



OAKBANK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Connection | Respect | Responsibility



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

TERM

3

WEEK

10

SEP 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 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 Companion calendar for further dates & amendments.

Week 01

12 OCT

Start of Term 4
Monday 12 October

Week 02

22 OCT

Whole School House Day!
Thursday 22 October
Wear your School House colours, participate in a variety of different challenges for House points!

23 OCT

Yr 12 breakfast & last day of formal lessons
Friday 23 October
Kelsey Cottage

Week 03

28 OCT

Governing Council
6pm Wednesday 28 October

Week 06

17 NOV

Presentation Night
Tuesday 17 November
Further information to come!

20 NOV

Yr 11 last day of formal lessons
Friday 20 November

UPCOMING
Dates

OAKBANK
SCHOOL



oakbank.daymap.net/daymap



oakbank.daymap.net/portal

Having problems with Daymap? Call us or try our guides on oakbank.sa.edu.au/guides

OAKBANK SCHOOL R-12 Education
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 *Curiosity* INSPIRING *Growth*

From the Principal

It is remarkable to reflect on just how much has happened at Oakbank School over the past ten weeks of term 3. One of the things I value most about our school is the breadth of opportunities available to our students, and this term has certainly demonstrated that learning at Oakbank extends well beyond the classroom.



Public Education Awards finalist

A particularly significant highlight was the announcement that Oakbank School is a finalist in the **2026 Public Education Awards**. To have the work happening across our school recognised at this level is something our whole community can be proud of. This recognition complements the recent **Department for Education Podcast** highlighting Oakbank's whole-school approach to self-regulation and the work our staff are doing to support students to be ready to learn. Listen on Spotify here: [Teaching Self-regulation at Oakbank School](#)



Oakbank School at its best!

Our Royal Adelaide Show involvement was another wonderful example of Oakbank at its best. Students represented the school across a range of competitions, with some outstanding results. Our Agriculture students enjoyed considerable success with our steers and sheep, while students also achieved recognition in other areas such as baking. More important than the ribbons themselves was seeing the confidence, commitment and pride with which our students represented Oakbank. See more about this later this issue.



Children's Book Week

Book Week was another term 3 highlight. Rather than being simply a dress-up day, it became a genuine celebration of reading across the school. Book tasting, a scavenger hunt, book-inspired food creations, online author visits and, of course, some fantastic costumes helped bring books and stories to life for our students.

Pathways & opportunities beyond school

There have been countless opportunities for students to take their learning beyond the school gates this term. Secondary students have explored future careers and pathways through experiences at Lot Fourteen, industry and STEM visits, and engagement with Flinders University. Our students have been able to see first-hand where their learning can take them and to begin thinking about the many possibilities available beyond school.

Students in history have also explored our important local history through the Woodside Barracks historical investigation. With the Barracks soon to close, capturing the varied history of this site was something very important to the students. The students



have engaged with many locals, who have come in to tell their stories or the stories of their families. Such a fabulous experience for all participating.

Extra-curricular Activities

There has been plenty happening outside the traditional curriculum as well. Our **2026 Ski Trip** provided an unforgettable experience for our secondary students, while our primary students proudly represented Oakbank at the **Lightning Carnival**. After-school art activities have provided another creative outlet, and our younger students have continued to benefit from learning in and exploring our wonderful natural environment.

Congratulations to Laura Fornarino!

It has also been wonderful this term to see **Laura Fornarino**, senior English teacher, recognised for achieving Nationally accredited Highly Accomplished Teacher status. This is a significant professional achievement and reflects the expertise and quality of teaching we are fortunate to have within our school. Laura joins **Lauren Cookson**, reception teacher, who is a nationally accredited **Lead Teacher**.

Community Connections

Our connection with the wider community has also been evident, including **Pizza for a Purpose at Kelsey Cottage**, held to help with fundraising for the student **New Caledonia trip** in November this year. Thanks to all who attended and especially to **SSO Alex Lamerton** (whose dough making and baking skills were essential to our success and parents, **Kieran Burgoyne** and **Wally Guthrie**, who ran the pizza oven on the night. It was a great event and so good to start using Kelsey Cottage this way.



Are you interested in hiring Kelsey Cottage for your own private event?
Reach out and have a chat to us about it!



2027 BUILD UPDATE

Exciting progress!

The tender for a builder has now gone out and three companies have been invited to submit their tender. They are vetted to ensure that they are all high-quality companies who can complete the work to a high standard and on time. They will be selected and on board with us by early Nov 2026.

We continue to work closely with **Cox Architects** to finalise our designs. At this stage our designs are at a high level and we are awaiting department approval for our selections.

We are replacing with new or upgrading many parts of our site including:

new buildings

- **Front reception and meeting areas for families**
- **Performing Arts – Drama, Dance & Music**
- **Primary toilets**
- **Outdoor covered basketball court**
- **Outdoor covered courtyard, learning space**

Please see overleaf for a sneak-peak of our performing arts and learning space buildings

upgraded buildings

- **Food technology –** major refurbishment
- **Inclusion & Wellbeing** space in main building
- **Year 12 centre** in main building

This also provides the opportunity to design a better flow and connection through the school from north to south.

The Hall, which opened in 1968, holds some wonderful memories for many of our Old Scholars. From countless school assemblies and presentation nights, school performances, roller-skating events in the 80's and even a wedding! The Hall has served the school for nearly 60 years.

