

Watch Us SOAR in 2024

BROOKTON DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER EDITION 20



Principals Address

Our Brookton students have been great this year, they've been asked to adapt to quite a few changes from how we do things at Brookton DHS and they demonstrated amazing resilience by accepting change quickly and moving on. They are amazing like that.

The big ticket changes have been in our high school learning environment; as you can see because you are sitting in it. We have been fortunate to source funding to re-surface the quadrangle, get this amazing mural of local wildlife painted by Charlie Colbung and get the high school students their own toilet block. We created a High School hub so students felt they had their own space and also when students finish primary school they feel like they are moving on to a real high school option not more of the same they had in primary school.

We have had the Science room renovated this year and all students from Year 1 – 10 will benefit from the “like-new” facilities.

We have broadened the range of recess and lunch this year; in addition to Minecraft Club, run by student councillors, and Lego Club in the library with Mrs Eyre we have added Osmos (which help improve spatial awareness and problem solving). The students have also made a tyre swing under guidance from Mr Mac, which has proved to be incredibly popular and is great for encouraging safe risk taking. Safe risk-taking gives students the opportunity to experience that rush of adrenaline, and what it feels like to make decisions with a rush of adrenaline so they can learn to make good decisions under pressure. It is the same reason we now let students climb the lower limbs of trees; safe risk taking.

The drain digging in the nature playground has subsided and the marble craze started by Mr Sheridan last year has re-surfaced. The negotiation skills acquired over a game of marbles is a sight to behold.

We have had 3 students accepted into the PEAC program this year, an honour for a small school like Brookton, I'm not sure if that has happened here before. We have one student performing on the 99th percentile for Mathematics in nationally standardised PATS testing, now that is amazing.

We have had 3 students receive scholarships for their high school studies which is brilliant - Kristen Morrison, David Copping and Nirvanah Thornton. This shows our Brookton students are achieving at a competitive level with other schools.

Principals Address continued ...

Our students are showing amazing community service, we have had an amazing 29 students volunteer their time to help in Breakfast Club this year, ably led by Audrey Coote and Kaitlyn McBrearty who both volunteered more than 60 times and Kayden Williams, Angus Eva and Storm Wenzel who all volunteered more than 20 times. This shows we are blessed with an abundance of community spirit. We have had Year 6 students demonstrating their leadership by reading to and with Kindergarten students on Friday mornings and High School Hospitality students catering for events. This shows we are blessed with an abundance of community spirit. Our students have been busy. We have had 3 school camps, 7 incursions, 8 excursions, 3 faction carnivals and 4 interschool carnivals as well as a tennis carnival and a cricket carnival.

On the staffing front we have had the Principal, Deputy Principal and MCS gain their permanency as well as two of our teachers in Mr Alwis and Ms Gupta, who is now permanent to Northam Primary School. We have some big projects planned for 2025 and beyond. Ms Tracy Wood has retrained as a Manual Arts teacher, so with her existing Maths and Science skills she is now the complete STEM package. We will no longer be relying on SIDE online learning for our Woodwork program.

Our big goal in Technology for next year it to build a one-to-one device program into our classrooms. This absolutely does not mean students will be on screens all day. What it does mean is that we won't be wasting student learning time by sending students to and from the office to collect devices, they will be in classrooms. We have noticed a need to develop our students' typing skills.

2024 was amazing and 2025 looks like being even better!

Congratulations to all our award recipients this year.

2024 Award	2024 Recipients	2024 Donor
Year 1 Achievement	Annabelle Sudholz	Past Committee and Volunteers of the Brookton CRC Committee
Year 1 SOAR	Sophie Collins	Frank and Ted Yeo Memorial
Year 2 Achievement	Summer Mustchin	Brookton Pingelly Community Bank - Bendigo Bank
Year 2 SOAR	Natasha Sleep	J & C Watts In Memory of Marj Watts
Year 3 Achievement	Levi Gault	Alan Austen Memorial
Year 3 SOAR	Piper de Gruchy	Southern Star 130 RAOB GLWA
Year 4 Achievement	Sonja Houk	Brookton Sub Branch of RSL WA
Year 4 SOAR	Lachlan Rushton	Shire of Brookton Councillors
Year 5 Achievement	Angus Eva	Peter and Roz Wright
Year 5 SOAR	Ila Craig	Aldersyde CWA
Year 6 Achievement	Kristen Morrison	A and J Evans Memorial
Year 6 SOAR	Lincoln Eva	St Marks Anglican Church and in Memory of Percy V Williams

Principals Address continued ...

2024 Award	2024 Recipients	2024 Donor
Year 7 Academic Progress	Jemimah Trott	Hon. Mia Davies
Year 7 SOAR	Sophie Wilkinson	Hon. Darren West
Year 8 Achievement	-	-
Year 8 SOAR	-	-
Year 9 Academic Progress	-	-
Year 9 SOAR	Bonnie Conway	Hon. Rick Wilson
Year 10 Academic Progress	-	-
Year 10 SOAR	Nirvanah Thornton	Hon. Darren West
Primary Physical Education	Lincoln Eva	Stay Active Group
Secondary Physical Education	Anton Penny	Stay Active Group
Primary SOARing Above Award	Anthony Sleep	Ron and Ainsley Cousins
Secondary SOARing Above Award	Jemimah Trott	Michael and Anthea Cousins
Primary Citizenship	Hayden Messenger	Brookton CWA
Secondary Citizenship	Sophie Wilkinson	Brookton CWA
Rae White Excellence Everyday Award	Eve Craig	Peter and Roz Wright

Focus on Charleigh Bell

Charlie Bell has been an absolute gem of a find for BDHS in 2024. She comes to us from North West of Tasmania, on an Agricultural Study exchange through her partner Joey. They chose the Wheatbelt of WA to spend the year. Charlie, better known as Chaz to her family, is studying a Bachelor of Education through UTAS whilst working as a Special Needs Education Assistant. Charleigh has one sister and is a doting aunty to 2 nephews and a niece. Her favourite place in Tasmania is without a doubt the East Coast. And she is hoping to spend Christmas in beautiful Esperance en route back to Tassie for next year. Joey is a passionate footy player being a committed member of the Devonport Football Club for many years now. He got scooped up by the WAFL's Perth Deacons proudly wearing the number 59 in 2024. Joey's family farm is famous for their potatoes, carrots and cauliflowers.

Charleigh favourite past times include basketball and running. Her favourite foods are taco's, lasagne and sticky date pudding.

Charleigh came to us with very little experience in high school and reluctantly stepped into this roll. She is now one of our superstar highschool staff and has formed meaningful relationships with staff and students alike. She will be missed in 2025. We wish you all the best Chaz.