



BANKSIA-PARK PS

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2023 Annual Report. It provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the many achievements of students, staff and school community throughout the year as well as a chance to reflect on areas of future improvement identified through our ongoing self-review processes. It has been a very busy year with the introduction of our new Business Plan 2023-2025 with much work achieved in laying the foundations of this plan, which outlines our school's improvement planning and long-term strategic goals. We have recognised and celebrated our successes at the same time as identifying and planning for future growth and achievement.

As the principal at Banksia Park Primary School, it is my great privilege to continue to lead a positive, supportive and highly effective learning environment, in close partnership with our parents, carers and community. Banksia Park is a school where connections to our community are a foundational strength, where our students are at the core of all we do and where staff are highly committed to providing the best possible learning program for every child. We work collaboratively, encouraging the students in our care to achieve their potential and to grow to become responsible and successful citizens of the future.

Our focus to provide an education that caters for the requirements of each individual child remains our highest priority. We pride ourselves on our inclusive learning environment that caters for diversity and a wide range of student needs. We have maintained and built upon past achievements and continued working on improving whole school performance with the flexibility afforded us as an Independent Public School.

2023 has seen us welcome new staff including Kyle Edmonds (PE), Janis Cullen (music), Alana Kemp (EA), Vikki Wilkinson (MCS), teachers Jordan Johnson, Karen Glassby and our new instructional coach leading curriculum development, Sarah Wilson. We saw Jade Creado (mid-year) and Lauren Carmody (end of the year) both begin maternity leave. We farewelled Sandi Marwick to take up a music role a little closer to home and also celebrated the retirements of several long-term teaching staff including Rose Clancy, Ann Andrews, Teresa Cinanni and Liz Cummins along with education assistant Kerry Morgan. All have given so much to the Banksia Park school community over many years, and we wish them well for this next exciting stage of their lives.

There has been a wide range of improvements to the school environment this year highlighted by the completion of the new computer lab in the school library which was made possible through a significant donation of \$36 000 from our hard-working P&C. With new cabinetry, wiring, and the installation of 32 new stand-alone desktops, we are well placed to further develop our students' skills for the 21st Century. This year also saw the introduction of our new school website, which now provides a modern, user-friendly online interface for our school. The front office has also had a facelift over the summer break with this workspace extended and additional storage solutions added. It is looking fresh and modern. A new sports shed started construction and works are also almost completed on the new Conference Room. With new carpets in

teaching block 3, the final rollout of the last digital smartboards along with a new smart TV in the music room, there is much to celebrate in and around the school grounds creating an improved learning environment.

The achievements of our students both in academic and non-academic areas has continued to be pleasing. New programs including Visual Arts Gifted and Talented and the MiniLit reading support program add to ongoing improvement strategies supporting the provision of high-quality teaching and learning with a focus on teaching for impact. The MiniLit program which was successfully trialled in Term 4 with pre-primary and Year 1 students ahead of a full implementation in 2024. The MiniLit program draws from the most recent research on how children learn to read and is aligned with the evidenced-based teaching approaches being used to develop literacy skills at Banksia Park.

Our work to implement the strategies outlined in the school Business Plan 2023-2025 has reinforced the implementation of effective, evidence-based literacy instruction based on research and what we know about the science of reading, teaching and learning. The implementation of a structured synthetic approach to teaching spelling through our new whole school spelling program PLD (Promoting Literacy Development) is at the foundation of our focus on literacy. This was further supported by the introduction to our school of our Instructional Coach, Mrs Sarah Wilson, working alongside staff to collaboratively implement a greater consistency to our curriculum through agreed whole school approaches in core learning areas.

As part of this we have also invested heavily in new reading resources, introducing a new Home Reading Program to Kindy and Pre-primary and resourcing the use of decodable books to support reading development K-3 with a focus on implementing evidence-based teaching and learning across the curriculum.

We have worked to maximise available instructional time in core learning areas of literacy and numeracy in many small but significant ways such as the introduction of new bell times which saw longer instructional periods before lunch and a much shorter after lunch session (from 2 hours to just 70 minutes). Money collection processes have been redirected to the school office to remove the time required for this organisational task in the mornings. The PassTAB digital visitor management system was also introduced to remove the need for teachers to pause teaching and learning programs to update attendance for late student arrivals and early pickups.

This year the school became a Crunch & Sip school focusing attention on the importance of Healthy Eating. Following a successful grant application through Healthways, \$5000 additional funding supported a focus on healthy eating through the implementation of the FreshSNAP teaching and learning resources (WA Health Department) and environmental sustainability activities including new foodscrap bins, worm farming and vegetable grow beds.



A whole school clean-up saw the removal of old furniture paving the way for new projects utilising the kitchen area in teaching block 2, and planned upgrades for the wet areas in teaching blocks 1 and 3.

This year we became a Bullying – No Way school joining over 6500 schools across Australia in a joint campaign to help prevent bullying. Along with a major review of the school Behaviour Management Policy and the introduction of the new Good Standing Process, we have worked to include a restorative approach to behaviour management and a greater consistency and transparency to our behaviour management strategies. The end of the school year saw the introduction of annual book awards as part of a new approach to class awards aligning with our new behaviour policy, vision statement and school motto of 'Friendship and Knowledge'.

Enrolment interviews were introduced and then extended to include the new cohort of kindergarten students along with a Kindy Play Day. This provided a valuable opportunity for new families to meet staff, introduced students to the Banksia Park Primary school environment and laid some positive foundations for developing a sense of belonging to our school while building anticipation for the coming year in our youngest new students. Feedback for this process was highly positive with enrolment interviews set to become a regular part of each new year.

When reflecting on 2023 it is essential to acknowledge the outstanding progress we have made towards achieving the targets and milestones outlined in our Business Plan 2023-2025. The ongoing dedication, care and hard work of all staff along with their unwavering commitment to meeting student and school needs at every opportunity is reflected clearly in the milestones we set and achieved. It is a credit to the professionalism and dedication of the staff at Banksia Park and I am proud to acknowledge their achievements and congratulate them.

