

National Boarding Week 2025

Activity Ideas:

Day 1: Threads of Connection

- Cultural Exchange Night: students from different backgrounds share stories, food or traditions.
- Boarding Family Tree: Create a visual “tree” with photos of boarding memories and students throughout the past years.
- Pen-Pal Project: each boarder draws a name out of a hat and writes a note of appreciation to their selected boarder.
- Boarders giving back - find an act of service within the community where boarders can give back to people in need and spread threads of connection.
- Boarding house time capsule: each boarder contributes a letter, object or photo to open down the track.

Day 2: National Boarders Day

- Boarder Appreciation Breakfast: Special breakfast put on for the boarders - special notes written for each boarder.
- A Day in the Life: Boarders create a Day in the Life Video for the ABSA socials.
- Have the day students write a kind letter to each boarder.
- Boarder vs Staff challenge: a fun competition (e.g. trivia, obstacle courses, sports match etc) between boarders and staff.
- Photo Booth: set up a themed photo booth and display the fun photos captured of the boarders on a wall.
- Memory wall: create a wall which displays a collection of memories throughout the years of boarding.

Day 3: Social Justice Tuesday

- At dinner, each table has to find one thing they have in common with each other and share it with the rest of the boarding house.
- Allow boarders to wear their sports uniforms for the day and organise a big boarding house sports day - a day full of fun games such as red rover, capture the flag, tug of war etc.
- Boarders do a big baking afternoon and then sell the goodies at school the following day and use the money to buy something for the boarding house.

Day 4: Wellbeing Wednesday

- Yoga or Meditation session: Guided activities to promote relaxation and mental health.
- Boarder Movie Night: Movie night with the boarders.
- Dessert making station for the boarders after dinner.
- DIY Spa night: face masks, relaxing music and a night full of relaxing self care.





Day 5: National Boarding School Parents Day

- Video Messages: Create a montage of boarders sharing messages for their parents and send it to them.
- Write a letter of appreciation to send home to the boarders parents.
- Take some time to celebrate and acknowledge boarding house parents - boarders write special notes to share with them.
- Favourite family recipe night: boarders submit their favourite home recipes, and the dining hall recreates a few for dinner throughout the week.

Day 6: National Boarding School Staff Day

- Staff Appreciation Wall: A display with notes of appreciation from students and parents.
- Awards Ceremony: Students vote for fun awards for staff, like "Most Encouraging", "Best Joke Teller.", "Most Likely To" etc.
- Staff Stories: Students are presented with a story and have to guess which member of the boarding staff did it (e.g. This person has done xyz before).
- Boarder-Run cafe: Boarders set up a pop-up cafe for staff, serving coffee, tea, and treats with handwritten appreciation notes.

Day 7: National Boarding School Principal Day

- Memory Book: Boarders create a scrapbook filled with photos and notes of appreciation for the principal.
- Everyone gets together and tells their favourite funny memory about their principal.
- The boarders host a special breakfast or dinner for the principal.

Please note:

- On social media please use the hashtags #weloveboarding and #NBW2025
- Please also tag @austboarding (AUS Boarding Schools) or @aotearoaboarding (NZ Boarding schools) in all of your posts so we can reshare your posts throughout the week of NBW to the ABSA social media platforms.
- Feel free to send us any fun photos of your boarders celebrating NBW to absa@boarding.org.au which we can use for content throughout the year.

