

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 10 | 30 October 2025

Respect | Resilience | Integrity | Collaboration

### **ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Governor's Visit
- Term 3 Awards Assemblies
- Year 7 English
- Primary Years SAPSASA
- CO2 Dragster Program

Pictured: Visit to The Heights School by the Governor of South Australia (see next page)

### **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

### **SA TERM DATES 2026:**

#### Term 1:

27 January – 10 April

#### Term 2:

27 April – 3 July

### Term 3:

20 July - 25 September

### Term 4:

12 October - II December

### CONTACT

### Kaurna Country

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www.theheights.sa.edu.au

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# Department for Education Department for Education T/A South Australian Government Schools - CRICOS Provider Number: 00018A



### FAREWELL AND THANK YOU FROM MEG FAY

As many will know, it is with some sadness, mixed with happiness and excitement to try new things and embark on a new journey, that I have made the decision to step away from the Department for Education and focus my energies in a new direction, exploring the opportunities ahead. This was not an easy decision, but it was made with deep gratitude for all that this community has given me, and with great confidence in the wonderful people who will continue the work ahead.

It has been one of the great privileges of my career to lead such an extraordinary P-I2 school community. I have been continually inspired by the professionalism, creativity, and compassion of our staff, who give their best every day to support every child's learning and wellbeing.

One of the most rewarding aspects of working in a P–12 environment has been seeing the full educational journey in action. From our dedicated OSHC staff, who provide a crucial service for families and care for our students each day; to our outstanding Preschool team, who play such an important role in helping children take their first steps into school life; to our fantastic Primary staff, who create a safe and stimulating space that nurtures curiosity, confidence, and a love of learning; through to our inspiring Secondary years teachers, who build upon those strong foundations to ensure our students leave THS with the skills, knowledge, and character to thrive on a pathway of their choosing. In 2026 this will be enhanced by the additional opportunities provided by our Technical College. What an amazing place The Heights School is.

My thanks to the Governing Council for their wisdom, partnership, and unwavering support of the school. The work you do, often quietly behind the scenes, makes a real and lasting difference.

Although I have now stepped away from the Department, my passion for public education remains as strong as ever. I will continue to advocate for high-quality, equitable education for all children and young people, and to find new ways to contribute to the broader work of supporting schools and communities.

The school is in wonderful hands with Alina Page as Principal. I wish her every success as she leads the school and know the community will continue to thrive under her leadership and care.

To the Year 12 Class of 2025, I wish you every success and happiness in 2026 and beyond. May the next chapter bring new opportunities, adventures, and achievements, and may you always carry with you the pride and spirit of this school.

It has been an honour to do a job I have absolutely loved, surrounded by people who share a deep commitment to making a difference. Thank you for your trust, support, and kindness, and for allowing me to be part of your journey. As I leave, I encourage you to continue looking after one another and to hold true to the values that make this such a special place. Be kind to each other, and remember, the standard we walk past is the standard we accept.



With warmest regards and heartfelt appreciation,

Meg Fay



The Heights School Community pays respects to the Kaurna people, the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands we live on. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment to the Earth, the relationship of the Kaurna people to this country, and we respect and value their past, present, and ongoing connection to this land and their cultural beliefs.

### **CONTENTS**

### **GOVERNOR'S VISIT**

### Visit to The Heights School by the Governor of South Australia

On Wednesday 22nd October, a group of Year 5-12 students from The Heights School welcomed Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC and Mr Rod Bunten for a discussion on civics, citizenship, and the role of the Governor.

Her Excellency was very impressed by the insightful questions posed by our student leaders, and gave in-depth responses to questions on whether the Governor was allowed to vote, what was the significance of the relationship between the Office of the Governor and First Nations people, and what could the Governor of South Australia do to encourage diverse representation. The Governor asked some questions of her own to the student leaders about their leadership experiences and their understanding of the role of government and of the Office of the Governor of South Australia. Mr Rod Bunten also shared his perspectives and experiences to further the conversations with students.