To our School Board and our P&C members I would also like to extend our appreciation and further acknowledge our many volunteers who heed all calls for assistance in multiple ways, both big and small. This support is greatly valued and makes a difference to the quality of education Banksia Park Primary School is able to deliver each and every day. I look forward to 2024 knowing that together - we will continue to achieve great things.



Serena Gosnay - Principal



ABOUT US

Banksia Park Primary School is an Independent Public School, located in Leeming, WA. Our school opened 1 February 1989 and currently caters to approximately 270 students from kindergarten through to Year 6. Our school motto "Friendship and Knowledge" provides a platform for all we do. With our extensive music, sporting and visual arts programs we recognise and value the whole child, developing each student's academic, physical, social, emotional and creative skills, supporting all students to realise their potential. We strive to instil a love of learning, focusing on the potential of each individual child. We believe this generation of learners needs to be adaptable and able to transfer their knowledge and skills across all areas of the curriculum. They need opportunities to engage collaboratively and think in critical and creative ways, using imagination, innovation and problem solving.

We are well known for our strong community spirit and safe, supportive learning environment, ensuring positive school connections and a sense of belonging for all. Our School Board and Parents & Citizens Association are highly visible and actively engaged, ensuring our school is highly regarded and central to our local community.

The school grounds are well maintained and inviting, surrounded by natural bushland and native gardens that showcase the Kangaroo Paw, our school floral emblem. It is not unusual to see an array of native wildlife with birds, reptiles, quendas and even kangaroos on our school grounds. We value our bushland setting and the natural environment it provides, and as you would expect, we work hard together to care for and protect it for a sustainable future.

We have excellent facilities across the school supporting the teaching and learning program. Classrooms are divided into three air-conditioned teaching blocks. A fourth teaching block houses specialist teaching areas including Visual Arts, Japanese, Music and the school Library. Our Library is well resourced and provides an engaging and functional learning space for students. It also houses our computer lab. Banksia Park classrooms are all equipped with interactive smartboards, access to desktop computers and iPads that support the teaching and learning program.

Our dedicated Performing Arts area includes a large, air-conditioned stage and undercover area along with a green room for our school band, providing excellent facilities for whole school performance events. This space also houses our very popular school canteen which currently operates two days a week, providing healthy and delicious lunches, conveniently ordered through an online ordering system.

As an Independent Public School our staff possess a wealth of expertise in education with two teachers holding Level Three status and over half the teaching staff recognised as Senior Teachers. All teachers undertake a curriculum leadership role and work collaboratively, with student needs at the foundation of all decision making. The professionalism of our team is enhanced through this collaborative style of leadership, underpinned by deep reflective practices. Banksia Park strives for constant improvement, with ongoing self-review processes informing all aspects of teaching, learning and school operations.

All this makes Banksia Park Primary School a great place to work, learn and grow.



OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Banksia Park Primary school achieved Independent Public School status in 2017. Our ICSEA (Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage) is 1087 (state decile rank of 2). When "like schools" comparisons are referred to, they are made to schools with a similar ICSEA. The average ICSEA across Australia is 1000.

We have a small number of Indigenous students and 18% of students enrolled in our school have a language background other than English. Our staffing structure includes a Principal and Deputy Principal, 20 teaching staff along with 11 allied professionals supporting teaching and learning in a range of roles including education assistants, clerical, administrative and gardening.

ATTENDANCE - "Every Day Counts"

The Department of Education defines regular attendance as being above 90%. Consistent attendance and participation at school are essential factors in achieving social and academic learning outcomes. Student attendance of less than 90% may impact on a child's opportunity to achieve their potential. Attendance is monitored on an individual basis and partnerships with families are developed to improve attendance rates where required.

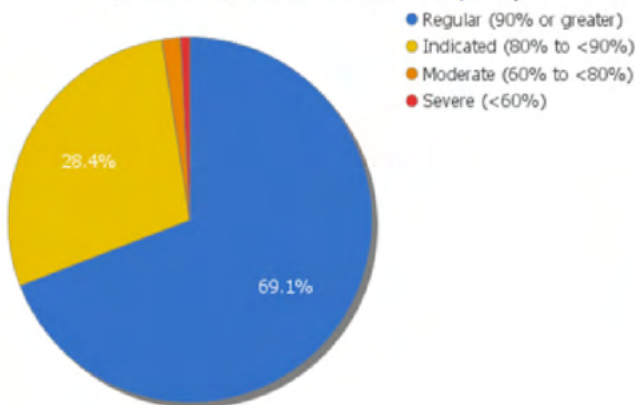
Our school implements a whole school attendance policy that encourages regular attendance. Individual Attendance Plans are put in place for students with attendance below 80%.

The overall average rate of attendance at Banksia Park Primary School was 91.8%. Like schools reported 91.2% with WA Public Schools average reported at 88.9%.

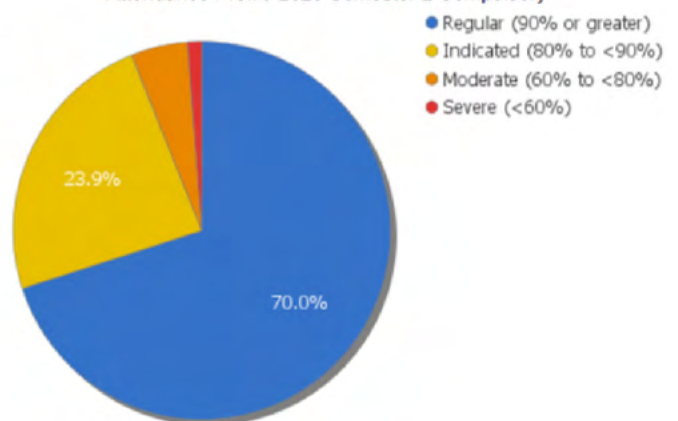
Attendance Risk Categories

Overall, in 2023, 69.1% of students were classified as having excellent/regular attendance - that is attendance above 90%. In the "at risk" categories, 28.4% of students were at an indicated risk, 1.6% at a moderate risk and 0.8% at severe risk.

