



Karna Plains School R-12

Strength Through Learning • Taingiwilta Tirkanthi-arra

NEWSLETTER #7 Term 2, Week 6 2026



Term 2 Diary Dates

Week 7

- **Monday 8 June**
King's Birthday – Public Holiday
- **Friday 12 June**
Pyjama or Casual Clothes Day

Week 8

- **Tuesday 16 – Friday 19 June**
STEM Camp
- **Thursday 18 June** - Assembly
NAIDOC Youth Ball
- **Friday 19 June**
Governing Council 9.30am

Week 9

- **Friday 26 June** - IYLP Madec Expo

Week 10

- **Monday 29 June – Friday 3 July**
NAIDOC Week
- **Thursday 2 July**
End of Term Assembly and
Community Breakfast
- **Friday 3 July** - Last Day of Term



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 **Karna Plains School**

Niina Marni

Naa Marni,

I would like to acknowledge the significant events in the calendar for our school community commencing with National Reconciliation Week - 27th of May to 3rd of June, the Long Walk and National Sorry Day on the 26th of May. National Sorry Day remembers and acknowledges the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were forcibly removed from their families and communities, which we now know as 'The Stolen Generation'.

The theme for **National Reconciliation Week 2026** is **All In**, a call for all Australians to commit whole-heartedly to reconciliation every single day. **All In** makes clear that reconciliation is not a spectator sport and that all of us must step away from the sidelines and take action to make change. The theme also reminds us that reconciliation and advancing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights isn't a passive activity, and it is not solely the responsibility of First Nations people, who have carried the weight of championing, explaining and acting for far too long. Reconciliation will not happen by itself, and it will not happen without all of us. We lean on the lived experiences of the elders, listen to the voices of Aboriginal people who stand amongst us and support the development of our young ones to know what has come before them and to not let the stories be forgotten.


At KPS, this is not just a week of events, rather it is a time of reflection on our ongoing commitment to reconciliation as part of our everyday work.



(continued over)

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Cooperation Organisation Respect Kindness Acceptance



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

Niina Marni - Principal's Message (continued)

Ngaityalya Uncle Antony and the Aboriginal Education Team (Helena, Michael, Tameeka and Kieran) for leading our staff and students through many rich cultural experiences, reflections and discussions.

One such experience this week has been the **Tjindu Foundation Reconciliation Week & NAIDOC Week Donut Fundraiser by the Vili's Family Bakery**. 50 cents from the sale of each donut goes to Tjindu Foundation. The Tjindu Foundation creates positive, long-term change for Aboriginal children in communities across South Australia through cultural education and success in schooling that enables them to become future leaders.



You can see by the photos there was a big decision to be made by our students as to which donut to choose....

Another highlight this week has been the proud efforts of Aleena Rankine, one of our Year 4 students who participated together with her teammates in the designing of the netballs for the Indigenous round competition at Smithfield Sports & Social Club. Aleena shared what it truly means to her to be part of the Indigenous Round: *'To me the Indigenous Round means kindness, respect, and learning about my culture. I liked helping design the ball with Aunty Ruby and the other kids.'* Congratulations Aleena!

Junior Designers:

- Melanie Taylor
- Kaley Taylor
- Charlotte Kite
- Matilda Reynolds
- Aleena Rankine
- Jr Lane
- Nevaeh Varcoe
- Nahla Varcoe
- Niah Varcoe
- Ella Pedder

Community
 Artist: Ruby Wilson
 Collaboration with Smithfield Netball Club
 This netball was produced in collaboration with Aboriginal junior players from Smithfield Netball Club to represent the rich and diverse Aboriginal community that surrounds not only Smithfield Netball Club but Elizabeth Netball Association as a whole. Each panel of the ball tells a different story
 The pink and purple panel represents how women are the matriarch of Aboriginal families, our netball club and ENA. Honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and all women involved in our communities by using the women's symbols and the interconnectedness through the purple journey lines and dots representing how women connect on a deeper level.
 The orange panel and blue and green panel are an acknowledgement of the beautiful and diverse landscape we have in South Australia and pays respect to the players, umpires and officials who come from far and wide to be a part of our Elizabeth Netball Association Community.
 The Black, Yellow and Red and symbols are used to represent the Aboriginal flag.
 Within the black is the symbol for people, paying respect to Elders who have walked before us, those who walk with us now and our young leaders who will walk into the future.
 The yellow represents the sun, our giver of life.
 The red with the human footprint and kangaroo and possum tracks represents the earth and the reminder that sovereignty was never ceded.
 Lastly, the royal blue and white acknowledges all the work that Smithfield Netball Club does in the space of reconciliation. The community they create through their club and the awareness they have created to be able to celebrate Indigenous Round at the Elizabeth Netball Association which becomes bigger each year.

