



OAKBANK  
SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER



# Sports Day

Connection | Respect | Responsibility



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

TERM



WEEK



APRIL 2026

# Principal's Tours

Do you know any friends or family who are searching for a new school to call home?



They're invited to join us for one of our **Oakbank School Principal's Tours**, booked via **QR**, [oakbank.sa.edu.au](http://oakbank.sa.edu.au) or **phone** us on **83987200**.

We'd love the chance to show you why Oakbank School is a great choice to activate and inspire your child's education!



**OAKBANK**  
SCHOOL

## Upcoming Dates

Please check our Daymap Connect calendar for further dates & amendments.

WEEK 11	10 APR	End of Term 2.15 Dismissal
WEEK 01	27 APR	Start of Term
	28 APR	<b>School Subject Interviews Secondary</b> Tue 28 April 3:30 - 5:30pm Bookings via Daymap Connect
	29 APR	<b>School Subject Interviews Primary &amp; Secondary</b> Wed 29 April 2:30 - 6:30pm Bookings via Daymap Connect
	30 APR	<b>School Subject Interviews Primary</b> Thu 30 April 3:30 - 4:30pm Bookings via Daymap Connect
WEEK 02	04 MAY	<b>School Subject Interviews Primary</b> Mon 4 May 3.30 - 4:30pm Bookings via Daymap Connect



[oakbank.daymap.net/daymap](http://oakbank.daymap.net/daymap)



[oakbank.daymap.net/daymapconnect](http://oakbank.daymap.net/daymapconnect)

Having problems with Daymap? Call us or try our guides on [oakbank.sa.edu.au/guides](http://oakbank.sa.edu.au/guides)

OAKBANK SCHOOL R-12 Education  
[oakbank.sa.edu.au](http://oakbank.sa.edu.au) 8398 7200

154 Onkaparinga Valley Rd, Oakbank SA 5034



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

 OAKBANK SCHOOL  
Reception to Year 12

ACTIVATING      INSPIRING  
*Curiosity Growth*

 From the Principal

Dear Families,

In this term's newsletter, you will see many deep learning opportunities and special events which have happened this term and added to the richness of our school. Behind the scenes there has also been a lot going on this term to ensure we are working towards our school being the best it can be. The building upgrade and the uniform review are two items that I would like to share with you.



## Oakbank School Building Upgrade – Progress Update

I am excited to share an update on our significant \$16 million building upgrade, which continues to progress positively through the detailed design phase.

### Project Progress

The most recent design meeting with our architects (COX Architecture), the Department for Education (DfE), and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) focused on ensuring our new and refurbished spaces truly reflect the needs of our community within the budget available.

# Key Features Being Developed:



## A New Multi-Purpose Central Building

This facility will house administration, leadership, staff centre, performing arts, learning community spaces, and a canteen. The new design promises improved connection across all areas of our site, with accessible staff and student amenities and a welcoming, light-filled staff lounge.



## Performing Arts Centre

State-of-the-art facilities dedicated to drama, dance, and music will provide new possibilities for creativity and performance.



## New canteen/kitchen

Designed for school, OSHC and community events



## Wellbeing Hub and Senior Common Room

The refurbishment of the main two storey building will create a central hub for student wellbeing and inclusion, alongside senior student spaces.



## Outdoor Learning and Play Spaces

Landscaped courtyards, an undercover outdoor basketball court, a fully fenced primary area to enhance safety and security, and an amphitheatre are in planning to enhance outdoor learning.



## OSHC

Functional purpose-built spaces to run OSHC onsite.



## Upgrades and Refurbishments:

- Food Technology suite full upgrade
- New student toilets for primary and secondary
- **Upgrades to school signage, fencing, bell system, and IT infrastructure**

The school is working closely with Cox architects to ensure the design embodies our values of connection, openness, and flexibility. Features such as a “breathing space” link, maximised daylight indoor spaces, and multiple entry points are included to support wellbeing and ease of movement.

Whilst this process takes some time, it has been important to ensure that our plans are right for student learning and wellbeing. I look forward to sharing the final designs with the community later this year.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to create flexible, modern spaces that will serve Oakbank School students and families for years to come.





# Uniform Review

In 2025, Governing Council was advised that our uniform contract expires at the end of 2026. Combined with ongoing feedback from students and families, this has created an opportunity to review our uniform and expectations rather than simply renew the current agreement.