Attendance Profile 2023 Semester 1 Compulsory



Attendance Profile 2023 Semester 2 Compulsory



95 - 100%	Attendance is classified as being EXCELLENT
90 - 95%	Attendance is classified as being at REGULAR
80 - 89%	Attendance is classified as being at INDICATED RISK
60 - 79%	Attendance is classified at being at MODERATE RISK
0 - 59%	Attendance is classified as being at SEVERE RISK

THE SCHOOL BOARD

Banksia Park Primary School went from strength to strength in 2023. Driven by a commitment to nurturing friendship and deepening knowledge, the new Business Plan began ushered in actions to elevate our students' learning experience. The investment in future technologies, including the brand-new computer lab, library upgrades, smart boards in every classroom, and ever-growing iPad collection, means that our students can engage in the modern world. Building out the expansive range of extracurricular activities, from band, choir and instrumental tuition to sporting, STEM and cultural programs, gave our students the opportunity to reach their potential holistically. In 2023, the new bell times and crunch and sip initiative reflected a positive change to improve educational outcomes for students in the long term, with key learning blocks established in the prime morning time slots.

The board has a privileged perspective to see the contributions of many who make Banksia Park a standout school in our city. Reflecting on the year, gratitude rises for the dedicated leadership of principal Serena Gosnay and deputy Albert Cianfrini, the high-performing passionate staff, the active and generous P&C Committee, and the army of volunteers assisting in the canteen, events, band committee and extracurricular programs. Thank you also to the school board for their dedication and wisdom (Parents: Michael Foreman, Chris Lock, Rod Silvey, Warren Staples, and myself; Staff: Serena Gosnay, Albert Cianfrini, Jane DiSabato, and Sharon O'Reilly). Finally, thank you to the 271 inspiring students we are all immensely proud of.

The Board Chair 2023 - Peter Hammer

BUSINESS PLAN 2023-2025

This year marked the start of implementation of our new Business Plan 2023-2025. After extensive collaborative review and planning, our priority focus areas for improvement were identified, and a range of strategies planned for implementation to work towards achieving these goals.

Evidence based teaching and learning strategies in core learning areas, along with incorporating new whole school data collection processes, were prioritised. Progressive Achievement Testing (PAT) was implemented again late in 2023, providing a comparative data set to inform teaching and learning programs and importantly facilitating longitudinal review and analysis processes in literacy and numeracy.

Assessment processes have been further supported by the provision of Elastik. Professional learning was provided for the implementation of this customised online classroom dashboard that uses data from student assessments including PAT, On-entry and NAPLAN to identify learning gaps aligned to the WA Curriculum. Elastik includes additional resources to support interventions for identified learning gaps and also assists to develop individual, small group and class assessments to review student progress after teaching interventions have been delivered. Along with an increased availability of iPads to support student learning, Elastik is providing another valuable tool to support teaching and learning in core curriculum areas.

The NAPLAN test administration period was brought forward to Term 1 with NAPLAN for students in Years 3 and 5 scheduled for March 2023 for the first time. Delivery of NAPLAN proved challenging at this earlier time with historical school events such as our annual swimming carnival making for a very busy first term, but staff, students and community made it work despite the short timeframes. All are congratulated for this “can-do” attitude.

The earlier delivery of NAPLAN has started a new “time series” which means that for the first time, data is NOT COMPARABLE to the results of any previous year’s NAPLAN results 2008-2022. New proficiency strands were also introduced for the way that student achievement in NAPLAN is reported, and these too mean that we were unable to use longitudinal data for the first time since the introduction of NAPLAN.

Achievement is now reported using four proficiency levels:

- **Exceeding:** the student’s result exceeds expectations at the time of testing.
- **Strong:** the student’s result meets challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing.
- **Developing:** the student’s result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.
- **Needs additional support:** the student’s result indicates that they are not achieving the learning outcomes that are expected at the time of testing. They are likely to need additional support to progress satisfactorily.

Banksia Park NAPLAN data in 2023 continued to demonstrate achievement above WA Public Schools. When compared to “LIKE” schools our overall performance reinforced the targets identified in our Business Plan and reiterated the importance of continuing to embed data informed practices along with evidence-based teaching strategies.

Year 3 2023	School Average	Like Public Schools	WA Public Schools
Numeracy	419	420	398
Reading	421	419	390
Writing	418	432	408
Spelling	397	421	396
Grammar & Punctuation	406	427	397
Year 5 2023	School Average	Like Public Schools	WA Public Schools
Numeracy	498	512	480
Reading	481	514	484
Writing	499	507	474
Spelling	509	512	485
Grammar & Punctuation	487	524	487

Banksia Park is incredibly fortunate to have a dedicated, professional and improvement focused staff, who have embraced the opportunity to take an evidence-based lens to our teaching and learning practices. The introduction of a specialised instructional coach (Mrs Sarah Wilson) this year is further supporting this collaborative, growth focused approach.



School bell times changed this year to provide extended, targeted instructional times earlier in the day. The specialist timetable was also adjusted to provide collaborative DOTT times for all instructional teams. This approach now provides more opportunities for teachers to plan, teach and review collaboratively.

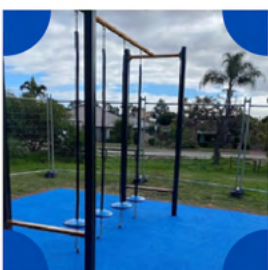
New programs including MiniLit and MacqLit have been introduced and resourced through the provision of a specialised Education Assistant three days a week. These programs now provide small group interventions for those students Pre-primary through to Year 5 who might benefit from additional support as they consolidate their literacy learning.

A school wide focus on the Science of Reading has seen the introduction of whole school approaches such as our new PLD (Promoting Literacy Development) spelling program. Whole school programs such as these ensures a greater consistency to curriculum and assists our students to build on their learning year on year.

Literacy resources have been prioritised with substantial funding redirected to the replacement of reading books to ensure the availability of decodable readers for all students in the early years along with Kindy and Pre-primary home reading programs.

At the end of 2023 we also trialed a new process for Kindy enrolments, introducing enrolment interviews for all families and a “Kindy Play Day” where students were invited along with their families to experience Kindy for the first time. This was a very successful new process helping to establish connections with our newest Banksia Park students and their families and supporting a much smoother transition at the start of the year.

