



Kaurna Plains School R-12

Strength Through Learning • Taingiwilta Tirkanthi-arra

NEWSLETTER #11 Term 3, Week 10 2026



Diary Dates

Reminder

Friday 25 September

Last day of Term 3
early dismissal at 2pm

TERM 3

Friday 25 September

Last day of Term 3

Early dismissal at 2pm

School Holidays

26 September - 11 October

TERM 4

Monday 12 October

First day of Term 4

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



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Facebook

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Naa Marni

Naa Marni,

As we come to the end of Term 3 I look proudly back at what our school community has achieved together. A few of the highlights being:

The Paitya Program making a difference

Kaurna Plains School students recently took part in The Paitya Program, a four-week introduction to civil construction for Year 10, 11 and 12 students.

Delivered through a partnership between Renewal SA's Works Program, Civil Train SA, the Department for Education, Student Pathways and Careers, and Workabout, the program gave 12 students the chance to build practical skills, gain industry experience and explore future career pathways.

Through the program, students achieved important qualifications including their White Card and supervised learner driver hours, while also taking part in hands-on learning at school and on site.



(continued over)



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

83 Ridley Rd, Elizabeth SA 5112 Ph: 8252 4419

Email: dl.1792.info@schools.sa.edu.au

www.kaurnaas.sa.edu.au **f** Kaurna Plains School

Cooperation Organisation Respect Kindness Acceptance

Niina Marni - Principal's Message (continued)

The name Paitya means deadly, amazing, awesome in Kurna Warrapiipa, and was chosen by Kurna Plains School students during Kurna language lessons. The program also strengthened students' understanding of First Nations culture and connection to Country, with RAW Heritage sharing stories, history and the importance of respecting land in civil and earth-moving work.

A highlight of the program was the construction of a mud kitchen at the school, giving students the opportunity to work together on a practical project for younger students to enjoy. They also visited the Civil Contractors Federation SA Centre for Excellence and a live worksite at Munno Para Downs, where they learned more about the wide range of careers in the industry.

Staff involved in the program shared that students showed strong growth in confidence, attendance and engagement. For many, the experience opened their eyes to new possibilities for the future.

The program finished with a graduation ceremony attended by students, families and partners, celebrating the hard work and achievements of all involved.

Nunga Night a wonderful community success

Kurna Plains School's Nunga Night was a wonderful success, with a brilliant turnout from students, families and the wider community.

The evening brought together families from our school, kindergarten, childcare centre and parent centre, along with past students, extended family members and other valued members of our community. It was a warm and welcoming event that celebrated connection, culture and community.

Families enjoyed a range of activities across the school, including service stalls, games, entertainment, a fire pit, a Smoking Ceremony and a community raffle. Most importantly, the evening created a relaxed and familiar space for families to connect with local services and supports, alongside trusted school staff and community members.

Events like Nunga Night are so important because they help make engagement with services feel more comfortable, accessible and welcoming for families.

Ngaityalya to our Aboriginal Education Team – Aunty Helena, Aunty Brenda, Uncle Kierran and Uncle Michael for all their work in ensuring the night was such a success. A special acknowledgement goes to Aunty Helena, whose dedication, leadership and hard work were instrumental in bringing this event to life.

Nunga Night was a powerful reminder of the strength of community at Kurna Plains School, and we thank everyone who attended and contributed to such a meaningful evening.



R U OK? Day – a conversation can change a life

At Kurna Plains School, R U OK? Day is an important reminder of the power of connection, care and conversation.

The message is simple: you don't need to be an expert to check in with someone who may be struggling — just a caring person who is willing to ask, listen and be there. A simple conversation can make a real difference.

(continued over)

Niina Marni - Principal's Message (continued)

R U OK? encourages us all to support the people around us by following four simple steps:

Ask – Are you OK?

Listen – with an open mind

Encourage action – support them to seek help if needed

Check in – keep the conversation going

This year also highlights the important campaign “**I ask my mob, in my way, R U OK?**”, which supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to have conversations in ways that feel natural, culturally safe and meaningful.

