



Kurna Plains School R-12

Strength Through Learning • Taingiwilta Tirkanthi-arra

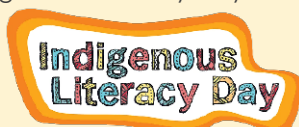
NEWSLETTER #10 Term 3, Week 6 2026



Term 3 Diary Dates

Week 7

- **Wednesday 2 September**
Indigenous Literacy Day



Week 8

- **Monday 7, Wednesday 9 & Thursday 10 September**
Learning Yarns
- **Monday 7 - Wednesday 9 September**
SAASTA Shield (Year 10-12 students)
- **Monday 7 – Friday 11 September**
Kids on Country Camp
- **Thursday 10 September**
R U OK? Day (Whole School focus)

RUOK?

Fortnightly Assembly on a
Thursday morning commencing
Week 2, 30th July 9.10am (even
weeks). You are all welcome.

Like us on
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f Kurna Plains School

Naa Marni

Naa Marni,

SSO Week Shout Out!

Last week, we took a moment to shine a spotlight on our incredible SSO team. Each and every one of them brings their own unique strengths, backgrounds, and perspectives to Kurna Plains School, creating a truly diverse and skilled support network.

Their generosity and commitment to meeting the needs of our students is truly valued. They build strong, caring relationships not only with our young people, but also with each other, creating a workplace filled with support, kindness, and plenty of fun along the way. It is the way they look out for one another, and the ways in which they support both the teaching team and our families, that make such a difference to the whole school community.

We are beyond grateful for everything they do. They truly are superheroes, going above and beyond every single day. We thank them for their energy, their warmth, their skills and their fun. You knock our socks off! With heartfelt appreciation.

(See more photos on the next page)

A few reminders to community:

Carpark

Please remember to drive slowly and carefully in our carpark. It is a very busy place at drop off and pick up. Please encourage children to use the path when entering the school.

(continued over)



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www.kurnaas.sa.edu.au f Kurna Plains School

Cooperation Organisation Respect Kindness Acceptance

Niina Marni - Principal's Message (continued)

Lunches and snacks

Please send food for your children to access throughout the day. We do our best to cover emergency lunches and snacks in exceptional circumstances. We do also provide a breakfast program for all to access as well.

Mobile Phones / Headphones / Airpods

Please encourage your children to hand in their phones each morning to their homegroup teachers. They will be locked away in secure boxes. If your child contacts you using their mobile phone throughout the day, could you not respond – rather, call the front office and we can attend to whatever need there is. Students should not be accessing mobile phones during school hours.

Airpods are not to be used at school. We have access to headphones for every student that requires them. These are compatible with our laptops and enable students to engage in their learning.

Energy drinks

Please support the school by discouraging energy drinks for students regardless of age. This also includes drinks with caffeine such as iced coffee, teas etc. If students bring them on school grounds, they will be asked to hand them over. The research shows how detrimental they are to the developing brain.



We need to continue to work in partnership to achieve the best outcomes for all our students.

Ngaityalya.

Aunty Cinzia, Principal



Deputy Principal Update

Attendance

Attendance – We're Getting Closer!

A few weeks ago, we asked:

Can KPS crack 70% attendance?

Well... **we're getting closer!**

Our whole-school attendance has climbed to **66.9%**, putting us just over **3% away from our 2026 goal**.

Even better, our **Primary students have cracked 70%**, currently **sitting at 70.8%**! What a fantastic achievement and a great reminder of what we can do when students, families and school work together.

Current Attendance

R-12: 66.9%

Primary: 70.8% ★

Secondary: 62%

Our next challenge is to keep Primary above 70%, continue lifting our whole-school result and help our Secondary students close the gap.

Every extra day matters. Being at school means more than completing schoolwork – it means staying connected, being part of your class and community, and having every opportunity to learn and succeed.

We've moved from **63% to 66.9%** – now let's keep that momentum going.

70% is within reach, KPS!

Learning Yarns – Week 8

Week 8 is all about **connecting, celebrating progress and talking about what's next for learning!** Hosted on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday night, our **Learning Yarns** are a great opportunity to sit down with your child's **Primary Class Teacher, Homegroup Teacher or Subject Teacher** to hear about what they have been learning, celebrate their achievements and strengths, and yarn about their next steps and goals.