Our uniform is an important part of our identity, supporting safety, equity, and a positive school culture, while also strengthening our reputation in the community.

## Feedback

Over 100 families responded to the survey, with the largest group (40%) “somewhat satisfied,” indicating room for improvement. Feedback highlighted a desire for a more flexible, affordable, inclusive uniform with better local availability. Popular suggestions included dark blue jeans, additional clothing options, and mixed views on black shoes.

Cost and quality were noted as concerns. While specific school logo uniform items are more durable and ethically produced, the new policy will also include approved non-logo options for some items. Current polo tops and jumpers will remain acceptable, but items with the old school logo are no longer part of the uniform and must not be worn, not sold or given, to other families.

## Procurement

Public schools must follow a competitive procurement process when selecting suppliers to ensure quality, ethical standards, and fair pricing. While Hills Schoolwear is not currently an approved supplier, they have been encouraged to apply.

## Next Steps

The Uniform Committee has selected items for the tender process, now managed by the department. A second-hand uniform option is also being explored, dependent on donations and volunteers.

The updated uniform policy based on feedback from community members, families, students and staff is planned for implementation in 2027.

Warm regards,

**Lee Knight**  
Principal



## © Yr 11 Child Studies

### Tasty and nutritious food for young children

Our year 11 Child Studies students recently worked in small groups to plan, prepare, and host a lunch for reception students. The menu was thoughtfully designed in line with the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating, ensuring all food was nutritious, age-appropriate, and appealing to young children.



The specific dietary requirements of young children were also carefully considered. Fresh, locally sourced ingredients were selected, with a strong focus on their nutritional value.

Working collaboratively, students prepared a variety of dishes:  
Maddison Batchelor, Katie Hudson, and Jessica Hanckel made pizza;

Daniel Koehler and Riley Quain prepared gluten-free baked meatballs with spaghetti; Niamh Burgoyne and Arnya Watkins created oven-baked chicken tenders and yogurt parfait; and Jessamie West and Abby McCallum made hash brown burgers. Through this experience, students developed a deeper understanding of how healthy eating supports the wellbeing of young children.

Thank you to Reception teacher Ms Lauren Cookson and Primary School Learning Culture Leader Ms Nikki Kearton for their support.

Feifei Ghandar  
Food & Hospitality and Child Studies teacher



# Primary Swimming



In Week 6 of this term, all primary students participated in a week of swimming lessons at the Woodside Memorial Pool. The focus was on developing water safety knowledge and building confidence in the pool.

Throughout the week, students took part in discussions before entering the water and during activities, learning how to stay safe at the beach, in rivers, and in swimming pools, as well as what to do in emergency situations. These conversations were supported by practical experiences in the water, helping students to apply their understanding in a hands-on way.

Students practised a range of fundamental water safety and swimming skills, including blowing bubbles, floating, submerging, and developing basic swimming strokes. It was fantastic to see many students grow in confidence as the week progressed, with some challenging themselves to try new skills and push beyond their comfort zones.

Students demonstrated great responsibility, respect, and positive behaviour throughout the program, making them excellent representatives of our school.

A big thank you to our parent volunteers for your time and support in helping to make these lessons possible—it is greatly appreciated.

**Nikki Kearton**

Learning Culture Leader - Reception - Yr 6





OAKBANK  
SCHOOL

# Are you following our socials?



[oakbankas](https://www.facebook.com/oakbankas)



[oakbank\\_school](https://www.instagram.com/oakbank_school)



# Heath Perrott Deputy Principal



“ My greatest hope is that... *(we equip)* each and every student with the character, confidence and curiosity they need to thrive as learners and take on the world. ”

Joining Oakbank School as Deputy Principal in term 3 of 2023, at the end of next term Heath will have been at Oakbank for three years. We asked him a few questions to get to know him a little better.

## What do you love about working at Oakbank?

In my role I have the privilege of working with staff and students across the whole school, from Reception to Year 12. Currently, I am also leading the Primary school with the fantastic Nikki Kearton, our R-6 Learning Culture Leader. There is nothing more I love than heading down to the Primary school of a morning and raining high fives and fist pumps with a big smile to start the day.

