



# BORDERTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLINK

Be honest - Practise bravery - Show kindness

ISSUE 1 | 13 February  
2026

## IMPORTANT DATES

R-4 School Swimming  
Mon 9th - Wed 18th Feb

Sapsasa Softball Trial 2  
Mon 16<sup>th</sup> February

Governing Council AGM  
Wednesday 18th February

Sapsasa Swimming Trials  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb

Year 5/6 Camp  
Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> - Fri 6<sup>th</sup> March

**Adelaide Cup Public Holiday**  
**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

**Student Free Day**  
**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

**Naplan**  
Wed 11<sup>th</sup> March - Fri 20<sup>th</sup> March

Sapsasa Mountain Biking - Come & try  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Sapsasa Swimming Carnival  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

10 South Terrace  
Bordertown SA 5268  
8752 1888  
dl.0733.info@schools.sa.edu.au  
www.bordertownps.sa.edu.au



### A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is with great pleasure that I welcome our staff, students, and families to the 2026 school year. I have enjoyed hearing students share their holiday experiences and adventures, which has been a wonderful way to start the term. This year, we are pleased to welcome several new staff members to our school community. Melissa Butler has joined our front office team, and Kiera McCarron is teaching the Year 4/5 class. Teagan Thorpe is working alongside Megan Taylor and Angela Deans in the Year 3/4 class, while Skye Braisby is teaching with Zoe Maney in one of our Reception classes. We are delighted to have these talented professionals join us and look forward to the valuable contributions they will make to our school.

We are pleased to have had a smooth beginning to the year, with both staff and students actively participating in our revamped Good Start program.



25km/h past a stationary school bus - this  
applies to all traffic in both directions

## FROM PAGE ONE...

This program focuses on building positive relationships, emotional literacy and establishing routines aligned with our Behaviour Matrix. Additionally, we have introduced new programs, including the Zones of Regulation and Auslan language lessons, which further support our students' development and wellbeing.

It was wonderful to see many of our parents attend our Acquaintance night where parents and staff could meet in an informal way. Thank you to our Governing Council members for running the Sausage Sizzle.

Congratulations to our Kids' Voice executive members, Elise, Libby, and Connor, as well as our newly appointed House Captains. As the student leaders of our school, I look forward to working with you all throughout the year. Your leadership and commitment are greatly valued, and I am confident you will make a positive impact on our school community.

This is a timely reminder regarding student safety. Students are not to be on school grounds before 8:30am, as staff are not available to provide duty of care prior to this time. Additionally, please remember that the speed limit in the school crossing area is 25 km/h. We ask all families and carers to be especially vigilant during drop-off and pick-up times, and to use the designated crossing to

ensure the safety of everyone arriving at and departing from school.

Our Governing Council AGM will be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 7pm in the school library. A letter and nomination forms have been emailed out to all families.

Kylie Staude

## VOLUNTEERING AT SCHOOL

If you would you like to accompany your child on an excursion, swimming lessons, attend camp, help with literacy and numeracy skills, engage in cooking with the class, breakfast club, share your culture, help in the library or be a member of Governing Council and sub-committees, then you must complete all of the following requirements:

1. **Attend a face-to-face Volunteer Induction Session at the school**
2. **Complete the Responding to Risk, Harm Abuse and Neglect (RRHAN-EC) On-line Training through Plink**
3. **Complete a Working with Children Check (WWCC)**
4. **Food Safety Handling Course (only required when your role involves food handling or preparation)**

Please contact the front office for more information or if you would like to begin the volunteer process.

## Help wanted!

Our End of Year Art Showcase will be held on **Thursday 15 October (Week 1, Term 4).**

In preparation for this event, there is always a lot of cutting, gluing, and mounting of student artwork. If you are able to help, your support would be greatly appreciated.

Volunteers are welcome to sign in at the front office and then come along to the art room from 3:00pm on Fridays in Weeks 3, 6, and 9 during Terms 1, 2, and 3.

We also ask that you please ensure your child has an art smock or old shirt to wear during art lessons.