"To me, Indigenous Round means kindness, respect, and learning about my culture. And I liked helping design the ball with aunty ruby and the other kids"

Aleena rankine

(continued over)

Niina Marni - Principal's Message (continued)

New KPS Staff

Leadership have been very busy recruiting new ancillary staff to support our students. There will be some new and familiar faces, and I am sure you will join me in giving them the KPS community welcome. We officially welcome **Katelyn Wittman, Letisha Goldsmith, Ashalea Perry and Riley Rathman**. You have all already begun to have a positive impact on our students and classes. To **Jazmin Austin-Swift**, welcome back! It feels like no time has passed. We appreciate the seamless transition back to KPS. Welcome **Bradley Smith** who has already completed a few days with our Frogs. We hope you are settling in well.

Staff Farewell

We would like to inform our school community that Tameeka will be commencing leave as she prepares for the exciting arrival of her baby. Since joining us in January, Tameeka has made a significant and positive impact in her role as an ASETO in the secondary years. She has built strong, caring relationships with our students and families, and her dedication and support have been greatly valued across our community. While she will be very much missed, we are thrilled for Tameeka as she begins this special new chapter. We wish her a safe and joyful time ahead.



Governing Council

On Friday 22nd of May the members of our Governing Council had the opportunity to speak with Susan Copeland our Education Director for Para Hills 1 and Annette Williams the Education Director for Noarlunga 4 about the Kaurna Plains School Principal position for 2027 and beyond. Annette will be running the process and will continue to be in communication with our community regarding updates and information.



Ngaityalya for your ongoing commitment and care of our students, staff and community.

Marni padni

Cinzia Greco, Principal

Uncle Josh - Secondary Pathways Leader

Exciting Opportunities Ahead for Years 10-12 at Kaurna Plains School

We are thrilled to announce a range of fantastic opportunities coming up for our Year 10–12 students this term!

Intro to Civil Course: In Term 3, starting Week 3, selected students will have the chance to participate in an 'Intro to Civil' course running for three weeks. During this program, students will construct a sandpit while achieving nationally recognised certificates, earning 20 SACE credits, and opening doors to potential apprenticeships and work experience opportunities.

Partnership with the Elizabeth Shopping Centre: On 17 June, a small group of students will visit Reading Cinema as part of an exciting new partnership. While there, students will meet employers from Woolworths, Airmaster, and several retailers. We anticipate this experience will lead to offers of casual work at the centre, particularly over the Christmas break. Only 12 students can attend. Excursion paperwork will be sent home soon to those selected, so keep an eye out and return forms as soon as possible.

Tailored Learning Success and New Art Projects: Our Tailored Learning team is celebrating a significant milestone, with one of our students successfully transitioning back to mainstream schooling, a first for Kaurna Plains School. We are immensely proud of their growth and dedication. In addition, we are meeting with Uncle Harley to discuss a creative new art project and collaborating with Uncle Jack in the office on some street art initiatives.

Our VET students have started engaging with trainers and are eagerly anticipating the immersion days scheduled for this term an important step in gathering evidence for their 2027 VET applications.



Please also note that SACE resulting for all Year 11 courses will occur on 28 June, with some students required to attend catch-up sessions beforehand to ensure all SACE points are attained. Families will be contacted directly regarding these arrangements.

