



# Kurna Plains School R-12

Strength Through Learning • Taingiwilta Tirkanthi-arra

NEWSLETTER #3 Term 1, Week 6 2026

## Term 1 Diary Dates

### Week 6

- **Friday 6 March**  
School Photos

### Week 7

- **Monday 9 March**  
**Public Holiday (Adelaide Cup Day)**
- **Wednesday 11 – Monday 23 March**  
NAPLAN
- **Wednesday 11 March**  
Community BBQ 2:30-3:30pm

### Week 8

- **Tuesday 17 – Wednesday 18 March**  
Deadly Coders Incursion
- **Wednesday 18 March**  
National Close the Gap Day  
Assembly 9:10am

### Week 9

- **Monday 23 – Friday 27 March**  
Kids on Country Camp
- **Monday 23 – Tuesday 24 March**  
LifeEd R-12 Program

### Week 10

- **Monday 30 March – Thursday 2 April**  
One Plan Meetings
- **Friday 3 April**  
**Public Holiday (Good Friday)**

### Week 11

- **Monday 6 April**  
**Public Holiday (Easter Monday)**
- **Thursday 9 April**  
Community Breakfast & Assembly
- **Friday 10 April**  
Sports Day & Last day of Term 1



## Niina Marni

Naa Marni,

Welcome to Week 6! We are already halfway through Term 1 and as a school community we have taken part in much teaching and learning, events and celebrations.

### Pupil Free Days

Last week, as a staff we had two deeply engaging days of professional learning where we worked on our whole School Learning Plan. The first day was at Yitpi Yartapuultiku - Aboriginal Cultural Centre and the second was back at KPS where staff were able to work in teams to develop our commitment to embedding Kurna Language and Culture throughout our curriculum. I want to thank all staff for their engagement in both days ensuring the best outcomes for our students and community. A special thank you to Uncle Antony and Uncle Michael for their Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony which set the scene for both days.

*(continued over)*



# Niina Marni - Principal's Message (continued)



## Staffing

We have recently been granted the establishment of a **SAASTA - South Australian Aboriginal Secondary Training Academy** at our school. SAASTA is a unique educational program that supports the continued high achievement of Aboriginal secondary learners. We have been able to appoint a B1 SAASTA Coordinator. The panel is still in progress, and the outcome of this process will be shared as soon as possible.



I would like to congratulate senior teacher **Vinny Urbancic** on successfully winning a leadership position at Ocean View College as the Primary Wellbeing Leader for the remainder of the year. Even though Vinny's time at KPS has been short, he has had a positive impact on students and staff. Vinny will commence his new position at the end of Week 6.

We are very happy to be welcoming several new Co-Educators to our KPS family. This is based on funding changes and attempts to target our intervention and support where it is most needed. Thank you to Natalea and Leayshia for their coordination of funding, timetables and staffing. I know you will join me in welcoming the following Co-Educators Mary Douros, Adam Oosthuizen, Jacqui Whitaker, Aly Stanley, Cerrin Karpny, Danielle Gollan and Rhiannon Sparrow.

## Governing Council

It is a great pleasure to introduce Michelle Kells as our new Chair of the Governing Council along with Katherine Henry as our new Secretary. We are also thrilled to have Eunice Bartlett and Alison Denee continuing as our community members and Megan Hickman as a valued parent. We also welcome two staff representatives Natasha Trestrail (Primary) and Jason Kan (Secondary). Please note that we have a few more vacancies for parent representatives so if you would like to be part of the Governing Council, please let us know by contacting the front office or come in and have a yarn.

## Parent / Family Pulse Check Survey

As a school, we are constantly striving to improve what we do and how we do it. Staff, student and family voices are critical in helping us plan this work. I am asking for your help in completing a short online form. Pictured is a QR Code that you can scan with your phone, and it will bring you to the questions. Once we have had the opportunity to have staff, students and families respond we will analyse the information and share this with the community.