# Bordertown Primary School Staff 2026

## TEACHERS AND LEADERS

Kylie STAUDE Principal  
Kerri FOULDS Assistant Principal, Autism, Wellbeing

Skye BRAISBY Reception  
Tracey HILLIER Reception  
Zoe MANEY Reception  
Matilda MCCARTHY Reception (Term 3&4)  
Caitlin SIGSTON Year 1/2  
Isabelle SNEATH Year 1/2  
Pam STEER Year 1/2  
Jodie WEGENER Year 1/2  
Angela DEANS Year 3/4  
Andrea POOLE Year 3/4  
Megan TAYLOR Year 3/4  
Teagan THORPE Year 3/4  
Kiera MCCARRON Year 4/5  
Shane COLLINS Year 5/6  
Tara RATTUS Year 5/6

Nicole BLACKWELL Science specialist  
Jodie DEVITT Music/Drama/Choir/Science specialist  
Emma HARKNESS Visual Arts specialist, Wellbeing  
Josh SEARLE Science/PE/Ag specialist

## SSO'S

Melissa BUTLER Front Office  
Courtney CARPENTER  
Iris CORNWELL  
Izzie DAMIN Front Office  
Jayne DAY  
Jenny DUNGEY Business Manager  
Chantelle FROMM Front Office  
Isi HEDGES  
Ashlyn KNAUERHASE  
De KUPKE  
Amy LAWSON  
Kelcie LEPLEY  
Mary-Jane McCARTHY  
Abby OBST  
Emma ORROCK  
Chris PEPPER Grounds  
Jaime-Lee RIGNEY  
Maddie RODERT  
Lisa ROWETT  
Laura WIESE

## PASTORAL CARE WORKER

Chelsea MARCH

Welcome

Kiera  
Melissa  
Skye  
Teagan



# 2026 Kids' Voice Representatives



**Executives:**

**Libbi - Secretary,  
Elise - Chairperson,  
Connor- Treasurer,**

1-2 Sneath Marley & George	3-4 Taylor/Thorpe Anna & Charlie	4-5 McCarron Kenzie & Elijah
1-2 Sigston Gurteswar & Brooke	3-4 Deans/Thorpe Jayden & Maisie	5-6 Collins Harry & Michaile
1-2 Wegener/Steer Bodie & Tessa	3-4 Poole Henry & Sadie	5-6 Rattus Max & Lucy

## 2026 House Captains



**BINNIE**

**Lachy & Charlotte**



**MCLEOD**

**Joey & Harper**



**MILNE**

**Jacob & Peyton**



**SCOTT**

**Patrick & Jaya**

# school swimming



## FROM OUR PASTORAL CARE WORKER

Welcome to the 2026 school year. What a joy it has been reconnecting with students and hearing all about their holidays. I'm sure these kids grow and grow and grow over the holidays!

Returning to school can create anxiousness for some of our children. Entering in the unknown and getting ready to experience new things! The note below is addressed to parents of Year 5 and 6 students as they prepare for camp in a couple of weeks, but I hope that even those who aren't off to camp may find a couple of key messages in it too!

Dear Year 5/6 Parents,

With camp just around the corner, perhaps you or your child are starting to feel a little anxious. Rest assured, that's perfectly normal! For some students, this may be their first time away from home, or their first extended period away from home. For others, they may have spent considerable time away from home, yet the thought of camp still brings feelings of nervousness.

These feelings of anxiousness can actually be a good thing (believe it or not!). It means the protective mechanisms in our bodies (especially in our brains) are doing exactly what they are supposed to; they are alert and aware to new things, things that our bodies may perceive as a danger or a threat.

However, what our brain is not so good at is differentiating between what is 'scary bad' and what is 'scary good'. Somethings are scary bad, like when we are in physical danger. This is when those protective mechanisms in our body take over our rational thinking and just do things for us...like run, or scream, or sweat. This is good, this is exactly what they are designed to do when something is 'scary bad'! However, sometimes, things can be scary but can also be perfectly safe. Like, trying something new for the first time (maybe a sleep over at a friend's, trying a new food, talking in front of a large crowd). We might be nervous, have sweaty palms, butterflies in our stomachs, headaches even too, but we are safe. Our brain just can't recognise that we are safe!

There are things we can do to help remind our brain that we are safe and regain some control. So, for some children, these few tips and pointers may be helpful in the coming weeks to help settle those nerves:

- 1) Talk positively about what they are going to experience. Don't dwell on the 'what if's' or 'maybes'.***
- 2) Encourage a positive relationship between your child and their teacher. We all feel better knowing we are in the company of a safe person and the transition away from you will be easier if your child has a positive relationship with their teacher.***
- 3) Practise some mindful breathing. Mindful breathing is only successful in an anxious moment if we practise it when we are calm.***

4) Practise saying goodbye and what that might look and feel like on the morning of camp.

