



From the Principal

My first term at Blackwood High School (BHS) has certainly been enjoyable, with a somewhat hectic learning curve in terms of the array of engaging learning experiences that we provide our students. Full credit to the team of staff and students who coordinated and/or participated in the 2023 Sports Day, making it such a successful and positive experience. Unfortunately, my run in the staff baton relay was not so successful, despite my nimble running style! Equally, other activities such as Year 8 and Outdoor Education camps, the Year 12 formal, the State International Students Welcome Day, the Specialist Netball and Football trials and many other events have all been professionally planned and attended during term 1.

Visiting classes across the site each day I have found the quality of our teaching and the levels of student engagement very impressive. Teachers are willing to explore new pedagogical theories and teaching strategies that have been the subject of significant professional development this year. Students are generally respectful and enthusiastic about their learning and seem to have a strong sense of belonging and connectedness with Blackwood High School.

Meeting with my secondary colleagues from Unley HS, Seaview HS, Springbank, Urrbrae HS and Hamilton Secondary College, the issue of mobile phone bans and vaping are topical and the responses vary dramatically. Having the Yondr pouches processes implemented in 2022 has placed BHS at a significant advantage with Seaview following this year with great success. I feel strongly that the pouches support the re-habitation of student behaviour while allowing them possession of their most treasured item. It also makes bus duty a very quiet part of the day!

With regard to the endemic nature of vaping, all schools are developing ways to address it, being mindful that, while it is practiced by a minority of offenders, it can impact on others.

As you would be aware, we have developed a range of strategies in an attempt to tackle this concerning habit and will also continue to educate students

about the obvious health risks. We are mindful that the time-consuming nature of this work including emails to parents and leaders yard duty at the toilets is not sustainable, therefore we are exploring ways of streamlining the processes. We do appreciate your support with this and can provide further educational materials/links should you require.

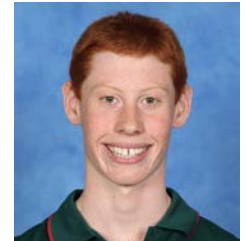
On the subject of correcting inappropriate behaviour, I would like to reiterate that BHS staff are committed to positively guiding students to take responsibility for their choices. We expect young people to make errors of judgement as they learn and develop into young citizens and a crucial element to this is 'owning' their behaviour and committing to working within the school/department's expectations. A pivotal element to this is staff consistency of message, response and support for our young people. In the coming months and years, we will continue to develop staff capacity with restorative practices and positive behaviour for learning to ensure that we maximise student success. It's great that, with the opening of the BHS Challenge Course, we have finally removed all of the temporary fencing. The course has been highly popular over the past two weeks with the Year 8A class being the first group to use it during lesson time (as a small trade-off for missing out on the camp, due to a COVID outbreak). Since then, students of all year levels have been challenging themselves and others in a climate of fun and cooperation. The view from the top is also pretty reasonable!

Chris Brandwood, Principal



Blackwood High School High Achievers

- Congratulations to Hugh Cayzer in Year 8, who competed in the Myponga Loop short course trail run on 12 March 2023 and finished 3rd overall out of 263 runners in a time of 29:59.50.
- Congratulations to Leani Van Der Berg in Year 11, who will compete in the Cycling National Championships in Brisbane from 11 - 14 April 2023.
- Congratulations to Flynn Stephenson in Year 11 who competed at the SA State Age Swimming Championships from 9 - 13 March 2023 and won a silver medal in Freestyle.
- Congratulations to Corben Powell in Year 11 who competed at the SA State Age Swimming Championships from 9 - 13 March 2023 and won a Gold medal in 800m Freestyle, 200m Freestyle and 200m Individual Medley, a Silver medal in 1500m Freestyle and a Bronze medal in 200m Butterfly and 400m Freestyle.



Do you have an exceptional achievement? We would love to know. Email susan.carrail483@schools.sa.edu.au with information.