After a full hour of deep discussion, we were able to get some photos of our students with Her Excellency. We thank her sincerely for making the time to visit The Heights School, and further thank everyone who had a role in ensuring the visit ran smoothly, including Kelly Spalding, Tarnya Adams, Felicity Barty and Jimmy Dimou.



Ingrid Lees Deputy Principal













### FESTIVAL OF MUSIC - CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS

When 31 of our students took to the stage at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre for the Public Primary Schools Festival of Music, they shone with confidence and pride. Our school was also proudly represented by 19 Auslan signing students who signed the National Anthem with respect and accuracy. Both groups of students demonstrated all of our school values including 'Resilience', because the day is very long and tiring. Every student was incredibly professional and showed respect and integrity in all that they accomplished on the day. Our students' dedication and artistry showcased the incredible range of skills within our school community.

The Primary Schools Festival of Music is an iconic South Australian tradition that has inspired generations. It gives students the chance to experience artistic excellence, embrace cultural diversity, and celebrate social inclusion through the joy of performance. Each concert featured 1,300 Year 5 and 6 students joining voices in a breathtaking massed choir. Also, many Year 3 and 4 students as our Advance Australia Fair Signing Choir. Audiences were also treated to guest artists from primary and secondary schools, vibrant performances across a range of musical genres, and impressive showcases from the orchestra and troupe.

This year's concert opened with Robbie Williams's electrifying Let Me Entertain You and closed on a powerful high with John Farnham's iconic You're the Voice, complete with stirring bagpipes that lifted the arena.

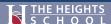
2025 Festival of Music was truly a spectacular celebration of what public school students can achieve when they come together through music and the arts. We are incredibly proud of our students for their hard work, passion and brilliance on stage.

Charisa Sanders, Choir Teacher and Auslan Teacher









### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC WORKSHOP VACANCIES

### Registration for New Enrolment Vacancies in the Instrumental Music Program 2026

We will be running workshops in Weeks 6 and 7 for students who are interested in receiving weekly lessons on the following instruments:

- Years 5-8 in 2026 Percussion (tuned and untuned not Drum Kit only) 8 vacancies
- Years 5-8 in 2026 Classical Guitar 16 vacancies
- Years 5-8 in 2026 Wind Instruments (Flute, Saxophone, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone) 8 vacancies
- Years 6-8 in 2026 Bass Guitar 8 vacancies
- Years 7-8 in 2026 Voice 7 vacancies

There will only be **8** vacancies in each of the above instruments except Classical Guitar. Students will come out of class for the workshop which will give them an idea of what the lessons and instruments are about, try playing the instruments and be sized for appropriate instruments. There will be two repeated sessions of each instrument to ensure that all applicants are able to attend.

Please note: we do not offer piano or electric guitar.

To register your child for the workshop, please go to this link and complete the form: <a href="https://forms.office.com/r/mfVY9NWZyL">https://forms.office.com/r/mfVY9NWZyL</a>

Please note that attendance at the workshop does not guarantee entry into the program. Following a positive response from your child and recommendation of suitability from the Instrumental Music teacher running the workshop, parents/caregivers will need to attend one of the Instrumental Music Program Information sessions before we can offer a position in the program. Registration forms for these sessions will be sent during Week 7 via EdSmart. Information Sessions will be held in Weeks 7 and 8.

### If your child is accepted:

- Your child will receive free 30-minute group lessons on the instrument from a fully qualified Department for Education specialist Instrumental Music Program teacher
- Your child will need to attend every lesson for the whole school year
- Your child will be expected to practice 10-15 minutes a day, 3-4 days a week
- After one semester of learning, your child will participate in one of the school extracurricular ensembles that run at lunch every 2nd week and 2 afterschool rehearsals per term.



