Lobethal Primary School Newsletter

2026 Issue 10

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Friday 30th October 2026

Diary Dates

Tuesday 3 November
Governing Council

Thursday 5 November
Sports Day

Friday 6 November
Pupil Free day

Tuesday 10 November
Year 7 Oakbank School Family Information Night

Wednesday 11 –13 November
Year 6 Aquatics camp

Thursday 12 November
2027 Reception transition 9 -10:40am

Friday 13 November
Class 1 & 2 visit to Restvale

Tuesday 17 November
9.30am School Tour

Wednesday 18 November
Life Ed incursions

Thursday 19 November
Newsletter out

Friday 20 November
Assembly presented by Class 1

Tuesday 24 November
Governing Council

Wednesday 25 November
6pm Lobethal Community Kindy Christmas Concert

Thursday 26 November
Urrbrae AHS Year 7 Transition day

Friday 27 November
2027 Reception transition 9am - 12:00pm

Tuesday 1 December
Yr 6 Graduation

Thursday 3 December
Birdwood HS year 7 Transition day
Oakbank AS year 7 transition day

Friday 4 December
2027 Reception transition 9am - 1:00pm
Life Ed incursions

Friday 11December
Last day of school year!
2:10pm dismissal

Inside this issue:

From the Principal (cont)	2
Official Sandpit Opening World Teacher's Day	3
Grandparents and Special Persons Day Lobethal Community Kindergarten Birthday	4

From the Principal

Dear parents and caregivers,

It is with a mixture of sadness and excitement for them that I share the news that two of our longest-serving teachers, Simon Lock and Lizzie Ellis, have decided to resign from the Department for Education and move on to the next chapters of their lives.

Both Simon and Lizzie have enjoyed long and distinguished careers, at Lobethal Primary School and across the South Australian public education system. Over those years, they have made an enormous difference to the lives of countless children and families. Their experience, expertise and commitment to public education will certainly be missed.

Both Simon and Lizzie have well and truly earned the opportunity to enjoy whatever comes next. Simon will be moving on to other pursuits, while we are hopeful that we may still see Lizzie back at Lobethal from time to time as a relief teacher.

There will be opportunities to more formally acknowledge their contributions as we approach the end of the year.

As we continue planning for 2027, I will also be sharing further information about our class structures and teacher allocations in the very near future.

Our New Sandpit is Officially Open!

What a fabulous morning we enjoyed today as we officially opened our redeveloped sandpit and nature play area!

Projects like this don't simply happen. They are the result of an enormous amount of work, fundraising, generosity and community commitment over several years.

A huge thank you to our Parents and Friends Committee, so ably led by Mel Lawrence. The proceeds from Toasty Days, Pyjama Days and countless other activities have all contributed to making this project possible. It is wonderful to see those fundraising efforts transformed into something tangible that will benefit our students for many years to come.

I also want to particularly acknowledge Ellie Bahnisch and Kim Rodda, who were the driving forces behind our incredibly successful Quiz Night. Thank you to everyone who attended, donated prizes, volunteered or supported the event in any way. Your generosity has helped make a real difference.

A special thank you also to Tom and Teagan from Adelaide Hills Lawns and Gardens, who joined us for the opening and very generously donated some fantastic new sandpit toys. What a lovely finishing touch!

We were also fortunate to receive tremendous support from our major Quiz Night sponsors:

- Adelaide Carpentry & Cladding
- ABH Contracting
- Beyond Bank
- The Blushing Studio
- Complete Concrete CO
- Hills Hot Water
- Klose's Supermarkets
- Lobethal Hotel
- Lobethal Tyre & Auto
- Nutrien Strathalbyn
- Ray White Mount Barker

To each of these businesses, thank you!

This project is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when families, local businesses and our school community work together. It is something we can all feel very proud of.

Thank You, Maria!

We recently received news that, after an incredible 35 years providing canteen services to Adelaide Hills schools, Maria Smith from Maria's Kitchen has decided to retire. This term will be her last.

For many of our students, Maria's pasta bakes, pizzas, slushies and frozen yoghurts have been a much-loved part of school life. Over the years, she has provided thousands of lunches and plenty of happy faces across our region.

We sincerely thank Maria for her wonderful service and wish her every happiness in retirement.

We will now begin exploring alternative arrangements for providing special lunches to our students in 2027 and will keep families informed as those plans develop.

