

# NEWSLETTER

Mid Term I May 2022 I Term 2



## Mount Barker Primary School

### DIARY DATES

#### Term 2

**Mon 13<sup>th</sup> June – Public holiday**

**Tues 21<sup>st</sup> June – Cyber safety sessions yrs 2-6**

**Tues 28<sup>th</sup> June – Crossing monitor training yrs 3-6**

#### Term 3

**Mon 25<sup>th</sup> July – Pupil Free Day**

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Sept – School closure day (Show Day)**

#### Term 4

**Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Oct – Pupil Free Day**

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Dec – Pupil Free Day**

2A Dumas St, Mount Barker,  
South Australia 5251  
P: (08) 8391 1241  
F: (08) 8391 4208  
E: dl.0285.info@schools.sa.edu.au

[www.mtbarkerps.sa.edu.au](http://www.mtbarkerps.sa.edu.au)

 Like us on Facebook  
[facebook.com/MountBarkerPrimarySchool/](https://facebook.com/MountBarkerPrimarySchool/)



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

## Dear Community,

Reflecting on the events of this week has not been as easy as it usually is. National Sorry Day remind us of injustice and inconceivable heartache felt by our Indigenous Peoples and the need for change and reconciliation. I am grateful for our Aboriginal Community Education Officer (ACEO) Jade Brook who is working with our community to educate us and develop our young people's understanding of Aboriginal history, culture and community. She has a vision that our school will be a hub, a place of safety and understanding for our Indigenous Community and I look forward to supporting her as the vision becomes a reality.

The shooting at the primary school in Texas is beyond belief and my thoughts are with that school community who are trying to come to terms with the loss of 19 students and 2 teachers. At school we support many students with anxiety relating to school, friendships, family break ups and fragile self belief and I wonder how that school community will move forward with students experiencing anxiety and trauma linked to such a horrific event. How will those students ever set foot inside a school again? As a parent, I know I would be struggling with trusting that the school system in the US can keep children safe. I am grateful for the gun laws we have in Australia that aim to keep us safe and prevent the massacres that we are seeing in the US. We know that it takes courage to call out inappropriate behavior and challenge policies that do not protect our children and provide what they need for them to be safe and successful. As a leader, I feel very strongly about this and advocate at a state and national level to ensure our students are treated with equity and receive resourcing so that all students are safe and can flourish in the educational environment.

As parents you can advocate for change too and speak with your child about hard topics. The American Psychological Association provides guidance when discussing challenging topics with children. They remind us to:

**Think about what you want to say in advance**

**Find a quiet moment to have the conversation**

**Find out what they know already about the topic**

**Share your feelings – its okay to be vulnerable**

**Tell the truth**

**Above all, reassure**

Shifting your mindset, feeling positive and spotting the good stuff in our school is always easy! This week I have had many visits from students sharing their work, seen our SAPSASA participants full of excitement and enthusiasm for sport, observed our teachers engaging in robust conversations focused on improving outcomes for students, seen our support staff working with students to regulate, engage and be proud of their achievements, seen our admin team working tirelessly on COVID admin, transition paperwork and finalising our building works and our leadership team working together to provide ongoing support to staff, students and families as we navigate our way through the COVID 19 pandemic whilst continuing to focus on high expectations for our students.

Be proud of MBPS – I am 😊

Take care everyone,

**Miss Jo (Principal)**

**BE BRAVE.  
MAKE CHANGE.**  
NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2022  
27 MAY – 3 JUNE #NRW2022



# INTRODUCING NEW TEACHING STAFF AT MBPS



I am Janet Parkinson and am very pleased to be a Performing Arts teacher at Mt Barker. I have been teaching Music for many years and in the past 8 years the additions of Dance and Drama too. I enjoy developing students' interest in these subject areas and providing opportunities for them to create their own songs, dances and plays. I have taught at Crafers, Aberfoyle Hub, Rose Park, Highgate and was here at Mt Barker 8 years ago. My husband and I have 4 adult offspring and we have a small farm at Finnis. I look forward to working with the Mt Barker Primary School community.



My name is Ellie Tasker and I am new to the Early Years Team this year at Mount Barker Primary School. I am excited to be teaching in room 14 with my reception class for the rest of the year. I have a Bachelor of Education, specialising in the early years and I am passionate about working with young people. I believe children are all on their own learning path and I encourage children to be lifelong learners and reach their full potential. I am thrilled about this opportunity to become part of the Mount Barker Primary School community. Looking forward to meeting you all, don't forget to say hi in the yard.



Hi! I'm Jen Palmer, I am teaching a year 1 class here for the remainder of the year. I have worked all over South Australia, including Port Lincoln, Ceduna, Port Pirie, and several schools in the Adelaide hills. I have a passion for the early years and am always up for a chat if you need someone to listen! I have built my forever home in here in Mount Barker with my husband and three young boys. So I hope to be part of the Mount Barker primary community for many years to come! Please say hello to me if you see me around!

## SAPSASA DISTRICT ATHLETICS DAY 2022



# RECONCILIATION WEEK

Dear families,

I would love to introduce myself, my name is Jade Brook and I am Nurrunga and Kaurna with ties to Ngarrindjeri and Barkindji Country.



