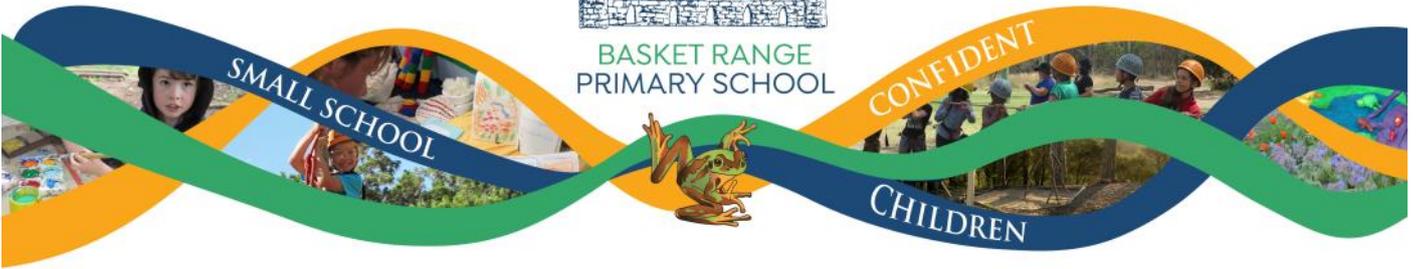




BASKET RANGE
PRIMARY SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER

Friday 24 February 2017 Term 1 Week 4

The first few weeks...

I want to introduce 2017 existing and new staff.



Lisa, Sara, Susan, and Bethany



our hardworking School Support Officers.

Sue and Sandy with our R-2 children in the Cherry Tree Rooms.



Claire and Nancy with the Yr 3-7 children in the Indigo Berries Room and the Gum Nut Room.



Room and the Gum Nut Room.

We also welcome our new

students and families to our dual stream community— The McIntee, Boland, Kutschbach, Taverna, Le's, Dempster and Gallagher Families.

The Afternoon program

The students are excited about applying their learning in the practical and fun afternoon programs.

They begin the week with Music and Chinese.



Amelia our Chinese teacher teaches Chinese in a creative and fun way.

Sunitra is our very talented music teacher. Students are learning songs, listening to beautifully played musical instruments and learning to play our outside musical instruments.

Throughout the week students are involved in interesting and creative afternoon sessions such as:

- ◆ Design Technology, which

includes soft and hard handcraft



- ◆ Arts



- ◆ Garden Science



- ◆ Health and Physical Education

I want to thank and congratulate the staff, students, parents and community for a great start to 2017.

*Nancy Saccoia
Principal*

News from the Cherry Tree Rooms ...



It has been a remarkably smooth start to the year. Words don't express the gratitude we feel toward all those who have helped make this possible. The children have entered into this beautiful new environment full of wonder and excitement and the look on their faces on the first day of term made all the hard work and effort worth while.

For the beginning of the school year we have been allowing the children time to become familiar with the routines, the layout of the rooms and what happens at each transition. The older children (Blossoms and Cherries) are playing an important role in helping the Cherry Bud children find their way as the days evolve and gently take form. It has been delightful watching the children happily learning, playing, cooking, exploring and creating and already there is a feeling of the children being settled as they happily engage in all aspects of the program. Busy and lovely days!

During semester one Reception children begin to develop and become familiar with daily and weekly routines and rhythms. Through creative play and guided activities the children extend their learning and build on the development of both fine and gross motor skills. The children further develop their language skills through involvement in circle time, stories and play. Numerical skills are developed through experimentation, cubby building, block play, craft, baking, circle time and stories. As they become more familiar with the rhythm of the days they also become more relaxed and independent needing less and less guidance or instruction and wanting to take on more responsibility for the care of one another and their beautiful environment.

The Main Lesson

The Main Lesson is a two-hour period each morning in which a subject is taught intensively for a period of 3-4 weeks. During this block, the whole subject is explored, allowing children to learn deeply.

Each morning, new information is presented using a variety of engaging and stimulating methods that relate to the children as individuals. Subjects presented in this way are a sensory journey through a world full of experiences, enlisting curiosity, excitement and a desire to know more. In this way, traditional subjects are entwined throughout the children's journey, as real live examples with meaning.





News from the Cherry Tree Rooms continued...

A series of Main Lesson subjects are presented over the course of a year. This allows each to be studied thoroughly and brought to life for each child. Whatever the subject, the challenge and skill for the class teacher is to present it in such a way that it lives and speaks to a child's experience.

