



# NEWSLETTER

**kongorong**  
primary & cpc  
knowledge • pride • success

Issue 3 - 29 May 2025



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

## DIARY DATES

4 June 2025  
JAM Band

9 June 2025  
PUBLIC HOLIDAY

10 June 2025  
School Photos

16 - 20 June 2025  
Centenary Week

18 June 2025  
Walking the Seasons  
Excursion

20 June 2025  
PUPIL FREE DAY

25 & 26 June 2025  
Mid-Year School Transition  
Days

23 & 30 June 2025  
Mid-Year Kindy Transition  
Days

## From the Principal

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe we're already halfway through Term 2! The past few weeks have been full of rich learning experiences and strong community connection. From excursions and storytelling to sport and cultural learning, our students continue to grow in confidence and capability.

Alongside our ongoing focus on explicit teaching, our staff are also refining their responsive teaching practices to better support all learners. This includes more targeted instruction and purposeful consolidation during reading lessons, as well as enrichment of learning through increased peer-to-peer dialogue.

In Mathematics, this looks like students being encouraged to articulate their thinking—explaining not just what they did, but why. This kind of metacognitive practice helps students build deeper understanding and take greater ownership of their learning. When students are supported to reflect on their thinking and engage in dialogue with their peers, they develop critical reasoning skills, clarify their ideas, and grow as confident learners.

A big thank you to our families for your continued support—it really does make a difference. We're especially looking forward to our Centenary Celebration of Learning in Week 8 and hope to see many of you there.

Jamie

## Reminder

### Absences

A friendly reminder to notify the school by text message if your child is absent from school.

We understand that busy mornings can make it easy to forget, our automated system acts as a gentle reminder to families.

Providing absence information is not only a legal requirement but helps us ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students.

Thank you for your support.

## Upcoming Events:

- Wk6: Year 6 Camp at Woodhouse, Adelaide
- Wk6: Whole school excursion to Allendale for JAM Band's interactive musical show – please complete any outstanding consent forms and note that there is a \$5 cost per student to attend
- Wk7: Lions Mad Minute, an impromptu creative speaking challenge for students in Years 5&6
- Wk8: Centenary Celebration of Learning event 2.30pm
- Wk8: Walking the Seasons 'Deep Winter' excursion, Emu Camp and Story Time

Principal: Jamie Ryan  
UP Class: Morgan Cooper  
LP Class & Kindy: Angela Jordan  
Finance/Administration: Stacey Wright  
SSO/Playgroup: Melissa Gibbs

NIT: Ross Mackenzie  
LP: Talia Thompson  
SSO: Marilyn Gordon  
SSO: Michelle Schofield



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# Lower Primary Learning

Towards the end of last term LP students used the book 'Fang Fang's Chinese New Year' by Sally Rippin to examine the features and structure of a narrative. To begin this term, students have chosen a celebration and then planned their story, created a problem and considered how to solve it. There was lots of animated discussion as students supported each other to brainstorm possible solutions. Students then worked through their story to edit spelling and punctuation. We hope you enjoy some of our stories!

Santa was getting the presents from the North Pole. Some are little and some are big. Santa forgot to write the names on the presents. Santa was confused. Santa had some special goggles. He looked in the presents. He wrote the names on the presents. He went to deliver the presents. He felt happy.

By Tyler



Willow and Ella were at the birthday and they were at the pinata. It was pink. They were hitting and hitting the pinata but they could not break the pinata. They felt sad and mad. They worked together and they felt happy because they broke the pinata.

By Willow



Willow was bringing out the birthday cake. She put it on the counter. It was very rainbow and pretty. But it fell off the counter! There was cake all over the floor and on Willow's new party dress! Willow had 2 new dresses and she had picked her favourite. So she went and got her other one. She wiped up the cake. Her friend made a new one and Willow was happy.

By Sebbi



The skeleton was at the house. He stole the candy and went back home. Then he dropped the candy. It was on the floor. The skeleton was sad. Skeleton picked the candy up. He put the candy in the jar. Then the skeleton ate one candy and he felt happy.

By Hudson



## Centenary Celebration – week 8

We're very excited to celebrate 100 years of Kongorong Primary School in its current building!

Please join us on Tuesday 17 June at 2:30pm for our Centenary Celebration of Learning. Students will share their HASS learning expedition on the history of our school and how education has changed over time. A plaque honouring former principal Allan Buckingham will be unveiled, and afternoon tea and school tours will follow from 3:15pm.

This is a special opportunity to connect with current and past members of the school community—we look forward to celebrating this milestone with you.



