	Distinction
Hari	Credit
Dhyana	Credit
Fenil	Proficiency
Shaarav	Participation
Vansh	Credit
Year 8	Grade
Sri	Credit
Kayanaat	Credit
Hetanshi	Credit
Hazell	Credit
Mahi	Distinction
Fairy	Credit
Jasvi	Credit
Stella	Proficiency
Karthik	Distinction
Year 9	Grade
Jasleen	Credit
Siddharth	Participation
Hing Ho	High Distinction
Nice	Participation
David	Credit
Riya	Credit
Year 10	Grade
Nithila	Distinction
Chandulee	Distinction
Callan	Credit
Louis	Distinction
Esther	Credit
Hesara	Credit
Justin	Credit
Luke	Credit
Year 11	Grade
Kelvin	Distinction

Congratulations to all our students.

Australian Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad (AIMO)

Students that graded with a Distinction and High Distinction from Years 7 – 10 for the Australian Mathematics Competition were invited to compete in the Australian Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad (AIMO) last term. The AIMO is a highly challenging maths competition designed to identify and stretch talented students. The AIMO paper is pitched at a Year 10 level however it is open to motivated and talented students in Years 7 to 9 looking to pursue Olympiad-level mathematics.

I am pleased to announce Hing Ho (907) was awarded with a Credit.

This is an outstanding result.

Congratulations Hing Ho.



Investigating with Mathematics: Junior Secondary Mathematics Enrichment Project 2024

The Junior Secondary Mathematics Enrichment Project (JSMEP) 2024 allows students to explore the real-world applications of mathematics and develop critical thinking skills. The theme for this year's competition challenged students to think and act like a mathematician.

The JSMEP is jointly sponsored by the Department for Education and The Mathematical Association of South Australia, and aims to foster a love for mathematics among junior secondary students (Years 7 to 10).

I am pleased to announce that Chandulee (1006) was highly commended for her project titled "What is the Efficiency Ratio of Australia's Best Selling Family Vehicle?"

Last month, Chandulee was presented her award by a representative from the Department for Education, in front of other state award winners and their families.

Congratulations Chandulee.

Maria Provatas 7 – 12 Maths Leader



2024 NATIONAL STEMIE CHALLENGE FINAL

On Thursday 7th of November, six of our Year 10 students from The Heights School attended the STEMIE National Final which was hosted by the University of South Australia at their Magill Campus. Students first competed in an Adelaide Metro regional showcase which they won to qualify for the final. They were up against many schools from the entire state (and some interstate) all competing in this event to qualify for the final.

On the day, our team of six students tackled new STEM challenges, with this year's theme of *STEM Speedway* focussing on the STEM skills in the motorsport industry. For the challenge, the first team to successfully complete all tasks on the day would be crowned the winner. In the end, The Heights School placed equal first with Eastern Goldfields College (WA) for the top prize, a great result for the outstanding effort they have all put in over the course of the year.

A big congratulations to the students who won - Joshita Venkatesh Kumar, Nakul Sharma, Niket Patel, Chandulee Jayawardena, Isabelle Strelan and Hiranmayee Balaji.

Brad Innes and Lucy Clasohm
Maths/Science Teachers

Feedback from some of the team members:

I found the STEMIE to be a very valuable learning experience. The technology component really tested our knowledge of coding and wiring, and we had to learn to use many different components. In the finals, I had a lot of fun participating in the challenges which were all unique and tested us in different ways. My favourite activity was probably the pitstop challenge where we had to quickly swap the tyres of a car model, combining teamwork, coordination and speed. Overall, I greatly enjoyed the experience and want to thank my team for trying their best and never giving up, Ryan for being a great mentor, IT staff for being extremely kind and invaluable to the completion of the project, and Mr Innes and Mrs Clasohm for organising everything, helping us out, and having faith in us the whole time. (Nakul)

During the STEMIE Final, we got to participate in a variety of motorsport related activities which simulated different jobs in the motorsport industry. This included hands-on activities, where we drove a simulator and completed a pit stop, and more engineering-based activities, which required lots of problem-solving. We all brought so many different skills to the team, and because the challenges were so diverse, we each played a role in winning the final. Overall, it was a very enjoyable day full of many new experiences, and we were all super proud that we managed to win! (Isabelle)

Participating in the STEMIE Nationals, focusing on Motorsports, was a very knowledgeable experience for me. We did various challenges such as Car Simulation, Pit Stop, Building a Lego Car, Fire Extinguisher etc. Each of these challenges were directly related to Motorsports. It was a very new experience, taking part in such diverse challenges. (Hiranmayee)

The STEMIE was an amazing experience that united all six of us together as a team. Representing our school at the national level was especially significant for me. The variety of STEM challenges we completed was exciting and allowed us to apply our problem-solving skills. This year's theme was motorsport, which made it even more engaging for me, as I have a strong interest in that area. Overall, it was a memorable experience that allowed us to contribute to our school's pride. (Niket)