Learning Cultures

International Visit by Academics from Dortmund University, Germany

During week 7, Blackwood High School's teachers and student leadership Learning Cultures student leaders received positive feedback on our teaching and learning approaches from international visitors. Our teachers have completed teaching sprints this term developing their pedagogical practice in areas that are known to have a high impact on student learning so it is excellent to have academics acknowledge the value of this work. Professor Mike Lawson from Flinders University has sent us the following note on the visit. Lachlan McFarlane (Leader, Innovative Pedagogy).

Bernadette van Berk and Antonia Fischer visited Blackwood High School on Tuesday. Bernadette and Antonia are PhD students in the final stages of their PhD research at TU Dortmund University in Germany. Their supervisor at Dortmund is Professor Charlotte Dignath who has been a member of the research group carrying out the Flinders University "Teaching How to Learn" research project in which teachers at Blackwood have been involved since 2020. This research focusses on explicit promotion of strategies for the self-regulation of learning in school students. Bernadette and Antonia reported that they were very impressed by the discussions with teachers and students showing the uptake of key ideas in this area of educational ideas.

Mike Lawson, Flinders University School of Education



Student Learning Progress Conversations

2023 Term 1 Report Distribution and Learning Progress Conversations

Wednesday 5 April 2023: Report Distribution

Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 April 2023: Student Learning Progress Conversations

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you back to face-to-face meetings with teachers for the 2023 Student Learning Progress Conversations. This year we look forward to hosting you in our Creativity Centre as you and your child meet with teachers to discuss their engagement and growth, celebrating successes in their learning.

Conversations will take place on the afternoons of **Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 April**. We encourage all families to book in at their earliest convenience and have a conversation with their child(ren) about what may be useful topics for conversation with the teacher; approaches to learning, achievement, improvement goals, study habits, classroom behaviours, etc. Booking details will be emailed to families.

On both 12 and 13 April students will have Lessons 1 to 4 as normal. They will be dismissed at the end of Lesson 4 which finishes at 12:50pm in order to accommodate Learning Progress Conversations. More detailed information regarding procedures for booking in and end of day arrangements will be emailed home to all families. I ask that you read this information carefully and respond as necessary so that we can ensure our conversations run as efficiently as possible.

Jason Loke, Deputy Principal

School TV

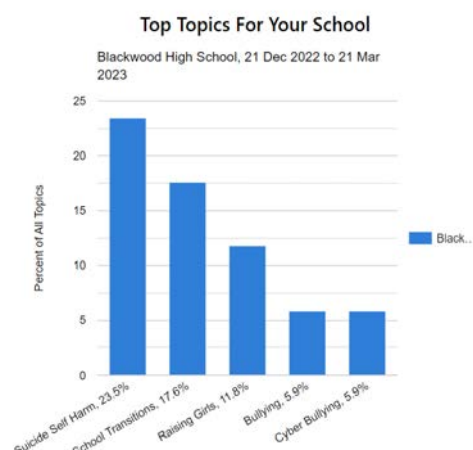
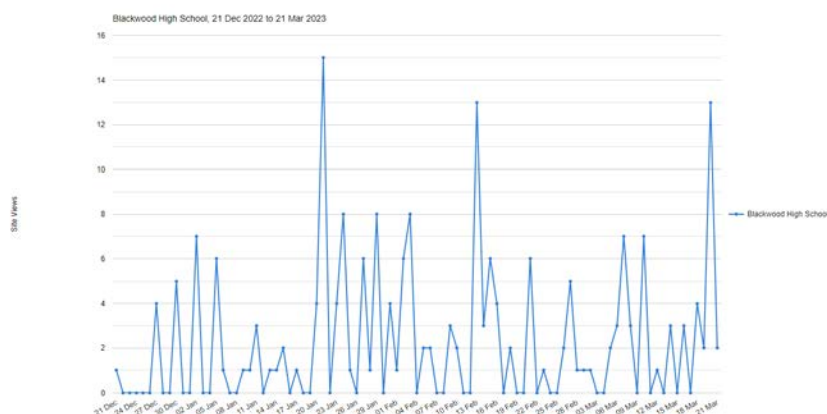
School TV continues to be very popular and well used with our families and students of Blackwood High School.