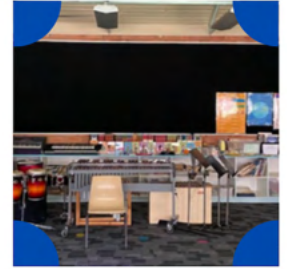




An extensive improvement program in the learning environment has seen the completion of multiple projects across the school including the new dedicated computer lab. This included new stud walling to create a separate learning space, 32 state of the art desktop computers, new chairs and cabinetry along with a large teacher screen to support teaching and learning. In other improvements, all classrooms now have a new digital smartboard installed, replacing aging infrastructure and over 100 iPads are now available with new storage solutions across all teaching and learning areas, establishing improved accessibility for teachers and students.

Other school improvements include:

- Launch of the new school website
- Introduction of Out of Hours Care onsite - OSHClub
- Carpet in Teaching Block 3
- Carpet in the Music Room
- Stairs and handrails to the stage area and library pathway
- Upgraded furniture to the MCS office
- PassTab Visitor Management System
- School laptop for committee use
- New pin boards to the Performing Arts Centre, Music Room and Area 14
- Replacement of teacher chairs
- New crossover pathway to the oval
- Upgraded fencing on the oval
- 4 successful Sporting School Grants
- \$5000 Healthways grant
- Upgraded line marking to the paving
- Upgrade ropes to playground climbing frames
- Replacement of the soft-fall to play equipment
- Leasing agreements for 32 computers and 3 new photocopiers
- Digital school siren
- New bench seating Year 6 area
- New portable flags displaying the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags
- Lightweight, portable folding tables for events





English has been an area of high focus and growth at Banksia Park in 2023 with significant investment in this area across all aspects from human resources through to extensive new classroom resources. The implementation of our whole school approach to phonics and spelling, Promoting Literacy Development (PLD) has facilitated a renewed focus on collaboration and consistency of teaching approaches within this learning area. Other highlights include extensive investment in staff professional learning with three staff participating in the Oral Language Leadership initiative as well as significant investment in resourcing of the Kindy, Pre-primary and Year One reading resources, the implementation of new data collection processes, Book Week activities and ongoing development of the school library as a learning hub.

The implementation of the evidenced based language program PLD has been the cornerstone for further development of high-quality teaching practice within the English learning area. Whole school professional learning, delivered by Diana Rigg and other PLD staff, the introduction of instructional coaching within the school and collaborative year group meetings, have collectively provided guidance and support for teachers. This in turn has supported the consistency in the delivery of this program across the school, as well as supporting the growth in professional capacities of teachers in the areas of phonics and spelling. In line with the 2023-2025 Banksia Park Primary School Business Plan, these supports and strategies have contributed to the continual development of expert teaching teams and shared ownership for the positive achievement and progress of all students.

Resourcing within the English Learning Area has prioritised teaching and learning resources for the implementation of PLD. Both hard copies of teacher resource books, classroom posters and flipcharts, as well as online subscriptions to teacher resource books, were provided for all teaching staff. Other resources provided to support the teaching of reading included the purchasing of readers to resource the Oral Language Home Reading Program in Kindergarten, and further resourcing of the home reading program in Pre-primary. In class resources of synthetic phonics readers for Pre-primary and Year One, and for students requiring these in other grades, was improved with the purchase of small group sets of these readers. Books from the Children's Book Council of Australia shortlist of Book of the Year books were purchased for the school library for Book Week, providing additional high-quality texts for students to enjoy.

Student progress has continued to be monitored with a variety of whole school strategies. The suite of Progressive Achievement Testing (PAT) in English including Reading for all years from Year 2 –6. Spelling, Vocabulary, Grammar and Punctuation were also all completed by Years 3-6. These test results were analysed by class teachers and inform targeted teaching foci. Data collection from PLD was intensively implemented for Spelling and Phonics progress with the use of termly Student Data Tracking sheets which were reviewed by teachers and PLD staff, who provided valuable feedback regarding student grouping and program direction. The Pre-primary On-entry data continues to inform literacy levels at the beginning of Pre-primary. Data collection in English also included NAPLAN for Years 3 and 5. This year being the reset for the NAPLAN data time and measurement series resulted in no comparative data for 2023.

Elastik has continued to provide triangulation of data from student assessments in PAT, On-entry, South Australian Spelling Test and NAPLAN assisting with the identification of learning gaps and the subsequent provision of teaching resources to address these gaps. These resources are aligned with the WA Curriculum. PAT testing also indicates progress in comparison from previous years. Moving forward, the Elastik program will continue to be a focus for analysing learning gaps and student progress.

Students at Educational Risk are provided with differentiated learning plans by class teachers after analysis of data from the platforms referred to above. Instructional coaching and support from the Learning Support Coordinator has focused on developing programs for students at risk in the early years, and alongside support from the school psychologist and outside agencies, class teachers regularly monitor and adjust differentiated individual and group learning plans.

Book Week, with a theme of Read, Grow and Inspire, was again a highlight on the school calendar. This week provided a focal point for the reading of high-quality children's literature and the celebration of the wealth of wonderful books available to our students. The visiting author, Meg McKinlay, engaged our students with insight into the process of creating high quality written texts for children. Meg is a recipient of the Prime Minister's Literacy Award and is a vibrant and engaging presenter. She inspired our students with her sharing of imaginative thought processes to support their own writing adventures. The Book Week parade is always an event which the whole school enjoys together, viewing the creative wealth of our students and their connection with the joy of reading. Other events included participation in the Premier's Reading Challenge, shared reading with senior and junior classes, a very popular book swap in the library and targeted classroom activities.