## What are the favourite parts of your role?

- Seeing a student who has been struggling behaviourally or academically take steps toward growing and improving and realising their potential.
- Sitting one on one with some of our Primary students and helping them to map out a plan to succeed as a learner on that day.
- Building up our students with positivity and hope – reminding them that they have every opportunity to thrive and prosper if they continue to put in the hard work

- Innovating and trying new programs to engage our students and activate their curiosity. Our new LifeX program this year is a big one. There are lots of new ideas always ready to go. I just have to be more patient!

## What do you do when you're not at school?

My wife, Samara and I have four children so it is a busy life. We are involved in our church community every Sunday, have lots of extra-curricular activities to run our children to and enjoy spending time with our two dogs, Winston and Morris. I have developed a recent passion for Pickleball which is such a fun game. I can still get very competitive even as I get older! I am also involved in a number of men's groups. We meet regularly to talk about life and support each other.

## What are your hopes for Oakbank School?

My greatest hope is that our school continues to go from strength to strength, equipping each and every student with the character, confidence and curiosity they need to thrive as learners and take on the world. Lee, I, and our team, have been working really hard over the past three years to show our community what Oakbank students can do and how, when given the right support and encouragement, they can achieve great things. When Oakbank students thrive, so does our community.

### Heath's loves!



Wife & four children



Faith in God



West Ham United



Quiet time on the ride-on mower!



Any sport, to watch or play

# Sports





# Sports Day Galahs triumph!

Our recent Sports Day was a tremendous success—full of energy, teamwork, and an incredible sense of school spirit. From start to finish, students gave their all across every athletics and tabloid event, showing outstanding determination and unwavering support for one another.



## 2026 Sports Day Results

Congratulations to our shield winners:

### Primary Sports Shield

1st	Lorikeets	495 pts
2nd	Galahs	433 pts
3rd	Parrots	419 pts

### Secondary Tabloid Shield

1st	Galahs	466 pts
=2nd	Lorikeets	451 pts
=2nd	Parrots	451 pts

### Secondary Athletics Shield

1st	Galahs	1192 pts
2nd	Parrots	1094 pts
3rd	Lorikeets	1005 pts

Galahs had not won the Secondary Shield since the creation of the Galahs, Lorikeets and Parrots houses!  
Congratulations on your hard work and team spirit!





## Individual Champions & Record-breakers

We are proud of all participants and would like to highlight some outstanding achievements by our division individual champions, followed by our secondary school record breakers.

### Individual Secondary Champions

Student	Division	Points	House
Zac D-A	U13 Boys	40	Galahs
Bianca T	U13 Girls	40	Galahs
Harley M	U14 Boys	34	Galahs
Annalise L	U14 Girls	38	Parrots
Winter P	U15 Girls	40	Parrots
Evan B	U16 Boys	40	Parrots
Holly S	U16 Girls	24	Galahs
Harry S	U20 Boys	40	Parrots
Amity C	U20 Girls	33	Parrots





## Record-breaking Individual achievements

<b>Bianca T</b>	Under 13 Female High Jump	1.26m
<b>Ila D</b>	Under 13 Female Discus	27.30m
<b>Ila D</b>	Under 13 Female Shot Put	8.20m
<b>Ila D</b>	Under 13 Female Javelin	21.30m
<b>Zac D</b>	Under 13 Male Javelin	18.2m
<b>Zac D</b>	Under 13 Male 800m	2:45
<b>Bailey J</b>	Under 16 Male Shot Put	13.09m
<b>Inara C</b>	Under 20 Female Shot Put	9.85m

Everyone should be congratulated on their effort, enthusiasm, and encouragement of one another throughout the day.

A very special thank you to all staff who helped make the day run smoothly. Days like this simply wouldn't happen without your hard work and support. An extra thank you to Miss Kaesler and Mr Binney for all the time and effort they devoted to organising a fantastic Sports Day.

Well done to everyone involved! We look forward to many more days filled with such wonderful school spirit.

**Tori Kaesler**  
PE Teacher, Sports Day





Building  
connections  
through nature

## Year 3-6 Camp Arbury Park

In Week 5 of this term, our Year 3–6 students attended a three-day camp at Arbury Park Outdoor School. Our focus was on our school value of connection and building positive relationships with others. Throughout the camp, students were encouraged to work collaboratively, support one another, and step outside their comfort zones.