As a first-time participant in STEMIE, I enjoyed this opportunity more than I anticipated. The challenges we were presented with were extremely fun and innovative - like the pit-stop challenge, for which we needed to change the tires of a model car as quickly as possible with our team of 6. My team members were all extraordinarily talented in different aspects of STEM, and because of this, we all played an equal part in winning the nationals. Also, the staff were extremely encouraging, which made the experience all the more exhilarating! Overall, this experience was like none other I've had and I am very proud that our hard work had won us first place! (Joshita)

This year the STEMIE Nationals was based around the Motorsport Industry and we engaged in activities such as doing a pit stop, creating a fire extinguisher, racing a simulator set related to this theme. I enjoyed the day a lot and it was great to be part of the team representing The Heights School at the competition. My favourite activity of the day was the pitstop. Coordinating with all the other team members was a bit chaotic but it was very fun. (Chandulee)



Total Time (including penalties)

• Eastern Goldfields College	2 hours 07 minutes
• The Heights School	2 hours 07 minutes
• John Pirie Secondary School	2 hours 08 minutes
• Grant High School	2 hours 10 minutes
• Mount Gambier High School	2 hours 11 minutes
• Mitcham Girls High School	2 hours 15 minutes
• Endeavour College	2 hours 26 minutes
• Charles Campbell College	2 hours 35 minutes
• Kingston Smith School	2 hours 42 minutes

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPACE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

During the October school holidays, Luke participated in the 2024 South Australian Space School, where he had the incredible opportunity to explore the cutting-edge developments in space science and technology. Over the course of four days, Luke visited leading institutions, met experts from diverse fields, and engaged in hands-on experiences that showcased Australia's advancements in space research, automation, and defence technologies. Below is a summary of Luke's experience.

Day 1: University of Adelaide and Space Weather Forecasting

The week began at the University of Adelaide, where we delved into the fascinating world of space automation. We learnt how automation can help solve some of the most complex challenges of operating spacecraft and satellites.

Next, we visited the Space Weather Forecasting Centre, an integral facility dedicated to monitoring the sun's activity and predicting its effects on space systems. Here, we learnt about Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) and how this is used to predict weather forecast.

Day 2: DSTG and Night Vision Technology

On Day 2 we visited the Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG), where we learned about the fascinating work they do in supporting national security through advanced technology research. DSTG is involved in everything from cyber defence to developing new space technologies, and their work in automating systems for military and space applications.

One of the most exciting experiences of the day was the chance to use night vision goggles, a piece of cutting-edge military technology that enhances vision in low-light conditions.

Day 3: Hamilton Space School and Mars Mission Simulation

Day 3 saw us visiting the Hamilton Space School, where we learnt about space science and technology. Highlights of the visit was a tour of the planetarium, and meeting Katherine Bennell-Pegg, who is Australia's first qualified female astronaut and the Director of Space Technology with the Australian Space Agency.

During the day we also participated in a Mars mission simulation where I had the chance to work within a team to solve problems and make critical decisions in mission control. The experience provided me a taste of real-life space exploration.

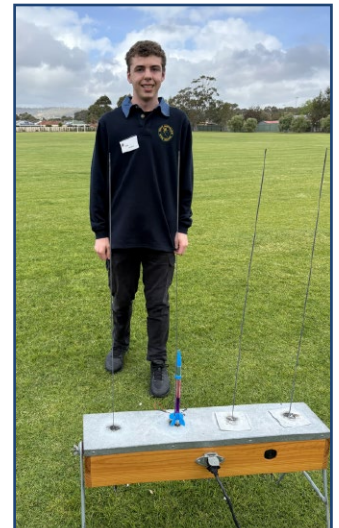
Day 4: Microgravity Experiments and Rocket Launches

Our final day was dedicated to hands-on activities that gave us a taste of what it's like to conduct space science experiments. We participated in microgravity experiments, simulating the conditions astronauts face in space.

The day ended with us launching model rockets into the sky. Watching the rockets soar was an unforgettable experience, and it gave us a deeper appreciation for the precision and skill involved in launching real spacecraft into orbit.

Luke, Year 10 student

Maria Provatas, 7 – 12 Maths Leader

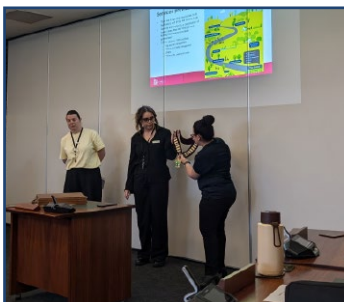


STUDENT LEADERSHIP PLANNING DAY

On Thursday, 14 November, the secondary student leaders travelled to the Tea Tree Gully Council Chambers for a full day leadership development and planning day. The purpose of this day was for students to continue to develop important interpersonal skills for high level leadership, whilst planning for whole school improvement in 2025.

The morning began with a visit from the Deputy Mayor of Tea Tree Gully and an opportunity to debate local council matters in the chamber. Our leaders spoke passionately about the environment, social media and local facilities, whilst learning about the nuance of local government. Deputy Mayor Councillor Jessica Hawkvelt spoke to the students about her reasons for entering local government, stating, "I like being strategic and thinking about the future of the city."