Professionals with music training grasp the big picture and individual factors simultaneously.[6]



Student who took music at school performed at least one year ahead of their peers in Maths English & Science [3]



Music learning, a form of deliberate practice, can enhance performance in other disciplines like athletics. [5]



Music learning enhances the capacity to manage depression or depressive periods[2]



Musically trained people have higher levels of empathy which leads to a higher number of helping and sharing behaviours. [3]



Learning a musical instrument for more than 18 months enhances processing speeds and cognitive music skills. [4]



Adult musicians outperformed nonmusicians in cognitive flexibility, working memory, and verbal



Researchers found that 93% of STEM graduates had musical training, compared to 34% of average adults. [2]



Music learning develops listening skills, experimentation, resilience, self-discipline, and collaboration. [4]



Music learning creates a shared sense of social cohesion, which contributes to a sense of belonging. [5]



Music learning supports the development of the cognitive and emotion networks which influence our decisions. (6)



Music learning develops listening skills, experimentation, resilience, self-discipline, and collaboration. [7]

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### Instrumental Hire/Purchase

While lessons are free, there is an expectation that you purchase/hire the required equipment for your child which is not covered by the

Students who are accepted into the Classical Guitar program will need to purchase their own classical guitar of an appropriate size from a specialist music store, e.g. Billy Hyde, Holden Hill Music, Music Corner Salisbury, Derringers. Price range depends on the brand and size but is approximately \$200-\$250.

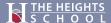
Students who are accepted into the Bass Guitar program will need to purchase their own Bass guitar and amplifier pack from a specialist music store (see above). Price range depends on the brand, and is between \$700-800 for a package or \$400-550 for a bass by itself.

Students who are accepted into the Percussion program will need to purchase their own sticks, mallets, stick bag and practice pad and stand. Price range is approximately \$200.

Students who are accepted into the Strings or Wind program will need to hire an instrument from the school. Hire fees are \$220 for a full year.

Daniel Roberts, Leader of Curriculum and Pedagogy: The Arts





### YEAR 6 UPDATE

Year 6s have an extremely busy few weeks coming up, marking the end of their primary school journey!

For the first time at The Heights, Year 6 students will celebrate graduating their primary years with a ceremony, dinner and disco at night, on Thursday II December. This will be a semi-formal event, marking the importance of the occasion and celebrating the achievements of these students over their first seven years of schooling. More information to come to Year 6 families via Class Dojo.

Also for the first time at The Heights, Year 6 students heading to the secondary school next year will have a full two-day Transition program on Thursday 4 December and Friday 5 December. Year 6 families should check their emails in the near future for information about these days.

Year 6 students also participate in Aquatics (in place of R-5 swimming), taking place on Wednesday 26 December (603/604) and Thursday 27 November (601/602). Please check Class Dojo for more information as e-notes have already been distributed.

We wish Year 6s the best of luck for the next few weeks and the craziness that it brings!

The Year 6 Team

#### Important Year 6 Dates:

Week 7 Wednesday/Thursday	Week 8 Thursday/Friday	Week 9 Monday	Week 9 Thursday
Aquatics	Year 7 Transition	Annual Bowling Excursion	Primary Years Graduation Night
	Primary School		

### PRIMARY YEARS VALUES CERTIFICATES

### Primary Years

### **VALUES CERTIFICATES**

### Collaboration

R01 Ruby 104 Fateh 201 Garry 203 Kashvi 301 Velisa 302 Archer 302 Carter 302 Fatehveer 303 Vishavjeet 304 Caden 403 Kavish

### Resilience

R01 Parteg 101 Jiya 102 Grayson 102 Sky 103 Diya 103 Sanvir 104 Hudson 204 Harper 301 Christel 402 Harlan 403 Abraham 502 Michael 601 Paige 603 Maisey 603 Ariun

### Respect

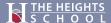
R03 Tabasum R03 Ashvik 101 Arihaan 201 Aadhya 203 Gurbaaz 204 Bindi 303 Avreen 404 Shivansh 502 Hikaru 503 Keerthi 503 Ben 504 Aliza 504 Andy 602 Aesha 604 Ryan

### Integrity

R02 Shivjeet R02 Aadhira 304 Celine 402 Geyodh 404 Meher 501 Oscar 501 Shaheer 601 Sandra 602 Mason 604 Vivian



Respect Collaboration Resilience Integrity



### **TERM 3 AWARDS ASSEMBLIES**

In Weeks I and 2, we held our Term 3 Academic Awards Assemblies for our Year 7-9 and Year 10-12 Secondary students. 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. School Values awards were awarded to students who demonstrate respect, resilience, integrity and collaboration in their learning. In addition, significant improvement recipients were recognised for their commitment to academic success. Students were nominated for these awards by support staff, teachers and leaders for their positive contributions to our school community.