Information and experiences are presented through a wide range of learning methods and disciplines, which are used to balance cognitive, aesthetic and experiential learning. This may include performance, painting and storytelling, alongside writing and drawing. This approach offers children a variety of styles in which they can understand and remember in a way that best suits them as an individual.

Each Main Lesson is carefully and rhythmically structured to ensure that the children listen, work independently, participate and think. Every piece of the journey and the environment and manner in which it is presented, has a purpose.

In our first Main Lesson, Form Drawing, we explore the archetypal shapes of the straight line and the curve and lay the foundation for drawing numbers and writing both upper and lower case letters. They listen to the story of 'Mirette on the high wire,' who is determined to achieve the most difficult task and perseveres until the great Bellini agrees to teach her the finer skills of the art. They learn rhythmic verses with actions to be performed in unison. They use their bodies to make the forms; they step them out, they draw on one another's backs, they paint them, they draw them in sand. We collect sticks to make a bow which, with a little tension, becomes a curve. We make a weaving frame; the sticks tied together at the corners to make the frame and the straight tense warp threads to carry the curved weft. The children point out all the curves and straight lines they observe in nature and excitedly tell me 'Sue, everything is a straight line or a curve, there is nothing that is not.' They prove to me they are right by describing a number or a letter using only the straight line or curve, which I must draw on the blackboard. Now we are ready to draw the forms; repeated patterns in which variance in height, space between and depth of shade must be observed and copied accurately.

The children's enthusiasm and interest grows and grows. They 'sing' the forms which are composed of five different lengths in varying pattern; the pentatonic scale. They draw their own repeated form and ask me to play their tune on the recorder. "When will we play the recorder?" they ask. "At exactly the right time," I reply.

Sandy Hobb and Sue Gleeson



News from the Gum Nut Room ...

The Year 3 and 4 students in the Gum Nut Room have had a wonderful start to the year. They have learned the routines and are eager to take on roles of responsibility as class monitors. In English and Maths students are challenging themselves and exploring new learning.

In English the children are focusing on reading expressively by taking note of punctuation in texts. It would be great if they could read every night Monday to Thursday aloud to someone. I would ask you to give them feedback on how they are reading, are they pausing at full stops and commas, are they raising their voice slightly when they read a question? Reading to themselves is beneficial but reading to others helps with expression and understanding.



Handwriting is another focus this term and the students are eager to learn and practice link script.

In Maths they have started their learning journey with the Back to Front Maths Program and as Claire has so expressively stated, *at times it is blowing their minds a little*. The students are exploring maths in a different way, they begin a topic with an investigations such as design a classroom and use their maths knowledge and understandings to complete the task. The teachers task is then to support their learning, address their misconceptions and explicitly teach what they don't know.



An important and favorite part of the morning program is the Yr.3 to 7 fitness session. This is a short 10 minute session, managed and organized by the students.

This is a snippet of what happens in the Gum Nut Room Monday to Thursday morning and I look forward to sharing the students learning with you.

Nancy Saccoia

2017 Governing Council ...

Thank you to everyone who attended the Governing Council Annual General Meeting on Wednesday this week. A copy of the BRPS Annual Report is on the school website and the Chairperson's Report is attached to the weekly email.

We wish to congratulate our new Councillors Mick Lorenz, Mark Parker, Nikaela Stephenson, Kirsty Keys, Marty Cramond, Nethica Adi and Catrin McIntee. As they did such fine work last year the Executive were voted into the same positions occupied in 2016—Mick Lorenz, Chairperson; Nikaela Stephenson, Treasurer and Mark Parker, Secretary.

We wish to also thank Oscar Winter who resigned from Council at the AGM and James Houston who resigned late last year, for their work. As well as being on Council, both these gentlemen have convened the Grounds Committee over the years and have generously provided their expertise giving many volunteer hours to the school. James in particular is thanked for building the Chicken Coop, making the benches and paving the eating area and upgrading the verandah on the Pink Room just to mention a few things. Oscar has been heavily involved in reinvigorating the grounds and garden beds and in the renovation makeover of the Cherry Tree Rooms.

Their dedication and commitment to the school is greatly appreciated.

The Governing Council recognises that the promotion of our dual stream school along with fundraising will be a very high priority in 2017 and encourage all parents to consider how they can assist. Further information will be sent home shortly as to how you can help.

News from the Indigo Berries Room ...