We would love to see as many families as possible joining us for these important conversations. **Keep an eye out – booking information will be heading home soon!**

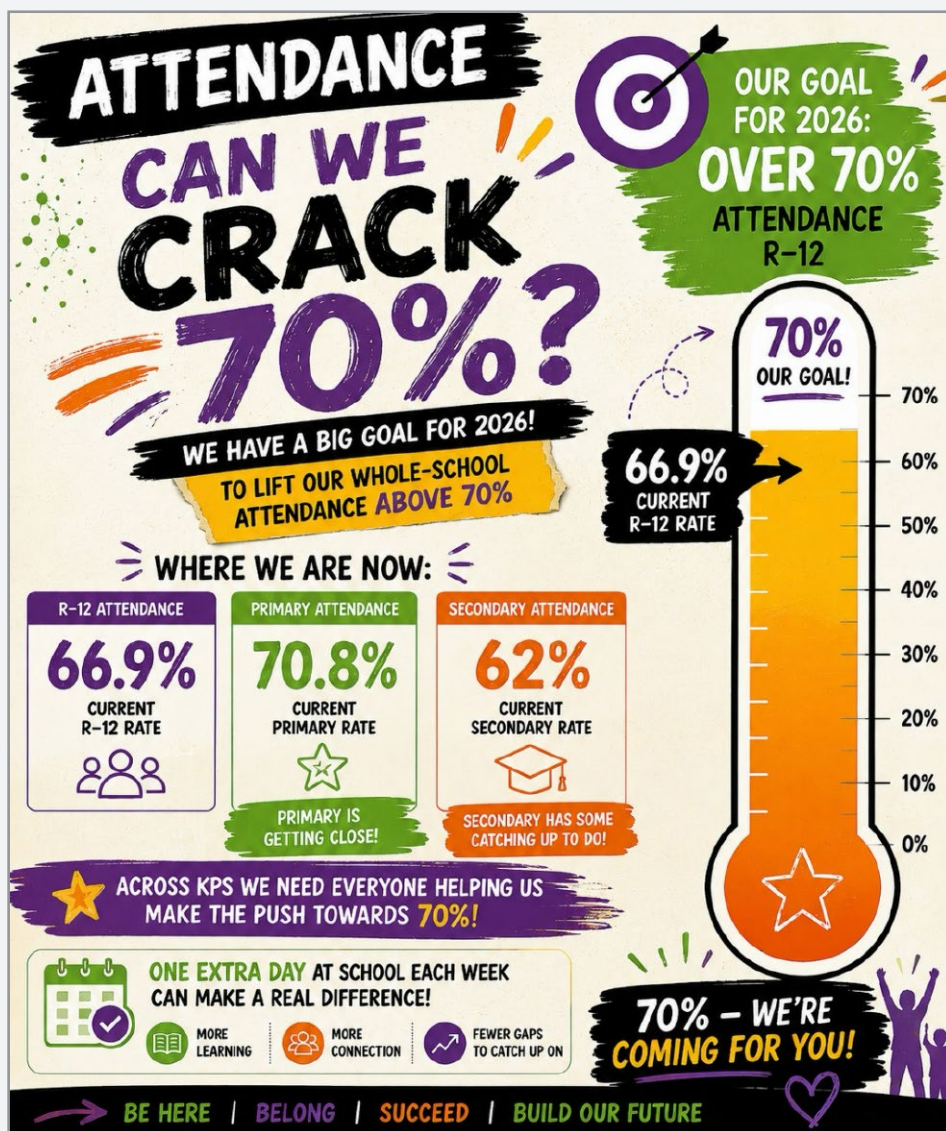
National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

What an incredible celebration of **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day!**

Our 2026 Children's Day celebration brought our school and wider community together for an afternoon filled with **culture, connection, fun and pride**. This year's theme, **Living Our Truth**, was certainly brought to life as we celebrated the strength, voices and stories of our children, families and community.

A highlight of the day was the incredible performances from our very own **KPS Singing Group, Hannah Yates and Cindy Lovegrove, Spirit in Unity** and **Dusty Feet Mob**. It was wonderful to see our students and community come together through music, dance and culture, and we thank all of our performers for sharing their talents with us.