5) Encourage bravery. We often talk about 'putting brave in front'. Acknowledge the hard, tricky feelings, and we can still have those with brave being in front of them too.

Your child 'feeling safe' in a 'scary safe' situation like camp is a top priority for your child's teacher and the Wellbeing team. We are here to support your child, have the best fun with them and create life long beautiful memories! Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself if you have any questions.

kindest regards  
Chelsea March

## Seasons for Growth

Learning to live with change and loss.

Seasons for Growth is an education program that gently helps children and young people who have experienced change and loss learn about the grief process. This grief and loss experience could include family separation; loss or death of someone they care about; loss of a pet; relocation and forced migration; living away in out of home care.

The program runs over 8 small group sessions and explores themes such as:

- Life is like the seasons
- Change is part of life
  - Valuing my story
- Caring for my feelings
- Making good choices

The sessions incorporate a range of age-appropriate activities involving drawing, stories, discussion, music and journal activities. All sessions are flexible to cater for participants with different learning needs, skills and attitudes to understand and respond well to experiences of change, loss and grief.

We are offering the opportunity for students to participate in Seasons For Growth during 2026. If you feel your child would benefit from being involved, please speak with PCW Chelsea March or email [chelsea.march230@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:chelsea.march230@schools.sa.edu.au)





# Dolly's Dream

## About Dolly's Dream

Dolly's Dream was created by Kate and Tick Everett following the shattering loss of their 14-year-old daughter, Dolly, to suicide, after ongoing bullying. Kate and Tick's goal is to prevent other families walking this road. They want to change the culture of bullying by addressing the impact of bullying, anxiety, depression and youth suicide, through education and direct support to young people and families.

## Dolly's Dream workshops

The workshops are designed for all ages in primary and secondary, our sessions explore the 4 key themes digital safety, bullying, kindness and self-worth. Tailored to each group, they encourage honest conversations and personal reflection, ensuring engaging and meaningful learning experiences.



In week 2 all students were engaged in the kindness workshop. After the workshop the students showed an understanding that kindness has a significant positive impact on everyone's mental health and recognised that kindness helps to break the cycle of negative behaviour and promote positivity.



## Supporting Parents

**Dolly's Dream presenters also offered a parent workshop which focused on children and the internet. As internet usage is at an all-time high, we need to know how to protect our children from the various online risks. By understanding the effects of bullying, we can create a safe environment that encourages empathy and respect, helping kids feel supported and valued.**

*I attended the Dolly's Dream parent workshop and learnt quite a lot. Amy from Dolly's Dream delivered the workshop in a very relatable manner, and for all aspects of your kids' development which was great for our family with children in junior and senior school. The most valuable information from the session was where to find help and where to gain information about online games etc and how to set personal settings to keep our kids safe. Great session and I really recommend to come along.*

Emily



*I really enjoyed the workshop. It had lots of helpful information on how to speak with children in an age appropriate way about bullying and the importance of being kind to others. It was definitely an eye opener and a fantastic resource for us as parents to help to keep our children safe.*

Krystal



# APPLYING FOR A SCHOOL CARD



All types of School Card applications are now online.

You can access the online forms from any device that gets internet, including mobile devices, such as tablets and smart phones, as well as laptops and computers.

Applying online is easy! Simply follow the steps below.

- STEP 1 Visit [sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard](http://sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard)
- STEP 2 Select the type of School Card you would like to apply for (for example 'Type A') and follow the prompts. Complete all mandatory fields.
- STEP 3 *Please note: you cannot submit your application unless all mandatory fields are complete.*
- STEP 4 Once you have completed a page click on the 'NEXT' button.
- STEP 5 Once you have filled out all pages click the 'SUBMIT' button. *Please note: if you exit the form without clicking 'SUBMIT' your details will be lost.*

You can save the form, and return to complete it at another time, by clicking on the 'SAVE' button.



# Join our Laps for Life team



Take the plunge to save lives!

**This March, we're diving in to raise funds for youth mental health. And we need you on our team!**

Signing up is quick, easy and free. Here's how it works:

- 1 **Sign up**  
Head to [lapsforlife.com.au](http://lapsforlife.com.au) or scan this QR code and select our team.
- 2 **Set your swim goal.**  
Swim 2km or 2km (or a distance of your choice) throughout March.
- 3 **Raise funds for ReachOut.**  
You'll get your own fundraising page and join our workplace team. And the donations you receive will help fund life-saving support for young people facing mental health challenges.
- 4 **Enjoy**  
You'll feel fitter with every lap and get the mental health benefits too.