## Upper Primary Learning

As part of our writing unit, we have been reading Uncle Xbox by Jared Thomas. Students have been focusing on enhancing their writing by adding descriptive language to make their sentences more engaging and interesting for the reader. They have also been learning about the importance of chronological order to improve the sequence and flow of their narratives.

Immanuel

Expanded sentence: (add an adjective before the noun)

Monday morning Dusty was  
in his room playing the  
xbox, because he was bored.

Mason

Expanded sentence:

During the game, Dusty enthusiastically  
slogged the ball on the cricket pitch.

Ellie

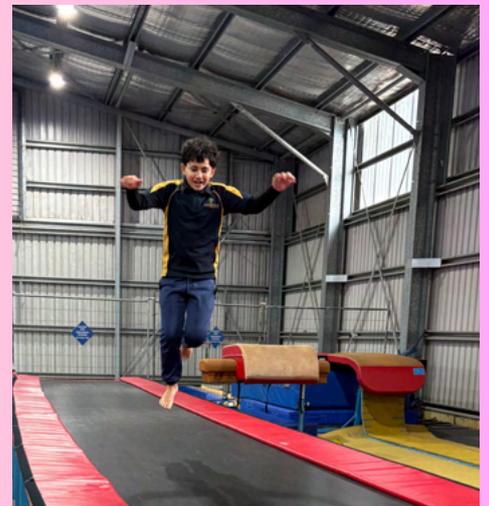
Expanded sentence:

when Mary was asleep Dusty quickly  
ran to the neighbour house to  
look at the garden. See if the plants  
need water.

## PE – Gymnastics

Over three energetic weeks, students from Preschool to Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their gymnastics program at Blue Lake Gymnastics. Each session saw students rotate through a variety of floor, bar, and ring activities, all designed to develop balance, coordination, and strength.

A highlight was learning special gymnastics stances—especially the much-loved ‘motorbike’ landing (ask your child to show you!). With lots of smiling faces and growing confidence, it was a fantastic opportunity to build fundamental movement skills in a fun and supportive environment.



# Science

In science class this term the Junior Primary students have been experimenting with a variety of materials to discover which ones best enable flying, sliding, and floating. They have designed, constructed and flown kites, paper planes and wind mills; tested a variety of objects to see if they sink or float; and slid things down the slide to see which ones worked best. The children learned through play when dressing up in clothes made of different fabrics, and acting out the story of the 'Three Little Pigs' with the different construction materials.

The Upper Primary Class has been focussing on the state of matter. They have conducted experiments with dissolving to create solutions and suspensions; melted ice using a variety of substances; condensed water from the air; changed sugar from a solid to a liquid and back again using heat; and created a substance called 'oobleck', which is neither solid nor liquid. The students have studied the way the molecules change their behaviour when heated or cooled and drawn scientific diagrams of this concept.



# Kindergarten news

We have had a busy few weeks. Some of the highlights have included: -Story tables for "The Very Hungry Caterpillar", and Mr Brown's Magnificent Apple Tree have been used frequently.

Investigation tables - Sensory play with peas and beans.

Our days have been filled with enthusiastic exploring and investigating various sea creatures and things we might see on the beach. I recently found a shark egg and we found a matching picture to identify it, in the Department of Environment's Explorer's guide. This led onto to finding out about things we might see on a beach. The Landscape Board of SA have a wonderful beach combing field guide to help identify what you might see on the beach. There were many opportunities for curiosity and learning different words. We learnt that some things on the beach shouldn't be touched and could be hazardous. In the coming weeks we will be exploring more about eggs and the animals or minibeasts that produce them. This will be our next investigation table to encourage children's learning dispositions and curiosity.



We hope everyone enjoyed our puppet performance to "Slippery Fish" this week. The children used their creativity to draw and construct their interpretations of the main characters in the song. If you would like to revisit this song with your child to re-enact at home, you will find it on YouTube.



# Noorla Yo-Long

Our Upper Primary students recently took part in a challenging and rewarding day at Noorla Yo-Long, where they tackled a variety of high ropes activities designed to stretch both body and mind. The high ropes course presented a series of individual and team-based challenges, requiring students to draw on courage, focus, and persistence. There were moments of nervousness and hesitation—but just as many of determination, encouragement, and celebration. It was fantastic to see students supporting one another, cheering on their peers, and pushing themselves outside their comfort zones.



# Mothers Day Bingo

We were thrilled to welcome mums, grandmothers, and special guests to our Mother's Day Bingo Brunch in Week 3. The event was proudly led by our student leaders, who hosted a fun and friendly bingo session that brought lots of smiles and laughs.