Jane Di Sabato (Learning Area Coordinator - English)



MATHEMATICS

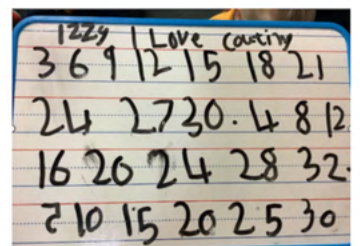
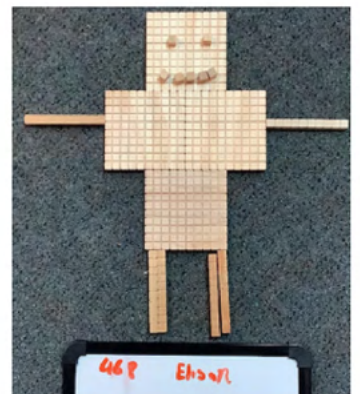
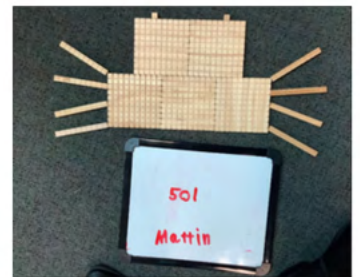
The Mathematics Learning Area is designed to enhance children's numerical and algebraic skills and knowledge, their grasp of measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability. Students are given a wide range of opportunities to develop a comprehensive understanding of mathematics and apply their knowledge creatively and flexibly to solve problems and develop their understandings.

Signpost Maths and New Wave Mental Maths programs are being used from Years 1 – 6 to support quality teaching and assessment. The use of whole-school maths texts encourages the development of consistent mathematical vocabulary and computation strategies across year levels and classrooms. The teachers in the Early Years team (Kindergarten and Pre-primary) have also worked together to ensure uniformity in their teachings, utilising the Western Australian curriculum to create a scope and sequence document that outlines the knowledge and skills that will be taught and assessed throughout the year.

Banksia Park Primary School boasts excellent math resources that encourage a hands-on approach to teaching in line with best practices. The Mathematics Curriculum leadership team is currently focused on auditing and reorganising these resources to support classroom instruction more effectively which is one of the milestones identified in the current Business Plan. Effective resource management is a priority, and these resources also facilitate the development of whole-school approaches which has also been identified as an improvement strategy as teachers work to ensure a more consistent approach to the curriculum across classrooms and year levels.

Student progress is monitored using a range of strategies. Pre-primary students take the On-entry assessment to determine their numeracy levels at the start of the school year. In November Year 2 to Year 6 students complete the Progressive Achievement Testing (PAT) in Mathematics. Data collection in Mathematics also includes NAPLAN for Years 3 and 5. This year the reset of NAPLAN data means that there will be no comparative data for 2023.

Elastik is used to analyse a range of data sources to inform the classroom program by identifying learning gaps. This allows teachers to pinpoint instructional needs and develop differentiated learning plans for Students at Educational Risk. These differentiated learning plans are developed in collaboration with the Learning Support Coordinator, School Psychologist, and parents/guardians.



Classroom teachers and learning teams regularly monitor and adjust learning programs by moderating assessment tasks and providing extension or remediation when needed. They adjust individual, small group, and assessment learning plans accordingly. In the future, the mathematics learning team aims to develop common assessment tasks to promote year level moderation opportunities, inform longitudinal data sets and further enhance student achievement and progress.

This year, the National Mathematics Competition was re-introduced for Students in Years 4-6, with many students receiving recognition for their efforts. It is planned to continue this opportunity going forward.

Karen Glassby (Learning Area Coordinator - Maths)



Science has three interrelated strands including Science Understandings, Science as a Human Endeavour and Science Inquiry Skills. Class programs cover Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Earth and Space Sciences and Physical Sciences as outlined in the WA Curriculum. Students experience Science through a wide range of experiments and investigations that relate Science to their everyday lives. Science is delivered by classroom teachers and provides an opportunity for students to engage in a range of challenging and interesting investigations and projects throughout the year. Science allows students to take responsibility for their learning through open ended tasks while also connecting them with some of the issues that face us as a community.

Primary Connections remains the core program in the school and a successful grant application in 2022 provided the funds to purchase a wide range of resources to support Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). With a focus on providing the opportunity for hands-on activities, students were encouraged to develop their practical, investigative skills through the use of thematic kits based on each of the topics within the Primary Connections program.



National Science Week in August this year saw students exploring the theme of *Innovation: Powering Future Industries*. Classroom resources were shared with teachers to support the development of this theme linking to 'real-world' scientific applications.

Janet Edmondson
(Learning Area Coordinator - Science)



The Technologies component of the WA Curriculum describes two distinct but related subjects:

- Design and Technologies, in which students use design thinking and technologies to generate and produce solutions for authentic needs and opportunities.
- Digital Technologies, in which students use computational thinking and information systems to define, design and implement solutions.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGIES

In an increasingly technological and complex world, it is important to develop knowledge and confidence to critically analyse and creatively respond to design challenges. This year teachers have engaged students in high quality learning where students create solutions for authentic problems. This involves students using creative thinking and problem solving to design and produce solutions for real-life purposes. Activities bring together skills across the curriculum.

This year, across the school, projects have included a range of design and construction activities including boat building, constructing marble runs, chicken coops and the annual “Banksia Cup” (which sees the Year 6 students construct their own horse to race using self-made winches), and of course the after-school Robotics Club where students design and build robots using Lego.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Digital Technologies has been a high growth focus area for Banksia Park in 2023. All classrooms are now fitted with an interactive smartboard or Smart TV. iPad storage boxes in each block provide improved accessibility with full class set of iPads allowing daily access to all classrooms and year levels to this technology. There are currently 103 iPads available daily with more planned.

Digital safety has been a continued area of focus. Senior classes have participated in a series of Cyber safety webinars throughout the year. Some of the topics students have been learning about include navigating the challenges of social media use and online bullying.



A wide range of interactive resources are also available for students to use. These have included tasks to develop coding skills using Bee Bots, Scratch, Lightbot and Swift Playgrounds coding platforms, Sphero Bolt robots are used by upper grades requiring direction via an iPad. Students in lower grades sign into desktops independently and access a range of applications. They use iPad applications including Book Creator, Chatter Pix, and Nessy Fingers. Students in upper grades integrate advanced digital technologies into everyday learning. Some examples of applications used include Kahoot, Inquisitive and Book Creator.