This is my second year working at Mount Barker Primary School as the Aboriginal Community Education Officer. This term I'm working on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday..

I love that my role includes working with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and families. Some of my work includes supporting students and families to feel safe and a part of our school community, working with students on social and emotional wellbeing, supporting our student's literacy and numeracy and being a part of the group that looks at our school's first ever RAP (Reconciliation Action Plan). If you would like to be a part of our RAP group we would love both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and other non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to be involved in the process, please let me know if you are interested.

With Nation Reconciliation Week May 26<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> June coming up soon we have planned a few ways for our school to Be Brave and Make Change (this year's theme). I will be running a session with our staff on language, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students will be attending a performance to watch the Deadly Nannas, classes will be invited to our new room (room 18, yet to be named) to look around and have a talk about what Reconciliation Week is all about, plus we would love to invite all of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait families to an afternoon tea to see our new room and to meet the other families in our school community in room 18 on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 2pm.

I look forward to meet more families soon if you see me around please come up and say hi.

Nukkan (see you soon)

# PARKING SAFELY

We know that with Kiss and Drop out of action there is extra pressure on families to find a parking space during drop off and pick up periods.

We have recently had several families and staff raise concerns about the parking behaviours that have been observed outside of the school.

As a result Governing Council have been working with Mount Barker Council to ensure signage is clear and obvious in areas where parking is not allowed.

An area of concern is near the entrance to the disability car park by the dental clinic. People are parking either side of the entrance, not in a marked space and it is making it extremely difficult for those families to get in and out safely as their view of Duma Street is obstructed. Please note these spaces are only for students who are enrolled in our special options classes.

Also please do not park in the disabled spaces on Dumas Street outside of the main entrance to the school if you do not have a permit. We have many families who use these spaces and who need them to get their children safely to and from school each day.



# LIBRARY NEWS

PRC is well underway and a lot of students have already completed their forms and handed them to me. Please continue to read books and write them on your forms. We would like to have all students at MBPS complete the challenge this year, so please encourage students to read at school and at home. Scholastic book club is issued twice a term for children to purchase books. This gives our school reward points to purchase books for all the children to enjoy. This is a great way to encourage children to read and explore new adventures with their imagination.

We are still working with the staff across the road to make sure each child has a library card. If there are any children still waiting on a card or haven't filled in a for please let me know so I can get it sorted.

**Suzanne**  
Library Manager



# COVID UPDATE

From week 5 onwards masks are strongly recommended for staff and students in years 3-6. Staff who choose to wear masks are allowed to take them off if wearing a mask impedes their ability to teach effectively.

As a school we have a very low rate of vaccination amongst our students and we will need to take care over the Winter months and safe guard each other by being cautious and staying home if unwell. We recommend that if your child has cold like symptoms that they child have a PCR test to confirm that their symptoms are not the COVID virus. We have had staff and students who have had cold like symptoms, tested negative on a Rapid Antigen Test and then tested positive on a PCR.

We have also had several students presenting in the office with tummy aches and feeling sick who have also then tested positive for COVID.

Symptoms in children can look like:

- Fever
- Runny nose
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Irritability
- Loss of appetite
- Breathing difficulties
- Tummy pains
- Vomiting, diarrhoea

Adelaide Hills Junior Football Academy

## 3 Day School Holiday Clinic

Are you ready to take your football to the next level  
and further develop your technical ability?



Receive professional tuition from FSA accredited coaches, including current and former top level South Australian players.

Female and male players aged 5-13 from all clubs are welcome

<p><b>Clinics</b></p> <p><b>Field players</b></p> <p>5-8 YEAR OLDS</p> <p>Wednesday July 20      9am-11am Thursday July 21      9am-11am Friday July 22          9am-11am</p> <p>9-13 YEAR OLDS</p> <p>Wednesday July 20      9am-1pm Thursday July 21      9am-1pm Friday July 22          9am-1pm</p> <p><b>Goal keepers</b></p> <p>9-13 YEAR OLDS</p> <p>Wednesday July 20      9am-1pm Thursday July 21      9am-1pm Friday July 22          9am-1pm</p>	<p><b>Cost</b></p> <p>5-8 year olds <b>\$35</b> per day or <b>\$80</b> for 3 days* 9-13 year olds <b>\$50</b> per day or <b>\$120</b> for 3 days*</p> <p><small>*3 day clinic includes Academy shirt</small></p> <p><b>Location</b></p> <p>The Summit Sport and Recreation Park, Mount Barker</p> <p><b>Registration and enquiries</b></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:jnr_academy@adelaidehillshawks.com.au">jnr_academy@adelaidehillshawks.com.au</a></p> <p><b>Spots are strictly limited. Registration and payment is due by June 17.</b></p>
--	---



Proudly sponsored by





## MORE SAPSASA NEWS

As well as a large number of students representing our school at the district athletics day, we have also had a busy time with a number of our students representing our school and the Barker District at SAPSASA events. Riley, Lincoln and Sam were selected to play softball for the Barker team and Riley, Mason and Matilda were selected to play AFL for the Barker teams. Congratulations to all those involved.

Look out for more opportunities to represent the school later this year.

Mr Tobin (PE and Health Teacher)