Not surprisingly, many of our families have been investigating the information around school transition. At the same time, many of our young people have been accessing appropriate and reliable information about suicide to assist them in their studies. It is interesting to note our Top 2 areas are the same as the national Top 2. Bullying and Cyberbullying also feature in the Top 5 for the nation.

This month's special report is about Harmony Week and the fact we are one of the most multicultural countries in the world.

Harmony Week is celebrated annually during March to highlight our diverse cultures and help us better understand each other's experiences and backgrounds. This Special Report highlights the importance of celebrating our diversity and having an understanding of multiculturalism.

Sue Richards, Assistant Principal Middle School



Middle School update

Year 8 Ninja Challenge Course class report

Noah

I think that the Ninja course was fun, cool and challenging. I enjoyed the swinging obstacle. I didn't enjoy the monkey bars. It is pretty hard to complete. I will most likely use the Ninja course. It caters for everyone because it is the right difficulty for everybody.

Liam

On Thursday a couple of weeks ago 8A got to experience the newly built Ninja challenge course outside the Creativity Centre. There were a variety of different parts that were fun like monkey bars, swinging parts and even a climbing wall. The course was really good with plenty of challenging obstacles to try out. Although the aim of what to do for a couple of them was unclear it was still fun to do.

Estella

My class 8A was the first class to use the Ninja challenge course and we really enjoyed it. We first tested out all the equipment. Then we lined up and did an obstacle course. We then played rock paper scissors and Team 2 won. The course had monkey bars and different climbing equipment.

Elian

It was fun we did lots of hanging. It was a lot of fun to try to go fast.

Emily

Because 8A was not able to go to camp we were granted the opportunity to test the Ninja course before anyone else. While we were doing the course I had an exciting and fun time that was filled with the challenge that the course provided. My personal favourite parts of the course were the rock-climbing course because it made me use my arms and upper body strength to pull myself over and the monkey bars because I was able to find many ways to complete that part and I could sit on top of it with my friends. I think it caters to everyone because there are a range of different activities that require different skill levels.

Fletcher

I quite enjoyed my time on the Ninja challenge course. Normally at recess and lunch all you can do is talk with your friends, so something else to do is a breath of fresh air. However, there will always be queues to go on the obstacles, which can make doing a full run of the course pretty hard. The difficulty was really inconsistent. Some parts were really easy whilst some were very difficult.

Josh

My class 8A was the first class to go on the Ninja challenge course and it was fun. We lined up for the time trials to see who was the quickest person in the class. This was Jayce, and he took three minutes and about 40 seconds. I liked the Ninja challenge course, and my class liked it too. We had pizza, cupcakes as well as cookies.

Brodie Crolla

The Ninja challenge course is a good addition to Blackwood High. It is a good place to go to challenge yourself and test your ability, balance, upper body strength, speed, and co-ordination. It's also very fun and is a great place to go at recess and lunchtime. It's great because it gives our school a good unique feature. In my opinion I think it's great and fun and everyone should all have a good go at it, although some features of the obstacle course are a bit ridiculous and could have been made better. Other than that, it looks nice, and I personally enjoyed it.

Sienna

The Ninja challenge course has just been finished and it's trendy. It has a start and finish and it's basically like an easier American ninja warrior. It's fun to hang out on the net and relax on it. But some of the courses on the challenge course are hard to go on when you are short in stature. One of the courses is designed mostly for taller people and it's a bit annoying if you are short and want to go on it. Overall, it's a nice place to just hang out with your friends but in the future, I think that they should make some of the challenges a bit easier or more accessible.

Middle School Update Cont.

Jayce, Kennedy, and Lincoln

At first, we thought it looked alright and something that we would not go on a lot but once we went on it, it was a blast. Most of the course was tricky and really pushed our bodies to the LIMITS. We all thought it was great fun. There was one obstacle that was tricky and that was the thing you had to jump up and swing to build momentum to then leap and land on a green platform which was hard. We each went around the course trying to get the best time we could, with Jayce recording the fastest in 2min 40 sec, completing the entire course properly. After that we all sat down together had a chat and to finish it off we had some yummy pepperoni pizza and cupcakes. What a great day!!!