As Mr Satour shared, “The Stronger Together campaign reinforces the power of yarning and ‘I ask my mob, in my way, R U OK?’ is about showing the many ways we can ask, listen, encourage, and check in with our mob. The most important thing for mob to remember is that you don't have to be an expert, you just have to be yourself and ask, in your own way, so you look after your mob.”

These resources celebrate the strength of yarning, connection and community, and remind us that there are many ways to ask someone if they are OK. The key message is that we can all play a part in looking after one another.

Ngaityalya Uncle Tom for sharing these valuable resources with our school community.

At Kurna Plains School, we encourage all families to keep these conversations going at home, at school and in the community because checking in with someone could change a life.

Ngaityalya to Auntie Lauren for the delicious cookies that were made and shared with staff.

As we come to the end of Term 3, I would like to thank our students, staff, families and wider community for your ongoing support and partnership throughout the term. It has been a busy and rewarding time at Kurna Plains School, filled with learning, growth, connection and celebration. I wish everyone a safe, happy and restful holiday break. I hope families enjoy the warmer weather, take time to relax, and make special memories together. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for Term 4 and all the wonderful learning, celebrations and events it will bring.



Marni padni

Auntie Cinzia, Principal

Ask your mob, your way, R U OK?

Hello • 21 July 2021



Deputy Principal Update

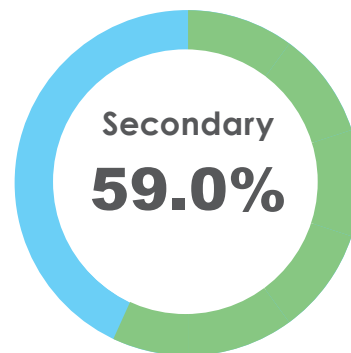
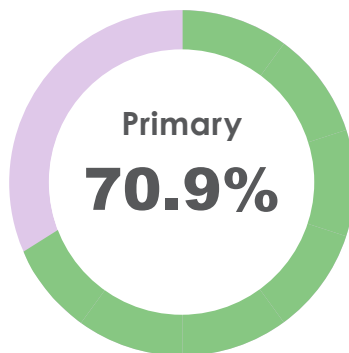
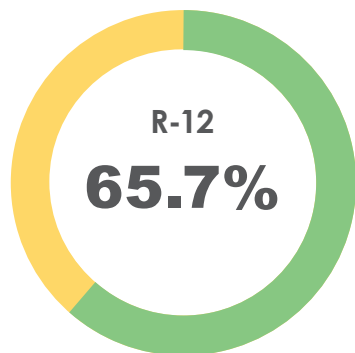
Attendance – We're Getting Closer!

Our whole-school attendance for Term 3 is holding steady at **65.7%**, putting us just over **3% away from our 2026 goal**.

Even better, our **Primary students have cracked 70%, currently sitting at 70.9%**! What a fantastic achievement and a great reminder of what we can do when students, families and school work together.

Current Attendance

Current Attendance Rates



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

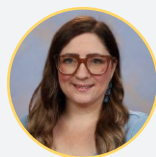
Every extra day matters. Being at school means more than completing school work – it means staying connected, being part of your class and community, and having every opportunity to learn and succeed.

Special Lunches

We are trialling Special Lunches on a Thursday. This will be strictly by pre-order only. If successful, we will plan out for Term 4. A big thanks to Aunty Sienna and her helpers for leading this work.

Father's Day Stall

A massive thank you to Katherine for hosting our Father's Day Stall. The students were so excited and we raised almost \$450 which going towards our Wetlands.



Aunty Natalea
Deputy Principal



Aunty Leayshia

Book Week Parade

What a wonderful turnout we had for our Book Week Parade in Week 6!

It was so lovely to see so many of our KPS families come along to celebrate with us and cheer on our students. The gym was full of colour, excitement and plenty of smiles.

Our students and staff really got into the spirit of Book Week, with so many creative costumes bringing this year's theme, *Symphony of Stories*, to life.

A special shout out has to go to Octavian in Year 1, who came dressed as an incredible homemade dinosaur. Such an amazing effort! We also loved the costumes that completely embraced the *Symphony of Stories* theme. Check out the photos!