This term, we celebrated the artistic achievements of students who submitted work for the SALA Art Exhibition. Students who were awarded Highly Commended and Principal's Choice Awards were recognised for their beautiful pieces and their openness to share their creations.

We were joined on stage by both our Year 12 Vocal Group and the Year 9 Class Band who demonstrated their exceptional talents and commitment. It is always a joy to share the hard work and dedication of our music students and provide them with opportunities to perform for a large audience.

Congratulations to all our award recipients and thank you to the band, led by Mr Roberts. (continued next page)

### Year 7-9 Awards Assembly









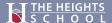












### **TERM 3 AWARDS ASSEMBLIES (CONTINUED)**

### Year 10-12 Awards Assembly



















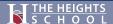








# CONGRATULATIONS



### YEAR 7 DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

### Materials Technologies - Macramé Pot Plant Holder Project

This term, our Year 7 Materials Technologies students have been exploring the art of macramé, a creative and decorative knotting technique that combines both design and practical outcomes. As part of their assessment, students are designing and producing their very own macramé pot plant holder. To begin, students investigated a range of macramé techniques before selecting a minimum of three to apply in their own design. Using a folio, they documented their ideas, including research, planning, I:I sketching and evaluation, demonstrating an understanding of design processes and subject-specific terminology. The assessment was completed over three weeks and was divided into two key components: Section I – Folio: Students develop design ideas through research, mood boards, sketches, and annotations, selecting a final design to produce. Section 2 – Practical Application: Students create their macramé pot plant holder, applying safe and independent work practices throughout the process. Through this project, students not only created a functional and decorative product but will also have developed key capabilities in Critical and Creative Thinking, Collaborative Skills, and Literacy as outlined in the Australian Curriculum. This task encourages independence, creativity, and problem-solving — essential skills for all 21st-century learners. I hope you enjoy some of the beautifully knotted designs our students produced!

Mr Jacobus van Hoof, Design and Technologies Teacher

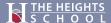












### **YEAR 7 ENGLISH**

702 finished Term 3 by studying visual texts including graphic novels and comics. This included students:

- Learning about their purpose and origins
- How to read the texts and their components
- Techniques used for effect and to communicate key ideas in the texts such as colour, panel design, image selection, special effects and bleeds.

Students progressed through a design process including selecting a moment, memory or key event to inspire them followed by construction of the comic strip by hand, digitally or Al image generation. To demonstrate their understanding, a Creator's Statement accompanied each comic strip justifying their purpose, key idea and techniques applied within their texts. These are just a few of the examples of work completed by Aashka J, Holly T, Vinder B, Sandra G, Ghanshyam H, Hiba K and Caleb L.



















### PRIMARY YEARS SAPSASA

#### **SAPSASA Netball**

During Week I0 of Term 3, 45 students in Year 5 and 6 proudly represented The Heights School at the Tea Tree Gully SAPSASA Netball Carnival. The carnival was held at the Golden Grove Netball Courts, with a number of schools from across the Tea Tree Gully district competing on the day.

On the day, we were fortunate to finally have some sunny weather which made for some great games throughout the day. We had 3 girls teams and 2 boys team competing, with each of our teams able to notch up a number of wins and a few close losses against some strong competition. It was great to see all students, regardless of how much playing experience they had, show great improvement both individually and as a team player over the course of the day. Thank you to Mrs Goldstone and Jayden for their support on the day. A special mention must also go out to our parent volunteers who gave up their time to coach and support some of our teams. Finally, thank you to Ms Weber, who completed her final placement at The Heights last term, for running trials and trainings in the lead up to the carnival, as well as coaching on the day. We wish Ms Weber all the best for the future.

