



# Braeside Primary School

Issue 13 Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2026

*Embrace diversity, realise potential, aim for excellence.*

## From the Principal

### Breakfast Club

There is something special about starting the school day together. Each morning, our Breakfast Club provides students with an opportunity to enjoy something to eat, have a drink, chat with friends and staff, and begin their day in a calm and positive way.

Breakfast Club has quickly become a much-loved part of our morning routine, with students enjoying the opportunity to socialise, connect with others and start the day feeling settled and ready to learn when the bell rings.

While all students are welcome to enjoy Breakfast Club, its primary purpose is to support students who may not have had breakfast at home. We recognise that some of these students may arrive at school later in the morning. We always prepare extra food where possible, and when students arrive, we make sure they have the opportunity to come to the canteen with us and have something to eat.

These moments provide much more than breakfast. They give us a valuable opportunity to check in with students, have a conversation, see how they are going and make sure they head to class feeling cared for, connected and ready for the day ahead. A full tummy can make a big difference to a student's ability to focus, participate and learn.

We are also looking at how we can continue to improve Breakfast Club into 2027. Following discussions at our recent School Board and P&C meetings, we will be exploring healthier food options so that all students have the opportunity to access nutritious choices as part of their school morning.

A very special thank you goes to all of our wonderful Breakfast Club volunteers.

Your time, energy and willingness to give up part of your morning make Breakfast Club possible and contribute enormously to the welcoming start we are able to provide for our students. We greatly appreciate the care and community spirit you bring to our school.

Breakfast Club is a wonderful example of our school community coming together to support our students. We want every child to walk through our gates feeling welcome, connected and ready to make the most of their day.

### Policies

We are pleased to advise our school community that our Bullying Policy and Mobile Phone Policy have now been ratified by the Braeside Primary School Board and are available to view on our school website.

Policies provide a clear and consistent framework for how we respond to important issues across our school. They help ensure that students, staff and families understand our expectations and that matters are managed fairly, consistently and in the best interests of our students.

Our Bullying Policy outlines what bullying is, how we work to prevent it and how concerns are responded to when they arise. Our goal is to maintain a safe, respectful and inclusive environment where every student feels valued and supported.

Our Mobile Phone Policy provides clear expectations around the use of mobile phones at school. These expectations are designed to minimise distractions, support student wellbeing and learning, and ensure that technology is used appropriately and safely within the school environment.

We encourage parents and carers to take the time to familiarise themselves with these policies. They form an important part of how we create a consistent, safe and positive environment for everyone at Braeside Primary School.

If you have any questions or would like further clarification about either policy, please contact the school office.

Have a great week,

Ms Shepherdson



| September                               |                |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------|
| Jumps and Throws                        | Wednesday 9th  |
| Athletics Carnival                      | Friday 11th    |
| Constable Care Incursion                | Wednesday 16th |
| Whole School Assembly                   | Friday 18th    |
| 2027 Camp meeting<br>5.30pm             | Wednesday 23rd |
| Big Breakfast<br>Last day of the term   | Friday 25th    |
| October                                 |                |
| First Day of Term 4                     | Monday 12th    |
| P&C Meeting 6.30pm at<br>Katanning Dome | Monday 12th    |
| Interschool<br>Jumps and Throws         | Wednesday 28th |
| Interschool Athletics                   | Friday 30th    |

### SCHOOL BANKING DETAILS

Braeside Primary School  
Commonwealth Bank  
BSB: 066 040  
Account: 19907881

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the Goreng Noongar people, the Traditional Owners of the land on which our school stands. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our community.

# School Board update- Term 3 meeting

## School Board update- Term 3 meeting

Firstly, huge congratulations to all teachers and staff at Braeside Primary School for a fantastic Public School Review. Members of the school board and P&C met with the reviewers to provide input from a school community perspective, and it was clear even at that meeting how impressed they were with the work that has been done and the direction in which the school is heading. Formal feedback from the review should be available to all early next term.

The Board got a preview of the draft Strategic Plan that is being developed to guide the school through to 2029. Priorities in this will be informed by recommendations from the Public School Review and by the results from the School Opinion Survey. It was great to see that the response rate for the survey has increased so that the perspectives of our families can be incorporated into the school's governance documents. Hopefully this increases again when the survey is repeated next year.

As promised in the Board update last term, the updated bullying and mobile phone policies were endorsed, and these will be circulated to families via Compass. This was a direct result of requests from families and carers, and I encourage you to keep contacting your parent representatives so that we can continue to make informed decisions and build connections.

Board members who have not yet done so will be completing training shortly to ensure that all are aware of our obligations in working together in the interests of the school community and students. This enable the Board to operate effectively and meet its governance and compliance responsibilities.

The Board reflected on some of the changes that have been made over the last year or so. While these have contributed to the positive shift being seen in the school, we acknowledge that sometimes changes can have unanticipated impacts and that it's important for families to be able to share their experiences. To this end, we discussed closing the feedback loop and providing avenues for carers to contribute to evaluation of changes. First cab off the rank for this will be the adjustments made to school recess and lunch break routines, so keep an eye out for an invitation to share your thoughts.

