

## Newsletter Term 4

# 24 November, 2022



**QUICK ACCESS TO OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE CALENDAR**

## From the Principal

We have just over three weeks left of the 2022 school year and there are still many planned events during this time. Please ensure you read communications sent home by your child's teacher as well as occasional whole school communications via SENTRAL.

## Important dates for your calendar are:

Friday 2 December – Celebration Night from 5pm – 8pm.

Bring a picnic rug or chair and enjoy some performances by our students, great food and a chance to mingle with other members of our school community.

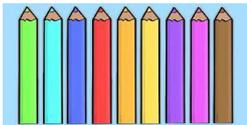
Monday 5 December – School Closure Day

Tuesday 6 December – Pupil Free Day

## Families departing Seacliff PS at the end of this year

Please inform us if your family intends to be moving on from SPS in 2023 (aside from graduates) as this information is critical to class size organisation and whole school operational planning into the future. I encourage a quick call to the Front Office team or an email to confirm if your child will be at an alternate location in 2023.

## Class Placement



Class placement processes have begun. Some common questions raised by parents are 'Why do schools have composite classes?' And 'Will being in a composite class disadvantage my child?' Below are some answers to these questions.

Composite, or multi-age, classes occur in schools for a number of reasons. Composite classes provide schools with more flexibility and options to ensure even class sizes and a balance of student social and academic needs within and across year levels.

All classes, whether a single year level or composite class group, have children with diverse learning needs and abilities. When planning for student learning, teachers take into consideration the strengths, prior knowledge and needs of every student. They use this as a starting point to design the learning and work from where each child is currently at. In any class, there will be teaching and learning that occurs as a whole class, in small groups and at an individual level.

Research tells us that high quality teaching and learning is the key to a successful learning environment in any classroom, not the structure or makeup of the class. There is no evidence that student learning may be hindered in a composite class.

I understand that the idea of composite classes may be unfamiliar to parents and have included some frequently asked questions and answers are below.

### **Does the placement of a child in a composite class mean that they are more or less able?**

In every year level, children have diverse needs, skills and abilities. When placing children into class groups we aim to represent the full range of student abilities from a given year level, whether in a single year level class or a composite class. Children are not "chosen" to be in a composite class based on their learning achievement.

### **What are the benefits of a composite class?**

Children in a composite class have the opportunity to mix socially and academically with a wide range of students. Children are able to work at their own rate within a community of learners and are able to learn from, and with, each other. Younger students have the opportunity to learn alongside older peers, and older students can show leadership and demonstrate high level understandings and complex thinking skills to model and explain their learning at designated times.

### **How do teachers cater for a range of abilities and year levels?**

Teachers are trained in differentiating the curriculum to meet the varying abilities of their students. We have a very clear understanding of the curriculum requirements and expectations for each year level. Effective assessments of student learning ensure we know students' needs, strengths and future learning points. Here are some strategies that we use:

- Planning open-ended tasks that cater for a range of different abilities and allow learning to be demonstrated in different ways
- Planning tasks that allow for different entry points and provide opportunities for extension and problem solving
- Providing targeted small group and individual instruction based on learning needs and specific teaching points
- Setting individual goals, challenges and projects which encourage children to demonstrate independence and responsibility in their learning
- At times students will separate into year level groups for instruction; this may include linking with another composite class or working in smaller groups within the classroom.

“Research shows it makes no difference to performance whether students are in a straight year group or in a multi-age class – it’s the teacher who makes the difference.”



**Thank You** to the volunteers who have been supporting the school this year. We certainly could not do what we do without your continued support.

Volunteers have supported in the Canteen, the Library, assisted with camps and excursions, tree planting, coaching sports teams, as well as lending a hand with fundraising activities including the hugely successful Fun Run, the school discos, quiz night, the upcoming Celebration Evening and many other areas. In recognition of your significant support this year the staff, students and I will be hosting an assembly on Friday 9 December at 1:40pm to thank and acknowledge you. Invitations will be sent home shortly.

**Drop off and pick up times** are busy times and our aim continues to be ensuring the safety of all students, community members and other motorists. With this in mind, I ask all members of our community to observe parking restrictions around the school, thank you.



## **Beachfront Hub 2023 Band Information session for families of interested Year 5 and 6 students on Thursday December 1, 2022 (term 4, week 7)**

9.00-10.00am at Brighton Secondary School Concert Hall.

Registration is essential – email [Sue.Asser329@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Sue.Asser329@schools.sa.edu.au)

Please include your child's name, year level and school.

[More information](#)



Sue Matene  
Principal

## OSHC News

Our OSHC has been working overtime! We've released the December/January Program, we're having back-to-back Pupil Free Day and School Closure on December 5th and 6th, our OSHC is hosting the Mystery Bus Tour for OSHCSA and we will be at the Celebration Night. There's lots happening! OSHC will also be collecting food/pantry items for Hutt Street Centre again this year.