Book Week is always such a fun way to celebrate stories, imagination and reading across the school. It is even more special when our families can come along and be part of it too.

Thank you to everyone who helped with costumes, came along to watch and helped make the morning so much fun for our students.

(see more photos on the next page)



Indigenous Literacy Day

In Week 7, we celebrated Indigenous Literacy Day across Kaurua Plains School.

We were very lucky to have Aunty Cherylynne, Aunty Pam and Uncle Robbie and Aunty Rhiannon spend time with our students. They worked with both our primary and secondary classes, sharing stories, culture, language and lots of laughter.

Students had the chance to listen, join in, learn new words and connect with Aboriginal stories and language. It was wonderful to see students so engaged and proud as they learnt together.

Indigenous Literacy Day is a chance to celebrate the strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories, languages and cultures. At Kaurua Plains, it is also another important opportunity for our children to see their culture and language valued as a part of learning.

A huge thank you to our Aunties and Uncle for sharing their time, knowledge and stories with us.



The school holidays are a great chance to keep reading and language going at home, but it does not need to feel like school work.

Simple things can make a big difference. You might read a book together, tell stories about your family, play 'I Spy', look for letters on signs when you are out, make up silly rhyming words, sing songs or play a game where everyone has to name something that starts with the same sound.

Talking, listening and sharing stories all help build language and reading skills.



Even five or ten minutes here and there is valuable. The most important thing is to have fun and enjoy talking and reading together.

Aunty Leayshia

Book Week Parade



Engagement and Wellbeing Leader

Hello KPS community.

R U OK?

Thursday 10 September was **R U OK? Day** but we know that the people around us go through life's ups and downs every day which is why we have free resources to help you keep the conversation going year round.

You might be surprised to learn that many people underestimate the power of an R U OK? Conversation.

Research shows that a third of people don't realise the difference they can make by checking in with someone they care about despite the fact that 9 in 10 of those who were asked, 'Are you OK?', report feeling grateful, cared about, and supported.

We also know 1 in 4 people might hesitate to ask even when they think someone is struggling. That's why we're reminding everyone that if someone's on your mind, trust your instinct and start a conversation.

If you're thinking it, ask R U OK? any day because what people value most is trust, a sense of genuine care, and someone who really listens to them, without judgement.

Ask R U OK? any day because a conversation could change a life.

If someone you know is doing it tough, they won't always tell you. Sometimes it's up to us to trust our gut instinct and ask someone who may be struggling with life, 'are you OK?', in our own way.

By asking and listening, we can help those we care about feel more supported and connected, which can help stop them from feeling worse over time. That's why this campaign has a simple message: **Ask your mob, in your way, R U OK?**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples share a special connection to Country and to each other, through culture, community and shared experience. Regardless of where we live, or who our mob is, we can all go through tough times, times when we don't feel great about our lives or ourselves. That's why it's important to always be looking out for each other. Because we're **Stronger Together**.

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:

Cooperation, Organisation, Respect, Kindness, Acceptance.

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

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

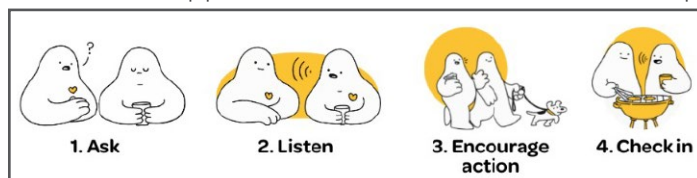
We also use them for individual students for our end of term CORKA reward day. Students are working to earn at least 80 points to participate in a CORKA day and the top two CORKA point recipients in each class get to go on a reward excursion or incursion – I wonder what we're doing this term?...

Be CORKA, to get your CORKA reward!

Uncle Tom



ILYA
8,609
TARNTA
7,366
KARDI
8,589



C	Cooperation We listen and follow the instructions from the adults to be successful.	
O	Organisation Uniform is organised to match our school colours.	
R	Respect Respectful language is key - let's keep swearing out of our conversations.	
K	Kindness Hands off means we kindly respect personal space.	
A	Acceptance We are accepting of everyone - racism, homophobia, ableist, sexual harassment has no place here.	