Ngaityalya,

Uncle Josh

Deputy Principal Update

Attendance

Attendance does matter – every day counts towards growing brains and a strong future. Winter is a tricky time but we encourage regular attendance despite the weather. We are still aiming to increase **our overall attendance rate to over 73% by the end of 2026.**

Current R – 12 Attendance Rate 66%

Current **Primary** Attendance Rate 70%

Current **Secondary** Attendance Rate 61.5%

Inclusive Education

Inclusive Education is an approach that ensures all students, regardless of their abilities or backgrounds, have equal access to quality education within a supportive and welcoming environment. It focuses on adapting teaching methods and resources to meet the diverse needs of every child, fostering a sense of belonging and community. By valuing diversity and promoting understanding, inclusive education helps all students develop important social and academic skills, preparing them for a successful future. One of the roles I lead across the school is Inclusive Education. I work with students, staff, and families to ensure that all learners needs are met with adjustments that ensure they are learning and thriving at school. We support families to access learning assessments and support Allied Health workers to be on site providing therapy to students. I am also a key contact in organising the following:

- Student Review Meetings working with Support Services Staff
- Team Around the Child Meetings
- Site Support Function Meetings
- Applications for funding support – IESP
- National Consistent Collection of Disability Data (NCCD)
- Providing professional development opportunities for staff

If you ever have any questions about supporting your child's needs at school please feel free to chat to your class teacher, myself or the Aboriginal Education Team.

In other news, Uncle Tom recently celebrated Hawthorn having broken their four-week win drought in a nine-point thriller over Adelaide in Tasmania. Uncle Tom enjoyed wearing his favourite Hawthorn guernsey to celebrate. Don't forget to congratulate Tom if you see him in the yard.

Basketball Club

On Wednesday Nights we have Basketball Club from 3pm – 4pm. The club is hosted by Yara Family and supported by Uncle Kieran. Come and have a great game of basketball and a yarn!

Aunty Natalea

Deputy Principal



Engagement and Wellbeing Leader

Circle Time

Have your child/children come home after a day at Kurna Plains School and spoken about 'Circle Time'? If not, maybe ask them. For a while now, we have been working with the Berry Street Education Model and one strategy we have taken on is the use of 'Circles' or 'Circle Time'. Not only do we use them in class with the students, we actually do them in staff meetings, pupil free days and other school-based events.

We know that trauma can have significant impacts on young people. Affected regulatory, attachment and memory systems can be particularly significant in school settings. Young people are required to regulate their bodies and emotions in shared spaces, retain complex information, apply new skills, and form relationships with their peers, teachers and school communities.

Trauma-informed, culturally responsive pedagogies and practices intentionally use strategies that support healing, regulation and routine through every moment of interaction in a school. Circle routines are a powerful mechanism to practically build belonging and a sense of inclusion as foundational steps towards a modern and culturally responsive education system.

Welcome circle and the first 5 minutes

The first 5 minutes of class are critical for setting the tone for the rest of the learning. Consistent rhythms and routines, particularly ones that embed intentional positive micro-moments, are powerful healing interventions as they "help build confidence that positive events will occur and ...flexibility when unexpected events are encountered" (Brunzell, 2016, p.76). Welcome circles – nurturing routines that support engagement in learning and wellbeing (Roffey, 2006) – are a key strategy for consistently embedding strengths and also tending to the body and relational connection.



This routine of forming a circle with our young people to review key values and expectations and celebrate any announcements and successes, serves as a threshold between the outside world and the complex task of learning. It allows young people to ground themselves, co-regulate and establish a common rhythm for the learning day. We know that schools are often pressed for time, and it can be tempting to jump straight into content. However, when we take the time to check in and connect with our young people, we are not only setting them up to get much more out of the learning, but we are providing an opportunity for us, as educators, to get on the front foot of any potential issues that may present as speedbumps for learning.

Why a circle?

The practice of sitting or standing in a circle is one that many cultures have used for centuries – and continue to use today – as a way to support decision making and resolve conflict (Roffey, 2006). By taking the time to be together, side by side, to establish a common understanding and share positive emotions, we are supporting young people to build relationships with their peers and share power in healthy, relational ways. The circle allows us to ensure that everyone is equally visible and connected and, symbolically, that each person's worldview stands on equal footing (Brown & Di Lallio, 2020).