What a great start to the year so far, already we have gone from 13 students to 15 in just a matter of weeks - the class feels huge now! The children have been busy establishing new routines, getting to know all the children new to our class and organising their jobs. As usual time is flying and it's hard to believe we are at the end of week 4 already!

One of the things I want to see this year is the children taking more risks in their learning. I will be rewarding trying hard over getting it right and encouraging children to give things a go. One of the ways you can help me is that if (or when) your child comes home and says he/she got something 'wrong' today - don't say never mind - say 'awesome' or 'that's great!' I want them to get it wrong and to keep trying - children learn from getting it wrong, not from getting 10/10 every time. I will not be putting loads of ticks or crosses on their work - more saying 'you got one wrong - which one is it?' By allowing them to work it out rather than be told they were right or wrong ensures they have to think and correct their mistakes rather than just passively accept them. I am also asking the children to write in pen rather than pencil - I want to see their mistakes so I can see where the problems are rather than have them rub them out.



Our literacy hour routine is now well established with the children

and they are beginning to move from each activity smoothly without prompting. We have begun to explore the theme 'lost' through drama and the use of storyboards and will be writing a short story which the students will be able to submit into the Young Writers Club competition if they choose to do so. I will need parental permission to enter the children's work so more details to come! We have now completed our diagnostic testing for their spelling and reading and will be putting in place extra one to one support for those pupils who may need it.

We have begun working on the Back to Front Maths Program and although at times it is blowing their minds a little it seems to be working pretty well. As part of a maths investigation we have been exploring measurement and will be creating a cross country course ensuring it is the correct length and explores different terrain.

The children have been working hard in PE to create obstacle courses suitable for all the different ages and abilities in the school. Their plans will be put to the test with the younger students this week and then they will have an opportunity to adapt their plans before they use to obstacle courses for real!

Students have begun their initial planning and working through of ideas for their inquiry unit in Humanities. Each week they have been given a different question to explore in small groups. In week 5 they will then have some time to choose a question to base their inquiry project on. They will then be supported to work independently on the project and will have choices to make in how

they will best present their findings.

In digital technologies we have so far been focusing on the use of Word and will be exploring other programs and apps as the year goes on. All students have now been allocated an iPad so once the apps have been downloaded we can begin exploring the apps we have available to us. Please support your child to put the apps onto their iPads so we can begin to make use of them as soon as possible.

Thank you to all the parents who have sent in food for the Guinea pigs they are well loved by the children and the fresh food is always received well. If anyone would like to send in some old newspapers they would also be appreciated for the cage.

A huge thank you to Laren Taverna (Jai's Mum) for volunteering to be our class representative. If you were unable to attend Acquaintance Night please let me know if you would like your details assigned to our contact list for her to send out messages.



I am very much looking forward to working with all of your children this term.

Claire Gallagher

2017 Activities ...

We have a number of exciting special school and social activities planned for 2017 and we hope that many of our school community can be involved. Please put these dates in your diary now:

Monday 22 May	Dual Stream Opening Celebration
Sunday 2 July	Winter Fair
Monday 31 July – Friday 4 August	Visit to Mimili Community on the APY Lands (<i>proposed dates only</i>)
Saturday 21 October	Bush Dance

There will be lots more information available about these activities as we get closer to the dates. Please also consider how you can help assist in the organisation of the above. We will be calling for volunteers soon!



You are invited to our School Tour

Friday 17th March
9:30am-10:30am

Our school provides a progressive approach to learning offering supportive and exciting curriculum. Small class sizes, engaging teaching and strong community collaboration, in an idyllic setting, provides a living world in which our children play, learn and grow.

In 2017 we began our **dual stream** with two mainstream classes, and a Steiner class composed of Reception to Year 2. This class is taught by two Steiner teachers who work together to meet the developmental phases of both the Kindergarten and Primary programs.



16 Cramond Road, Basket Range SA

Bookings essential. Please ring 8390 3466.

www.facebook.com/basketrange
www.basketrangeps.sa.edu.au/

Upcoming Dates...

Monday 13 March
Adelaide Cup Public Holiday

Tuesday 14 March
Pupil Free Day

Friday 17 March
School Tour 9:30–10:30am *Bookings essential*

Thursday 23 March
Uraidla & Districts Kindy Visit and Activity Morning

Wednesday 5 April
School Tour Time to be advised *Bookings essential*

Wednesday 12 April
Exhibition Assembly

Thursday 13 April
Sports Day and End of Term 1

Friday 14 April
Good Friday



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Don't forget to check our page:
<https://www.facebook.com/basketrange>

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