Do you have any photos of events in the Hall over the years, either in your own collections, or those of your parents or grandparents? We would love a copy of them for our archives and our 90th birthday celebrations in 2028 so that we can celebrate this iconic part of our school. Please bring them in for us to copy or email a scanned or digital version to Stacey.Clark788@schools.sa.edu.au. Include a brief description of "who, what, when and where" so that we can share this with others also.



Holiday well-wishes

I hope your children enjoy a well-earned holiday break. I will be also taking a few weeks long service leave at the beginning of term 4 and Heath Perrott, current Deputy Principal, will be stepping up to the principal's role for 3 weeks.

I look forward to seeing many of you again at our end of year events.

Lee Knight
Principal



The School Hall

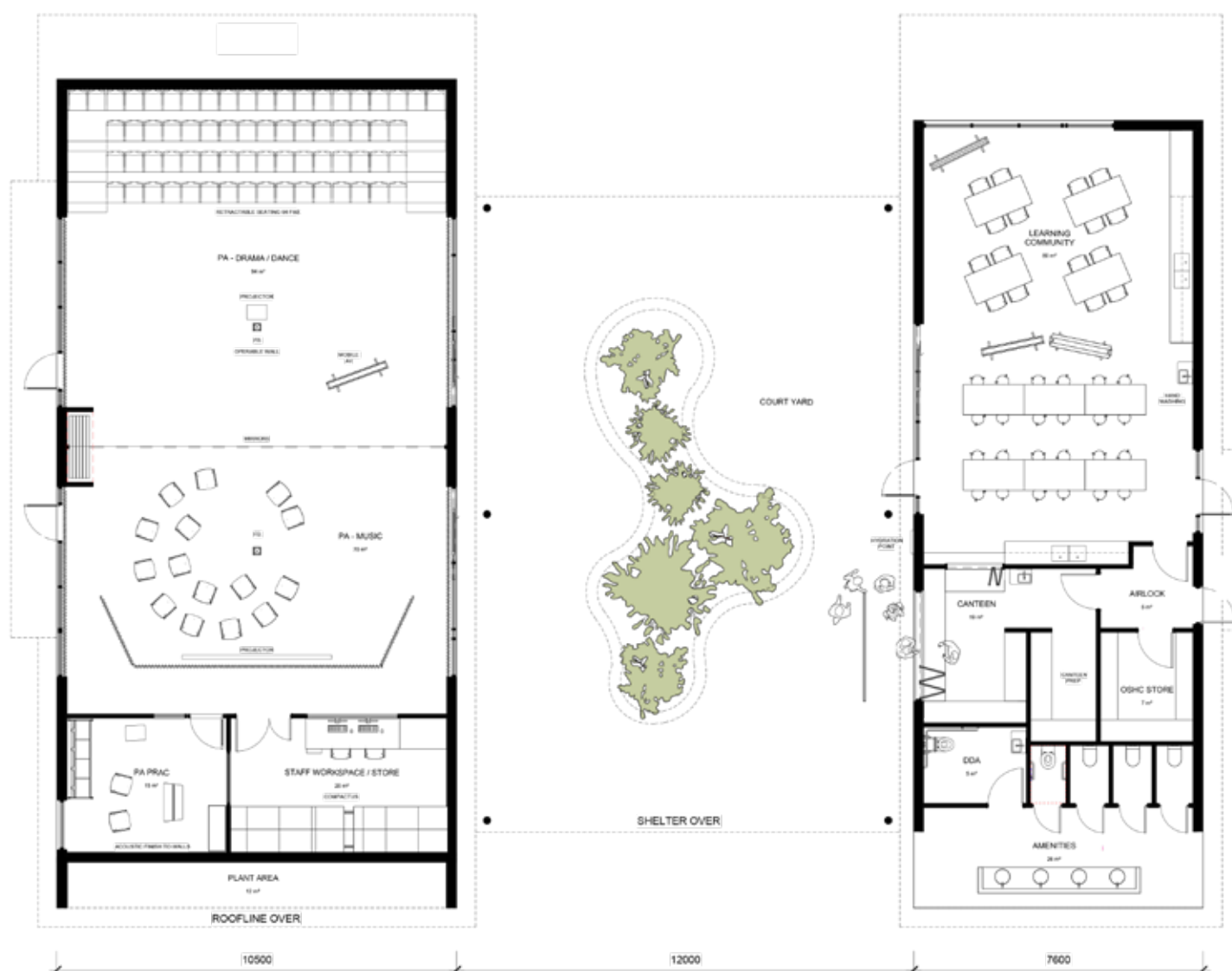
Part of the big change we are doing will be to demolish the hall and the two classrooms attached to this. This building, whilst being an amazing space, needed significant repairs to the roof and upgrades overall to meet new codes and standards. It was significantly cheaper to begin again with a new building than to try to repair and upgrade the old one.

PERFORMING ARTS, LEARNING SPACE, TOILETS

Design sneak-peak!

Design Development

New Build | New Learning Building - Revised Floor Plan



DESIGN AS OF SEPT 2026
NOT FINAL DESIGN



Getting to know...

Kat Thompson

Learning Culture Leader Yrs 11–12



“

I value experiences that give students the chance to step outside their comfort zones, develop leadership and teamwork, build connections and discover new interests.

”

I grew up in Nairne and have always considered the Adelaide Hills one of the most beautiful places to live. I live here with my husband and our two daughters, and sport is a big part of our family life, particularly basketball. I have coached at school and in local competitions and am probably a little more competitive than I like to admit. I'm also a big fan of ice hockey, the NBA and NFL.