More iPads for Our Students

As we continue investing in the resources available to support teaching and learning, I am pleased to share that we have just taken delivery of another full class set of 25 iPads.

This brings us to two complete class sets, significantly increasing the opportunities for students to access digital technologies as part of their learning.

We are now just waiting on the arrival of a charging hub and storage trolley before the new devices can be made available across our classrooms.

Sports Day is Almost Here!

One of our favourite days on the school calendar is almost upon us, with Sports Day taking place next week!

There is always something special about seeing our students cheering each other on, giving their best, showing wonderful sportsmanship and enjoying a day of friendly competition. I am looking forward to another fantastic day filled with colour, enthusiasm and plenty of house spirit!

Our wonderful P&F Committee will once again be running a stall, and they would love some additional helpers throughout the day. If you can spare even a little time, please consider lending a hand.

Please scan the QR code here to sign up—and remember, even if you can't volunteer on the day, donations of juice boxes are just as valuable!!

Having just celebrated the opening of our new sandpit, it is a terrific reminder of exactly what the P&F's hard work and fundraising achieve. Every sausage sold, every event supported and every hour volunteered helps make our school a better place for our children.

We would love to see as many families as possible come along and enjoy the day!



Pupil Free Day and OSHC

Finally, a reminder that we have a pupil free day next Friday. Staff will be using this time to review this year and begin planning as we work towards the end of the year and into 2027.

OSHC will be operating on the day, and there are still some places available for families who require care. Please contact the OSHC service to enquire about bookings.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support of our school. Whether it is through volunteering, fundraising, supporting your children or simply being part of our community, your contribution makes an enormous difference.

Kind regards,

Mark Tucker

Principal

Sandpit Official Opening

What a fabulous morning we enjoyed today as we officially opened our wonderful new sandpit and nature play area!

This project has been a long time coming and simply wouldn't have been possible without the incredible support of our school community, Parents and Friends Committee and generous local businesses. It is a fantastic example of what we can achieve when everyone works together.

Before cutting the ribbons, Emilia and Phoebe presented Tom from Adelaide Hills Lawns and Gardens with some chocolates and a Lobethal PS beanie to keep him warm on those chilly winter mornings!

Not to be outdone, Tom and Teagan surprised our students with a generous donation of brand-new sandpit toys, complete with official Adelaide Hills Lawns and Gardens branding!

A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this wonderful new space a reality. Our students will enjoy it for many years to come!












World Teachers' Day

Today we celebrate World Teachers' Day and recognise the incredible work our teachers do every day.

One of the things I value most about our staff at Lobethal Primary School is the way they work together. We are fortunate to have such a cohesive, collaborative and committed team who genuinely care about one another and, most importantly, the children they teach.

The willingness of our teachers to share ideas, support each other and continually strive to improve makes our school a very special place.

A huge thank you to all our teachers for their dedication, professionalism and the difference they make in the lives of our students every day!



Grandparents and Special People Day

What a fabulous morning Class 1, 2 and 7 enjoyed last Friday as they welcomed their grandparents and special people into our school!

The students took a leading role in planning the morning, choosing songs to perform, making cards, baking biscuits and organising activities to share with their visitors.

There was plenty happening, with singing, reading together, exploring the school garden and picking fresh produce. The children also loved showing off their learning and having the opportunity to be the teachers for a little while!

A huge thank you to Sonia Elliott, Mollie Strachan and Elly Currin for creating such a lovely opportunity for our students to celebrate the important people in their lives. It was wonderful to see so many grandparents and special people enjoying time at school and sharing in the children's excitement and pride.











Reflections on the day, from the special visitors:

"Your school is amazing!"

"Thanks for inviting us."

"Your teacher is lovely and the grounds are beautiful."

"What a great school."



Lobethal Kindergarten Celebrates 60 Years!

What a special occasion it was for our Lobethal PS Choir to be invited to perform at the 60th birthday celebrations of Lobethal Community Kindergarten!

For many of our choir members, this was a particularly meaningful experience, as they had attended the kindy themselves. To return a few years later, now as confident primary school students, and perform for the very people and community who helped give them such a wonderful start to their learning journey was something quite special.

It was a lovely reminder of the strong connections between our kindergarten and school, and the important role we both play in supporting children as they grow and learn.

A huge congratulations to Lobethal Community Kindergarten on 60 wonderful years, and thank you for inviting us to be part of such a significant milestone!