Students participated in a wide range of activities, including hikes through the local environment, orienteering challenges, exploring freshwater life in ponds, examining animal skeletons, bird watching, team challenges, “Web of Life” games, and creating a nature village. These activities provided valuable opportunities for students to learn more about the natural world while also developing important teamwork and problem-solving skills.

A highlight for many students was the opportunity to work in different groups, allowing them to build new friendships and strengthen existing ones.



“

The best part of camp was doing nature hikes because you got to see lots of cool things like the animals, the lakes and the hills.

Eliza

”





“

My favourite thing was the nighttime bush walk. It was fun trying to see and hear animals in the dark.

Kirra

”

Students showed great enthusiasm when investigating pond life and demonstrated curiosity and respect for the environment throughout all activities.

Students demonstrated incredible resilience across the jam-packed schedule, consistently giving their best effort and supporting one another. It was wonderful to see students grow in confidence, independence, and their ability to connect positively with their peers.

**Nikki Kearton**

Learning Culture Leader - Reception - Yr 6



“

I loved the water drums activity, we were in teams and we had to get a sponge, dip it in a big bucket of water and use it to fill our team bucket the fastest. I love to play with water, and we all got wet and muddy.

Louis

”



# 🌀 Governor's Visit to Oakbank School

We were incredibly lucky to welcome Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, to our school. It was such a valuable opportunity for our students to share their future aspirations, ideas, and voices around civics and citizenship.

The discussion was inspiring, and our students represented themselves and our school with pride, confidence, and thoughtfulness. A truly memorable experience for our community!

**Kat Thompson**  
Learning Culture Leader - Years 11-12



# Agriculture



# Bringing the crush back: Hands-on learning through viticulture

Oakbank School recently celebrated a milestone moment with its first wine grape crush in many years, marking an exciting return to hands on, experience based learning and a deep connection to one of the Adelaide Hills' most important industries: viticulture.



Across two busy weeks, students were immersed in the full grape to barrel process, transforming freshly harvested Piccadilly Chardonnay into what will become Oakbank's 2026 vintage. From the moment the fruit arrived to the final press, the program delivered authentic, real world learning that cannot be replicated in a classroom alone.

The first crush day set the tone, with students working side by side, learning practical skills, collaborating as a team, and taking responsibility for each stage of production. There were plenty of "sticky situations," plenty of laughter, and, most importantly, plenty of learning. Students explored concepts from science, agriculture, and food technology while developing problem solving skills, time management, and an understanding of quality and care in the production processes.

The project reached another major milestone in week 2, when students crushed 1.2 tonnes of Piccadilly Chardonnay destined for barrel ageing.

The scale of the operation gave students an authentic insight into commercial viticulture and winemaking, reinforcing just how significant grape growing and wine production are to the Adelaide Hills economy and identity.

This achievement would not have been possible without the incredible support of the local viticulture community. Oakbank extends sincere thanks to **Paul and Michele Edwards** of **Edwards Family Farms** for generously donating the **Adelaide Hills Chardonnay fruit**, giving students access to premium, regionally significant produce. Additional support came from **Dr Dylan Griggs**, who organised the **fruit and trailer**; **Mark Vella** from **Vitiworks**, who sourced two **Nally bins**; and **Geoff Hardy Wines**, who donated two barriques to support the program and allow students to see the barrel ageing process first hand.

“From start to press, it was a berry good time filled with hands-on learning, teamwork, and a few sticky situations along the way.”





A special acknowledgement goes to the students who stayed back after school to help complete the pressing. Their commitment demonstrated exactly what the program aims to instil: responsibility, pride in workmanship, and a willingness to step up when it matters.

Now, as the wine begins its eight month journey in barrel, learning continues. Students will be involved in monitoring, caring for, and understanding the science of barrel ageing, deepening their appreciation of the patience and skill required in winemaking. When bottling time arrives, they will be able to look back on a process they guided from start to finish.

By connecting students directly with local industry, Oakbank is not only enriching learning outcomes but also helping the next generation understand, value, and potentially pursue careers in the region's proud wine growing tradition.

**Milly Hoffmann**

Senior Leader

Science, Agriculture and Innovation

For Sale \$25  
PER LEMON TREE



## Lemon Trees for Sale

We're not sour about it...

These trees were grown and donated to the Oakbank School Agriculture program and are now available for our community to take home.