One of my biggest passions is skiing. I love being in the mountains and on the snow, and if I could change one thing about the Adelaide Hills, it would be adding a proper winter snowfall! I started the Oakbank School Ski Trip, combining something I love with an opportunity for students to build independence, resilience and confidence. Watching students go from barely standing on skis or a snowboard to making their way down the mountain with a few spectacular falls in between, is incredibly rewarding.

Travel has shaped who I am. Attending school in Canada gave me an early experience of different approaches to education. Since then, I have travelled extensively and lived overseas. I love experiencing different cultures, food and places, particularly discovering their history. Basically, I struggle to visit anywhere without turning it into a HASS lesson.

I have been teaching at Oakbank since 2020, beginning with Japanese and HASS. Since then, I have taught everything from Science and Health to Technologies, but History and Geography are where my passion lies. Teaching was my second

career; before becoming a teacher I worked in optics and completed a Cert IV in Optical Dispensing. So, technically, I have always been helping people see things more clearly!

I particularly enjoy creating opportunities for students that extend beyond the classroom and allow them to learn through real experiences. This has included connecting students with local history through opportunities such as the ANZAC Premier's Prize, exploring geography, civics and global citizenship through Youth to Action in New Caledonia, and developing House activities and House Ambassador roles that bring students together across year levels. I value experiences that give students the chance to step outside their comfort zones, develop leadership and teamwork, build connections and discover new interests.

As Learning Culture Leader for Years 11–12, I support students as they make decisions about life beyond school. I have high expectations because I know they can rise to a challenge. I am often encouraging them to apply for something, enter a competition, attend a camp or simply try something outside their comfort zone.

What I love most about Oakbank is that it feels like a family. I know what it is like to be a student who gets lost in the crowd, and this has shaped my philosophy: every student should feel seen, valued and know that they matter. I want students to leave Oakbank with confidence, resilience, great memories and a belief in what they can achieve.

Kat's 5 favourite things!



Skiing



Family



Basketball



Star Wars



Holidays



EXPRESSING
art & design



AFTER-SCHOOL

Art with Jimmy



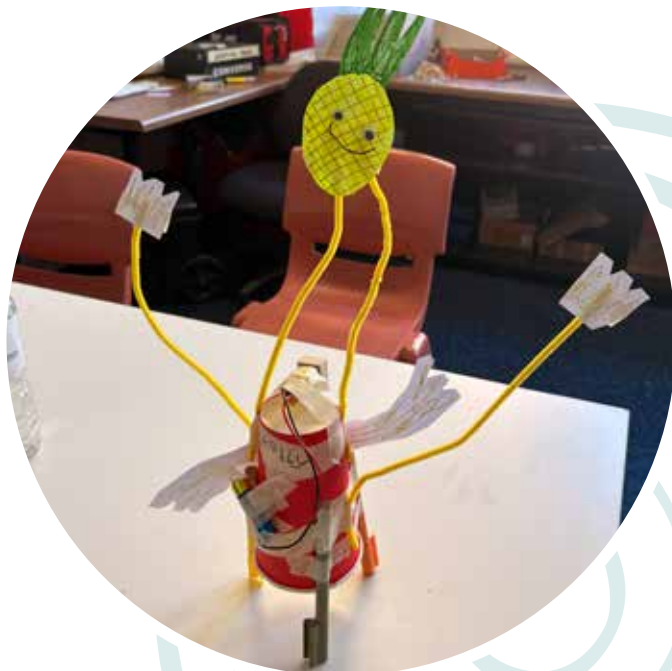
Our Artist in Residence, Jimmy Dodd, has been bringing his creativity to Oakbank students through a special after-school art program.

Every Thursday, students have the opportunity to get creative, try new techniques and explore art in exciting and hands-on ways.

There's plenty of experimenting happening, including Jimmy's very clever mini painting robots - which create unique designs and give students a whole new way to think about making art!

It's fantastic to see our students getting stuck into something different, developing their creativity and having fun along the way.

We can't wait to see what they create next!



A large group of people are gathered in a dimly lit room, possibly a community center or a hall, for a social event. The room is decorated with colorful streamers in yellow, pink, and orange, and strings of warm white lights. In the foreground, several people are seen from behind, looking towards the center of the room. A woman in a light pink sweatshirt with a grey bag strap is prominent. To her right, a woman in a grey sweater is also seen from behind. In the background, a man with a white beard and a red jacket is visible, along with other people engaged in conversation. The overall atmosphere is warm and communal.

COMMUNITY
Experiences

© SUPPORTING YOUTH IN ACTION - NEW CALEDONIA

Pizza with a Purpose



Our Pizza Night Fundraiser for Youth to Action New Caledonia was a fantastic success, with both sessions on Friday night completely booked out! It was wonderful to see so many families and members of our school community come along to support our students.



The fundraiser is helping support our students who will travel to New Caledonia later this year as part of the Youth to Action program. This UN-backed experience provides students with an opportunity to learn beyond the classroom, with a strong focus on connection, culture, community and personal growth. Students will develop their leadership, teamwork and independence while engaging with another culture and participating in community-focused experiences.

A special thank you to **Alex** from Student Services, who did an incredible job making pizzas throughout the evening, with help from student **Thien Anh**. We also greatly appreciated parent helpers **Kieran** and **Wally**, who kept the pizza oven running and cooked pizzas for our hungry guests throughout the night.