Well done to all students for their efforts at the carnival and during the training sessions in the lead up to the day. Also, a big thank you to our secondary student umpires who did an awesome job umpiring a number of games across the day!







#### SAPSASA State Track and Field Championships

Following their outstanding performances at the Tea Tree Gully SAPSASA Athletics Carnival earlier this year, Year 6 students Flynn L (601) and Jayden C (602) recently represented the Tea Tree Gully District at the SAPSASA State Track and Field Championships.

On the day, both boys competed against students from across the state who had been selected to represent their districts. Flynn remarkably came away with the gold medal in both discus and shot put, whilst Jayden admirably finished in 6th place in the 800m.

Congratulations to both Flynn and Jayden on their outstanding achievements. We look forward to seeing what lies ahead for both of these talented athletes in the future!



### SAPSASA Tennis

Towards the end of Term 3, 20 students in Years 4–6 represented The Heights School at the Tea Tree Gully SAPSASA Tennis Carnival. The carnival was held at Tea Tree Gully Tennis Club, with a number of students from schools across the Tea Tree Gully district competing.

On the day, students persevered through some early rainy and windy conditions and were rewarded with the sunshine coming out just before lunch. Students were tasked with umpiring and scoring their own games, which all students showed great resilience and flexibility to self-manage. Some stand out performers on the day were Riyon S (602), Keerthi D (503) and Alam S (501), who not only performed very well on the court, but also provided great support for other students from our school and even their opposition at times.

It was great to see all students demonstrate our school values of respect, resilience, integrity and collaboration throughout their matches.

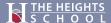
The support, positivity, fairness and honesty shown by our students was noticed by many onlookers and was a wonderful display of The Heights School spirit. We congratulate all players for their effort at the carnival!

(continued over)









### PRIMARY YEARS SAPSASA (CONTINUED)

### Year 4 SAPSASA Come and Try Carnival

In Week I, 46 Year 4 students attended the Tea Tree Gully SAPSASA Come and Try Carnival. The Come and Try Carnival provides our Year 4 students with an opportunity to experience some of the sports they may participate in at future SAPSASA carnivals as they move into Year 5 and 6. The carnival was held at the Tea Tree Gully Football Club and we were very fortunate to be met with perfect sunny weather.

Students rotated through six sports on the day, including AFL, Tennis, Hockey, NRL Tag, NFL Flag Football, Softball and Pickleball. Each sport was run by experienced coaches, with activities focused on skill development and game sense activities. It was great to see students give all sports a go, even those that were new to them. Some students were asked for what they thought about the Come and Try Carnival:

"The Come and Try Carnival was really fun because I got to try lots of new sports." – Abraham 403

"We enjoyed the SAPSASA Come and Try Carnival because we got to learn new things." - Olivia & Meher 404

A big thank you to Miss Lange, Miss Jamie, Jayden and Jacob for their help on the day. We look forward to seeing our Year 4 students in action at SAPSASA carnivals in the near future!

Josh Hart, Primary Years Sports Coordinator







### YEAR 3 AND 4 NRL SA TAG CARNIVAL

During Week 2, 25 Year 3 and 4 students proudly represented The Heights School at the first ever Year 3 and 4 NRL SA Northern Tag Carnival. On the day, our teams travelled to Eyre Sports Park, where we competed against a number of teams from across the Northern District.

Despite all students being new to rugby league, each of our teams competed admirably and were able to score a number of wins throughout the day, highlighted by team #I going through the day undefeated with a 7-0 record. Another highlight of the day was team #2 receiving the overall values award, for being the school selected who best showcased their school values. Kaylee R (401) received individual recognition for her outstanding performance on the day and her contributions as a team player.