Darby Knight, Care Group Teacher 8A



This term in HASS, the Year 7 students have been learning about the Ancient Past. We recently researched an ancient civilisation of our choice and shared this with our classmates. This task gave us the opportunity to develop our research and ICT skills and we're becoming more confident using our devices. We chose to explore the Inca civilisation and learned all about their government, religion, geography and achievements. We really enjoyed working with a partner for this task as it gave many of us the opportunity to get to know someone new. We presented to a small group which was much less nerve-racking than presenting to the whole class! We felt a bit like the teacher, as we peer-assessed each other's work. We gave feedback about what the presenters did well on and what they could improve on for next time. We're now looking forward to moving onto a unit about Ancient Egypt.

Lexi and Lila - Care Group 7E



Senior School Update

Blackwood High School’s class of 2023 had their formal on Friday 10 March (week six). Students and Staff arrived at the Hilton in style. Staff lined the front steps cheering as the students walked through the front door. The night commenced with a dancing and butchering the lyrics to Mr. Brightside by the Killers. The Hilton provided beautiful food and beverages for those attending and was one of the many highlights of the night along with the awards: there were awards that were voted on by students such as most likely to go on Love Island and Worst Driver, the awards were then presented on stage in-front of those attending. However, the Best Dressed Award was graciously won by Dylan Boyce and Ebonee Adams. Both of their outfits were stunning. Formal King and Queen were won by Liam Southern and Monica Tolić. The staff were thrilled with the amount of respect and great behaviour demonstrated by the students. Special thank you to Susan Carrail and Matt Loan for organising the night and working out the logistics.

Liam Southern - Deputy Head Prefect



Student Leadership Report

Student Leadership

Welcome to 2023 and congratulations to the students who have nominated to be a part of the middle school student leadership group again. This term, students have already been proactively speaking at year level assemblies, welcoming new students and creating their very own Blackwood High School Acknowledgement of Country. Students and staff identified a need to personalise and recognise the Kurna lands at which we meet on here at Blackwood High School and we look forward to launching this video at our next student assembly.

“Middle school leadership has been a good experience so far for us and I am excited to see where it goes. Creating the Blackwood High School Acknowledgement of Country was a cool experience and was fun to create.” Chelsea and Phoenix

2023 MS Student Leaders:

Hugh Cayzer (8G)	Jake De luca (8H)
Sam Lawrence (9B)	Chelsea Taylor (9E)
Phoenix Borowski (9E)	Aden Mekawy (9E)
Alex Johns (9E)	Naomi Belton (9B)

Charlotte Twizell, Learning Community Leader



Dance News

SACE Show 2023

Each year Blackwood High School Performing Arts students have the opportunity to view live professional performances to further enhance their learning and inform their own practise. The year 10/11 Dance students attended a Festival performance performed by Australian Dance Theatre - "Tracker"; it featured extraordinary dancers supported on stage by live music accompaniment

In one of his first works as Artistic Director of ADT, Wiradjuri director-choreographer, Daniel Riley evokes the immensely powerful and personal story of his Great-Great Uncle, Alec "Tracker" Riley. Alec, a Wiradjuri Elder and tracker, served the New South Wales Police Force for 40 years, leading numerous high-profile cases.

Tracker takes inspiration from his legacy and examines the battles First Nations people have shared for generations.

Dance students inspired by viewing these performances are creating their own choreographic works that will be performed later this year as well as the opportunity to participate in a dance class with Australian dance theatre dancers to further develop a class work

Review writing is an important feature in the Arts curriculum, students will use these excursion experiences to complete their written tasks.

Katrina Constantopoulos, Leader The Arts



LEAPS AND BOUNDS –DANCE DAY FESTIVAL CENTRE.