Aunty Kate

SAASTA Update

During Week 8, SAASTA students participated in several key events. These being the Year 12 Gala Dinner and the SAASTA Shield. Our three Year 12 students, Peyton, Shayana and Sarah attended the gala, along with Uncle Kieran and Aunty Brenda. The girls had an amazing time with their peers, celebrating the almost-end of their schooling journey and participation in the SAASTA program.

SAASTA Shield

The SAASTA Shield is an annual statewide sports and cultural carnival, part of the South Australian Aboriginal Secondary Training Academy (SAASTA) for Years 10–12. The event brings students together in Adelaide for a multi-day tournaments. The sports for this year's Shield event included lacrosse on the Tuesday and futsal on the Wednesday. The carnival concludes with an awards ceremony, recognising student achievement and fostering a sense of community and pride. Kurna Plains School boys, teaming up with Findon boys, took out the overall winner for the Futsal competition. Well done KPS!



Aunty Kate



Our Voice, Our Impact Excursion

In Week 6, three of our Student Voice representatives, Izabelle, Violet and Lauchlin attended the *Our Voice, Our Impact* conference. The day was designed to show students how decisions are made and how they can get involved and be heard. They had the opportunity to work with students from other schools and got the chance to be voters in a mock election during lunchtime. They also got to speak to people in different areas of work to find out how they could go about pursuing their interests. It was great to see the students get involved in meeting new people, discussing their current interests and learning about how they could take the next step forward in having an impact. Each student represented the school proudly and had their voice heard.



Uncle Deano

Niina marni, everyone,

It has been another fantastic few weeks in Secondary Health and Physical Education, and I have continued to really enjoy settling into life at Kurna Plains School. It has been wonderful getting to know our students and staff better and continuing to build positive relationships across the school. I have particularly enjoyed seeing students' personalities, strengths and interests come through in our Health and PE lessons.

Over the past few weeks, our Secondary students have continued to develop their volleyball skills. We have focused on a range of skills and game strategies, including spiking, blocking, digging, defensive manoeuvres and recovery drills. Students have also been working on communicating effectively with their teammates, supporting one another and developing their teamwork and game awareness.

It has been fantastic to see students building their confidence and willingness to have a go, particularly as they develop new skills and begin putting these skills together during gameplay. There have been some great examples of teamwork, encouragement and friendly competition throughout our lessons.

Unfortunately, our planned Kids on Country camp in Week 8 was cancelled due to the poor condition of the roads in the Flinders Ranges following the significant rainfall. While it was disappointing that we were unable to attend, the change in plans provided some other fantastic opportunities for our students to get involved in sporting and cultural activities.

One of these opportunities was attending the SAASTA Shield, where Kurna Plains students represented the school in lacrosse and futsal. It was fantastic to see our students competing, supporting one another and representing Kurna Plains with pride. A particular highlight was our boys' futsal team winning the futsal competition. Congratulations to all of the students who participated and contributed to what was a fantastic day.

Although we were disappointed to miss Kids on Country, I am grateful that our students were able to take advantage of other opportunities to participate, compete and build connections outside the classroom. These experiences are an important part of Health and Physical Education and provide students with opportunities to develop teamwork, resilience, confidence and positive relationships.

I would like to thank all of the students and staff for their continued support and for making my time at Kurna Plains so enjoyable. I am looking forward to the weeks ahead and continuing to provide our students with engaging, positive and meaningful Health and PE experiences.

Ngaityalya,

Uncle Deano, Secondary Health & Physical Education Teacher



Aunty Brenda

It's quandong season and our students have been picking the ripe fruit for making jam and also collecting the seeds for future jewellery making.

We have been making the jam and fried damper for all students/staff to try and will have some at our Nunga Nights event for anyone else to try as well.

Aunty Brenda

(Balardung & Whadjuk - Noongar Yorga)

ASETO



Uncle Ross

In Year 7, 8 and 10 Hospitality our focus on plants with Kurna cultural significance has led to a new array of culturally inspired plant signs made by the students with Uncle Antony's guidance. We are ready to laminate and install these in coming weeks so look out for them in the wetlands. We're also excited to be busy picking a good crop of Gurti (Kurna for Quandong) and cooking then into delicious jam and hopefully pies, sorbet and nutritious drinks. Then there's the promise of our own wattleseed harvest with all the bright wattles flowering now, so Wullutti (spring) is looking bright at Kurna Plains.