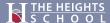
A big thank you to Jayden and Jack for their help coaching teams on the day and a special mention to all the families who came out and supported the students.

Josh Hart, Primary Years Sports Coordinator









### SAPSASA ATHLETICS ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to Tristan P (Year 7) who competed in the SAPSASA Track & Field competition held on Friday 19 September at SA Athletics Stadium in Mile End. For the 12-year-old Boys Div. 2, he won gold medals for 100m (12.81s), 200m (26.15s) and long jump (4.97m). All personal bests – well done Tristan!









### MOHAMMED ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

A huge congratulations and good luck to Year II student Mohammed on his selection in the Singapore I6 and Under National Football squad. He is travelling to attend the training and selection camp for the AFC Under/I7s Asian Cup Qualifiers in October, aiming for selection in the final 23-person squad to attend the qualifiers in Vietnam in November. GOOD LUCK!!!!

### YEAR 10 PHOTOGRAPHY EXCURSION TO THE ADELAIDE ZOO

Photography students had a chance to apply the knowledge and skills they have learnt this semester on a fieldtrip to the Adelaide Zoo on Wednesday 10 September. The weather was perfect and the day was a great success.

In addition to learning how to use the cameras on manual and adjusting aperture and shutter speed according to the conditions, students studied compositional rules and depth of field, and were able to apply these new skills in a practical way.

Catherine Bourn, Photography Teacher





### FAST TIMES FOR THS CO2 DRAGSTER PROGRAM

On Thursday 25 September, 22 students embedded themselves with running THS CO2 Dragster Championships. The logistics of staging the event was a challenge itself as the 20m track and timing equipment was very futuristic and precise. A total of 22 dragsters were entered. As the racing progressed through the day, many teachers and students (during lunch) were also invited in to watch. The enthusiasm displayed by our students was outstanding as they also continually relayed information in regards to the whole CO2 Dragster program including researching, designing and the manufacturing phases.

During participation in the Year 9 CO2 dragster program at THS, students learn about: researching the three principles of design including mass, friction and drag; sketching techniques; designing; safety in the workshop; manufacturing; testing; evaluating; associated technical language; interpreting CAD models and working drawings; workshop manufacturing tools and equipment; assembly processes and procedures; digital folios; managing logistics of and running a competition.

So, what are CO2 Cars? CO2 dragsters are miniature racing cars, less than 300mm long and mainly constructed from balsa wood, that students: design; build, test; modify; and eventually race. Propelled by CO2, two cars are raced at once down a 20m track and a timer records the speed (averaging 80kph!) for each lane. As they follow the design and build process, students learn about specifications, aerodynamics and ways to make their dragsters go faster.

The fastest time of the day was a dragster from Adrian O with a blistering time of 0.968 seconds over the 20m track!

Race results were:

Ist place: Adrian O; 2nd place: Mitchell S; 3rd place: Brooklynn T.

Students each received a certificate for participation.

Thank you to all staff and students that made this event possible and for supporting this great educational program.

Jacobus van Hoof Design & Technology Teacher









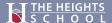












### YEAR 7 IMMUNISATIONS: SAVE THE DATE



A TRAINED IMMUNISATION TEAM IS VISITING OUR SCHOOL SOON.

Date |2/11/2025

Location MG3

For more information, visit sahealth.sa.gov.au/schoolimmunisationprogram



(&) 0473 004 024

### **COMMUNITY NOTICES**





## Campbelltown Library

## **Digital Drawing Club**



Join our after school Digital Drawing Club and learn some basics of digital art with Procreate on an iPad. We'll cover fundamentals such as brushes, layers, lasso, colouring, and more!

- Thursdays 6 Nov, 13 Nov, 20 Nov, and 27 Nov
- 3:45pm 4:45pm
- Campbelltown Library IT Suite
- Ages 12- 17
- \$20 + BF for 4-week course
- Bookings essential



Scan QR code or book at <u>www.tinyurl.com/CTL-</u>Digital-Literacy

A safe, sustainable, vibrant **Community** 