The 10/11 dance students attended a full day of workshops and information sessions on dance at the Festival Centre. Students participated in a contemporary technique class with guest teachers, an Asian technique & choreographic workshop, as well as a contemporary composition class using imagery to inspire movement. Valuable information was presented by previous dance students and industry dancers, choreographers discussed future pathways and career options in the dance industry. Topics discussed included, how to succeed, choreographing your own dance work, preparing for performance, and working in the industry.

Class works will be further developed from this experience and performed later in the year.

Stunning performance Daniels Rileys Tracker left students amazed and in awe of the beauty and art of first nations story telling through dance-Chloe Brice

Daniel Rileys ADT dance work was both emotional and moving using dance to share stories of first nations people - Leila Sansome

Katrina Constantopoulos, Leader, The Arts



Tech News

Students from the Tech department have been involved in a multitude of exiting learning. Each year level are showing great skill and development within our department.

Year 11 and 12 Child Studies

Our first task this year saw our Year 11 and 12 Child Studies classes visiting Blackwood Primary School to help develop an understanding about how young children are capable learners. We engaged the students by being involved in range of educational games and reading books. The Year 11 and 12 students enjoyed this engagement.

The Year 12 students then set about creating dishes suitable for 5-year-old children to help make. There was a range of items on display and all students completed this task with many achieving excellent results. We are now exploring the emotional wellbeing of children and how natural disasters can impact children's emotions.

Year 10 Child Studies

This semester students have learnt what milestones and developmental stage are and how they assist in understating the growth and learning of young children. An instructional game and an age appropriate food dish have been created to suit their intended client. Our next task sees our students going to the local Kindy which they are looking forward to engaging with the children.

Year 11 and 12 Food and Hospitality

The Year 11 students have completed their first task and moved on the second. We have seen current trends explored and how Aboriginal foods are seen in current Australian cuisine. Students got to use Aboriginal ingredient themselves, including Kangaroo, lemon myrtle, wattle seeds and roasted salt bush leaves.

Our year 12 students first task saw them catering to Café style foods observing a dietary need. Their second, which they are currently working on, entailed using technology. Students developed their skills using a wide range of technology equipment, such as thermomixers, ice cream makers and sous vide.

Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 Food Tech

Year 7 have engaged in learning for safe kitchen practices understanding temperature and food storage. They have cooked well in the kitchens and have enjoyed they practical and design work, needed to form their creations.

Year 8 have seen a range of foods made. They are working on their last assessment where they are developing a wrap that could be sold at the zoo. Our elective students have been busy sewing this term. Their last task showcases their personalised hold all and when they are completed we will and show our designs.

Year 9 students have upskilled in cooking techniques, they have produced a client-based task and identified the nutrition required for them. Our current task allows students to look at multicultural based foods that Australia can see in everyday life.

In Year 10 Foods classes have been enjoying learning, mixing their own salads and understanding the requirement to create a dressing from scratch. They are currently working on a design unit developing skills using choux pastry and patisserie idea.