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Deputy Principal Update (continued)

There was plenty of excitement throughout the afternoon, with students enjoying the huge rock-climbing wall, Farmer Darcy, Lego, hair braiding, face painting, the smoothie bike and, of course, a very colourful **Colour Fun Run!**

A huge **ngaityalya** to **MAYFS** for generously giving their time to cook our BBQ and help feed the many students, families and community members who joined us.

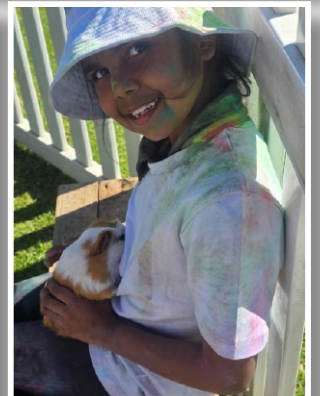
Events like this also don't happen without the people working behind the scenes. Thank you to our **Children's Day committee, staff and volunteers** who contributed their time, energy and enthusiasm to planning, setting up, running activities and packing everything away afterwards.

Most importantly, thank you to our **children, families and community** for joining us. It was a fantastic afternoon celebrating our children and reminding them that their culture, voices, stories and futures matter.



What a deadly day!

Aunty Natalea
Deputy Principal



Deputy Principal Update (continued)



Aunty Leayshia

Miituthirntu Pirrku – Bedtime Stories

What a beautiful night we had for our Miituthirntu Pirrku – Bedtime Stories evening as part of our Book Week celebrations.

This was by far our biggest turnout yet, with so many KPS children and families joining us for a cosy evening of stories, hot chocolate, cookies and connection. It was wonderful to see our school filled with families in their PJs, moving between classrooms and sharing stories together.

Families enjoyed three very special books across the evening.

Yantupina – The Visitor, by Jack Buckskin and Labhaoise Upton, is a story told in Kurna and English about a cheeky yantupina (possum) visiting a school. The book is illustrated by children from the Kurna community and provided a beautiful opportunity for our children and families to hear and engage with Kurna language.

Poppy and the Great Ocean Garbage Patch, written by Karen Jones Hauser and illustrated by Scott Rathman, follows Poppy on an ocean adventure while sharing an important message about caring for our oceans and keeping them safe. The story also incorporates Kurna words, making it particularly special to have Scott with us to share the book and talk about his artwork with our families.

Our third story, *The Book Star*, written by Bec Nanayakkara and illustrated by Joanna Bartel, was a perfect choice for Book Week. It tells the story of Grace, who loves everything about space, and celebrates having the confidence to be yourself and follow the things that bring you joy.

We loved being able to share these stories with our families. Storytelling holds such an important place in Aboriginal cultures ... sharing knowledge, language, culture, connections and stories across generations. Our Bedtime Stories night is about much more than reading books; it is about coming together, listening, sharing and creating those connections with our children and families.

A very special thank you to our wonderful readers... Aunty Nat, Aunty Cherylynne, Aunty Sharna and Scott Rathman, who gave up their evening and somehow managed to read their stories three times in a row! We are so grateful for the warmth and energy they brought to the night.

A huge thank you also to all of our staff who worked behind the scenes to make the evening happen, and most importantly, to our KPS families for coming along and making the night what it was.

It was such a special celebration of stories, culture, language, books and community, and one we hope will continue to grow each year.



Aunty Leayshia



Aunty Leayshia (continued)



Engagement and Wellbeing Leader

Hello KPS community.

Wear It Purple Day

This year's Wear It Purple Day theme is **Colours of Courage**.

"Courage is not just expressed in big moments, but in everyday

choices to live proudly and invite others into understanding, acceptance and celebration."

Colours of Courage celebrates the many different forms of courage shown by LGBTQIA+SB young people, allies and communities every day.

