# EDUCATION SUPPORT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

ATWELL COLLEGE
Embracing the Future



Welcome to our Community Newsletter. Keep up to date with the latest news and upcoming events for our Education Support program. Help us celebrate the achievements of our students and be part of the learning.

Our Community Newsletter will come out termly to showcase the incredible transformations and growth of our students.

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

As we reflect on another exciting term at Atwell College, I am incredibly proud of the achievements of our students, staff and families. Together, we continue to build a community where every student is known, valued and supported to achieve success in learning, independence and life.

This year has been particularly significant for our school community. We were honoured to be recognised as the National Winner of the Australian Education Award for Special Education School of the Year. This is a remarkable achievement that acknowledges the dedication, innovation and commitment of our staff, the resilience and growth of our students, and the trust and partnership of our families. This prestigious award confirms what we have always known, that inclusive education changes lives and that every student deserves to learn, belong and thrive.

We have also welcomed several distinguished visitors over the term who have taken a keen interest in the outstanding work happening within our Education Support program. We were privileged to host Hon. Sabine Winton MLA, Minister for Education, and Hon. Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Disability Services, who spent time meeting students, engaging with staff and learning about the innovative programs that make Atwell College a leader in inclusive education. Their visits were an opportunity to showcase the incredible achievements of our students and highlight the importance of ensuring young people with disability have access to meaningful educational opportunities and pathways to adulthood.

Throughout this newsletter, you will see many examples of students demonstrating courage, perseverance, kindness and achievement. Whether participating in community access programs, developing workplace skills, engaging in academic learning, building friendships or celebrating personal milestones, our students continue to inspire us every day.

As always, I would like to thank our families and community partners for their ongoing support. Strong partnerships between home, school and community are essential in helping our students achieve their goals and prepare for life beyond school. Together, we will continue to create opportunities, remove barriers and ensure every student can experience success.

Brent Passchier
Deputy Principal

# EVENTS

**Wildcats All Abilities Carnival**



Our students recently jumped on the bus for an exciting trip to the Bendat Basketball Centre to take part in the Perth Wildcats All Abilities Basketball Carnival. While the journey there was a bit of a long ride, the excitement on board set the tone for a fantastic day out.

The action started immediately in our first game against Cannington. After trailing by a few points in the opening minutes, the team rallied together. Thanks to a strong, coordinated team effort, we managed to secure a thrilling victory! As a student admitted, *"I was a bit worried at first,"* but the win brought huge smiles all around.

After some hard-fought matches against some difficult teams, we took a well-earned break in the stadium's sensory room to recharge. This was a major highlight for everyone. Bora shared, *"I liked it, especially the sensory activities like the foot piano,"* while Jubal loved kicking the balls around in the space. In between games students also got to support the other Atwell teams, get their face painted and meet Wilbur the Wildcats mascot.



To wrap up a great day, everyone enjoyed a complimentary hot dog lunch and then awaited the All-Stars game and winner announcements. Overall, it was a memorable day of sport, teamwork, and fun. As Mason H. summed up best: *"The food was good and I had a great day."* One of teams also brought home the Division 2 winner's trophy! Well done to all students involved for representing Atwell in such a positive way.








# EDUCATION SUPPORT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

ATWELL COLLEGE
*Embracing the Future*

## Dare to Dream Program: Inspiring Pathways Beyond School

Atwell College is proud to support the Good Sammy Dare to Dream Program, an exciting initiative designed to help students with disability build confidence, develop workplace skills, and prepare for life after school.

The program provides meaningful, hands-on learning experiences that allow students to explore their interests, strengths, and future career aspirations in a supportive and inclusive environment. Through practical workplace activities, mentoring, and industry exposure, participants gain valuable skills in communication, teamwork, independence, and workplace readiness.

Launching in 2026 with support from the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation, the Dare to Dream Scholarship Program will offer Year 11 and 12 students the opportunity to participate in weekly sessions and workplace visits at Good Sammy's Canning Vale headquarters. Students will connect with industry mentors, explore training and employment pathways, and develop a clearer vision for their future.

The program complements the work undertaken at school to support successful transitions to employment, further education, and community participation

We encourage eligible students and families to consider this valuable opportunity and look forward to seeing more young people benefit from the program in the years ahead.