Toni Hughes, Leader Technologies



Languages Update

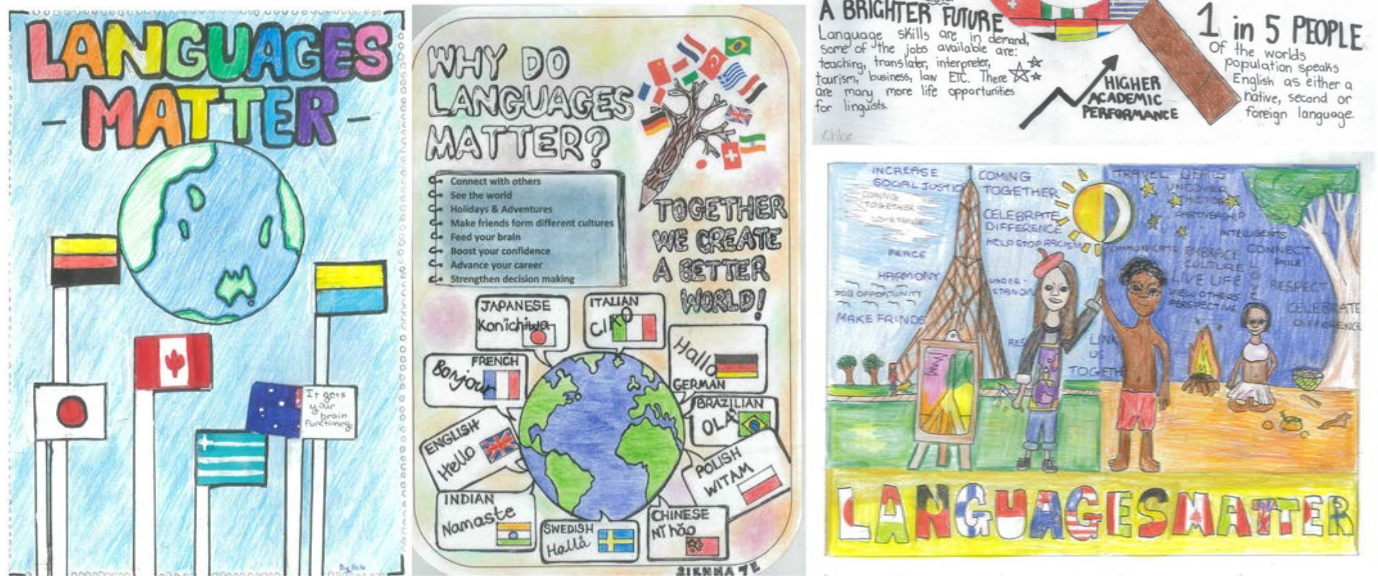
To begin our languages program at Blackwood High School, all year 7 students endeavoured to answer the question: why do languages matter?

In groups, students unpacked information, gathered quotes and shared their opinions. All students entered the Languages Matters competition to create a poster informing others on the benefits of language learning. Posters were judged by Blackwood High School staff on the categories of most informative and most creative. Congratulations to the winners.

Most creative: Sia Anderson, Sienna Varga

Most informative: Chloe Peachey, Sienna Halejko

Sarah Andrews, Leader Languages



This term we have welcomed 21 new short and long term international students into the Blackwood High School learning community. This brings our Term 1 International Enrolments to 32 students with home countries ranging from Germany, Vietnam and Iran to China, Japan and Cambodia. With help from their buddies, our international students have settled right into their new school routines, participating in Outdoor Education Excursions, Home economic classes, Athletics Carnival and preparations for the school musical. Together, the students have experienced strawberry picking, trying traditional Australian foods such as vegemite and bush tucker ice-cream and exploring Victor Harbor.

Thank you to all of the students, staff and host families at Blackwood High School who have supported our international students this term.

Sarah Andrews, Leader Languages



Sport Update

Knock Out Sport

The Year 10-12 girl's knockout Cricket team met Scotch in round 1. Scotch were a very strong team and won comfortably through to the next round.

Some highlights from the match – Hannah Groves made 14 runs including 2 boundaries. Matilda Sigley and Isabella Lawson took great catches and Chloe Grayson fielded well. Besides Amali Fox and Hannah Groves the team has little to no experience in playing cricket but it was still a fun afternoon.

The Year 9/10 Boys Knockout cricket team played Golden Grove High School in Round 1. Golden Grove High School won the toss and chose to bowl. Blackwood were shaky from the start and lost early wickets meaning the total was always going to be lower than planned. We were bowled out for 61. In reply Golden Grove High School made hard work of chasing down the total with wickets falling early but the low total to chase was always within sight with a comfortable win with 5 overs to spare.

Swimming Championships

On Friday 3 March Blackwood High School had 6 swimmers go to the SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre to compete in the School Sport SA Secondary Swimming individual championships. All swimmers represented the school in a positive manner and gave their all with some outstanding individual performances including.

