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Important Dates

Friday 20 February 2026

- Open Boys Cricket

Wednesday 25 February 2026

- Year 7/8 Parliamentary Ed Program
- Lions Youth of the Year

Friday 27 February 2026

- Interhouse Athletics Carnival

Mon 2 March-Tue 3 March 2026

- Student Voice Leadership Conference

Wednesday 4 March 2026

- 10-12 SAPOL Road Safety

Monday 9 March 2026

- Adelaide Cup Holiday

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Principal's Report

Steve Carli-Seebohm



"One year simply equals 365 opportunities"

Welcome back everyone to the start of the 2026 school year! I am genuinely excited and enthused by the positive start all staff and students have embraced as we begin another year in our Penola High School learning journey.

We welcome a wide range of experienced, talented and vibrant educators into the team. Scott McEachern joins us from Millicent High School to undertake Agriculture, Science and HASS, Aimee Lepley joins us from Grant High School to undertake Physical Education, Romana Quintel joins us from St Martins Lutheran College as our new Pedagogy and Practice leader, as well as teaching English and AIF; Kylie Hoff also joins us from St Martins to teach HASS and Maths subjects; Jess Edwards comes to us from Naracoorte South Primary School to assist in the PE subjects; Gavin Kernot has returned to the region from Wudinna Area School to teach Café and Home Ec subjects, Olivia Jaeschke has returned from maternity leave back into the Home Ec space; and Tracey Dowdell and Rohan Battersby join our student support team.

As a site we are focusing on 3 main goals:

Family Engagement, Peer to Peer Collaborative Frameworks, and Academic Rigour across all teaching and learning spaces. More about these goals will be shared in weeks to come, but we will be working hard to find the key to success in all we undertake.

"The Math of success is brutal. Only the ones that are willing to potentially keep missing, but keep swinging will make it."

Babe Ruth, one of the world's most famous baseball players, stood at the home plate 8,399 times in his career. And out of those times facing a pitcher, he managed to hit away 714 home runs. That means his success rate was 8.5%. The world-famous artist Pablo Picasso painted over 150,000 pieces of art, yet only around 1,170 of them are considered masterpieces. That means his success rate was only 0.7%.

Building capacity in our students to keep pushing themselves with stamina and endurance in learning is going to be a key ingredient in having a successful academic year. Teachers will be focusing on genuinely knowing where students are beginning; where they are going; and the measures of achievement at the conclusion of a learning journey.

The education team at Penola High School is activated and onboard making this the focus of teaching and learning in the classroom, of which you will all be invited to be an active participant and engaged along the way. And frankly, I cannot wait!

Kind regards

Setting up for Success

Romana Quintel

After a hot start to the year, the Year 12s demonstrated their resilience and adaptability by pivoting from a planned camping retreat, to a day on-site getting to know staff, subjects, and setting senior year expectations and goals. This was followed-up with a fantastic day excursion to Robe, which was enjoyed by students and staff alike. It was fantastic to see Penola High School's senior students lead by example, encouraging and supporting one another as they all tried their hand at stand-up paddle boarding. Even the most reluctant participants got out there and quickly demonstrated that they had what it takes to try new skills and embrace new challenges. Big thanks to Lola, Jamie and Edie from Stillwater Paddle Boards for leading us in a great session. What a great way to start the school year