Kaurna Plains School - Families



## Community BBQ

On Wednesday 11th March the Governing Council together with staff will be hosting a community BBQ between 2.30 - 3.30pm. This will be an opportunity for families to connect and yarn about how you can have a voice in our school through being a member of the Governing Council. We look forward to seeing you all there.



Marni padni

**Cinzia Greco, Principal**

# Deputy Principal Update

## Attendance

A massive shout out to our community and the amazing work with attendance. As a community we know, attendance is deeply connected to relationships, culture and trust. We do hope as families, you have had positive contact with our teachers and staff over the beginning of the term.

In particular, Primary have increased their overall attendance which is amazing.



We are still aiming to ensure **our overall attendance rate is over 75% by the end of 2026**. In Week 11, students with high attendance will be acknowledged at our Community Breakfast on Thursday – so keep up the deadly work!

## One Plans

One Plans are a pivotal part of a student's learning journey, with almost all KPS students having a plan to support their personalised learning journey. We use these plans to identify goals to help students achieve at school and we really value these personalised plans as a community.

We have One Plan Yarns scheduled for Week 10 this term, Monday to Thursday after school. Families are invited in to meet with staff and discuss the learning goals set for their deadly kids. We have a late night Tuesday until 7pm, with other nights going until 5pm. Parents are invited to book in via the Parent Portal on Sentral with letters coming out soon.

After meetings on Tuesday 3 – 7pm, we are happy to provide a feed for all if everyone books on this night.

One Plans use SMARTER Goals to be discussed on the night – mostly in relation to Literacy, Numeracy and Wellbeing Development.

<b>S</b>	<b>Specific</b>	Relating to a skill
<b>M</b>	<b>Measurable</b>	Able to know if it is achieved
<b>A</b>	<b>Achievable</b>	Within reach of your child's abilities
<b>R</b>	<b>Relevant</b>	Directly related to your child
<b>T</b>	<b>Timely</b>	Can be achieved in a 10 week time frame
<b>E</b>	<b>Evaluate</b>	Regularly assess progress and outcomes
<b>R</b>	<b>Re-Adjust</b>	Adjust goals based on evaluations

One Plans don't end with the yarn, with teaching staff looking at the 4 step stages;

<b>Consult &amp; Collaborate</b>	Embed the perspective of teachers, student and families.	<i>Generally annually</i>
<b>Assess &amp; Identify</b>	Where is your child at? How do they get to the next step? Set goals based on this.	<i>Each term</i>
<b>Adjust</b>	Teachers, SSOs, Leaders, Ab Ed Team all make the necessary adjustments to support students to achieve their goals.	<i>Each term</i>
<b>Monitor &amp; Review</b>	Record the progress made.	<i>Each term</i>



**Aunty Natalea**  
**Deputy Principal**

# Engagement and Wellbeing Leader

## Engagement Policy

As we have all now found our feet in 2026 as staff and students, we are focusing on our Engagement Process to maximise teaching and learning time. All students are familiar with the process, it is discussed in our 'Circle times' more than once a day. The process is based on the Berry Street Education Model, trauma-informed practices, and restorative application.

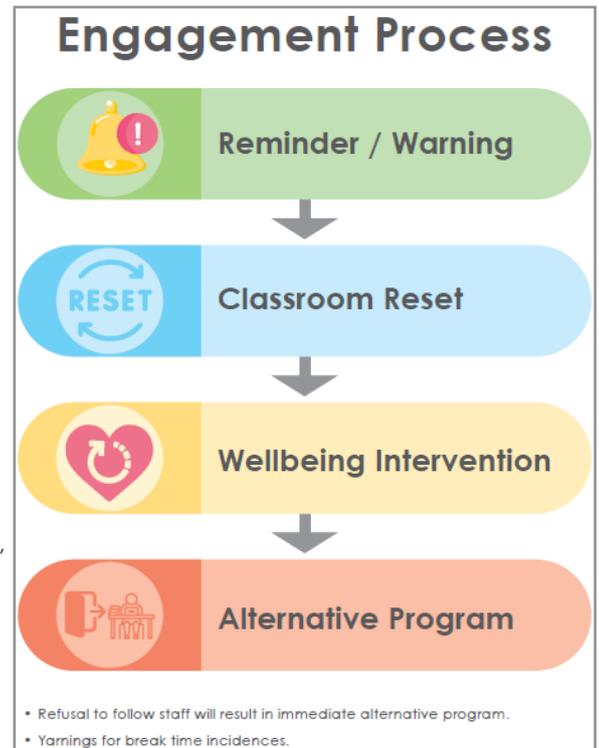
*"...individuals are most likely to trust and cooperate freely with systems – whether they themselves win or lose by those systems – when fair process is observed..."*