COCKBURN TOY LIBRARY

## Cockburn Toy Library

Students from Atwell College are thriving through valuable work placement opportunities at the Cockburn Toy Library, where they are developing practical skills, building confidence, and becoming active members of an inclusive community.

Through hands-on experiences in a supportive and welcoming environment, students have the opportunity to strengthen communication, teamwork, organisation, and customer service skills.

The Cockburn Toy Library's commitment to inclusion provides students with authentic learning experiences that build confidence, skills, and independence. Supported by dedicated staff and volunteers, students feel valued and empowered while developing the capacity and aspirations needed for future employment, community participation, and lifelong success.

Atwell College sincerely thanks the Cockburn Toy Library team for their ongoing support and dedication to creating opportunities that make a lasting difference in the lives of our students. Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive community where everyone has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.

**Whole School Athletics Carnival**

Our annual Whole School Athletics Carnival was a fantastic celebration of participation, teamwork and school spirit. Blessed with excellent weather, students enjoyed a wonderful day of competition while demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship and support for one another.

A special thank you goes to our HPE team for their exceptional planning, organisation and hard work in delivering such a successful event. Carnivals of this scale require significant preparation, and the smooth running of the day was a credit to their dedication and attention to detail.

We would also like to acknowledge all staff who contributed throughout the day. Whether supervising students, assisting with events, working behind the scenes or cheering from the sidelines, your support helped create a positive and memorable experience for everyone involved.

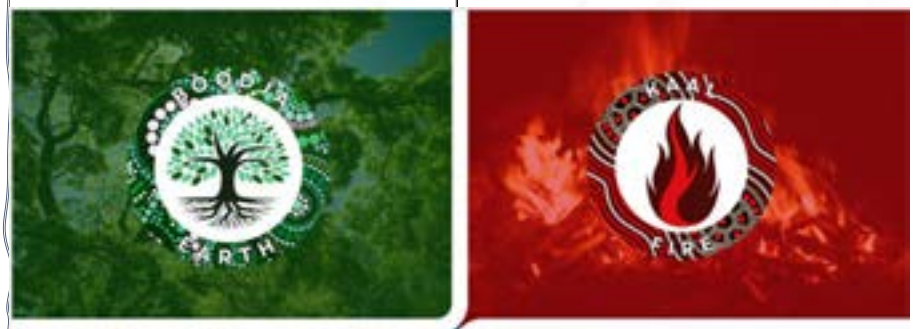
Most pleasing was the way our students embodied Atwell College's PBS values of Show Respect, Strive to Achieve and Be Responsible. Across the carnival, students encouraged one another, celebrated achievements and demonstrated pride in representing their house.

Congratulations to Kep House, who were crowned champions of the 2026 Athletics Carnival. Well done to all students for their participation, enthusiasm and commitment to making the day such a success.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to another outstanding Atwell College Athletics Carnival. It is events like these that strengthen our positive school culture and create lasting memories for our students.










**Minister Beazley visit**

Minister for Education, the Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, recently visited Atwell College to showcase the school's Endorsed Education Support Program and the positive opportunities it provides for students.
The visit highlighted the program's focus on supporting students with diverse learning needs, building confidence, developing practical skills and preparing young people for greater independence beyond school.
Minister Beazley had the opportunity to meet students and staff, see the program in action and learn more about the tailored support and pathways available through Atwell College. The visit showcased the important role of inclusive education in helping every student reach their potential.




**Year 8 WA Museum Boola Bardip excursion**

On Wednesday 16th September, our Year 8 students embarked on an exciting full-day excursion to the WA Museum Boola Bardip to consolidate their science learning around living and non-living things and local ecosystems. Travelling by train, the students immersed themselves in curriculum-connected concepts regarding producers, consumers, and decomposers within the Western Australian environment. Upon arrival, they engaged in the dynamic "Boola Bardip Bidi"—a team-based trail in Noongar where small groups solved clues to answer targeted questions for rewards. Alongside these curriculum-focused activities, students enjoyed exploring broader personal interests, including Indigenous culture and wildlife conservation, making for a memorable and enriching day of adventure.