Our students did a fantastic job both on the night and in the lead-up to the event. Many spent Friday cleaning Kelsey Cottage, setting up

decorations and preparing the space for its first event. On the night, students welcomed guests, served food and drinks, cleared tables and helped keep everything running smoothly.

The bake sale was also a great success, and we thank everyone who contributed some delicious treats. A special thank you also goes to **Carol**, who donated the lolly guessing jar.

It was fantastic to see Kelsey Cottage brought to life and our students, staff, parents and wider community working together for such a worthwhile experience.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, donated or helped behind the scenes. Every pizza purchased and every contribution made helps our students get one step closer to New Caledonia and what promises to be an unforgettable learning experience.

Milly Hoffmann & Kat Thompson
Leaders

NAVIGATING
life choices



P.A.R.T.Y. PROGRAM Preventing Trauma Program

“One choice could change your life.”

On Friday 18 September, thirty-five year 10, 11 and 12 students travelled to Flinders Medical Centre to participate in the P.A.R.T.Y. Program - Preventing Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youth.

The program provided students with a powerful and practical insight into the consequences of risky choices, particularly when driving, partying or spending time with friends. Students heard from a range of health professionals, including nurses, an intensive care nurse, an ambulance officer and a doctor. They shared their experiences and discussed the serious injuries that can occur when things go wrong. In addition, students were able to learn from allied health professionals (physiotherapists, speech pathologists and occupational therapists) about the role they play in rehabilitation.

One of the highlights was a simulated intensive care medical situation based on a car crash. Students were given the opportunity to take on different roles within the hospital and experience what happens when a trauma patient arrives in an emergency situation.

Students also heard from **Richard**, who shared his personal story following a motorbike crash that left him paraplegic. Richard spoke openly about his accident, the impact it had on his

life and how he has adapted and continues to live his life today. His story provided students with an important reminder that one decision can have lifelong consequences.

The day left students with some important messages:

“One choice could change your life.”

“Look after your mates.”

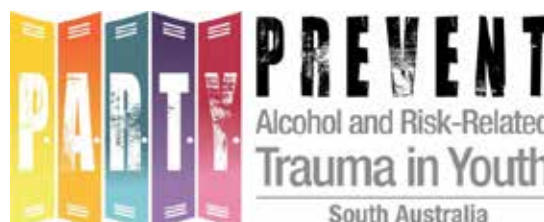
“Be smart, wear your seatbelt.”

“Don’t be afraid to ask for help.”

The excursion was a valuable opportunity for our senior students to learn from real-life experiences and professionals, and to reflect on the choices they make and the responsibility they have to look after themselves and their mates.



Kat Thompson
 Learning Culture Leader Yrs 11-12





Have a little one
turning 5 before
1 May 2027?



OAKBANK
SCHOOL
RECEPTION - YEAR 12

Reception

ENROLMENTS

Enrol by
**23 SEPT
2026**

To start
**TERM 1
2027**



SMALL CLASSES

Personalised learning
in a supportive
environment



COMPLETE CARE

We know every child,
every family and every
story matters.



EXPERT TEACHERS

Dedicated, experienced
educators who bring out
the best in every learner.



OSHC PARTNERSHIP

Quality before & after
school care with our
trusted OSHC partner.



OAKBANK
SCHOOL
Reception - Year 12

Reception

ENROLMENTS

Tour



oakbank.sa.edu.au -
Book a Principal's Tour

Enrol



[oakbank.sa.edu.au/
enrolment](https://oakbank.sa.edu.au/enrolment)

Info



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Government of South Australia
Department for Education

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Me and My Shadow

Our Reception students enjoyed a wonderful excursion filled with lots of laughs and plenty of "wow!" moments! We began our day with the wonderful performance *Me and My Shadow*, where the children were captivated by the playful characters, humour and shadow surprises. It was wonderful to see their faces light up as they laughed, watched in amazement and eagerly followed the story.



After the performance, we explored the 'Our Mob' exhibition in the Adelaide Festival Centre, giving students the opportunity to experience and appreciate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artworks and stories. This provided a meaningful opportunity to connect with culture, community and different ways of sharing stories and ideas.

We then headed to Marshmallow Playground, where the children had lunch and plenty of time to climb, run, have waterplay and had fun together. A special highlight was having Oakbank Kindergarten join us for the day, making the experience even more exciting and giving our students the opportunity to spend time with some familiar and future school friends.

The excursion provided rich opportunities for learning beyond the classroom. In the SA Curriculum, Reception students are encouraged to explore and respond to their world, communicate ideas and experiences, and develop positive relationships with others. Through the performance, exhibition and shared play experiences, students were able to build their understanding, express their ideas and learn through curiosity, creativity and connection.

It was a fantastic day of laughter, learning and wonder!

Lauren Cookson | Reception Teacher



Waste Water Treatment Plant

By Shacati, Jimmy, Maynard and
Anastasia

SB

How to Access 1

RR

How to Access 2

RR

How to Access 3

EXPLORING STEM
Curiosity



STEM - PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING

Bolivar waste-water proposal

As part of our Term 3 STEM Problem Based Learning project, the 5/6 students have been investigating a real-world challenge faced at the Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant. After exploring the site - which we shared last issue) and developing possible solutions to two engineering problems, two student teams were selected to present their ideas at the Masters Presentation.