Our new computer lab has been completed in the library providing a dedicated, purpose-built environment for digital learning. With 32 new stand-alone desktops, new cabinetry, upgraded wiring and switches, along with a new 75-inch moveable screen, students are well supported with modern and accessible resources for learning in this area. The school has chosen to lease student computers going forward. This will assist us to maintain up to date technology.

The Robotics Club, facilitated by Mrs Panomarenko and parent volunteers, was reintroduced in Term 3 after thieves targeted the senior teaching block and stole the school's robotics resources impacting this popular after school club. As soon as replacement resources arrived students were back into the challenge of creating and problem solving together, creating smaller projects based upon the Lego Spike program. Students finished off the year with a very special treat.

Simon Griffiths
(Learning Area Coordinator -Technologies)



The Humanities and Social Sciences (HaSS) learning area develops in students a respect for places, people and cultures, events, ideas and environments throughout the world. It promotes an engagement with civic life with the capacity to be responsible participants in society. To this end our students require an appreciation of the past and a commitment to concepts of sustainability. The students are provided with the opportunity to think critically, solve problems and become active decision makers.

The HaSS area focuses on History, Geography, Indigenous culture and Civics and Citizenship throughout the school as per the WA Curriculum. The HaSS Committee supports teachers in the implementation of their programs by purchasing resources and proposing targeted excursion and incursion and whole school participation/events opportunities. In the History and Geography component students have accessed an on-line program called INQUISITIVE which employs an inquiry approach to develop their higher order thinking skills.

In 2023 the junior classes explored past and present family life and the variety of constructed, managed and natural places in our environment. The middle school classes focused on Australian biomes and how animals rely on the natural environment to survive. The relationship between human societies and biome diversity was also explored. The senior classes investigated how Australia's democracy operates with a focus on referendums and elections. They also studied the diversity of lifestyles within a variety of Asian countries and learned about the differences in population, employment and ways of life.

One of the targets in our 2023-2025 Business Plan is to implement culturally responsive practices to underpin teaching and learning programs. Our first whole school NAIDOC Celebration Day, organised in conjunction with the Reconciliation Action Plan Committee, celebrated the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. Students enjoyed eating damper and tasting kangaroo, creating Aboriginal sand stories and making friendship bracelets.

During the year the HaSS Committee has also supported several large whole school cultural events including Harmony Day, ANZAC Day, NAIDOC Week, Western Australia Day, Remembrance Day and Diwali. This year our Harmony Day celebrations included a cultural dress up day and parade. Classes also participated in culturally diverse activities as part of the teaching and learning program.

Jordan Johnson (Learning Area Coordinator - HaSS)





In the last year, our Health and Physical Education team at Banksia Park Primary School has been working hard to give students great chances to be active and play sports. We believe in making sure students grow in every way, focusing on being respectful, resilient, and responsible. Banksia Park Primary School takes pride in offering students a diverse range of sports and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Throughout the past year, we consistently provided at least two hours of physical activity each week across all grades, focusing on essential physical skills. We have incorporated regular fitness sessions into the curriculum, including morning fitness and Junior, Middle and Upper School sport. Our Physical Education specialist program is designed to be suitable for students from Pre-primary to Year 6. Starting with fundamental movement skills in early years, students progressively develop and strengthen these skills, working to master both gross and fine motor skills by Year 6.



We have had multiple school events including:

- Swimming Carnival
- Cross Country
- Interschool Cross Country
- Winter Carnival (Netball, Soccer, AFL)
- Athletics Carnival
- Interschool Athletics Carnival
- Colour Fun Run
- Edu-dance
- Yoga



Throughout 2023 Banksia Park Primary School successfully applied for over \$6000 grants through the Sporting Schools initiative. This program supports schools across Australia to participate in sport throughout the year. We were able to use these additional funds to facilitate dedicated coaches visit our school to enhance the skills and knowledge of our students.

This year we invited coaches from:

- Golf WA
- Football West
- SEDA AFL
- Netball WA
- Volleyball WA



We greatly appreciate the continued strong support from parents who contribute their expertise by coaching and managing teams. This involvement sets Banksia Park apart, creating a collaborative community that enhances our students' overall learning experience.

A very big thank you to all of our volunteers who assisted in ways both big and small.

Kyle Edmonds (Learning Area Coordinator - Physical Education)



JAPANESE!

At Banksia Park, students participate in an interactive language program that provides an opportunity to learn about Japanese culture and language. Students learn to communicate in Japanese but also gain insights into Japanese cultural traditions. Aligned with the Western Australian Curriculum for Languages, our program emphasizes two key strands: Communication and Understanding. Special attention is given to enhancing speaking and listening abilities through engaging activities such as singing, role-playing, and games. We leverage various resources, digital tools, and Japanese literature to enrich the learning experience.

During the yearly Japanese assembly, students were encouraged to attend school dressed in attire reflecting Japanese culture, and they presented an item during the assembly. This year students also had the opportunity to participate in the Anime Club held in the Japanese room during lunch breaks, where they could watch Japanese animated movies or TV shows. Led by Sensei Heald, students brought their lunches and enjoyed exploring popular Japanese culture. Furthermore, Taiko drumming sessions were offered on Wednesday lunchtimes, allowing children to engage in this traditional style of drumming. The Taiko Club showcased their skills not only at the Japanese assembly but also at the whole school sports carnival.

Sensei Heald (Learning Area Coordinator - Languages)



VISUAL ARTS

Visual art has been a very positive and productive part of our school during 2023. All students from Pre-primary to year 6 engaged in a one-hour art lesson per week. Junior students had creative opportunities to explore an exciting range of artistic techniques and materials. Investigating tactile mixed media, immersion into a range of books and explorations into other types of art and artists are just some of the experiences provided to the children.

Middle school students have been introduced to the important Elements of Design which forms a crucial part of the WA curriculum. This has assisted them in understanding how to deconstruct and analyse the work of other artists. They have enjoyed exploring the work of Spanish artists Antoni Gaudi, Pablo Picasso and others such as Matisse and Australian Indigenous artists too.