# HEALTH EXPO







**Annual Health Expo**

Our Annual Health Expo was once again a tremendous success, providing our Education Support students with an engaging and interactive opportunity to learn about health, wellbeing and healthy lifestyles.

What made this event particularly special was that it was entirely designed, planned and delivered by our senior students. Their enthusiasm, creativity and professionalism were evident throughout the day, as they confidently engaged with students and delivered important health and wellbeing messages in fun, meaningful and accessible ways.

From interactive activities and hands-on experiences to innovative presentations and demonstrations, our senior students consistently thought outside the box to create memorable learning opportunities. Their ability to connect with younger students while promoting positive health practices was truly impressive.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in making this year's Health Expo such a success. The event showcased not only the importance of health and wellbeing education, but also the incredible leadership, compassion and capability of our senior students.





# ACHIEVEMENTS

Within Ed Support we have our Student of the Week nominations which link directly to the PBS matrix. All the nominated students receive PBS points, and the winner also gets to choose a reward from the prize box located in Alli & Paris' office (2 of our Lead EAs). Here are some of our winners so far:

*The Atwell College Positive Behaviour Support team drives our college values and expected behaviours, by supporting consistent practices and positive relationships. We foster a positive learning environment wherein our students can thrive, and we all feel a sense of safety, belonging and acceptance.*

Vihas – U12



Jade – C10



Mason – U8



Emily – U9



Aidan – C7



# EDUCATION SUPPORT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

ATWELL COLLEGE
*Embracing the Future*

**Atwell College Wins at the Australian Education Awards**

🎉🎉
We are incredibly excited and proud to announce that Atwell College won the national Special Education School of the Year at the 2026 Australian Education Awards.
This prestigious recognition places Atwell College as the leader across Australia in this category, an extraordinary achievement for our entire school community and a reflection of our college motto, “Embracing the Future”.




The award recognises the outstanding work taking place every day across our school to support students of all abilities to thrive, belong, and achieve meaningful outcomes.
This achievement reflects:
- The strength of our Education Support programs alongside mainstream pathways
- The professionalism and expertise of our staff
- Our purpose-built learning environments and therapy partnerships
- And most importantly, the incredible outcomes achieved by our students across academic, wellbeing, and transition areas.

This recognition belongs to our amazing staff, students, families, and wider community. Thank you for the passion, care, and dedication you bring to Atwell College every day.
We could not be prouder of what this recognition represents for our school and for inclusive education.

Learn more here:
Australian Education Awards | The Educator
2026 Excellence Awardees | Australian Education Awards

Atwell College was also finalist in the Australian School of the Year.







# EDUCATION SUPPORT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

ATWELL COLLEGE
Embracing the Future

**From Sabine Winton MLA – Minister for Education**

Atwell College recently received the Australian Education Award for Special Education Excellence, in recognition of its outstanding practice and leadership in inclusive education.

It was fantastic to visit the school today with Stephen Pratt for Jandakot, to see their endorsed education support program in action.

The program supports 150 students with disability through personalised learning programs, transition planning and opportunities for meaningful participation in all aspects of school life.

It was impressive to see 'The Drip Cafe', which gives students the opportunity to provide real-world hospitality experience and practical work skills.

I also had a first today — signing a student's leavers jacket! ❤️

Thank you to Deputy Principal Brent Passchier for the warm welcome today and introducing us to your incredible staff and students.







**From Stephen Pratt MLA – Local Member for Jandakot**

I promised Sabine Winton MLA great coffee, but the students at Atwell College served up so much more. ☕✨

Touring the school's Education Support facilities was an inspiring reminder of what true inclusive education looks like in practice, winning them Special Education School of the Year 🏆

From purpose-built sensory rooms that give students a calming space to regulate, recharge, and learn 🌟🕯️, to the bustling counter at The Drip Cafe — where students run the whole show and gain valuable qualifications in real world vocational skills! 🥐

Massive credit to the leadership team, teachers, and dedicated education assistants who work hard every day to create an environment where every single learner can thrive, and special shoutout to Krystal who asked me to sign her Leavers Jumper! 🏫🙌💜

# INNOVATION




**Beyond Paperwork: How Atwell College Redesigned Assessment for Every Learner — Brent Passchier & Denelle Kennedy**

Brent Passchier and Denelle Kennedy travelled to Darwin early September to represent Atwell College at the 2026 AASE National Conference, where they presented our work on rethinking assessment through the development of the My Achievement Portfolio (MAP)**.**

The presentation highlighted how MAP was designed to reduce teacher workload while providing a more meaningful and individualised approach to tracking and celebrating student growth. Moving beyond traditional, compliance-driven assessment practices, MAP supported educators to capture authentic evidence of learning while empowering students to better understand and demonstrate their progress.