Setting up for success

Circle is most powerful when it is implemented consistently and predictably. This means establishing a set time when circle occurs, as well as a clear structure for how long it will go for and expectations for the routine. For example, are we sitting or standing? What if you aren't comfortable participating in circle, are you allowed to pass? We want our young people to feel a sense of ownership over this routine, so it is important to explain to them why you are working towards this routine, and also to give them voice in co-creating explicit expectations.



With time, students will be able to run circle themselves. As an everyday routine, we recommend that circle should run for less than seven minutes so that it does not take up too much learning time.

Uncle Tom

Aunty Leayshia

National Simultaneous Storytime

Last week, Kurna Plains School took part in **National Simultaneous Storytime**, joining schools, libraries and families across Australia to celebrate reading together.

This year's story was **Luna Roo the Kangaroo Baller**, written by Adam Jackson and Adrian Lloyd and illustrated by Jake A. Minton. The story follows Luna Roo, a brave kangaroo and rookie captain, as she leads her team with courage, determination and teamwork.



At Kurna Plains, National Simultaneous Storytime was a lovely way to kick off our literacy block for the day. Students enjoyed listening to the story and sharing in a national celebration of books, reading and storytelling.

Piipa Ku – Our Book Nook

We are very excited to share our beautiful new Book Nook space at Kurna Plains School.

Aunty Zara has been working very hard to create a gorgeous, calm and welcoming space where children can come to read, relax and enjoy books. Over the past couple of years, our library space has needed to be used for classes, so it has been really special to build up a reading space for students again.

Aunty Cherylynne has also translated **Book Nook** into Kurna for us. Our Book Nook is called **Piipa Ku**.

Piipa Ku is open every lunchtime for students who would like a quiet place to read, rest or spend time with a book. It has already become a cosy little space for children to enjoy stories and take a peaceful break during the day.



Come and visit Aunty Zara in **Piipa Ku**, choose a book, and enjoy a little moment of calm and reading.

Aunty Leayshia



pyjama or casual clothes Day

Week 7
Friday 12th June

Gold Coin Donation
All proceeds will go towards the Wetlands upgrade

Please ensure what you wear is school and weather appropriate, especially for PE, CORKA activities and playtime
No inappropriate slogans or pictures please

CELEBRATE NAIDOC WEEK
5-12 JULY 2026

50 YEARS DEADLY

Join Northern District Police at their free community sausage sizzle to celebrate NAIDOC week!

Where: Salisbury Community Hub Plaza
When: Thursday 9th July 2026
11.00 am - 1.00 pm

Proudly supported by

NAIDOC Youth Ball and Formal Wear Pop-Up Store

NAIDOC Youth Ball

We are excited to be hosting our very first NAIDOC Youth Ball for our students and families.

This special event is an opportunity for our young people to celebrate culture, build connections and enjoy a deadly night of music, dancing, food and fun.

Date: Thursday 18 June

Student Drop Off: 5:30pm – 6:00pm

Student Pick Up: 8:00pm – 8:30pm

Location: Kurna Plains School

Families are warmly invited to join us during drop-off to take photos and celebrate this special occasion with their child.

From 6:00pm, students will remain in the Gym to enjoy the ball. Parents, caregivers and family members are welcome to relax in the designated Secondary School spaces, where light refreshments and nibbles will be available throughout the evening. Families are also welcome to head home after drop-off and return for pick-up between 8:00pm and 8:30pm.

We look forward to coming together as a community and creating a memorable night for our young people.

Formal Wear Pop-Up Store

To help students get ready for the ball, we will be hosting a free Formal Wear Pop-Up Store.

Date: Thursday 18 June

Time: 10:00am – 10:50am (following assembly)

Location: Kurna Plains School

Students and families are welcome to browse donated formal clothing, shoes and accessories at no cost.

If you are unable to find something suitable for your child, please contact the AbEd Team on **0498 522 508**. We are committed to ensuring every student has the opportunity to attend and feel confident on the night.

Thank you to our community members and organisations whose generous donations have helped make this possible.