The project gave students the opportunity to apply their STEM learning to an authentic problem, while developing their skills in collaboration, problem-solving, communication, creativity and critical thinking. Students were challenged to consider how their solutions could address real engineering requirements while also prioritising safety, sustainability and practicality.

The two selected teams travelled to Fulton Hogan's offices in Dulwich, where they presented their proposed solutions to approximately 30 people, including designers, engineers and other Fulton Hogan team members. Students confidently explained their thinking, responded to questions and received feedback from industry professionals.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to share their learning with a real-world audience and experience how STEM skills are used by professionals to solve complex problems. We are incredibly proud of the way our students embraced the challenge and represented our school.

Maddie Abfalter | Year 6 Teacher



CULTURAL *Immersion*



YEAR 12 FOOD & HOSPITALITY

Three - course staff dinner

On 26 August, Year 12 Food and Hospitality students prepared and served a three-course dinner for staff as part of a major assessment task. The event provided students with an opportunity to apply their classroom learning in an authentic hospitality setting and deliver a complete dining experience.

The menu showcased a wide range of flavours, culinary techniques and dietary options. Entrées included deep-fried tofu with onion rings; cheese sticks with prosciutto-wrapped haloumi bites; and lamb koftas with mini Chinese-style duck pancake canapés.



For the main course, guests selected from lentil coconut curry with vegan chilli; beef Wellington served with gravy, mashed potato and seasonal vegetables; or Thai red curry salmon with green papaya salad. Desserts included waffles with berry sauce and homemade ice cream, tiramisu with macaron cups, and sticky toffee pudding.

Throughout the planning and preparation process, students considered menu design, dietary requirements, food safety, timing, presentation and service. The variety of vegan, vegetarian and meat-based dishes demonstrated their ability to cater for different guests while creating a diverse and appealing menu.

The dinner required students to work collaboratively under time pressure. They organised their work areas, coordinated the preparation of multiple courses and ensured that each dish was ready for service at the correct time. Their teamwork, communication and

problem-solving skills helped the evening run smoothly and provided valuable experience of the expectations of a real hospitality event.

The evening celebrated the students' developing culinary skills and professionalism. Thank you to all the staff who attended and supported this valuable learning experience.

A special thank you goes to our two Year 11 students, **Niamh B** and **Arnya W**, who generously volunteered their time to assist with service on the night. Their contribution helped ensure smooth delivery and a positive dining experience for all.



Feifei Ghandar

Food & Hospitality & Child Studies teacher



EXPERIENCING
Life

LIFE X mini



RUN & FITNESS CLUB

City to bay

For LifeX Mini this term - our LifeX program for primary years - one group of students participated in a Run and Fitness Club, with the goal of preparing for and competing in the City to Bay 6 km race.

Throughout the program, we focused on developing the dispositions of resilience and confidence - learning to keep going when things get tough and believing in ourselves to achieve challenging goals. Students also explored the benefits of being fit and active, not only for our physical health, but also for our mental wellbeing.

We started and finished the LifeX mini program by completing the Beep Test to measure our progress. Throughout the weeks, students worked hard to beat their personal best running distances and participated in a range of team games and fitness activities designed to improve their overall fitness. In preparation for race day, we also completed a challenging 5.5 km run along the Amy Gillett Bike Trail.

On race day, we were excited to have three students from our Run Club complete the City to Bay. One student ran alongside their family group, while two students ran as part of the Oakbank team. We were fortunate to have excellent running weather and had a fantastic time completing the 6 km course. There were certainly a few moments when we needed to draw on our resilience and keep pushing when things became difficult!

Crossing that final finish line and collecting our race day medals was a wonderful sense of achievement and a fantastic way to celebrate all the hard work the students had put in throughout the term. A big thank you to Miss. Kaesler for her additional supervision at the event.

The LifeX Run Club has been a very positive experience for all involved. Students have demonstrated growth in their resilience, confidence and fitness, with several students improving their final Beep Test scores by an impressive 2-3 rounds! We hope they can continue to build on these positive, healthy habits and carry their confidence and resilience into the future.

Nikki Kearton

Learning Culture Leader
Rec - Yr 6





REGENCY TAFE

LIFE **X**

Advanced welder training

On Friday 4 September, our Year 9 and 10 LifeX welding students visited Regency TAFE for an exciting day of advanced welder training. Students had the chance to try augmented reality welding, tour the facilities to learn more about careers in trade.

Year 10 student **Evan B** reflected on the experience:

“

Our LifeX Welding group went to TAFE in Adelaide to test out our skills on the high-tech AR welders and go on a tour of the workshops.

Amanda gave us a run-down on some Australian naval engineering before showing us how to use the AR equipment properly.

We then spent about an hour using the welding machines and trying to get the best scores possible. After that, we toured the workshops.

”

The excursion complemented the hands-on welding practice students have been enjoying on Friday afternoons throughout the term as part of their LifeX Welding experience. It was a valuable opportunity for students to build on the practical skills they have been developing at school, while also gaining insight into industry-standard equipment and training environments.

Congratulations to **Evan** for achieving an outstanding score of 97% on the welding machines, the highest score of the day and the best result achieved by an Oakbank student so far.

A special thank you to Amanda and the staff at Regency TAFE for sharing their knowledge and experience with our students.

Maddie Eccleston | Assistant Principal
Wellbeing & Inclusion | Technology Teacher





FESTIVAL OF MUSIC CHIOR

Singing up a storm



Last Friday, four of our year 5/6 students took part in the Festival of Music Choir Concert at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre.