Corben Powell 1st – 17-19 Boys 50m Butterfly 1st – 17-19 Boys 50m Breaststroke 2nd – 17-19 Boys 100m Freestyle 3rd – 17-19 Boys 50m Freestyle	Hugo Livingston 1st – 16 Boys 50m Breaststroke 2nd – 16 Boys 50m Backstroke 4th – 16 Boys 50m Freestyle	Taylor Christinat 4th – 16 Boys 50m Backstroke 4th – 16 Boys 50m Breaststroke 5th - 16 Boys 50m Butterfly 6th – 16 Boys 50m Freestyle
Flynn Stephenson 1st – 16 Boys 100m Freestyle 1st – 16 Boys 50m Butterfly 1st – 16 Boys 50m Freestyle 2nd – 16 Boys 50m Breaststroke 3rd – 16 Boys 50m Backstroke	Tahlia Powell 6th – 15 Girls 50m Butterfly 6th – 15 Girls 50m Backstroke 6th – 15 Girls 50m Breaststroke 8th – 15 Girls 100m Freestyle	Eliana Christinat 7th – 13 Girls 50m Backstroke 8th – 13 Girls 50m Butterfly 8th – 13 Girls 50m Freestyle

Tennis Championships

On Tuesday 7, Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 March Blackwood High School had 3 representatives at the School Sport SA Individual Tennis Championships. Congratulations to Alexandra, Lachlan and Hafliði for your strong performances. Results below

Alexandra Comitis – Quarter Final	Lachlan Geue – 2nd Round	Hafliði Finnsson – 2nd Round
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Cycling Championships

On Tuesday 14 February Blackwood High School had 4 competitors compete at the School Sport SA cycling championships. All 4 represented the school strongly with some awesome results across the board.

Jarrod Scutchings – 6th in A Grade	Nicholas Gray – 9th in A Grade
James How – 12th in A Grade	Taylor Christinat – 4th in C Grade

Zone Sport

The term 1 Zone sport season is in full swing with Blackwood entering 5 teams across Year 7/8 Girls Volleyball, Year 7/8 Boys Basketball and Year 9/10 Boys Basketball. Teams play each week on their designated night either at Blackwood or at other local High Schools. The aim of the zone sport season is more focused on participation and fun rather than results.

Current Ladder positions

Year 7/8 Girls Volleyball – 11th

Year 7/8 Boys Basketball Team 1 – 5th Division 1

Year 7/8 Boys Basketball Team 2 – 4th Division 2

Year 7/8 Boys Basketball Team 3 – 9th Division 2

Year 9/10 Boys Basketball – 4th



Justin Callahan, Sports Officer

Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge is a reading engagement program designed to encourage students to read more books, enjoy reading and improve literacy levels. Blackwood High School is again participating in the Challenge, and we have high hopes of surpassing last year's success.

The challenge is open to all year levels, with a focus on years 7-9 at Blackwood High School. It requires students to read 12 books (8 free choice and 4 off the PRC list) between the beginning of the school year and early September. Students in years 7-9 are given time in English class to read and are strongly encouraged to also read at home too.