The process follows the three 'Fair Process Principles' of engagement – having the opportunity to have a say, explanation – understand the reasons for the decision and expectation clarity – shared understanding on what is expected in terms of behaviour and rules. This process achieves trust, commitment and co-operation.

The process enhances learning, behaviour, moral development and helps build stronger relationships. Our processes are ongoing and forever developing and changing. We will always keep community updated and appreciate your input! As always, if you have any questions about the process, please speak with a member of leadership.



**Uncle Tom**



## Wakwakanarlu Wangkanthi – Student Voice 2026

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected by their classes to represent Student Voice for 2026:

- **Reception – Fraser and Temperance**
- **Year 1 – Hassan and Ivy**
- **2/3/4 (Fotina) – Lily and Conner**
- **2/3/4 (Tina) – Aleena and Eveaeh**
- **5/6 – Ella and London**
- **Year 7 – Sakara**
- **Year 8 – Jamie and Milah**
- **Year 9 – Inara and Lauchlin**
- **Year 10 - Izabelle and Violet**
- **Seniors – Eli and Jordan**



We have already held a few meetings this term and all reps have shown they are willing to speak up and represent their classes. There are also some exciting excursions coming up for our Wakwakanarlu Wangkanthi reps and we look forward to them representing our school proudly.

**Aunty Nat**



# Aunty Leayshia

## NAPLAN Update

Last week, some of our students took part in the NAPLAN practice test. This allowed students to log in, explore the online tools and become familiar with the format before the real tests begin.

We're pleased to share that the practice sessions went smoothly. Students showed great focus and approached the experience calmly. These practice opportunities help build confidence and reduce nerves.

The official NAPLAN testing begins next Wednesday (Week 7). Teachers will continue to support and reassure students throughout the testing period to ensure they feel settled and ready to do their best.

Just a reminder: NAPLAN is a national assessment that provides a snapshot of student progress in literacy and numeracy. It is one of many tools we use to understand how students are progressing and how best to support their learning.

If you have any concerns about your child's participation, please contact the school.

## Lattes and Learning – A fantastic start to 2026!

A big thank you to all the families who joined us for Lattes and Learning.

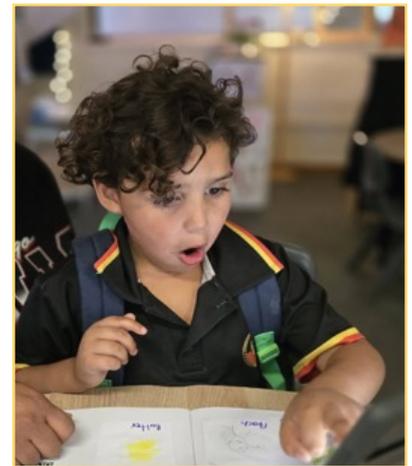
It was such a lovely afternoon, with students proudly sharing their work and talking about what they have been learning in class. There was a real buzz across the spaces as families moved around, looked through books, asked questions and listened to their children explain their thinking and progress – all while enjoying an iced latte or orange juice.

The smiles, conversations and strong sense of connection truly reflect what makes our Kurna Plains community so strong.

If you joined in the scavenger hunt, make sure you check to see our winner!



Winner of our Lattes and Learning Scavenger Hunt is...



We've also included some beautiful photos from the afternoon. We hope you enjoy!