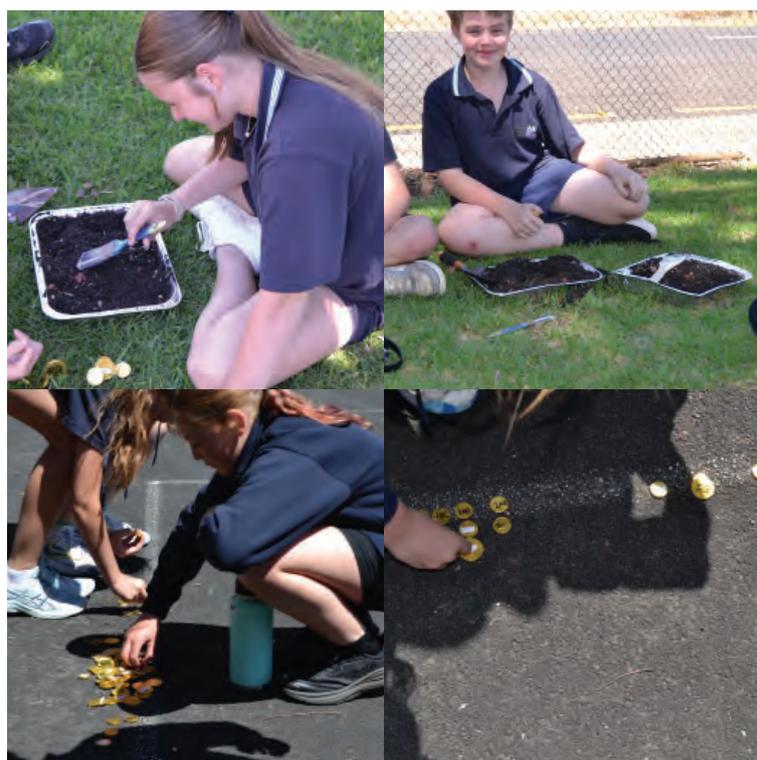
Let's look at...7 HASS

Kylie Hoff

It's been a fantastic start to the year in Year 7 and 8 HASS, with students jumping straight into developing their history skills and concepts through hands-on learning. Our Year 7 students became archaeologists for a lesson, taking part in a fun "cookie excavation." Carefully digging through cookies, they uncovered chocolate chip "artifacts," learning the importance of patience, precision, and recording evidence just like real archaeologists do at dig sites.



Meanwhile, Year 8 students went on a historical "dig" of their own, unearthing gold coins marked with BC and AD dates. Their challenge was to arrange the coins from oldest to most recent, helping them build a clear understanding of timelines and chronology which are essential history skills. Next week, both year levels will begin exciting new units of work: Year 7 will explore the wonders of Ancient Egypt, while Year 8 will dive into the world of the Vikings. With many more interactive activities ahead, including some projects in Art, it's shaping up to be an engaging and discovery-filled term in HASS.



nurturing individual success

Interhouse Swimming Carnival

Chloe Clayfield

The annual Interhouse Swimming Carnival was a tremendous success, with perfect weather setting the scene for an exciting day in and around the pool. Clear skies and warm temperatures created ideal conditions for competitors and spectators alike, making it one of the most enjoyable carnivals in recent years.

As tradition dictates, the day began with the Open Boys Backstroke event, a race that has long been a highlight and a fitting way to launch the competition. The event immediately set the tone for a day filled with energy, sportsmanship and impressive performances.

School spirit was on full display, with each house dressed to impress in their new house shirts and vibrant decorations. The stands were a sea of colour, chants and cheers echoing across the pool. However, for the third consecutive year, Monaya claimed the title of Best Dressed House, standing out with their creativity, coordination and enthusiasm.

In the pool, competition was fierce. The Junior Girls division proved particularly dominant, delivering high-quality performances and showing outstanding participation across multiple events. Their determination and teamwork played a significant role in shaping the overall results of the day.

After a full schedule of competitive races and spirited cheering, Yallungina emerged as the overall champions, proudly taking home the shield. Their consistent performances across all age groups secured a well-earned victory.

The carnival was not only a celebration of athletic achievement but also of school pride, teamwork and community spirit. It was truly a great day for everyone involved, both in and out of the water.

	Female	Male
<i>Junior</i>		
Winner:	Charlie McCulloch	Alex Reeves
Runner Up:	Bonnie Skeer	Caleb Braithwaite
<i>Intermediate</i>		
Winner:	Maggie Bell	Oscar Gartner
Runner Up:	Bree Wooding	Harvey Virtanen
<i>Senior</i>		
Winner:	Tegan Lythgo	Tayte Virtanen
Runner Up:	Nellie Lear	Bodhi Lear



Let's look at...Year 11 Construction

Cory O'Connor

Our Year 11 Construction students have started the year with hands-on learning, diving straight into the fundamentals of the building trade.

Students have already designed and constructed their own wall frame, applying their knowledge of the building code, safe work practices, accurate measurement, and correct tool use. Seeing their frames stand upright has been a fantastic achievement early in the term.

Throughout the remainder of the term, students will continue building on this foundation by learning how to run electrical cable (under supervision), hang Gyprock, flush plasterboard, paint, and tile. They will also focus on working efficiently as a team and maintaining industry-standard safety practices.

This practical approach gives students a genuine insight into what each trade involves, helping them build confidence and develop valuable, industry-ready skills for the future.