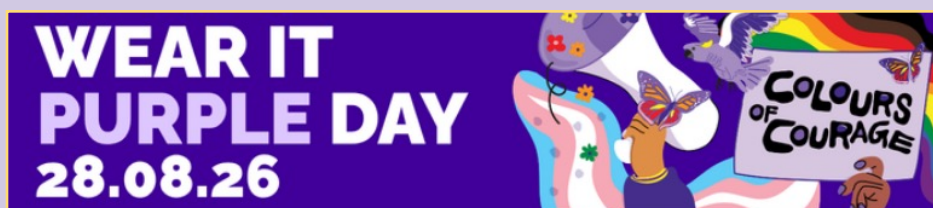
Courage can look like speaking up, standing out and creating change. It can also take quieter forms of bravery, like living authentically, coming out, asking for support, standing beside someone, or choosing pride and hope in spaces where being yourself does not always feel easy.

The colours in this year's theme reflect the diversity of identities, experiences and stories within our communities. Like light through a prism, every colour is different, but together they create something powerful.

Colours of Courage recognises the bravery it takes to push for change in schools, workplaces, communities and institutions where conversations about LGBTQIA+SB lives do not always happen. It celebrates the allies who choose to stand up, speak out and ask what they can do to help create safer, more inclusive spaces.

It also honours the courage of generations of LGBTQIA+SB people who came before us, and the strength of young people today as they continue to build community, connection and visibility.

Because courage is not only found in the big moments. It is found in the everyday choices to live proudly, support others and invite people into understanding, acceptance and celebration.



CORKA points

We have so much to look forward to this term. One thing we are focusing on is CORKA points. CORKA points are awarded to those who show our CORKA values; **C**ooperation, **O**rganisation, **R**espect, **K**indness, **A**ceptance.

What do we do with our CORKA points you may ask?

They are used towards our House Point System, which currently looks like:

We also use them for individual students for our end of term CORKA reward day. Students are working to earn at least 80 points to participate in a CORKA day and the top two CORKA point recipients in each class get to go on a reward excursion or incursion – I wonder what we're doing this term?...

Be CORKA, to get your CORKA reward!



Uncle Tom

KARDI
8,255
TARNTA
7,176
ILYA
8,180



C ooperation

We listen and follow the instructions from the adults to be successful.



O rganisation

Uniform is organised to match our school colours.



R espect

Respectful language is key - let's keep swearing out of our conversations.



K indness

Hands off means we kindly respect personal space.



A cceptance

We are accepting of everyone – racism, homophobia, ableist, sexual harassment has no place here.



Malpa Graduation

Last Monday, our first group of 13 students graduated from their Malpa program. The students have been engaging in a number of health-related activities to build their knowledge, share with others and inspire them to look into careers in the health industry. They have been engaged in sessions such as completing a basic first aid course, visits from Dental for Schools and Diabetes SA, bush medicine with Uncle Antony and a visit to SAHMRI to look at the science behind health. The group has been highly engaged and Aunty Nat and Aunty Helena have enjoyed working with each and every student. We hope to have them back to help with our Mini Malpa program, focussing on Reception to Year 1 students later in the year.

A big thank you to all the families that came along to celebrate with their child. They were so excited to have you there to share their learning. Congratulations to the following students for graduating:



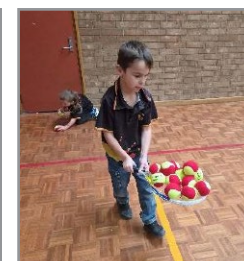
Jyriek	Dakota	Ross	Aleena
Elvina	Lashanti	Lily	
Melinda-May	Ceasar	Lylah	
Matilda	Darius	Harry	

CONGRATULATIONS!



Tennis Incursion

On Tuesday in Week 4, the primary classes had a tennis incursion with Voyager Tennis. Voyager Tennis is located at the tennis courts on Main North Road. The students went through different tennis skills. It was great to see all the students engaging and trying a new skill. It was a lot of fun and we have some very talented tennis players at KPS!



Aunty Kellie - Bilbies



Bilbies at Children's Day

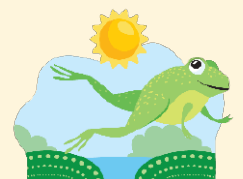


Frogs

Last week, we celebrated SSO Week. In the Frogs our SSOs are highly valued, hard working and extremely loving and caring. Our children respond to this through their growth and special relationships with each of our SSOs. All the Frogs would love to show their appreciation of Wendy, Teleah and Bradley through this poem that the children and teacher Rachel chose the words for and Chat GPT assisted with the rhyming!!!