Year five and six students developed an understanding and application of tint, shade, and hue. These colour studies resulted in many spectacular vibrant creations. The role of art in different cultures provided the stimulus for students to consider the conceptual nature of artwork and to question what an artwork means. They showed insight, perception and the ability to form individual personal opinion to a mature level.





During 2023 we had several whole school, art-based undertakings. For example, the whole school NAIDOC week art display and the parent's night exhibition in the children's classrooms. Many classes also participated in a Book Week art activity within their weekly art lessons during term three. This provided a focal point for the integration of art and wonderful quality literature.

Collaboration with classroom teachers has enabled and informed both planning and integration, between art and HASS, Science and language. As a regular and powerful part of our art program this integration provides students with context and connection between art and the rest of their learning making meaning and increasing the relevance of art. An example is the year six written analysis of the song "Treaty" by Yothu Yindi, which proved to be a productive integration of English, Art and HASS.

Data analysis on the 2023 SAIS "like" type school's results show that Banksia Park once again performed exceptionally well across the board with evidence showing more A's, more B's and less C grades in all year levels from Pre-primary to year six with the only exception of year one. This continues to reflect the high standard of art being produced by our students. Year six results were the stand-out against like type schools.



Banksia Park students were able to participate in an enrichment program in the Visual Arts for a selection of our year five and six students. These art extension classes ran on Friday mornings for 70 minutes. The work produced was of an exceptionally high standard and resulted in paintings, drawings, mixed media works, paintings on canvas and giant scrolls. Students kept regular journal entries as a tool to assist their journey and took responsibility for designing individual projects for themselves.

Fiona Jackson (Learning Area Coordinator - Visual Arts)



Music is taught across all year levels from Kindy to Year 6 for one hour per week by our new music specialist Janis Cullen who commenced at the beginning of term 3. Lessons are engaging, diverse and hands on. ICT is incorporated into sessions where appropriate with students becoming familiar with a range of apps and techniques using iPads. The program focused on developing student skills, knowledge and understandings in making and responding to music. This was expressed through various forms of performance opportunities including assembly items, whole school events and the newly introduced annual music showcase.

Banksia Park Primary School has a Choir consisting of 50 selected students from year 3 to year 6 who rehearse weekly. The choir has performed at many events this year including ANZAC day, Harmony and NAIDOC day, One Big Voice held at RAC Arena, Music Showcase and Book Award Assembly. They often perform at school assemblies and lead whole school songs.

The Banksia Park Primary Band program continued to run in 2023 providing an extension opportunity in the Music Arts comprised of students from Years 4-6. The conductor is Mr Cameron Harries. The School of Instrumental Music instruments taught to selected year 5 and 6 students include flute, clarinet, brass-trumpet and trombone.

All band students have a 30-minute instrumental lesson with a tutor and a 60-minute band rehearsal once a week during the school term. There is a band committee run by a wonderful group of band parents who help keep the program running smoothly. There were several opportunities for the band to perform, which include the Band Bash with Winthrop and Rostrata Primary Schools, a band weekend performance and a band night at school known as 'One Night Only'.

Banksia Ukulele Group (BUGS) continued to run at lunchtime once a week for Year 2 and 3 students instructed by Ms Merridith Higgins. Our BUGS perform around the school sharing impromptu performances for their peers at lunch times along with a guest appearance at the annual music showcase.

This year all students participated in a performance by Silver Threads organised by our hard-working Band Committee. This entertaining performance by a concert band of retired musicians provided a wonderful opportunity to see a professional band perform. This entertaining performance was very well received by the students.

Janis Cullen (Learning Area Coordinator - Music Arts)



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS and EVENTS 2023

Our reputation of a student focused culture with a strong and connected community was only enhanced with “all hands-on deck” for 2023 as our school returned to a full calendar of events post-COVID. From our Harmony Day Parade, swimming Carnival and annual ANZAC Day commemorations through to our first NAIDOC Celebration Day and new Book Awards process and of course Year 6 Graduation events to end the year. It was a productive and wonderful year with many achievements, strong community involvement and special moments to reflect on, some of which, are shared below.

Out of School Hours Care - OSHClub

This service was proposed by the School Board and we were very excited to start the year with our new out of school hours care service on-site at Banksia Park Primary School up and running. Care is now available from 6.45am – 8.50am and after school care is available 3.05pm – 6pm. This valuable service has been well supported by our school community and is making a positive difference for those families that require care outside of school hours.



Crunch&Sip

We launched our official status as a Crunch & Sip school at a special assembly. Students now bring along daily a small container of cut up fresh vegetables or fruit and a bottle of water each day. All classes include a short break each day to snack on vegetables or fruit in the first learning block.

NEW Banksia Park Primary School Website

The construction and launch of our new school website was an exciting achievement for all who were involved in its development. This is now a wonderful resource and source of information about our school.

Hick St, Leeming WA 6149 | (08) 9266 6400 | Office Hours 8:30am – 3:30pm | BanksiaPark.PS@education.wa.edu.au



Banksia Park Primary School
An Independent Public School

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Faction Athletics and Jumps Carnivals

Always a highlight, the 2023 Faction Athletics Carnival was another great day made possible by our Banksia Park volunteers who once again answered the call for assistance including race judging, marshalling, measuring, recording, setting up, selling lunches, a cake stall, and much more. Congratulations to RED faction, who were in the lead at the end of the day. It was a very successful event in every way with excellent behaviour and sportsmanship from all students.



The Band

Banksia Park students continued to shine musically under the direction of Band Coordinator, Mr Cameron Harries. Annual band events including the Band Bash with Rostrata and Winthrop Primary Schools and band weekends working with music tutors, there were many opportunities for students to come together to perform. The annual Band Fundraiser Concert was another great performance event and the One Night Only event was a highlight and a chance to farewell graduating band members. 2023 was also the year of the biannual Band Camp with Senior Band students spending the weekend at Camp Wattle Grove for an intensive music weekend filled with friends, fun and music, culminating in an amazing performance for all.