Until next time,

Jo

# from Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence

Doris Pilkington

Our Year 5/6 class have been learning about Western Australian Aboriginal history with a focus on the Stolen Generation and truth telling. Students embraced the remarkable true journey of three Mardu girls from Jigalong as they found their way back home through the harsh outback as they followed the rabbit proof fence.

The stolen generation means to the generations of aboriginal and Torres strait islander children who were forcefully taken away from their family. *Precious*

I admire Molly because Molly proves herself to be resourceful, resilient and determined, leading and caring for Daisy and Gracie, and even carrying them on her back. *Neraia*

The girls Molly, Gracie and Daisy demonstrate incredible courage and resilience by executing a daring escape from Moore River Native Settlement. *Sienna*

*Family is important in the story because family is the ultimate driving force for survival and resistance.* *Dusty*

Rabbit-Proof Fence is crucial because it exposes the trauma of the stolen generations. *Adelaide*

The most important message is don't eliminate people because of their culture. *Scarlett*

*I admire Molly because of her life skills that she shows Family serves as the ultimate beacon of hope, pride and an unbreakable bond of family.* *Ziarna*

Rabbit-Proof Fence teaches us that true fairness and respect cannot exist without recognising the fundamental human rights, dignity, and cultural sovereignty of all people. *Ariana*

This is a harrowing true story exposing the humans right of others. *Aidan*

The Rabbit Proof Fence is close to Jigalong so if they follow the fence they will get back to Jigalong. *Emeliah*

*The Stolen Generation means children got taken away from their families form the Law/Government.* *Lyllah*

The most important message is to never give up, and life skills are important for survival. *Tori*

My favourite character is probably Molly because she showed resilience to Gracie and Daisy and she has a lot of leadership. *Cash*

*Molly showed great resilience when they had to be mature. The part that I will remember is when Molly made the smart move of erasing her tracks with a branch.* *Max*

*The most memorable part in Rabbit Proof Fence was when Molly and Daisy reunited with their mum and Grandmother.* *Ywa blu*

The most memorable part of this story and movie is when they finally get home after several months of walking, it shows real what warriors would do for the unconditional love, they have for their family. *Arianah*

The most memorable part was when they got home to Jigalong, and they hugged each other and they cried. *Lily*



# Book Week 2026



In preparation for Book Week, each class, and the office staff decorated their door in the theme of their chosen Book Week Book. The students worked hard to design amazing works of art, creating our very own 'symphony of stories' throughout the school. The students enjoyed taking a tour of the school to view each display, then voted for their favourite door. Kindergarten came out on top with their fabulous frog display linked to their book, Frogs Are Our Friends.







# Guest Readers

Throughout Book Week, we were fortunate to have guest readers and teachers share stories from the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Shortlist with students across the school. This was a fantastic way to promote a love of reading, expose students to a range of high-quality texts, and strengthen our sense of community. The excitement and engagement shown by students made these sessions a highlight of our Book Week celebrations.



Our teachers read to us after recess every day.



We were lucky to have Detective Constable Jarrod Pobah from the Katanning Police station to read to us.



We were very lucky to have some amazing Guest Judges for our Book Week parade. We thank them for their time, and their service to our community.



# GREEN THUMBS BRAESIDE



## Sunflowers

Spring is finally here which means it is the perfect time to plant sunflowers! Sunflowers are incredibly fast-growing, making them an ideal way for our students to experience the magic of science and nature first-hand. Whether you want to challenge your siblings to a "who can grow the tallest" competition or add some vibrant colour, here is how your family can get involved this season.

### Two fantastic varieties for kids are:

*Giant Sunflower:* These can grow up to 3 metres tall with massive, dinner-plate-sized golden faces. They will need a spot in the garden bed.

*Teddy Bear or Dwarf Eos:* These grow to just 40-50cm tall. They produce fluffy flowers and are perfect if you only have space for a small pot.

**Find the Brightest Spot:** Sunflowers love the sun! Find a patch in your backyard that gets at least 6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight daily.

**Prep the Soil:** Dig some rich compost into the dirt. Sunflowers are hungry plants and need plenty of nutrients to grow big and strong.

**Poke and Plant:** Poke a hole in the soil about 2cm deep (roughly to your first knuckle). Drop a seed in, cover it gently, and give it a firm pat. Space giant varieties about 50cm apart.

**Water with Care:** Keep the soil damp like a wrung-out sponge. Your little green shoots should pop up to say hello in just 7 to 10 days!

*Growing sunflowers isn't just fun—it is packed with fantastic hands-on learning opportunities for all ages*

**Maths & STEM:** Grab a ruler or tape measure every weekend. Have your child chart their plant's weekly growth on a graph to track its progress.

**Science in Action:** Teach them a fun new word: heliotropic. Young sunflowers will literally track the sun, turning their faces from east to west every single day!

**Snail Patrol:** Protect young seedlings from local slugs and snails using pet-safe pellets or build a DIY barrier from a recycled plastic bottle.

We would love to see your progress! Take photos of your children planting their seeds or standing next to their giant blooms later next term. Send them through to the school office so we can share our community's green thumbs in future newsletters.

Happy planting!  
Mrs Dezotti

