

BWPS WEEKLY NEWS

BANKSTOWN WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

Messages from Mrs Benson:

RETIREMENT NEWS

It is always a sad time when we farewell teachers who have shown great service to public education and more importantly, care to our kids.

After long and illustrious careers, Mrs Magy Kotsaris and Mrs Marie Karagounis will be retiring at the end of this year.

Mrs Kotsaris and Mrs Karagounis are exceptional educators who have devoted their lives to nurturing young minds, inspiring curiosity and instilling a love of learning. Their commitment goes beyond the classroom; they have been mentors, friends and advocates for each child that has passed through their doors. They will be greatly missed.

To celebrate their years of dedication and commitment to the children and families of Bankstown West, we are holding a special assembly and community event on the afternoon of Tuesday, 17th December. More information will be forthcoming.

DATES FOR 2025

From 2025 there will be eight School Development Days across the year. **All children, including Kindergarten and Year 7 children, are expected to start at school on Thursday, 6th February, 2025.** Please note this is later than it has been in the past to allow teachers time to complete mandatory learning and prepare for the upcoming year.

COLOUR RUN + INFLATABLES DAY

Thank you to all those parents who have met and formed sub-committees to organise and co-ordinate the Colour Run and Inflatables Day. There are some wonderful things planned including Slime the Teacher and I am sure it will be a great fun day for all... except maybe the teacher being slimed.....Stay tuned for more details over the next few weeks.

TRANSITION INTO HIGH SCHOOL

Although it seems like a long way away, parents of Year 4 and Year 5 children now need to be considering high school options.

Just a reminder that high school enrolment forms (online preferred) will be expected to be completed at the end of term one, 2025 for current Year 5 students (Year 6-2025). This will come around very quickly and parents of Year 4 and Year 5 students now need to be considering high school options and placements.

High school orientation days are typically held early next year, and I encourage parents of both Year 5 and Year 6 children (2025) to be looking at school websites and planning to attend those evening orientation sessions. A parent information session will be conducted early next year with more information.

If you are unsure of your child's local high school, please type your address into the School Finder link: <https://schoolfinder.education.nsw.gov.au/>

CHANGES TO OC & SELECTIVE SCHOOL PROCESSES

The Department of Education is implementing changes to the application and placement process for both selective high schools (SHS) and opportunity classes (OC) to deliver benefits for schools, students, parents and carers. Parents may now apply at the end of Year 3 (for Opportunity Classes) and the end of year 5 (for Selective High Schools) for 2026 entry. This is a longer application period for parents and carers to apply. Importantly, outcomes will be released earlier.

This means that the application period for both OC and SHS is now the same and will run from 7 November 2024 to 21 February 2025. Due to the longer application period, late applications won't be accepted. The 2025 test dates are from 2 to 4 May 2025 for 2026 entry. Students will need to attend one test date only. Further information and the application link will be available from 7th November at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools>

SCHOOL CAMP - MR DIPPERT & MISS VUONG

Last week, 59 students from Years 3 - 6 went to our annual overnight camp at the Bathurst Goldfields. Students had a wonderful time learning exploring Bathurst and it's rich history, as well as gold panning, boomerang throwing and painting. We had a camp fire and a huge UNO tournament, which was eventually won by Zena (40). Thank you to Mr Fung and Miss Moran who also attended the camp. We look forward to doing it again next year at a new venue! Photos will be up on the school website soon, as we go through all the photos taken by teachers.

Super Stars of the week



Tanseeq



Safiyah



Super Stars of the week



Aisha



Laura