**Aunty Leayshia**



# Cultural Studies

My name is Zena Buckskin. I am excited to introduce myself as the new Cultural Studies teacher for the primary classes at Kaurna Plains School. I am a recent graduate from university, having completed my Bachelor of Education (Early Years), and I am passionate about supporting young learners to connect with their stories, identities, and cultures. Many of you may know me from my previous role as an Aboriginal Education Teacher (AET), but this year my focus will be on delivering engaging and meaningful Cultural Studies lessons across the primary years.



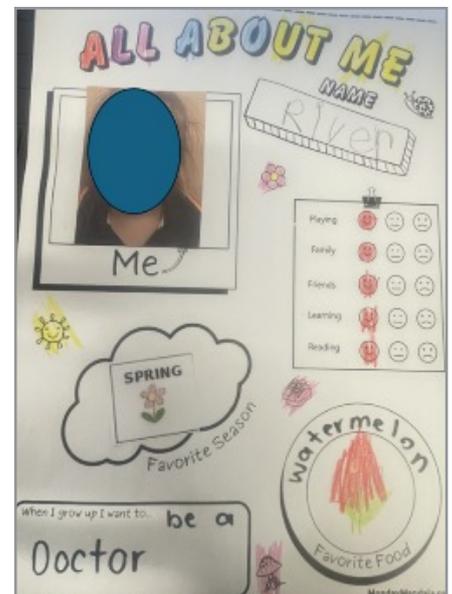
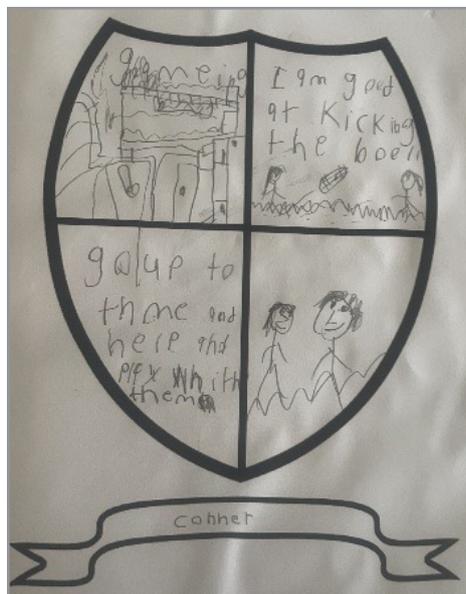
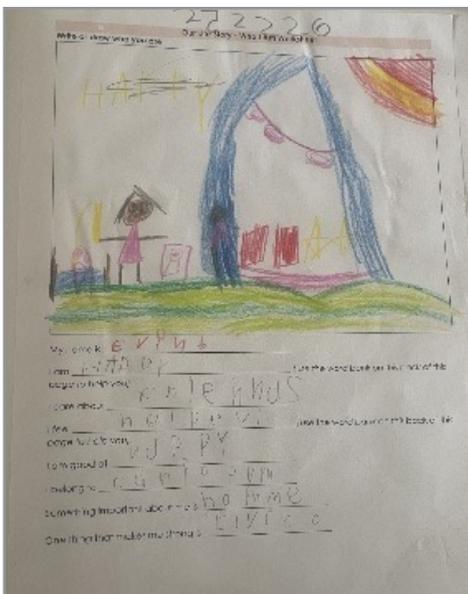
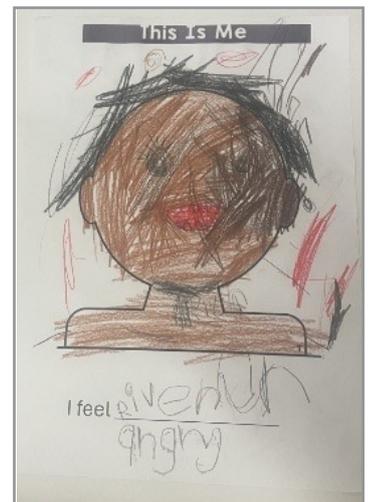
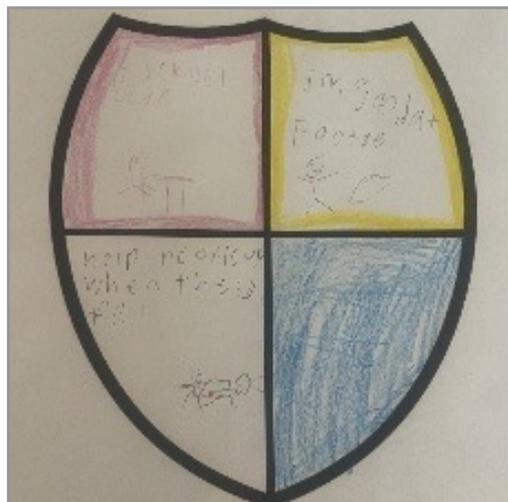
This term, our theme has been "Life Story (Identity)." We have been encouraging students to reflect on who they are, share their personal stories, and discover where their stories connect with others. Our conversations and activities have helped students build self-awareness, confidence, and pride in their unique strengths and backgrounds. We will also learn about how our stories link us to family, culture, community, and Country.