'Ode to the SSO!'

A poem by Riiver, Nayvah, Taitem, Scott,
Aziah, Deshaun, Loki and Kairo.
Aka, the 'Frogs'.



In The Frogs, where every child can grow,
There's kindness and patience wherever we go.
With Wendy, Teleah and Bradley each day,
Helping, encouraging, and showing the way.

They listen with care, and they always stand near,
Celebrating each triumph, each challenge, each cheer.
Through learning and friendships, through laughter and fun,
They help every student feel valued by everyone.

They know every student is special and bright,
And help them feel confident, supported and right.
With gentle reminders and smiles warm and true,
They help make the hard things much easier to do.

So thank you, Wendy, Teleah and Brad,
For all of the wonderful moments you've had.
The Frogs are so lucky to have you each day-
Our Student Support Officers, guiding the way!

The Frogs Team: Aunty Rachel, Aunty Wendy, Aunty Teleah and Uncle Bradley

Aunty Leanne



Year 1 Koalas enjoyed planting in the garden with Aunty Sienna and the help of Bunnings! We planted lots of different vegetables and herbs and are looking forward to watching them grow and using them in our cooking.

Aunty Leanne



Aunty Fotina - Goanna Class

We have been working together in our classroom and in the garden, learning about teamwork and playing games. In the garden, we have been weeding and cleaning the yard. Students have also learnt about spending money and how much things cost.

Aunty Fotina



Uncle Thomas - Kookaburra Class

We were lucky enough to join Elizabeth East Primary School for SAPSASA girls footy. It was amazing seeing the girls work together as a team with people they had never met. Some were nervous having never played footy before, but everyone was able to contribute on the day. The girls showed some great resilience dealing with the rain. Everyone did an awesome job being good sports and representing Kaurana Plains. Most importantly, we won 4/4 captain's rock, paper, scissors and got to pick which way we kicked every single game!

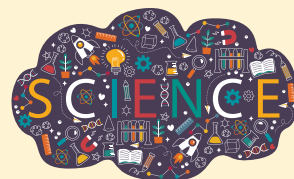
Uncle Thomas



Science

Niina Marni, everyone,

As we move through Week 6 of Term 3, it has been wonderful to see the great learning continuing across both Primary and Secondary Science. Students have been actively participating in a wide range of topics, developing their scientific knowledge through discussions, practical activities, observations, and hands-on learning.



Primary Science

In Primary Science, students have been exploring science through topics connected to their everyday lives and the world around them.

Students have been learning about **waste and bin separation**, identifying which items belong in different coloured bins and discussing why sorting our waste correctly is important for looking after our environment.

Students have also investigated **waterproof and absorbent materials**, testing and identifying materials that absorb water and those that keep water out. This has provided some great opportunities for practical learning and making predictions.

Our younger scientists have been exploring **fruits, vegetables and their seeds**, discovering where seeds can be found and how they help new plants grow. We have also continued our learning about **animals and their offspring**, identifying different animals, their young, and how they grow and change.

Students have also been investigating **different types of forces**, including push and pull, and exploring how forces can make objects move, stop, change direction or change speed.

It has been fantastic to see students continuing to ask questions, share their ideas, participate in practical activities and build their confidence in Science. I am particularly pleased to see students making connections between what we learn in the classroom and their everyday experiences.

I would like to sincerely thank our **class teachers, leadership team and SSO staff** for their ongoing support and collaboration. Their assistance continues to help us provide engaging and meaningful learning experiences for all students.

Thank you also to our **students and families** for your continued support. I look forward to the remaining weeks of Term 3 as we continue to **explore, investigate, question and discover together**.

Ngaityalya,

Jasdeep Singh Sethi (Uncle J), Science Teacher



FREE



**Girls, COME
PLAY TODAY!**



Calling all 5-16yr Old Girls! ↑

**Register for 4 Weeks of FREE Pre-Season
Cricket Fun!**

**Everyone is welcome! Different activities available
for all ages and skill level!**

Gawler
Mondays

Adel Plains
Tuesdays

Playford
Wednesdays

Barossa
Fridays