Ngaityalya,

Aunty Helena and Uncle Michael



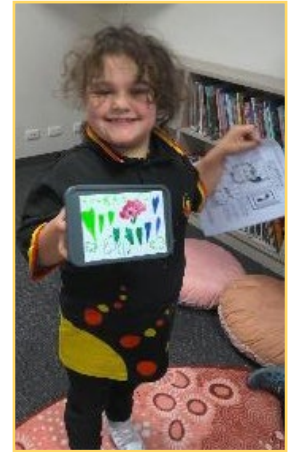
Malpa Young Doctors Program



The Malpa group have had some fun activities over the past few weeks. We have had a visit from Diabetes SA where we looked what diabetes is and the healthy choices we can make to live a healthy lifestyle.

Engage First Aid visited us to go through some basic first aid with our students. The students had a lot of fun with this and got involved with all the activities. We even made our own first aid kits to take home!

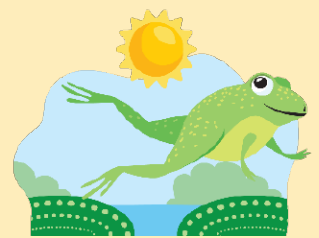
We have also been enjoying our healthy shared platters where we have tried some new foods such as dragonfruit, frozen fruits and dips. To end the term, we will be doing some healthy cooking and have an exciting excursion booked to SAHMRI (South Australia Health and Medical Research Institute). We are looking forward to it!



Frogs

Dear Families,

We are just over halfway through the term, and your children continue to surprise and delight us every day! We are noticing that they are beginning to communicate with us using increasing speech attempts, the iPad (Proloquo2go), our lanyard visuals and sign language. Put these together and it means that there is reduced frustration because their needs and wants are being met and most importantly, understood. Each child now engages with their individual visual schedules which assists them to understand what is finished, what is coming next and what is coming later in the day.



We are enjoying swimming lessons each week. The children can barely wait to get on the bus and when at the pool they are eager to start their swimming lesson the moment they arrive. Once again, this gives us the opportunity to teach them the skill of 'waiting.' (But who wants to wait when you can splash and have fun!!!).

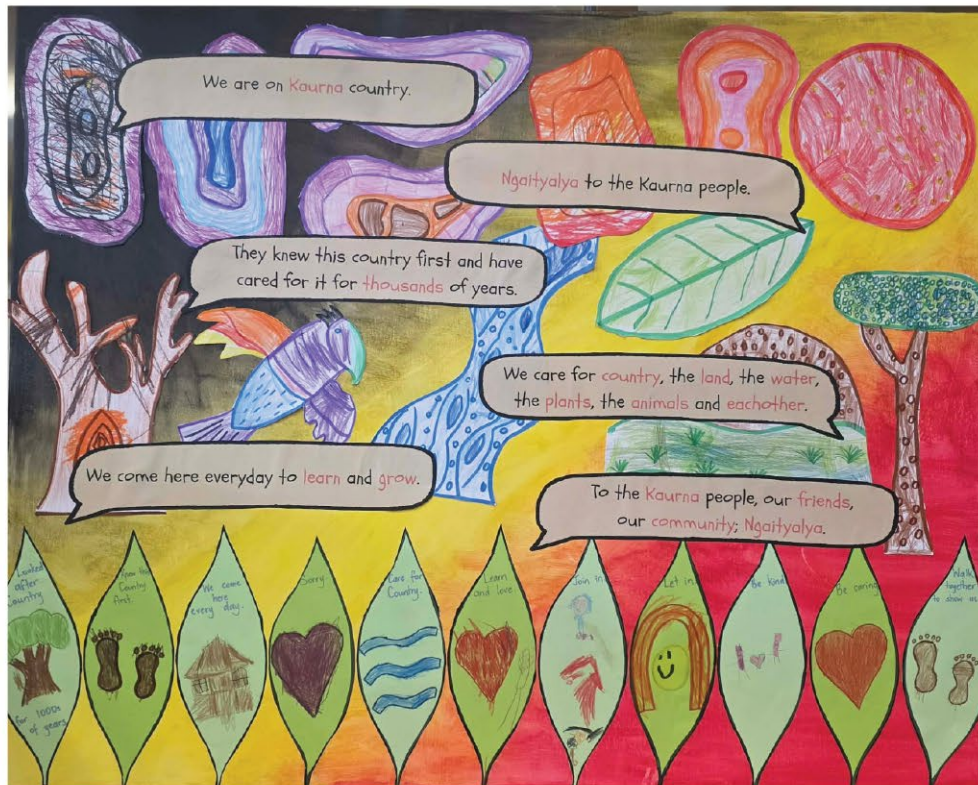
Finally (and thank you in advance for helping us with this) we are beginning another independent skill development for the next half of this year and that is to carry their own school bag. Physically, this develops and organises their nervous system, supports gross motor development and aids in emotional and sensory regulation.