Students are developing an understanding that they come from a long line of history and strength, that they are supported by people who care about them, and that they each have a responsibility to care for themselves, each other, and our environment. These important lessons foster a deeper sense of belonging and respect within our school.

It has been wonderful getting to know each of the students in the primary school, and I look forward to continuing our learning journey together this year.

Ngadlu tampinthis – We recognise and value every story and every child.

## Aunty Zena



## Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden

### Aunty Kellie (Reception) and Aunty Leanne's (Year 1s) Classes

This term, we have been busy in the kitchen, with Reception – Year 6 classes all having a go at cooking.

At the beginning of the term, the school welcomed us back with an abundance of peaches on our peach tree. Students in the Reception and Year 1 classes each harvested their own peaches from the tree. Students then safely cut up the peaches and added them to a slow cooker, along with some lemon and sugar. This mixture slow cooked for 8 hours to then be used in a peach cobbler. In the next lesson, students measured and mixed together the batter for the cobbler. Once cooked, students enjoyed the cobbler along with a scoop of ice cream!

The following week, Receptions and Year 1s made use of the left over peaches by blending them into a compote. Students then made a native bush food granola which included roasted wattle seed and lemon myrtle- both of which we have growing on the school grounds! Students were guided to the wattle and lemon myrtle trees, giving them an opportunity to see the bush foods in their natural environment before processing. Once the granola was toasted it was served up with yogurt and the peach compote.

Both classes also participated in a botanical colour matching activity. Each student was given an egg carton with marked colours. Students then collected natural items from our school gardens that matched those colours. Once collected, we compared the similarities and differences and spoke about the different plants of the plant they came from.

Most recently, Aunty Kellie's class cooked up some red lentil and bean dahl with bush tomato. These were new flavours for most of our students, with many hesitant to try. Most students were very brave and tried something new, with a surprising few very enthusiastic about the taste! Students also honed their art skills by creating a dried lentil and bean sleepy lizard. Students glued the dried lentils and beans to the lizard to mimic its unique scales! *(continued next page)*



## Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden (continued)

### Aunty Fotina (Year 2/3), Aunty Tina (Year 2/3/4), and Uncle Thomas' Classes (Year 4/5/6)

Years 2-6 have been cooking a variety of dishes too. Zucchini slice was a winner with most students thoroughly enjoying it and even asking for seconds! Students also had a go at preparing and cooking spaghetti bolognese. All students worked on their grating and chopping skills. Students especially loved using the garlic crusher.

We have also been focusing on learning about recycling, general and organic waste. Classes have completed work sheets and watched educational videos on determining what waste goes where. Once our garden space is up and running, we hope to revive our composting system to make use of our green waste and encourage sustainability.

Students also enjoyed making wattle seed and lemon myrtle short bread. Students each had a go at using the cookie cutters to create a fun cookie shape! Students also had the opportunity to sort native wattle seed from pods collected in our wetlands. This seed has been saved to be either propagated or roasted and eaten in future cooking classes.