In Entrepreneurship, the teams have worked well on their social enterprise projects to fundraise or even create their own small business. They have planned out recipes and financial viability (cost / profit) and now we have brought the ingredients and materials. The first delicious biscuits and cupcake trial bakes came out this week and were seriously popular. Other projects are Caramel Slices, Paitya (deadly in Kurna) printed clothing, painted Footy Boots, Paitya designs for stationery, edible beading, Kurna slime packs, and various tasty snacks. We are looking forward to showing off our 'testers' and a big market day towards the end of Term 4.

Marni Padni (go well),

Unlce Ross



Aunty Stacey

Year 7/8 Maths – Maths, English & Pizza!

This term, the Year 7/8 students have been putting their Maths and English skills into action with a delicious real-world challenge – **making pizzas on a budget!**



Students worked through the process of planning their pizzas, reading recipes and instructions, calculating the cost of ingredients and making choices to ensure they stayed within their allocated budget. Along the way, they practised important everyday skills including addition, multiplication, working with money, comparing prices, reading for information and following written instructions.

The best part was getting into the kitchen and turning all that planning into the real thing! Students prepared and cooked their own pizzas – and we can confirm that the finished products were **absolutely delicious!**

It was fantastic to see students learning through a practical, hands-on experience and recognising how the Maths and English skills we practise at school connect to everyday life.

50 Years of Deadly – Commissioners Art Project

Our students have been busy creating artwork for the **50 Years of Deadly Commissioners Art Project**, celebrating **50 years of Aboriginal leadership, strength, culture and achievement.**

Students have had the opportunity to develop their own individual pieces, using art to explore and represent their ideas, stories and connections. It has been fantastic to see the creativity and thought that students have brought to their work, with each piece reflecting their own unique style and perspective.

We are now putting the finishing touches on our artworks ready for submission **next Tuesday**, with **Uncle Antony kindly dropping our completed pieces** in for us. Students need to get their work to Aunty Stacey, Aunty Brenda or Uncle Antony, preferably by first thing Monday morning - so we can package them up, complete submission paperwork and have them ready for Uncle Antony to drop them off.

We are incredibly excited to have our students' work included in this project and to contribute to this important celebration of **50 Years of Deadly!**

Ngaityalya,

Aunty Stacey, Middle School Teacher

Science

It has been a busy and engaging few weeks in **Secondary Science**, with students exploring a variety of topics connected to Australia, our environment, culture and everyday life.

Students continued learning about **Farming in Australia**, exploring where different foods and agricultural products are produced and the important role farming plays in Australian life.

We also investigated **invasive species in Australia**, including rabbits, red foxes and invasive plants. Students explored how introduced species can affect native animals, plants, habitats and ecosystems, and why protecting Australia's biodiversity is important.

Students developed their understanding of the **Water Cycle**, learning about **evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection**, and making connections to rainfall, clouds and everyday weather.

Through our **First Nations and ancient astronomy** learning, including *Emu in the Sky*, students explored how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have used observations of the night sky to understand seasonal changes, directions and connections to Country.

Students have also been learning about **electrical safety**, including electrical hazards, **conductors and insulators**, and how to use electrical devices safely and responsibly.

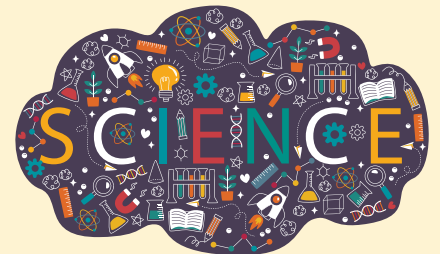
It has been fantastic to see students **asking questions, sharing ideas and making connections between science and their everyday experiences**.

A sincere thank you to our **class teachers, leadership team and SSO staff** for their ongoing support and collaboration, and to our students and families for their continued support.