Student Voice

Stacey Marlow



Preparations are well underway for the establishment of the 2026 Student Voice Committee. This initiative marks another significant step towards ensuring that student perspectives are valued and represented within our school and wider community.

Over the past few weeks, a number of students from each Homegroup have taken the opportunity to nominate themselves, or be nominated by peers, and deliver thoughtful speeches that highlight their commitment to serve as Student Voice representatives. Each nominee has spoken passionately about their vision and the importance of student involvement in decision-making at Penola High School.

The process aligns closely with our school's core values:

- **Respect:** Nominees have emphasised the importance of listening to all opinions and treating each other with dignity. By advocating for respectful dialogue, they aim to create a culture where every voice is valued.
- **Connection:** Candidates discussed their plans to foster greater links across the school and wider community, ensuring everyone feels a sense of belonging.
- **Inclusivity:** Many speeches centred on creating opportunities for all students to participate, regardless of background or ability. Nominees are committed to promoting an environment where diversity is celebrated, and no one is left out.
- **Resilience:** The candidates demonstrated resilience themselves by stepping forward, sharing personal stories, and embracing the challenges associated with leadership. They aim to role model perseverance and a positive mindset.

The establishment of the Student Voice Committee for 2026 promises to strengthen student engagement and empower our young leaders. We look forward to announcing the selected representatives soon and working together to uphold the values of Respect, Connection, Inclusivity, and Resilience.

STUDENT FREE DAY

Penola High School would like to advise of the following upcoming Student Free Day.

TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2026

Let's look at...Year 9/10 Agriculture

Cory O'Connor

Our Year 9/10 Agriculture students have hit the ground running this year, designing and creating an indigenous garden at the Agriculture block.

The garden will feature edible native plants local to our area, allowing students to explore bush foods, sustainability, and traditional land management practices. Students have been researching suitable species, planning the layout, and preparing the soil ready for planting.

This hands-on project is building valuable skills in teamwork, design, and plant production, while celebrating the rich agricultural and cultural history of our region. We look forward to watching it grow.



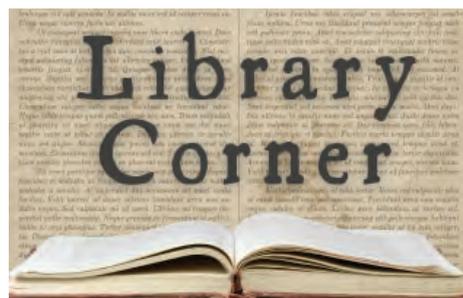
Lions Youth of the Year

Year 11 and 12 English students are steadily preparing persuasive speeches for the Lions Youth of the Year Award which will be held Wednesday 25 February 2026. Students are designing a speech on a topic of interest or concern to them, with the intention of persuading the audience to their point of view. It is exciting to see topics which have a local flavour, and it is wonderful to see how community minded our young people are. The brave students who will participate in the final event will be interviewed about their community involvement, and who they are as a young person. They will also participate in some impromptu speeches to test their speaking skills further.

We look forward to sharing the outcome of this event with our school community.

Penola School Community Library

Heather Devlin



We are excited to share what is happening at our School Community Library. Whether you are a student, parent, educator, or neighbour, the library is here for you. A place to learn, explore, and connect.

New Books & Resources

Our shelves are growing. We have added new titles for all ages, including

- Children's picture books and early readers
- Popular middle-grade and teen novels
- Adult Fiction Books
- Nonfiction for curious minds and lifelong learners

If there's a book or topic you'd love to see, let us know—we're always happy to take suggestions.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

The library offers more than books! We provide access to:

- Research and reference materials
- Quiet study spaces
- Educational resources
- Statewide Inclusive Educational Resources

Students and community members alike are welcome to use these services during library hours.

A Space for Everyone

Our library is proud to be a shared space for the school and the community. We believe reading and learning bring people together, and we're grateful for your continued support.

Thank you for being part of our library community. We look forward to seeing you soon.

A sign with a paperclip at the top left corner. The sign is titled "Opening Hours" and lists the library's hours for each day of the week. The background is a light beige color.