### Aunty Wendy and Aunty Rachel's Frogs Class

SAKG Program has been taking a sensory approach with the Frogs class this term. Students have created shaded leaf prints using leaves collected from our garden, along with paper and crayons.

Students especially enjoyed the home-made scented playdough. Three different playdoughs were made each with different scents and natural colours: cinnamon, turmeric and smoked paprika. Herbs including lemon myrtle, Geraldton wax, rosemary, sage and oregano were then incorporated into the dough for an extra scented and textural element. Students enjoyed creating structures which resembled islands and pizzas!

The following week, students dipped their hands into some home-made kinetic sand. Students explored the different textures the "sand" held when squished vs crumbled.

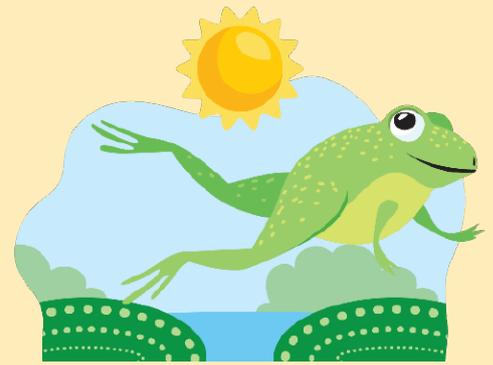
Overall, we have been very busy in the kitchen. As the weather cools down, the soil will be softer and ready for planting. We look forward to seeing what tasty vegetables, fruits and herbs take off!



# Frogs

Dear Families,

We are already halfway through the term, and the Frogs are continuing to work on our literacy and numeracy skills through practical activities, play-based learning and reading stories and listening to songs. We are learning about our emotions with the help of Nat during our Health and PE sessions (we love our frogs with their different faces Aunty Nat!). We have been practicing our social skills of waiting, turn taking and sharing. We have also been exploring our senses with Aunty Sienna who has made some wonderful smelling playdoh and some great feeling homemade kinetic sand!

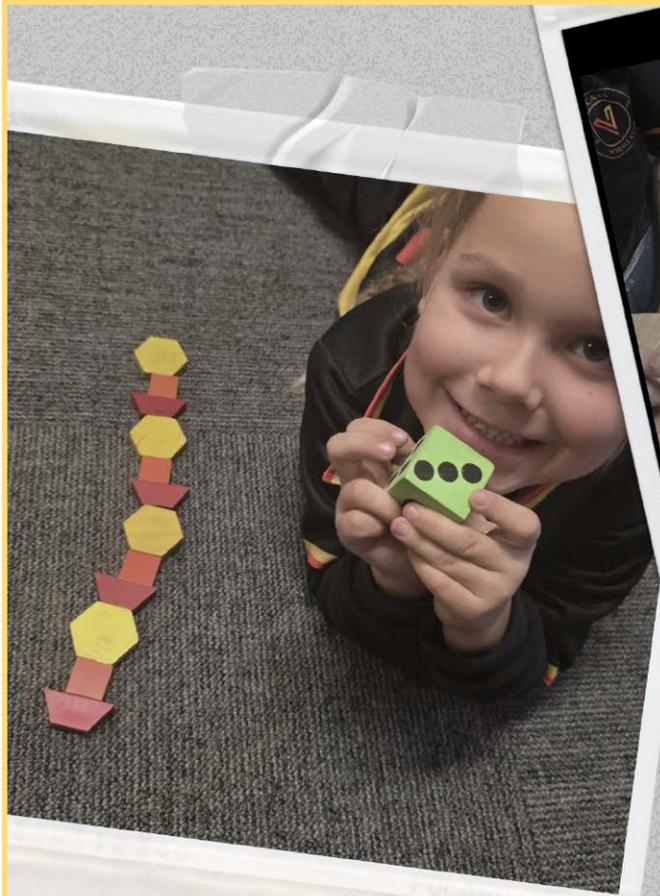


We are also beginning to get out and about around the school exploring the different play areas and working on safe ways of moving about the school together as a group. We have visited the gym and the playground. We hope to visit the wetlands once the site works are completed, but for now we are exploring nature as we move around the school.