We have two varieties available: **Lisbon** and **Eureka**, for just **\$25 each**. It's a real bargain!

Pay and collect tonight. Don't miss this opportunity to grab a great tree and support the **Oakbank Agriculture program**.

Thank you to Kate Constable for helping us grow our agriculture program.

[dl.0762.agriculture@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0762.agriculture@schools.sa.edu.au)

# Sporting Schools Program Touch Football

This term, our Primary School students have eagerly participated in Touch Football sessions, made possible by the generous support of Touch Football SA and the Sporting School Grants program.



The sessions have sparked significant enthusiasm, with students showing tremendous willingness to learn and engage with a new sport.

Throughout the term, it has been fantastic to witness all students embracing both the skills and rules of Touch Football. Their positive attitude and commitment to trying something new has been truly commendable. We are proud of their efforts and the progress they have made in such a short period.

Thank you once again to Touch Football SA and the Sporting School Grants program, for enabling this opportunity and to everyone involved in making these sessions a success. We look forward to building on these experiences and continuing to explore new sporting activities in the future.

Well done to all of our students for giving Touch Football a go!

**Tori Kaesler**  
PE Teacher

**PICTURED:** Some of our primary years students participating in the program.





Celebrating  
*Student Life*



## Year 12 Formal - A Night to Remember

This term our Year 12 students celebrated their Formal at Mount Loft Summit, marking a special milestone in their final year of school.

It was a wonderful evening filled with laughter, great food, dancing and plenty of memorable moments with friends and staff. A fantastic celebration of the journey our students have shared and the exciting future ahead.





# OAKBANK SCHOOL

## School & Community Information

### Preschool Enrolment 2026/2027



Your child's eligible kindergarten year

- **Term 1 intake** - if your child turns 4 before the end of April
- **Mid-year intake** - if your child turns 4 before the end of October

Contact us today - 08 8388 4141

- 0419 506 872

Email: [dl.4645.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.4645.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au)

Director: Irene O'Callaghan

We offer a dynamic program in partnership with families and the local community that fosters a sense of care for ourselves, others and the environment. Children lead the learning through their interests, skills, family support and relationships with educators.



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

**REGISTER  
NOW!**



**TERM 2**

**STARTS APRIL 27<sup>th</sup>**



PH: 0489 203 989 EMAIL: [christina@grasshoppersoccer.com.au](mailto:christina@grasshoppersoccer.com.au)

**fun!**

Uraidla Hotel &  
local community present:

**markets**

**stalls**



**drinks**

**food  
trucks**

**Equinox**  
April 18 2026  
Uraidla Hotel

**live  
music**

**from 1pm - evening**

**childrens'  
parade 4pm**

**childrens' activities**

## 1 Day Autism Workshop for Parents and Carers Hahndorf, SA



Scan the  
QR code or  
[click here](#)  
to register



This workshop is for parents, full time carers and grandparents.



**Tuesday**  
**26 May, 2026**  
**9:15am to 3:00pm**



**Adelaide Hills Convention Centre**  
**145A Mount Barker Rd**  
**HAHNDORF SA 5245**

Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided



***Interpreters available upon request***

### During the workshop you will learn about:

- The diversity of autism
- Sensory processing
- Working together with your child's school.

Learn more about autism and neurodiversity-affirming ways to strengthen the partnership between home and school.

For more information or to register visit:

 [www.positivepartnerships.com.au/PC](http://www.positivepartnerships.com.au/PC)

 [jcousins@positivepartnerships.com.au](mailto:jcousins@positivepartnerships.com.au)



0473 004 024

“

### New easier username!

You can now log on to Daymap with your registered email.

”

“

### Password not working?

You can now reset it with only your email address!

”



OAKBANK  
SCHOOL

Meet the new



# Daymap Companion

Daymap have released their new and improved **Daymap Companion** app for parents & caregivers, offering a more user-friendly experience.

Search in your device's store for "Daymap" to download.

Sign in by searching for "Oakbank School" and signing in with your existing Parent ID and password\*.

Need to reset your password?



Try the Daymap Quick Connect Guide  
[oakbank.sa.edu.au/guides](http://oakbank.sa.edu.au/guides)



[dl.0762.icthelp@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0762.icthelp@schools.sa.edu.au)