The students proudly represented Oakbank singing their hearts out with approximately 1200 other students from Adelaide metro and country schools. The students have been learning and practising the songs and choreography from the beginning of the year to prepare for their big moment. Congratulations Edwina, Jackson, Kirra and Monika!

Rachel Sant



CULTURAL *Immersion*





RAMINDJERI/NGARRINDJERI CULTURAL TOURS

Ratalang (Basham Beach)



On Monday 21 September, our Aboriginal students had the valuable opportunity to take part in a guided Ramindjeri/Ngarrindjeri cultural tour and yarn with Uncle Cedric Varcoe. The experience took place at Ratalang (Basham Beach, Port Elliot) and along the surrounding coastline.

Throughout the day, students explored the cultural significance and history of the area, gaining a deeper understanding of the connection between land, waterways and Sea Country. Uncle Cedric shared a Ngarrindjeri Dreaming story, helping students appreciate how stories, culture and knowledge are deeply connected to the landscape.

Students also enjoyed participating in Ngarrindjeri song and dance, as well as traditional and contemporary weaving activities. While walking through the sandhills, we explored a variety of native plants and learned about their traditional uses, including bush foods and a plant that could be crushed and used to help sanitise our hands. These hands-on experiences provided meaningful opportunities to engage with culture, history and community in a respectful and authentic way.

A particularly significant part of the day was learning about the midden site near the coast, where Aboriginal people ate their meals for thousands of years. This was a powerful reminder of the long and continuing connection Aboriginal peoples have with Country.

This cultural experience was both engaging and educational, and we are very grateful to Uncle Cedric Varcoe for sharing his knowledge, stories and culture with us.

Dave Binney

Learning Culture Leader Yrs 9-10





OAKBANK
SCHOOL

Are you following our socials?



oakbankas



oakbank_school



YEAR 12 CHILD STUDIES

Teaching Road Safety

On Monday 14 September, Year 12 Child Studies students visited the Reception class to deliver a 45-minute teaching session on road safety. This authentic learning experience provided students with an opportunity to apply their knowledge of child development while working directly with young children.

The Year 12 students planned and delivered a range of age-appropriate activities, including teaching road safety rules, making traffic lights with playdough, practising how to cross a road safely, and completing a colouring activity. They also designed and created all the teaching resources, including homemade playdough, road signs and a cardboard car.

Through this experience, the students further developed their planning, organisation, communication and teamwork skills. They also demonstrated their understanding of how young children learn through play and hands-on activities.

The Year 12 and Reception students interacted positively, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It was a valuable opportunity for the Year 12 students to connect their classroom learning with a practical, real-world teaching experience.

Special thanks to Ms Nikki Kearton and Ms Lauren Cookson for their support and assistance in making this valuable learning opportunity possible.

Feifei Ghandar

Food & Hospitality & Child Studies teacher





OAKBANK SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE IN
Agriculture

ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW

Oakbank School on Show!

Oakbank School enjoyed a rewarding and memorable experience at this year's Royal Adelaide Show, with both the sheep and steer teams showcasing months of hard work, dedication and pride in their animals.



Preparation

In the lead-up to the Show, the school's sheep team spent many weeks preparing their entries and ensuring they were presented to a high standard. Oakbank was fortunate to show sheep from **Mernowie Poll Merinos** bloodlines, sourced from the **Rowett** family's farm and the **Andriske** family's farm. The school was grateful for the generous support it received along the way, including donations of sheep feed from **Johnson's**, the opportunity provided by **Merino SA**, pedicures from **Mr Richworth**, show crutching and guidance from **Mr Roberts**, new halters from **Hahndorf Leathersmith**, crutching and transport from **Ross Palmer**, and assistance from **Miss Hoffmann's mum** in collecting one group of sheep from the Mallee. It was truly a team effort to prepare the school's show team.

Steer team

The steer team also had an outstanding Show campaign. Students began before 7am on competition day, washing, blow-drying and preparing Walter, Winnie and Willis for judging. At weigh-in, Walter came in at 506kg, Winnie at 590kg and Willis at 520kg. Impressively, the steers had averaged a weight gain of 1.5kg per day while at school, reflecting the consistent care and effort of students and staff over many months.





Students also represented Oakbank School with enthusiasm in the **South Australian Young Beef Breeders Handler Competition**. German exchange student **Lukas** competed in the **Novice** section, **Isla** placed **fourth** in her **Intermediate** heat with **Winnie**, and **Taylor** competed strongly in the **Experienced Handlers** with **Willis**. In the **Thomas Foods International judging**, **Walter** stood out in a large and competitive line-up of Limousins and presented extremely well.

Show Day Saturday continued the success, with all three steers washed, prepared and on display for the public. **Winnie** began the day's TFI judging, and the team proudly represented Oakbank School in the Grand Parade. **Willis** then completed the afternoon's judging.



Throughout the day, students cared for the steers, maintained tidy pens and spoke confidently with members of the public about their work.

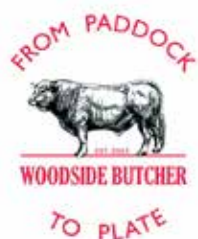
The final steer results were a wonderful achievement for Oakbank School. **Bottlesford Murray Greys Willis** and **Spence's Show Steers Walter** competed in the **Purebred Heavy Domestic 490.1–522kg class**. **Willis** placed **fourth**, while **Walter** won **first place** and then went on to finish in the **top four** of the Championship class. **Ewyn Speckle Park Winnie** also represented the school with pride in a very competitive **Purebred Export 580.1–596kg class**. Congratulations went to handlers **Taylor** with **Willis**, **Katie** with **Walter** and **Isla** with **Winnie** for representing Oakbank so well.



ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW TEAM Sponsors



OAKBANK
SCHOOL



JOHN DEERE

emmetts





Sheep Team & other achievements

The sheep team also achieved excellent results at the Show. On the first day of competition, Oakbank placed third out of 45 schools in the **ATASA Most Professional Show Team** competition, an outstanding result. **Milla** achieved **second place** in **Dairy Judging** after being selected in the **top ten** and delivering an excellent oral presentation. In **Grain Judging**, Oakbank students also performed strongly, with **Taylor** placing in the **top ten**.

Across both sheep and steer competitions, Oakbank School students demonstrated commitment, skill and teamwork. Their efforts, along with the support of staff, families, sponsors and community members, made this year's Royal Adelaide Show a highly successful and memorable experience for the school.

Thank you!

A big thank you to all our students, staff, families and our many valued sponsors who supported the Oakbank School Agriculture program and who made our Royal Adelaide Show teams such a wonderful learning experience for our students on so many levels.

Milly Hoffmann

Senior Leader of Agriculture and Science





ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW

Junior Cookery Competition

This year several Oakbank School students entered the Royal Adelaide Show Junior Cookery Competition.

Congratulations are due to Brody S, who won second prize for his melting moments! Brody demonstrated excellent baking skills and put considerable effort into preparing his entry. This is a wonderful achievement, and we are very proud to recognise his hard work and success.

Feifei Ghandar | Food Technology Teacher





SHARING
Literature



BOOK WEEK 2027

Symphony of Stories



This term, we celebrated Book Week with the 2026 theme, Symphony of Stories. It was a jam-packed week filled with a wide range of fun and engaging activities from Reception to Year 12, designed to celebrate our love of books and reading.



1

The Tale of Peter Rabbit

Audrey F, Yr 2



2

Wings of Fire

Theodore S, Yr 2



3

The Lorax Tree

Beckett C, Yr 4 & Hartley C, Yr 1

Primary Book Week Cake Competition

We began the week with our annual Book Week Cake Competition, where families were invited to create a cake inspired by a favourite book. We had an incredible 28 cakes entered into the competition, which meant there was certainly plenty of cake to admire, and enjoy, throughout the day! Well done to our winners!

Primary Book Tasting

Students also enjoyed a 'Book Tasting' in our library, where they visited different tables to explore books from a range of genres. Students showed great enthusiasm as they discovered new books and created a wish list of titles they would like to read next!





Dressup parade

We finished the week with students and staff dressing up as their favourite book characters. There was an amazing amount of effort and creativity put into the costumes, and it was great fun seeing everyone parade through the hall. Well done to our primary costume competition winners: Chloe M, Philippa L, Lily Q, Alex K, Candela A and Adia G.



Scavenger Hunt

Another highlight was our Book Week Scavenger Hunt, where students raced around the school completing a variety of book-themed challenges, including 'Feed Pig the Pug', 'Unscramble the Gruffalo' and 'Find Wally'. Each completed challenge provided a code word, which teams used to work out the winning phrase. Congratulations to our winning team: Eliza H, Archer T, Jethro M, Levi P and Mack H!





Author Talks

Throughout the week, students across different classes also participated in Author Calls, where well-known authors connected with students via Zoom to talk about their books, writing and illustrating processes. A standout favourite was the session with **Andy Lee**, which was enjoyed by our Reception–Year 2 students.

Secondary school participation

Our Secondary students also joined in the Book Week celebrations. They participated in **biscuit decorating competitions**, designed **playlists inspired by their favourite books**, and spent **time reading with primary students** and **creating bookmarks** together.

It was a fantastic week of celebrating stories, books, creativity and, most importantly, a love of reading. A huge thank you to our students, staff and families for helping make Book Week 2026 such a memorable celebration!

Nikki Kearton

Learning Culture Leader Rec - Year 7



SHARING
Experiences



2026 SENIOR SCHOOL *Ski Trip*

Another Oakbank Ski Trip is done and dusted, and once again it was an absolutely fantastic week! This year brought a new adventure, with our group travelling by plane to Canberra for the first time before making our way into the Snowy Mountains and Perisher. With warmer conditions this season, we were very glad to have chosen Perisher, which remained in operation with plenty of snow cover for our students to make the most of.

In fact, we seemed to experience almost every season during our time at Perisher! We were lucky enough to receive around 8cm of fresh snow, giving many students their first opportunity to experience just how beautiful the mountains are when the snow is actually falling. There is something pretty special about seeing Perisher covered in fresh snow and watching it settle around you as you ski. Then, we had brilliant blue skies and sunshine, with conditions warm enough for some T-shirt skiing. From fresh powder to spring sunshine, the

students really did get the full Australian mountain experience.

Across the week, students tackled everything from beginner and intermediate runs through to some of the more advanced terrain. A brave few even ventured onto the harder runs with Mrs Thompson, although whether following her down the mountain was courageous or questionable decision-making is still up for debate!



One of the highlights was a fantastic evening of night skiing. With very few people around, it felt as though we practically had the mountain to ourselves. Skiing under the lights was a brilliant experience and definitely one of the memorable moments of the trip.