## The Frogs Team



Bilbies - Aunty Kellie



*Bilby Snapshots*

# Year 1

## Term 1 learning with the Year 1 Koalas!

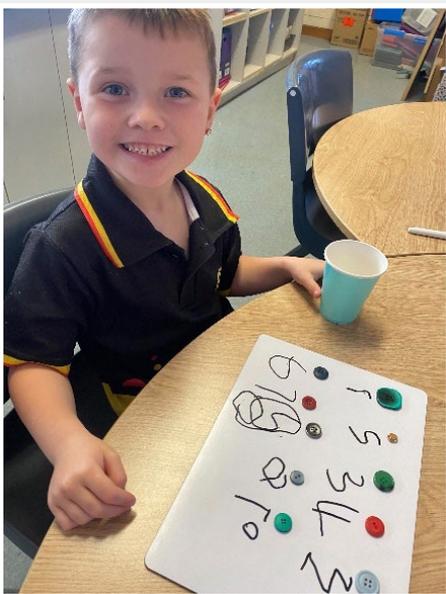
Cooking with peaches from our fruit trees.



Rock and Water with Uncle Joey.



Counting collections in Maths.



Aunty Leanne

# Aunty Fotina

In our Goanna classroom we have been looking at patterns in Maths and created some with natural materials from outside. We have also been lucky enough to have Port Power visit and teach us some football skills out on the oval. Lastly, Uncle Joey has been doing Rock and Water sessions with us on Tuesdays, helping us to learn about winning and losing as well as working as a team. We have also learnt about wattle trees. We have had a go at peeling out seeds and collected them to attempt to grow them.



## Aunty Fotina



## Year 2/3/4 - Aunty Tina

We have had lots of new things to think about and enjoy during these first few weeks of the year. Things like:

- Rock and Water
- Meeting and working with our buddies
- Working on our school values and what that means for us as we work together

### Aunty Tina



# Year 5/6 Kookaburras

Kookaburra class has been lucky enough to be involved with a couple of programs this term. Through Rock and Water, the kids have had discussions about bullying and self-respect and played games to figure out when it is best to use a rock or water attitude. We also had members of the Port Power women's team come around to chat about making healthy choices and kick the footy.

## Uncle Thomas



## Secondary Leader

As we move through Term 1, there are many exciting activities and achievements occurring across the senior years at Kurna Plains School.

Our senior students are about to begin their Career Development Plans over the coming weeks. This is an excellent opportunity for students to reflect on their future pathways, set meaningful goals, and identify the steps needed to achieve them. I am looking forward to hearing about each student's aspirations and supporting them throughout this journey.

In SAASTA, students are nearing the completion of their artworks, each piece a tribute to the past, a vision for the future, and a legacy to their ancestors. This creative project is a wonderful way for students to connect with their cultural heritage and express their aspirations. Another exciting event on the horizon is the Power Cup workshop on Friday of Week 6. Students are eager to learn which Power players will visit and engage with them during this special event.

Within our Tailored Learning program, students have been exploring their career goals and the pathways required to achieve them. There has also been a strong focus on developing numeracy and literacy skills for all students, ensuring a solid foundation for future learning. In addition, we will be holding a special lunch on Thursday of Week 6 to farewell Uncle Vinny on his last day. We hope as many students as possible will be able to express their gratitude and say goodbye in person.

Our VET (Vocational Education and Training) students have made a strong start to the year, with good attendance and positive progress. Much of the focus has been on the theory components, and students are looking forward to beginning the practical aspects of their courses soon.

SACE subjects have also commenced with great momentum, making for a very busy and productive year ahead for our Year 9–12 students.

We are proud of the dedication and enthusiasm shown by all our students across these programs and look forward to celebrating their ongoing achievements throughout the year.



**Uncle Josh, Secondary Pathways Leader**

## Sports Day 2026

We have a few changes to Sports Day for 2026!