The conference provided an opportunity to share Atwell College's innovative approach with educators from across Australia, showcasing how MAP had helped make student achievement more visible, meaningful and personalised while supporting every learner to take greater ownership of their learning journey.




## Student Leaders

We have two student leaders, Zara Thomas (Year 9) and Harper Sirko (Year 12). They provide leadership to other students within Atwell College.

*"Hello everyone, as student leaders our key role is to help with school activities such as group and big assemblies. During lunch on Wednesdays the student leadership group have been focusing on improving spirit and hosting events in the library. One achievement we are particularly proud of is showing school spirit. We must show leadership. through this experience. Next term, we are looking forward to Adventure world. Thank you for reading."*

*-Zara Thomas*

# MEET OUR TEAM



**Jessie Dunning – Sensory Facilitator and Therapy Coordinator**

Hi, my name is Jessie I'm an Education Assistant at Atwell College, where I have been working since 2017. I began my journey supporting students in the Endorsed Education Support Program, and over the past 9.5 years, I have found this role to be incredibly rewarding.

During my time at Atwell, I have had the opportunity to support students across a variety of classroom settings, as well as out in the wider community through community access, work experience, most recently I have had the opportunity to support students in the sensory room. I really enjoy being able to support students to engage, learn, develop their skills and, most importantly, work towards and achieve their individual goals.

I enjoy coming to school each day not only to support our students, but to see the workmates that have become like family. I feel lucky to be part of such a wonderful team and to continue supporting our students on their individual journeys.

Outside of school I like to spend time with my partner, our two kids and multiple pets! We enjoy going to the beach, camping & fishing.



Megan Greco – Hydrotherapy Facilitator

I started here at Atwell College in 2017 as an Education Assistant and Swimming Facilitator and I continue to be a part of the Hydrotherapy team to this day.

I am extremely passionate about teaching our students in the water whether that be by movement and exercise or therapy and sensory sessions.

Outside of Atwell, I am a volunteer Treasurer for my local football club, where I watch my 2 sons play each week. I enjoy hiking, camping and time with my family and friends.





# MEET OUR COMMUNITY

CliniKIDS | The KIDS RESEARCH INSTITUTE AUSTRALIA

Autism Association of Australia

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Calling parents and family members who care for someone with autism: it's time to have your say! Australian parents and primary caregivers (18+) of an autistic child, young person or adult are invited to contribute to our research by sharing your family's experience.

Help shape future policies, services and supports - take the survey today:
https://shorturl.at/sMMNr

City of Cockburn




**Discover exciting activities these holidays!**

The Telethon Holiday Makers Program (THMP) is all about creating fun, inclusive experiences for autistic young people aged 5–18. Each holiday period, we offer a variety of activities designed to spark curiosity, build confidence, and foster social connections in a supportive environment.

What's On Offer?

Our Telethon Holiday Makers Program (THMP) combine advertised excursions and incursions with a range of on-the-day activities, giving participants the chance to:

- Try new hobbies and creative projects
- Join in active, adventure-filled experiences
- Explore special interests in a safe, social space
- Build friendships and enjoy positive social interactions

Every day is different! Alongside scheduled activities, we provide flexible options so participants can choose what interests them most.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Loved this edition? You can find all our newsletters on our website too! Jump online and stay in the loop — anytime, anywhere!

Community Newsletter – Atwell College

# HOLIDAYS

Please stay safe, refresh and enjoy the time away. We look forward to seeing all students return on Tuesday 13th October.

IEN
INCLUSIVE EDUCATION NETWORK
supporting every student