For some students, this was their first experience on skis or a snowboard. Watching them progress from simply trying to stay upright to confidently making their way down the mountain was incredibly rewarding. For our returning students, it was equally great to see how much their skills had developed as they worked on technique, challenged themselves on harder terrain and rediscovered their confidence from previous trips.

For Year 12 student Angus, this was his third consecutive Oakbank Ski Trip, and his love of the mountains has grown to the point that he is now considering working a ski season next year. Fellow Year 12 student Polly has also caught the ski bug and is hoping to continue her snow adventures by travelling to Canada after finishing Year 12.

As teachers, one of the best parts of these trips is seeing students discover something they genuinely love. There is something pretty special about watching students connect with the same passion we have for the mountains, even if it means creating another generation of people who will spend far too much money chasing snow around the world! They have officially been bitten by the ski bug.

Each day we also handed out our highly prestigious netball bib awards, recognising unique, memorable and outstanding efforts on and off the mountain. Some were awarded for impressive skiing or snowboarding... and others perhaps celebrated achievements of a slightly different kind!

The fun continued back at our accommodation. Students spent their evenings largely phone-free, playing Uno Flip and countless other



games, dancing, singing karaoke and enjoying a quiz night. We should officially record that the teachers won the quiz. In a remarkable display of generosity and sportsmanship, however, we shared our winnings with the students! We also celebrated Shaye's 16th birthday, which made the week even more special.

Trips like this are about much more than skiing and snowboarding. They give students the opportunity to challenge themselves, build independence, spend time with different people and create memories together away from the normal school environment. Seeing students encourage each other after a fall, celebrate someone's first successful run or convince a friend to give something another go was just as rewarding as watching their skiing improve.

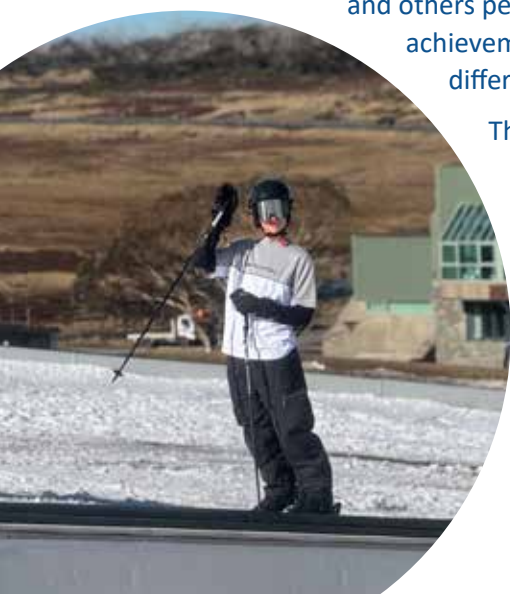
A huge thank you to our students for making the trip such an enjoyable one. Their enthusiasm, humour and willingness to get involved made the week what it was.

We would also like to give a special thank you to Damian Havriluk, who joined us as our parent supervisor and was a fantastic addition to the team. Spending a week at Perisher skiing with a great group of students, not a bad volunteering gig, Damian!

We returned home tired, with plenty of stories, some sore muscles and, for quite a few students, a serious case of the ski bug.

Until next year!

Kat Thompson & Lauren Lee
Learning Culture Leader Yrs 11-12 & Teacher



OAKBANK SCHOOL

School & Community Information



Join us!

Come and play for the Piranhas Basketball Club this upcoming Summer Season.
All ages welcome!

Games are played at St Francis De Sales Sports Centre in Mt. Barker,
Junior training is held at Heathfield on Sunday afternoon.

The Eastern Hills Basketball Association Summer Season runs throughout
Term 4 2026 and Term 1 2027.

Enquiries: onkapiranhas@gmail.com

HILLS LITTLE ATHLETICS



POWER UP!

PRE-SEASON ATHLETE WORKSHOP



PRESENTED BY AN ACCREDITED
SPORTS DIETITIAN & PHYSIOTHERAPIST.



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Anyone interested in
running, jumping or throwing



YOUNG
ATHLETES



PARENTS



COACHES

NUTRITION

- Eating before, during & after sport
- Recognise underfueling in young athletes

PHYSIO

- Common injury areas: what they are & what to watch for
- Fun and easy exercises to help improve performance



proactive



6-7PM
TUESDAY
22ND SEPT



STIRLING EAST
PRIMARY SCHOOL



SCAN ME!
REGISTER FOR THIS
FREE EVENT
VIA EVENTBRITE

FUEL WELL.
STAY STRONG.
CHASE THOSE PBs!



Join Woolworths Cricket Blast

Designed specifically for kids, our weekly 60-90 minute sessions are filled with game-based activities that get kids moving and having fun!

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Wednesday's 4:30 - 5:30pm

8 Sessions

Balhannah Oval

Starts - 21st October 2026



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HILLS LITTLE ATHLETICS

2026/27 SEASON



Little
Athletics
SA



SUMMER SEASON

October – March
Sundays 9am



HEATHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL OVAL

Hender Rd Entrance



AGE 3–17

Girls & boys welcome



COME 'N' TRY!

IT'S FREE!



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REGISTER FOR FREE

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New easier username!

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“

Password not working?

You can now reset it with only your email address!

”



OAKBANK
SCHOOL

Meet the new



Daymap Companion

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

Sign in by searching for "Oakbank School" and signing in with the email address registered with the school and password.

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