Firstly, it will be on the last day of Term 1!! Please put **Friday 10th April** in your diaries. We are holding Sports Day early this year in the hope there is no issues with weather or clashing with other events. It is also a great way to celebrate the end of Term 1!

Secondly, Uncle Nick and Aunty Nat are working hard to plan events. We have a lot more students than usual so the morning class events will see primary and secondary have separate events. The primary classes will do some events they have previously done like Chicken Throw and Tug of War as well as some new events (they are secret for now!). Uncle Nick is organising more athletic events for the secondary with Uncle Josh which will be really exciting. The whole school will come together for the yearly Spoke and Wheel relay, as well as the champion sprints.

A lot to look forward to and start training for! We hope to see lots of family and community come along to support.

Any questions – please speak to Uncle Nick and Aunty Nat. More information to come out over the next few weeks.

A colorful poster for Sports Day 2026. At the top left is the school's circular logo. To its right, the text reads 'Kurna Plains School R-12' and 'Strength Through Learning • Taingiwilta Tirkanthi-ara'. The main title '2026 Sports Day' is in large, bold, blue letters. Below it, a yellow rounded rectangle contains the text 'Last day of Term 1' and 'Friday 10th April'. The central illustration shows three athletes running on a green field with white polka dots. The athlete on the left is a man in a black tank top and shorts, holding a black flag with 'Ilyia' written on it. The middle athlete is a woman in a red shirt and black skirt, holding a red flag with 'Tarnita' written on it. The athlete on the right is a man in a yellow shirt and black shorts, holding a yellow flag with 'Kardi' written on it. At the bottom of the poster, the text 'Cooperation Organisation Respect Kindness Acceptance' is written in a small font.



## Kurna Plains School R-12

Strength Through Learning • Tainjiwilta Tirkanthi-arra



### Uniform Policy

#### Rationale

At Kurna Plains School R - 12 we believe that the wearing of school uniform and school colours:

- promotes our whole school identity, unity and pride in personal appearance
- enhances our public image
- reduces peer pressure
- promotes opportunity for equal participation
- encourages appropriate clothing for school activities
- is economically viable
- encourages responsible behaviour
- wearing school uniforms/ colours put students in the mindset to start the school day

SCHOOL COLOURS: Red, yellow and black only	
Tops	<b>School top</b> preferred. OR Red, yellow or black tee shirt, polo shirt, windcheater, jumper, skivvies, jacket or cardigan (with or without school logo). Aboriginal art/designs in school colours and/or Department for Education approved programs are accepted. No branding/logos or musicians.
Bottoms	Black bottoms. No rips or bike shorts. <b>All bottoms must be no shorter than mid-thigh length.</b>
Dress	Summer dress can be worn in Terms 1 and 4.
Yr 6 and Yr 12 Students	Commemorative tops to be discussed for Year 6 and Year 12 students each year.
Footwear	Suitable sturdy footwear. Sneakers, preferably lace up shoes that support, cover and protect the foot. Sneakers must be worn on PE and excursion days. <b>Crocs/Slippers/slides are not school safe.*</b>
Hats	<b>School hats are compulsory in Term 1 and Term 4 for Primary students.</b> School Beanies can be worn outside during winter.

- Students will be celebrated for wearing their uniform. Non-compliance will be discussed with parents.
- School will support any challenges when accessing uniform.
- Full school uniform **MUST** be worn of any excursions / off-site activities.

#### Casual Days

On casual dress days students are able to wear non-uniform clothing. Clothing and shoes worn on these days must be appropriate for school, learning and play. Clothes that do not cover shoulders and very short skirts or shorts must not be worn. Clothing with offensive slogans or images is not appropriate for school wear. \*Crocs, slippers and slides can be worn.

Ratified by Governing Council 20/08/2025 – To be reviewed, Week 8, Term 1, 2026

83 Ridley Rd, Elizabeth SA 5112 Ph: 8252 4419  
Email: dl.1792.info@schools.sa.edu.au  
www.kurnaas.sa.edu.au  Kurna Plains School

**Cooperation Organisation Respect Kindness Acceptance**