Opening Hours	
Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	9:00am - 4:30pm
Wednesday	10:30am - 6:30pm
Thursday	9:00am - 4:30pm
Friday	9:00am - 3:30pm
Library Closed: 12:30-1:00pm	

Interschool Swimming Carnival

Scott McCulloch

The Interschool Swimming Carnival was held last Friday, with Millicent, Naracoorte and Penola High School coming together for a friendly but highly competitive day of racing. Penola had a number of successes throughout the day, particularly in the girls' events. Tess Wooding, Charlie McCulloch, Bonnie Skeer, Ruby Gartner, Bree Wooding, Maggie Bell and Addie Wilson represented the school superbly, with all of them swimming in age groups above their own. Maggie Bell competed in the Open division all day despite being Under 16, a pattern that continued throughout the squad as Bree stepped into Maggie's place, and the younger girls stepped up into Bree's age group. It was a phenomenal team effort and resulted in several first-place finishes.

The standout moment was Penola winning the Open Girls Freestyle Relay despite not having any Open-aged competitors. Even more impressive was the inclusion of a "sneaky" Year 7 swimmer in the team, highlighting the strength and depth of our younger girls.

Individual successes for the girls included:

- Bonnie Skeer – 1st place, U15 Freestyle
- Bree Wooding – 1st place, U16 Freestyle
- Charlie McCulloch – 1st place, U13 Breaststroke
- Bree Wooding – 1st place, U16 Backstroke

The boys were thin in numbers but made up for it with effort and versatility. Oscar Gartner, Bodhi Lear, Harvey Virtanen, Tayte Virtanen and Axel Reeves held down the fort, competing in every event in their respective age groups. Despite the small team, the boys recorded a number of impressive wins:

- Harvey Virtanen – 1st place, U15 Freestyle
- Oscar Gartner – 1st place, U16 Freestyle
- Oscar Gartner – 1st place, U16 Breaststroke
- Oscar Gartner – 1st place U16 Backstroke
- Bodhi Lear – 1st place, Open Breaststroke

Congratulations to Oscar Gartner, who earned himself the nickname Oscar "The Fishboy" Gartner, for his 'hattrick'.

Several records were broken throughout the day:

- Charlie McCulloch – 30m Breaststroke record
- Oscar – Freestyle record (under 20 seconds)
- Oscar – Open Boys Butterfly record

The highlight of the day was Bree Wooding breaking the Under 16 Backstroke record by an incredible two seconds, despite still being Under 15 — and with two more years left to chase her own record.

Penola High School finished second overall on the day, narrowly behind Millicent. Every competitor played a crucial role in the result, and the teamwork and willingness to step up was outstanding.

A huge thank you to Chloe for organising the carnival, and to Scott McEachern for once again wearing jeans, a shirt and boots to a swimming event, providing plenty of entertainment on the pool deck.



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Silly Sock Day

Rachell Cheyne

The staff at Penola High School all have an amazing job, but it can be a very serious business at times, educating and supporting all of your young people. We are in the game of setting every single one of them up for success!

That said, it's nice to do it with a bit of fun now and again and to put a smile on some faces the staff had a 'Silly Sock'day last Friday. There will be more themes as the term goes on to keep the good vibes going at the end of each week.



Let's look at...Year 7

Rikki Helps

In the Year 7 classroom, we have been exploring the idea of "Me vs We". Students are learning to recognise when a task is a "just me" responsibility, such as completing independent reading, practising fluency, or demonstrating their own understanding. And when it is a "we" responsibility, like collaborating on a group investigation, participating in discussions, or contributing to a shared class goal.

Through a number of challenges students are building their understanding of personal accountability and teamwork. This language helps us talk clearly about effort, responsibility, and how both independent practice and collaboration are essential for strong learning.



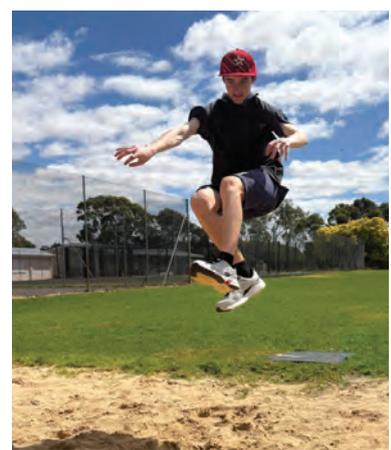
Let's look at...Physical Education

Jess Edwards

Our middle and high school students have made a fantastic start to the year in Physical Education. Students began with teamwork and cooperative games to build communication, leadership, and positive sportsmanship, creating a strong foundation for the term ahead.