Swimming Carnival

This year's swimming carnival for students in Years 3-6 was held at Melville Aquatic Centre in Booragoon. Once again trials were held ahead of the event for students who wished to participate in the championship events. On the day RED faction took the honour of winners of the 2023 Faction Swimming Shield. A great day was had by both participants and spectators. All medal winners in the Championship events were particularly proud to display their medals and celebrate their achievements.



Harmony Day

Harmony DAY arrived with a dress up day and special assembly/parade to celebrate Australia's multiculturalism by dressing up in a traditional costume from country of origin or by wearing ORANGE to recognise our diversity and celebrate our many and varied cultural backgrounds.



Easter Hat Parade

Students designed and donned their Easter hats for our special Easter parade. There were many wonderful creations on display and once again the annual Easter Raffle organised by the P&C was a successful fundraising event.



ANZAC Day

ANZAC commemorations are held annually at Banksia Park PS. A moving ceremony led by our student leaders reminded us all of the ANZAC legend and the stories of sacrifice by those who give service to our country. Mr Ian Watson played the bagpipes as the wreaths were laid and three of our own Year 6 students played the Last Post. Our school P&C added a special touch this year baking and selling ANZAC cookies.

P&C Fundraising

Once again our hard-working P&C conducted a range of fundraising events raising additional funds for the school including the annual Mother's and Father's Day stalls, carnival cake stall, NAIDOC cupcake sale and of course the annual school disco. The disco was a great hit with all the students who particularly enjoyed the balloon drop which added lots of "BANG" to this always popular event.





The Colour Run

The crazy of the Colour Run continued in 2023 with our school community raising a whopping \$20 376.60! This was an outstanding effort and allowed us to commit to completing the library upgrades to the new computer lab. Special mentions to all our community helpers and our highest fundraiser, Mateo E who raised a huge \$900 earning the chance to 'SLIME' the principal.



Parent Night

Our annual Parent Night was once again well attended with our school community gathering in the Performing Arts Centre. This event was officially opened by the Banksia Park Choir. Here families had an opportunity to view an art display by students in the Art Gifted and Talented program and also purchase a sausage sizzle dinner. With members of the School Board manning the barbeque and also collecting survey responses for community feedback, there was much to do ahead of the opening of classrooms for viewing.

School Assemblies

Assemblies were again held throughout the year in the Performing Arts Centre (PAC). Each each class had an opportunity to host the assembly with honour certificates being awarded to recognise students who are displaying the school values. This performance project is a highlight for each class and a wonderful opportunity for parents and families to share in our school.



One Big Voice

Banksia Park joined over 7500 and 150+ schools to participate in the 2023 One Big Voice concert at the RAC Arena in Perth. This event was extra special with Joseph Panomarenko having been selected from hundreds of applicants as one of the compères. Despite a rather disrupted lead up in their rehearsals with a change in music teacher, Ms Cullen worked hard along with the students themselves, to learn the rather extensive repertoire required ahead of this combined school performance.



Year 6 - Graduating Cohort

The final year of primary school is always very big year and for this group of students 2023 was no different. From student leadership roles, fundraising, day camp excursions, interschool competition through to their graduation dinner, graduation assembly and end of year traditions, our Year 6 cohort had a great year. With this group students attending 9 different high schools, their time at Banksia Park has hopefully laid some strong foundations for a future lifetime of learning and we wish them all the best in their endeavours.





End of Year - Book Awards

2023 saw a change to the awards process for students with the introduction of End of Year - Book Awards. New criteria for these awards aligned to our school motto of Friendship and Knowledge and award selection was expanded to include the Pre-primary. Students, PP - Yr5, participated in a special assembly acknowledging their achievements throughout the year. They each received a book prize and personal citation presented by their classroom teacher/s along with a certificate. Each teacher chose two students from their class.

The Friendship Award – For showing respect, kindness and caring for others. This award recognised a student who exemplified “friendship” by being a good friend to others through their attitudes and behaviour. The Knowledge Award - For academic endeavour and excellent learning achievement. This award recognised an individual’s effort in striving to reach their personal potential. This assembly also provided an opportunity to farewell and acknowledge staff that were leaving Banksia Park.



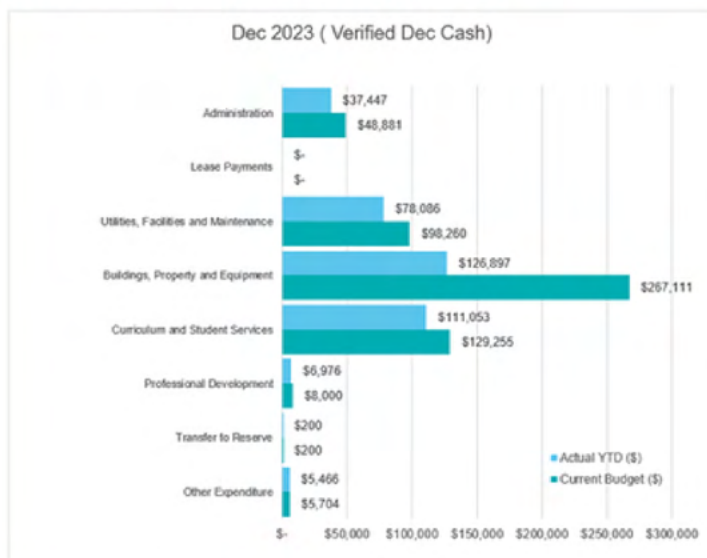
Financial Summary 2023

ONE LINE BUDGET - Dec 2023 (Verified Dec Cash)		
	Current Budget (\$)	Actual YTD (\$)
Carry Forward (Cash):	51,820	51,820
Carry Forward (Salary):	303,682	303,682
INCOME		
Student-Centred Funding (including Transfers & Adjustments):	2,957,476	2,957,476
Locally Raised Funds:	134,810	138,030
Total Funds:	3,447,788	3,451,008
EXPENDITURE		
Salaries:	2,684,541	2,684,541
Goods and Services (Cash):	557,411	366,125
Total Expenditure:	3,241,952	3,050,665
VARIANCE:	205,836	400,343

Goods and Services vs Salary expenditure



Goods and Services Expenditure - Budget vs Actual



Locally Generated Revenue - Budget vs Actual

