



WATCH US SOAR IN 2024

School News: BDHS Enrolments up by 10% in 2024

Working behind the scenes at BDHS are a dedicated team of professionals with a lot to be proud of. It's easy in today's world of endless and faceless social media platforms to talk about the negatives. But sometimes it just makes sense to talk about the positives. BDHS Enrolments are up by 10% on 2023 figures. For a small school in a small country town this is good news and in large part because we have been working very hard with our skilled teachers, EA's and office staff and the results are showing. Our teachers and EA's have focused on professional learning specific to the needs of this school and our students. Our partnerships with Psychologists, health nurses and Fly to Health have strengthened our understanding of our data, our students and our families' needs. The focus has extended from developing our senior teachers in their leadership roles and their reach across all staff, to diagnosis-specific medical and behavioural training, as well as ensuring our environment is both clean and aesthetically pleasing. Our staff retention rates are testament to our recent strategies as well as proudly starting the year fully staffed.

Focus On: Early Childhood Education

Teacher: Carolyn Watts, Kindy & Pre-Primary Teacher for 10 years

Fun Fact: Carolyn spent some of her early teaching years as the Home Economics teacher in Meekatharra. Eventually following her heart and moving to Brookton to live and teach in the same community as her husband.

Education Assistants Kerry Davis and Heidi Evans share the role in 2024.

Early Childhood Education is about teaching the foundations of learning. Teaching our children how to learn. The kindergarten program is planned to follow the Early Learning Years Framework (EYLF) and the WA Curriculum Guidelines. The five learning outcomes of the EYLF Guidelines are

// Children have a strong sense of identity // Children are connected with and contribute to their world // Children have a strong sense of wellbeing // Children are confident and involved learners // Children are effective communicator //

The EYLF is underlined by the mantra Belonging, Being and Becoming. The Pre-Primary program covers all the learning outcomes in the Australian Curriculum. A holistic approach to learning in Kindergarten and Pre-Primary with an emphasis on building core strengths to enhance gross and fine motor movements prepares the students to be able to participate in the primary school campus when moving into year 1. Early indicators from the "Phys Ed Department" report our 2024 cohort of year 1 students are above expected standards. Well done to Carolyn and her team.

Principals Address

I am very excited to be taking on the role of Principal at Brookton. We have an energetic, innovative team and already we are seeing the benefits of our staff “thinking outside the box”.

We have two main focus areas this semester;

·The Primary focus is “Read More in 2024” we will be focussing on reading comprehension. We want our children to be excited about reading. Our Literacy Committee are working hard on some initiatives and events, watch this space!

·High School Hub – we have made some changes in the high school area including relocating learning areas to the west end of the school , fitting out a secondary common area and changing recess and lunch times so high school students have their own breaks. We are commencing a series of project-based learning units integrated with the curriculum. It has been a busy start to the school year. Already we have had a number of events

including:

·Hockey Clinics

·Secondary Girls Engagement Program (year long program with neighbouring District High schools)

·Wheatbelt Youth Mentoring Network visit

·Staff training in Circle of Courage, Asthma and Anaphylaxis training

·Fly2Health have recommenced their fortnightly therapy services at school

·Visits from WA Country Health Service staff to the school

Our upcoming events are

·Friday 23rd February Assembly- Student Councillors hosting

·Thursday 29th February - Faction Swimming Carnival

·Monday 5th March – Secondary Careers Roadshow

·Friday 8th February – Interschool Swimming Carnival

School Board

We had an amazing turnout for voting for the School Board elections, 3 parents nominated and we had 53 votes which was the highest participation rate we’ve had for years. Very promising signs for engaging our school community in the education of our children.

Swimming Lessons

As you are aware Brookton has missed out on the full two week swimming program for 3 consecutive years. The School Board and I have both corresponded with the Department of Education to offer suggestions about how the problem could be rectified for 2024. We have received a written response and we will continue to work on the issue.

Canteen

The High School students are continuing to offer a recess canteen services on Tuesdays as part of their project based learning curriculum. We are excited to announce that a joint initiative between Seabrook Aboriginal Corporation and the Brookton P&C will see the school canteen opening on Thursdays form Week 6. A big thank you to Leonie McGuire for taking on the canteen manager role.