With the Interhouse Athletics Carnial coming up on Friday 27 February 2026, our focus has shifted to athletic preparation. Students have been practising a variety of track and field events including shot put, long, triple and high jump, discus, javelin and sprints, while working toward personal goals they have set for themselves. Whether improving speed, refining technique, building endurance, or growing in confidence, it has been fantastic to see their determination and commitment as they prepare to represent their houses and showcase their skills.

We encourage parents to come along and support the students, it promises to be a great day of competition and school spirit.



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Middle School Camp

Rikki Helps

At the beginning of the year, our Year 7 and 8 students headed to Mylor Adventure Camp in the beautiful Adelaide Hills for an unforgettable camp experience. It was the perfect way to kick off the school year — building relationships, strengthening teamwork, and stepping outside our comfort zones.

From the moment we arrived, the energy was high. Students jumped straight into a range of exciting activities designed to challenge and inspire them.

One of the highlights was canoeing along the river. Students worked in pairs to paddle, steer, and (occasionally!) rescue one another. Communication and teamwork were essential — and there were plenty of laughs along the way.

The water-based fun didn't stop there. Teams were challenged to design and build rafts sturdy enough to carry their group across the pool. Creativity, problem-solving, and perseverance were on full display as students tested their constructions.

In another teamwork challenge, students worked together to build bridges out to the middle of the river, enabling their entire team to cross safely. It required planning, cooperation, and a willingness to listen to each other's ideas.

The challenge course pushed students physically and mentally, while the giant swing encouraged bravery. It was inspiring to see students cheering one another on, celebrating every success, and supporting those who felt nervous.

Free time was just as exciting, with many students loving games of Ga Ga Ball, which quickly became a camp favourite.