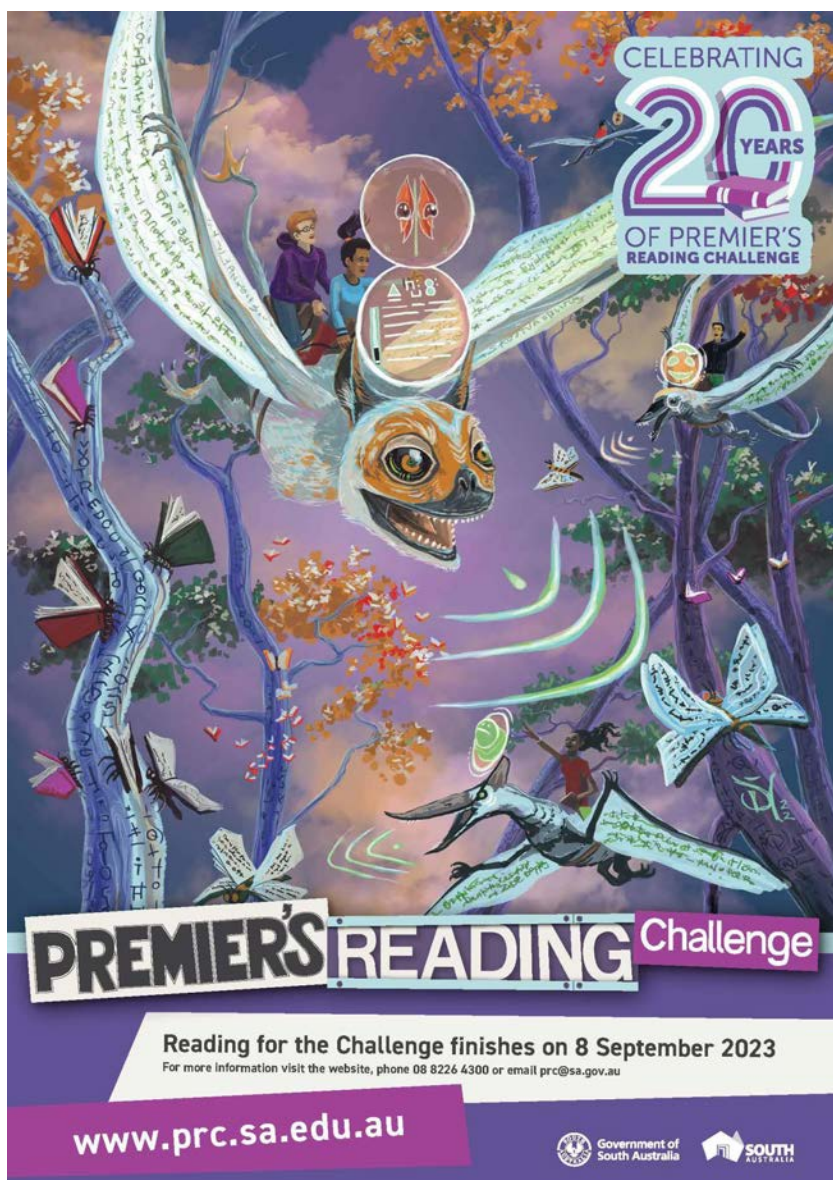
This year marks 20 years of the Premier's Reading Challenge. To celebrate the occasion, the PRC folk have created an extra challenge. Rather than reading only 12 books, keen students can opt to read 20 books and receive a 20th Anniversary certificate as well as their usual PRC award.

More than 200 BHS students in years 7-9 completed the PRC in 2022, the highest number of Blackwood High School finishers ever in its history. This achievement was recognised with an invitation last December to attend a reception with the Premier and Education Minister held at the Adelaide Zoo, where Noah Argent and Emily Jones accepted a certificate and selection of books on behalf of the school.

Please encourage your child/ren to take part in the challenge. Prizes will be awarded to the Care Group with the most books read, and the student who reads the most books on the PRC list.

If you have any questions regarding the PRC, please contact the school's Resource Centre or your child's English teacher.

Keira James Teacher-Librarian



Calendar Dates

Term 1

Friday 7 April
GOOD FRIDAY

Monday 10 April
EASTER MONDAY

Friday 14 April
Last Day of Term 1
2:10pm Dismissal

Term 2

Monday 1 May
First Day of Term 2

Friday 5 May
Principal's Tour 9am

Thursday 11 May to Friday 12 May
Year 10 Football Camp (Mallee)

Friday 12 May
Principal's Tour 9am

Monday 15 May to Wednesday 17 June
Year 10 World Outdoors Camp
(Bush Walking Mt Crawford)

Monday 15 May to Wednesday 17 June
Year 12 Outdoor Education Camp
(Kayaking - Chowilla)

Wednesday 24 May
Student Free Day

Thursday 25 May
Year 9 Dance/Drama Production Evening

Friday 26 May
Principal's Tour

School Contacts

Student Absences: bhsstudent.absence450@schools.sa.edu.au

Student Wellbeing Centre: 8278 0900 or see website for staff email contacts



T/A South Australian
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