**Why your laps matter this March**

- 1 in 3 young people in Australia are currently experiencing a mental health difficulty
- Over 1,000,000 won't seek professional support



Join our Laps for Life team today and help raise funds for youth mental health.



**Why ReachOut?**

ReachOut is the leading online mental health service in Australia supporting young people and their families when life doesn't go as planned. More than 50% of young people turn to the internet for help when going through a tough time, and ReachOut provides a free, safe and anonymous online space to get support.

**One lap at a time, you'll raise critical funds to support youth mental health.** Your fundraising for ReachOut will help provide one-to-one peer support and life-saving resources.



Laps for Life | REACHOUT  
Laps for life Bordertown team

## SIES

Inclusive Teaching & Learning

Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

### SAVE THE DATES 2026 SIES REGIONAL CONNECT!

TERM 1, WEEK 5, 2026: THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
 TERM 2, WEEK 5, 2026: THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
 TERM 3, WEEK 5, 2026: THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST  
 TERM 4, WEEK 5, 2026: THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

Join us via Microsoft Teams for The Statewide Inclusive Education Services (SIES) termly Regional Connect information sessions

If you're a **parent, carer or educator** of a student with disability or difficulty at a DfE School, you are invited to these sessions where SIES staff will be available to discuss resources and supports.

**More information to follow regarding subjects, times and registrations.**

Next one Thur 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026

TIME TO BE CONFIRMED

Registrations to follow

8235 2871

[sies.admin@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:sies.admin@schools.sa.edu.au)

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

LEARNING LIFE THROUGH SPORT

# LEARNING LIFE THROUGH SPORT

WITH CREATOR  
**ROD CAMPBELL** AFSM

“Designed to challenge social norms and inspire young people and their communities to bring a new standard of behaviour and respect to sport and life.”

**TUESDAY, MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>**  
**6:30pm**  
**NARACOORTE HIGH SCHOOL**  
**WILLIAMSON HALL**

This free, all-sport seminar will leave you feeling inspired!

Connected and Active Communities

Limestone Coast

This presentation has generously been funded by a Connected and Active Communities Grant

## PLEASE UPDATE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WITH THE FRONT OFFICE IF ANYTHING HAS CHANGED

HOME/RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

MOBILE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

FAMILY INFORMATION

# Term 1 Timeline 2026

Wk	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
1	26 Jan	27 Jan	28 Jan	29 Jan	30 Jan	31 Jan	1 Feb
	Australia Day Public Holiday				Buddies		
2	2 Feb	3 Feb	4 Feb	5 Feb	6 Feb	7 Feb	8 Feb
		Dolly's Dream	Dolly's Dream				
3	9 Feb	10 Feb	11 Feb	12 Feb	13 Feb	14 Feb	15 Feb
	Sapsasa Softball Trial 1 R-4 School Swimming				Assembly Newslink		
4	16 Feb	17 Feb	18 Feb	19 Feb	20 Feb	21 Feb	22 Feb
	Sapsasa Softball Trial 2 R-4 School Swimming		Governing Council AGM		Buddies		
5	23 Feb	24 Feb	25 Feb	26 Feb	27 Feb	28 Feb	1 Mar
	Sapsasa Swimming Trial						
6	2 Mar	3 Mar	4 Mar	5 Mar	6 Mar	7 Mar	8 Mar
		Year 5/6 Camp			Assembly Newslink		
7	9 Mar	10 Mar	11 Mar	12 Mar	13 Mar	14 Mar	15 Mar
	Adelaide Cup Public Holiday	Student Free Day	Naplan		Buddies		
8	16 Mar	17 Mar	18 Mar	19 Mar	20 Mar	21 Mar	22 Mar
	Naplan						Mountain Biking - Come & Try
9	23 Mar	24 Mar	25 Mar	26 Mar	27 Mar	28 Mar	29 Mar
	Sapsasa Swimming Carnival Naplan		Sapsasa Softball Carnival		Assembly Newslink		Mountain Biking - Time Trials
10	30 Mar	31 Mar	1 Apr	2 Apr	3 Apr	4 Apr	5 Apr
	Parent/Teacher Interviews		Boys Sapsasa Football Trial 1		Good Friday		
11	6 Apr	7 Apr	8 Apr	9 Apr	10 Apr	11 Apr	12 Apr
	Easter Monday		Boys Sapsasa Football Trial 2		Last day of term Early Dismissal 2:25pm		Mountain Biking - Training