The December/January Vacation Care is teeing up to big one of our biggest Vacation Care periods in history. We've got plenty of excursions, incursions and at home activities planned for the five weeks. We'll be going to the Marion Outdoor Pool, Tree Climb, Base Camp SA, The Beach House, Wallis Cinemas and more. The educators are particularly excited about our waterplay day. With slides, water guns, games and a visit from Adelaide Hills Ice-cream Company. The OSHC service will be closed from 24th of December and will re-open on the 4th of January. Please be reminded that the cut-off date to be considered for priority is Friday week 8. The program can be found in hard copy at OSHC or downloaded [here](#).

We have a School Closure Day and Pupil Free Day on December 5th and 6th. Our educators spent some time asking our kids what they wanted to do on these days. Unable to do some requests, like taking a bus to the drive-through at KFC or a holiday to Melbourne, we've settled on a Home Day and Team Day. These days are incorporating our children's requests of doing cooking, gardening, developing the OSHC backyard for better play and a day of different challenges. The booking form can be found in hard copy at OSHC or downloaded [here](#).

We are very proud to be having our OSHC showcased at the upcoming OSHCSA Mystery Bus Tour on December 2nd. This tour is for OSHC directors, assistant directors and educators to tour other services, see their environments and set ups, ask questions and share knowledge. We are passionate about what we do here and it's exciting to share that with others in our sector.

After an already massive day with the Mystery Bus Tour, OSHC staff will be back volunteering that day for the school's Celebration Night. OSHC will be face painting for \$3 and will have a 'decorate your own cupcake' stall for \$4. We are looking forward to celebrating with our families to reflect on an awesome year!

Once again OSHC will be acting as a collection point for Hutt St Centre. We'll have boxes under the Christmas tree in both the school front office and OSHC building. The Hutt St Centre is an integral part of the fight against homelessness. The Centre provides a variety of services and co-ordinates visiting services to support those experiencing homelessness. Whether it's supporting people with the immediate needs of a meal, shower or place to charge a phone, or the lengthier supports of education, medical check-ups or financial counselling, Hutt St Centre are there. Families can show their support by donating any items on their [wish list](#).

## Student first aid training

All students from Reception to Year 6 participated in the St Johns First Aid in Schools Program. Maddy, one of our SRC leaders initiated the idea to access the program in a conversation with the principal. As a result students learnt important information about how to respond if someone is hurt or unwell. Some of the topics covered were the DRSABCD action plan, the recovery position, choking management, management of bleeding, including blood noses and cardiopulmonary resuscitation on adults and babies.

First aid in schools is funded through generous donations and sponsorships, as well as by St Johns SA.



## Culture Day 2022

On Wednesday 9th November, we celebrated Culture Day at Seacliff PS. Students participated in a range of activities, including Japanese sports day games, a Zen Garden Showcase and lessons with Year 6 students about various cultural traditions. Classes also competed to earn extra points for their Japanese Sports Day Team by speaking in Japanese as much as possible! Additionally, class and teacher feedback about the lessons run by Year 6 students in classrooms was overwhelmingly positive and many students were able to take home a cultural souvenir.



There have been inquiries into the all important final standings of the two teams. We are pleased to announce the final standings as follows:

- 1st Shiro - 4424 total points
- 2nd Aka - 3930 total points

Aka (Red Team) were leading the race after the Undoukai (sports day games) sessions but were pipped at the post by many keen Japanese speakers in Shiro (White Team).

Yokudekimashita – well done to everyone for their great sportsmanship and effort on the day!

Some comments from students about the day:

“I loved the big ball race and the Hebi Janken! I also loved the points system and how you can earn points by cheering.” - Grace

“I really liked presenting to another class. It’s tricky, but loads of fun!” – Bella

“I really liked tamaire because it was a mix of a few things like speed and luck. It was also nice and simple.” – Zac

“I loved teaching the little people about scrolls and my favourite part was that I got to clap and the little people copied and went silent.” – Jordan



## There is a “MORT” amongst us!

Who is Mort you may ask? Mort is one of the characters in a fun, new “Windmill Productions” kid’s television show on ABC for Kids. It’s called “Beep and Mort” and our very own Gus Wesson (year 4, room 13), is the voice of Mort!

Gus has been on an exciting journey that began by auditioning at the ABC studios in 2021. There were 75 other boys who also auditioned. After 4 callbacks Gus found out he had the role of Mort! Very soon after that Gus found himself in a recording studio on a regular basis with professional actors developing a voice and personality for Mort.

Gus has been lucky enough to experience first hand the voice over and acting industry. He has also attended two red carpet premiers before the show was released for ABC 4 KIDS.

If you haven’t already, do yourself a favour and watch “Beep and Mort” on ABCVIEW.

Well done Gus we’re all very proud of you.