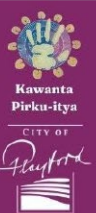
I look forward to continuing to **explore, investigate, question and discover together**.

Ngaityalya,

Jasdeep Singh Sethi (Uncle J), Science Teacher



Community Notices



Kawanta Pirku-itya SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

29th September 2026

Youth 15-22 Years
Elizabeth Bowland
11am-3:30pm

Cheer your team on for 2 bowling games, enjoy lunch and finish with a game of mini golf.

 **11 Winterslow Rd, Edinburgh North 5113**

1st October 2026

School Holidays Family Fun
Event at JMC
11am-1pm

Join us at JMC for a variety of activities, games, a colour run and cultural crafting for the whole family!

 **182 Peachey Road, Smithfield Plains 5114**

6th October 2026

Living Kurna Cultural Centre Excursion
9:30am Meet at Marni Waiendi
3:30pm Return by chartered bus

Cultural tour, lunch and basket weaving workshop

 **69 Ridley Road, Elizabeth South 5112**

8th October 2026

Wilbur's wildlife show
Lunch at 12:30pm, followed by the show at 1:30pm

Lunch at Marni Waiendi followed by a wildlife show with snakes, lizards, turtles, frogs, possums and insects.

 **69 Ridley Road, Elizabeth South 5112**



**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL
PLEASE CONTACT US**

belonginginthenorth@playford.sa.gov.au
08 8209 3840 | 0436 349 387

30TH SEP
11AM-1PM

**FREE FAMILY
EVENT**

GIANT GAMES

POT PAINTING & PLANTING

DONUT DECORATING

GLITTER TATTOOS

MAGNET PAINTING

ALL WELCOME - ALL WELCOME - ALL WELCOME - ALL WELCOME - ALL WELCOME - ALL WELCOME - ALL WELCOME - ALL WELCOME - ALL WELCOME - ALL WELCOME

NACYS 30th Sep 11am-1pm

SPRING CARNIVAL

RSVP HERE 



**Spring School Holidays
Family Activities at NACYS**
Oldford Road Davoren Park 5113
For more info call or txt: 0401 485 886



Community Notices





SPRINGTIME HOOPS

@ THE GRID

Hit the court for Springtime Hoops! Join us for basketball games, arcade and console gaming, shooting competitions, skills challenges and prizes. Whether you play all the time or just want to have a go, everyone is welcome.

BASKETBALL THEME

FOOD AND DRINKS PROVIDED.

 GAMES & TOURNAYS
  ARCADE & CONSOLE GAMING
  SHOOTING COMPETITIONS
  SKILLS CHALLENGES & PRIZES

MORE INFO

 **MONDAY**
5 OCTOBER 2026
  2PM - 4PM
  12-18 YEARS
  THE GRID YOUTH HUB

FREE! JUST COME ALONG







GAME ON

@ THE GRID

Game on! Come hang out at The GRID for an afternoon of gaming, challenges and friendly competition. Play your favourites, challenge your mates and compete for prizes in a relaxed school holiday session.

FOOD AND DRINKS PROVIDED.

 CONSOLE GAMING
  CHALLENGES & COMPETITIONS
  PRIZES TO BE WON
  FOOD & DRINKS

 **TUESDAY**
29 SEPTEMBER 2026
  2PM - 4PM
  12-18 YEARS
  THE GRID YOUTH HUB
73 ELIZABETH WAY, ELIZABETH

FREE! JUST COME ALONG!






BBQ & YOUTH OUTREACH

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS. GOOD VIBES. ALL WELCOME!

 **WED 30 SEP 2026**
FREMONT PARK
2PM - 4PM
OUTREACH BBQ, CASUAL SPORT/ACTIVITIES AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

 **WED 7 OCT 2026**
MUNNO PARA SKATEPARK
2PM - 4PM
OUTREACH BBQ, SKATING, HOOPS AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

 FREE BBQ & SNACKS
  CASUAL SPORT
  GOOD YARNS & CONNECTION
  SKATE & SCOOT
  HOOPS & GAMES
  MEET NEW PEOPLE

FREE! ALL YOUNG PEOPLE WELCOME

TURN UP. HANG OUT. HAVE YOUR SAY.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!