While the Little Long Walk was cancelled last week for Reconciliation Week, we have made a beautiful banner (thank you Aunty Teleah for helping us!) to carry with pride when we do have the chance.

The Frogs Team

BILBY: RECEPTION

RECONCILIATION WEEK 2026



OUR CLASS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We have spent a few weeks exploring and sharing what Country means to us. We have listened to a variety of books: 'Sorry Day', 'Coming Home to Country', 'Welcome to Country', 'Somebody's Land', and 'Country'.

These books introduced opportunities to share our experiences, engage in truth-telling, and explore artwork.

Over the weeks we created our own Acknowledgement of Country. We say this every morning in our Morning Circle. It will be on display for Open Morning, and will then be proudly displayed in our classroom.

Term 2 Learning with the Year 1 Koalas!

Reconciliation Week



Planting and Cooking



Making 20 in Maths



Aunty Leanne

Aunty Fotina - Goanna Class

Our Year 2/3/4 students have been learning about Reconciliation Week through stories, discussions, and classroom activities. They have explored important events from the past and developed their understanding of why reconciliation is important today. Students have also had the opportunity to learn from Aboriginal staff members, sharing their own cultural knowledge while learning new perspectives and experiences. It has been a valuable week of learning, reflection and connection.



Aunty Fotina



Aunty Tina - Year 2/3/4

Reconciliation Week has been a big focus for us. We have thought about the sadness of Sorry Day and reflected on how important it is to be proud of our culture and the wisdom all our ancestors, elders and families share with us. We can share this with everyone we meet so that together we can make things better.

Here are some photos of the work we have done about Tjilbrouki, the lessons we learnt and our Kurna totem the emu.

We are so glad these stories have survived and have been passed down to us.

Aunty Tina



Uncle Thomas - Kookaburra Class

Kookaburra class is using our space in the newsletter to share some positive messages! We would like to share some of our shout outs –

Kyah: Xavier is the best, she draws like me.

Kayden: I am grateful for my friends Zion and Jordan.

Xavier: I like hanging out with Kyah and Alison.

Milly: Aunty Bri because she helps me.

London: Aunty Bri helps me work.

Alison: Kasey, Kyah, Xavier and Granita are always kind and fun.

Harmony: Ella is a good best friend and Aunty Bri is my favourite.

Kasey: Alison is pretty!



They also gave shout-outs to the teachers who help out in the class, so thank you to Aunty Nat, Aunty Stacey, Aunty Zena, Uncle J and Aunty Cherylynne.

Uncle Thomas



Premier's Be Active Challenge

This term in Primary Health and PE, we have been looking at the different ways we can be active. Being active isn't just about playing sport, but things like walking to school, helping with cleaning up, doing some gardening or playing on the playground.

For the last 4 weeks of this term, all primary classes will be set the challenge of being

active for at least 60 minutes each day. This will include school activities but can also include activities they do at home such as sports, riding their bikes or scooters or helping with the chores at home. Each student will receive a small booklet (see the pictures) and they need to get an adult at school or home to sign off when they do at least 60 mins of exercise each day. I will collect the booklets in the last week of term and students who completed the challenge will receive an award next term.

The challenge is all about encouraging students to be active and reducing screen time. They are probably doing 60 mins each day without noticing! Any questions about the challenge, please see Aunty Nat. I hope to see every student in the R-6 classes complete the challenge.

Aunty Nat