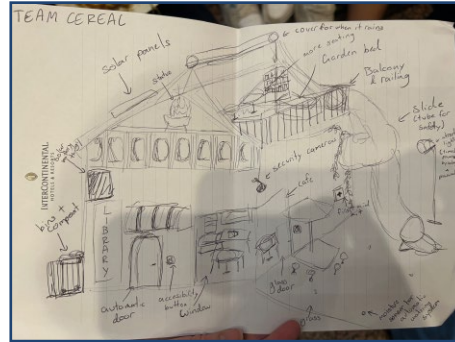
The leaders then took their learning into the rest of the day to explore the Department for Education's Strategy for Public Education and The Heights Wellbeing Engagement and Collection (WEC) data. This was an important opportunity for our students to consider the impact of student leadership at The Heights and their responsibility to represent their peers in these important conversations about their learning.



HER TECH PATH: DARE TO DREAM

On Thursday, 31 October a small group of Year 10 students were invited to attend the *Dare to Dream* workshop hosted by Her Tech Path. The purpose of the event was to promote the multitude of jobs available for women in the technologies, by sharing stories from highly accomplished women in STEM fields. The speakers shared their experiences at school, university and into the work force where all emphasised the importance of saying 'yes' to opportunities and daring to do things that were unfamiliar. The students also participated in a range of workshops where they were tasked with solving some real-world STEM problems with other students from across the state.

All students got a lot out of the event, with one stating, *"This was the best excursion I've ever been on."*



ENGAGING WITH THE SPANISH SPEAKING COMMUNITY

During this semester our Year 9 and 10 Spanish classes have been lucky enough to participate in extra curricula activities which provided them with opportunities to engage with the local Spanish speaking community in Adelaide.

In August our Year 10 students participated in a Latin dance class run by Valeria Alonso from El Ritmo Dance School. She taught us *Candombe* which is a traditional Uruguayan dance. We all had a fantastic time learning about a new style of dance and music. We then visited Opa Alfajores a Latin American bakery in the CBD which is operated by a family from Uruguay. They specialise in alfajores a biscuit made in many South American countries but also make other South American baked dishes such as empanadas and medialunas. It was great day being immersed in Uruguayan culture.

This term our Year 9 and 10 students also had the opportunity to meet Dr Paula Plastic the lecturer of Spanish Studies at the University of Adelaide. They were able to learn about Spanish and languages pathways at university and ask questions about what it takes to be a successful student. The Year 10 students also participated in a university style Spanish grammar seminar and tutorial. Dr Plastic was impressed with the skills, knowledge and study habits displayed by our students.



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

The Aboriginal Education Team recently organised an enriching excursion for a group of Year 7 -11 students, taking them into the heart of Adelaide to engage with significant aspects of Aboriginal culture and history. The day began with a visit to the South Australian Museum, where students had the opportunity to connect with Aboriginal culture through a curated collection of artefacts, artworks and exhibits. The museum's Aboriginal gallery provided an insightful journey into the history, traditions and deep cultural significance of different Aboriginal mobs across South Australia and the wider Australian continent. Many different emotions, stories and questions were shared. A special thanks to Ms Irini Fotoulis sharing her stories and knowledge around an array of mobs.

A key focus of the visit was understanding the 'whys' behind Aboriginal stories, symbols and customs. Students learnt how these connections convey knowledge about the land, spirituality, and the interconnectedness of people and environment. Through interactive displays, they explored the wisdom embedded in Dreamtime stories, the importance of land stewardship, and how Indigenous communities have passed down knowledge through generations. A massive focus of our team in 2026 will be connection with culture for our students.

After this culturally immersive experience, the group gathered in the nearby food court for lunch, where students reflected on their learnings and engaged in informal discussions about the themes explored at the museum. The setting offered an opportunity for the students to bond, share their thoughts, and deepen their understanding of Aboriginal history and heritage.

The afternoon culminated in a visit to the War Memorial, where students paid respects to the sacrifices made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service men and women. This part of the excursion highlighted the often-overlooked contributions of Indigenous Australians in times of conflict, fostering a deeper respect for their resilience and service.

Overall, the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all, providing the students with a deeper connection to the rich cultural heritage of Aboriginal peoples and an appreciation.

Thank you to all involved.

Kirsty Williams, Luke Barmby, Aaron Murray-Raschella, Daniel Brzezinski and Irini Fotoulis



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Athletics - SAPSASA State Championships

Year 5 student Flynn Lawson won gold at the recent SAPSASA State Championships for discus.

Well done Flynn. We congratulate you on this achievement.



COMMUNITY NOTICE



Freedom Wheels Inclusion Classic

International day of people living with disabilities

FREE inclusive community event for families.

Free BBQ lunch or BYO picnic.
Bring along your wheels or try new wheels. Photo with Santa available.

**Sun 1 December
11am - 3pm**

**Tea Tree Gully
Road and Cycle
Safety Centre**

TAD SA

Technology
for Ageing
and Disability
Solutions