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PENOLA HIGH SCHOOL

ATHLETICS

CARNIVAL



FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2026

CANTEEN AVAILABLE

ALL WELCOME

nurturing individual success

2026 PENOLA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2026

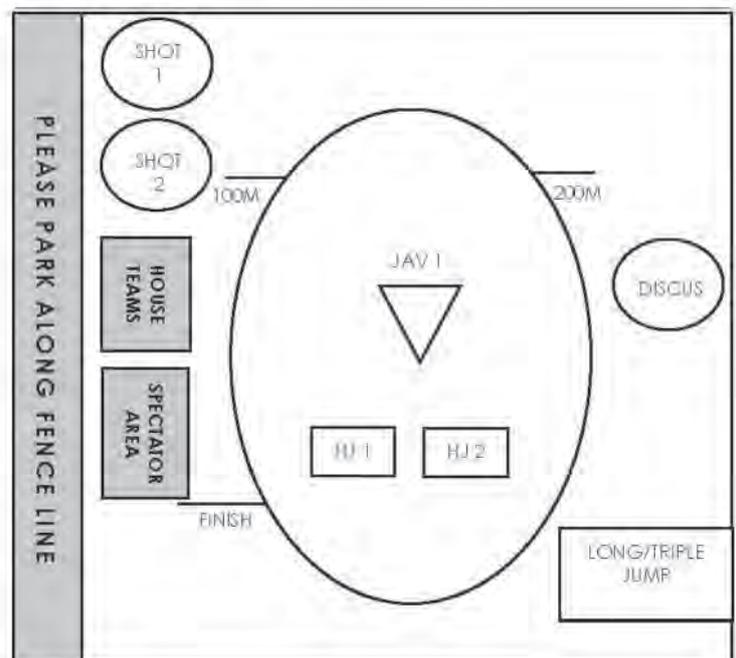
LANES: **MOYANGA 2+5**

YALLUMINGA 3+6

TORILLA 1+4

1	9:15	100m – DIVISIONS
2		100m – DIV
3		100m – DIV
4		100m – DIV
5		100m – DIV
6	9:30	JUNIOR G Long Jump (P1)
7		JUNIOR B Long Jump (P2)
8		INTER G Javelin
9		INTER B Discus
10		SENIOR G Shot Put (S1)
11		SENIOR B Shot Put (S2)
12	9:50	JUNIOR G 90m Hurdles (76cm)
13		JUNIOR B 90m Hurdles (76cm)
14		INTER G 90m Hurdles (76cm)
15		INTER B 90m Hurdles (76cm)
16		SENIOR G 100m Hurdles (76cm)
17		SENIOR B 100m Hurdles (84cm)
18	10:20	JUNIOR G High Jump (HJ1)
19		JUNIOR B High Jump (HJ2)
20		INTER G Discus
21		INTER B Javelin
22		SENIOR G Triple Jump (P1)
23		SENIOR B Triple Jump (P2)
24	10:40	JUNIOR G 400m Walk
25		JUNIOR B 400m Walk
26		INTER G 400m Walk
27		INTER B 400m Walk
28		SENIOR G 400m Walk
29		SENIOR B 400m Walk
30	11:00	JUNIOR G Sack Race
31		JUNIOR B Sack Race
32		SENIOR G Sack Race
33		SENIOR B Sack Race
34	11:10	JUNIOR G Shot Put (S1)
35		JUNIOR B Shot Put (S2)
36		INTER G Triple Jump (P1)
37		INTER B Triple Jump (P2)
38		SENIOR G Javelin
39		SENIOR B Discus
40	11:30	JUNIOR G 800m
41		JUNIOR B 800m
42		INTER G 800m
43		INTER B 800m
44		SENIOR G 800m
45		SENIOR B 800m
46	11:50	JUNIOR G Triple Jump (P1)
47		JUNIOR B Triple Jump (P2)
48		INTER G High Jump (HJ1)
49		INTER B High Jump (HJ2)
50		SENIOR G Discus
51		SENIOR B Javelin
52	12:10	JUNIOR G 3-Legged Race
53		JUNIOR B 3-Legged Race
54		SENIOR G 3-Legged Race
55		SENIOR B 3-Legged Race
56	12:20	JUNIOR G Discus
57		JUNIOR B Javelin
58		INTER G Shot Put (S1)
59		INTER B Shot Put (S2)
60		SENIOR G Long Jump (P1)
61		SENIOR B Long Jump (P2)

	12:40	LUNCH BREAK
62	1:00	JUNIOR G 400m
63		JUNIOR B 400m
64		INTER G 400m
65		INTER B 400m
66		SENIOR G 400m
67		SENIOR B 400m
68	1:20	JUNIOR G Tug-O-War
69		JUNIOR B Tug-O-War
70		SENIOR G Tug-O-War
71		SENIOR B Tug-O-War
72	1:40	JUNIOR G 200m
73		JUNIOR B 200m
74		INTER G 200m
75		INTER B 200m
76		SENIOR G 200m
77		SENIOR B 200m
78	2:00	JUNIOR G Javelin
79		JUNIOR B Discus
80		INTER G Long Jump (P1)
81		INTER B Long Jump (P2)
82		SENIOR G High Jump (HJ1)
83		SENIOR B High Jump (HJ2)
84	2:20	JUNIOR G SENIOR Obstacle Race
85		JUNIOR B SENIOR Obstacle Race
86		SENIOR G SENIOR Obstacle Race
87		SENIOR B SENIOR Obstacle Race
88	2:40	JUNIOR G Relay
89		JUNIOR B Relay
90		INTERMEDIATE G Relay
91		INTERMEDIATE B Relay
92		SENIOR G Relay
93		SENIOR B Relay
94		STAFF V STUDENTS Relay



Department for Education, South Australia's post



Department for Education, South Australia ✓

12 January · 🌐

School Card applications are open for 2026!

Term 1 is nearly here! Find out if you're eligible for help with school fees.

School card is available in government schools for:

- ✓ families with children attending school full-time who are aged 4 years and over
- ✓ independent full-time students in year 10, 11 or 12
- ✓ adult re-entry students who are completing their SACE.

To qualify for a School Card, your family's gross income must be below a certain limit, which depends on how many dependent children you have.

The income limits for applications lodged in 2026 are based on your family's gross income in 2024-25.

🔗 Find out more: <https://brnw.ch/21wZ0ay>

Applying for a **SCHOOL CARD**



SPL SKATE PARK LEAGUES

the **Y**

2026 **SOUTH AUSTRALIA** REGIONAL SERIES



SUNDAY 12 APRIL

PORT MACDONNELL

SKATE PARK COMPETITION



SCAN TO REGISTER

SCOOT 11:00am

BMX 12:30pm

SKATE 1:30pm

Boat Ramp Access, Port Macdonnell SA 5291, Australia

Free entry, all ages and abilities welcome.



WWW.SKATEPARK.YMCA.ORG.AU



SKATEPARKLEAGUES

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