It was a lovely chance to celebrate the important women in our students' lives and share some quality time over a light brunch. We hope the special gifts sent home brightened your Sunday morning!



# National Simultaneous Story Time

On Wednesday 21 May, our students joined 2,204,658 students in schools and libraries across the country for National Simultaneous Story Time. This year's book, *The Truck Cat* by Deborah Frenkel, explored themes of belonging, change, and finding your place in the world.

Events like this remind us of the joy of shared reading and the power of stories to build community and spark meaningful conversations. Our Lower Primary students have continued to explore these themes in their text-based English unit, diving deeper into the characters, setting, and the story's important messages.



## Fundraising:

Thank you to our wonderful school community for supporting our efforts to redevelop the school playground! So far, we've raised:

- \$600 through the Two Bros Dough fundraiser
- \$400 from the Election Day BBQ

Our major fundraiser will take place early in Term 3—a Goods and Services Auction. We're asking all families to contribute by either donating a service, item, or by helping us canvass local businesses for contributions.

Ideas could include:

- A few hours of your time, i.e., a trade, cleaning or lawn mowing
- Farming items i.e., lamb or a load of wood
- A voucher or product from a local business
- Baking or handmade goods



More information will be sent home soon, but your help will be integral to the success of this fundraiser—and to creating an exciting new play space for our students to enjoy.

## Playground redevelopment Playground Redevelopment – Have Your Say!

We're excited to begin planning a staged redevelopment of our school's outdoor play spaces—and we want your voice to be part of the process.

Over the coming years, we aim to transform our playground to better support student wellbeing, creativity, and connection. This will be a long-term project, developed in stages as funds are raised and plans take shape.

To ensure our new play areas meet the needs of our community, we're seeking input from families, staff, and students. Your feedback will help shape a shared vision for an inclusive and engaging outdoor space.

Please take a moment to complete our Playground Feedback Survey by scanning the QR code provided. Your responses will be considered alongside student and staff feedback as we develop a comprehensive design.

Together, we can create something special for current and future students to enjoy!

### Playground Redevelopment Survey



## ICT Upgrade – Smartboards & Wireless Access Points Installed

We're excited to share that new Smartboards have recently been installed in both our Lower Primary and Upper Primary classrooms. These interactive tools are already enhancing teaching and learning, allowing for greater student engagement, collaboration, and access to a wide range of digital resources.

Alongside this, new Wireless Access Points (WAPs) have been installed across the school grounds. With WAPs now live outdoors, students and staff can stay connected to Wi-Fi in all our outdoor learning spaces—opening up even more opportunities for flexible learning and communication.

The bright, big panels had Miss Jordan wondering if she'd gained a co-teacher, and the kids were convinced the flies were taking over – but don't worry, we soon had those flies under control!

These upgrades support our commitment to a modern, connected learning environment for all students.



## Reconciliation Week

During Reconciliation Week, our school embraced this year's theme: "Bridging Now to Next". This theme encourages us to reflect on the ongoing connection between past, present, and future, and to continue moving forward together in the reconciliation journey.

Students engaged with the book *Finding Our Heart* by Thomas Mayo, which prompted thoughtful discussions about the meaning of reconciliation and how we can actively contribute to a more united and respectful Australia.

As part of our commitment, students collaboratively created a Bridge of Hope artwork, now proudly displayed in the front office. This installation symbolizes our collective dedication to building a better future through understanding and action.

The 2025 theme artwork was designed by Bree Buttenshaw, a proud Kalkadoon woman and digital artist based in Quandamooka Country. Her vibrant design incorporates native plants known for regenerating after fire and thriving through adversity, symbolising resilience and the possibilities of renewal. The artwork reflects our shared strength and the path forward in reconciliation.



## Footy Colours Day & Indigenous Perspectives

Last Friday, our school was buzzing with footy spirit as students dressed in their favourite team colours for Footy Colours Day. The day was full of fun, including a lively student-teacher game of "Marks Up" during break time.

Meanwhile, Miss Morgan's footy-enthusiastic class took their learning further by exploring Indigenous perspectives on Australian Rules Football. They learned about the significance of the Sir Douglas Nicholls Round, which celebrates Aboriginal culture and contributions to the game.

Students then designed their own footy rounds, combining creativity, cultural respect, and technology. It was a great way to connect the excitement of Footy Colours Day with meaningful learning about history and culture.



Our school values— Working Together, Respect, Striving for Success, Honesty, Tolerance  
Our school vision—We encourage a love of learning, a strong sense of self, respect for others and the desire to become good global citizens. We promote independence and responsibility as we guide our school towards a positive future.



Jamie Ryan -Principal