

Penola Primary News

Friday, 18th September 2026: Issue 10

LEADERSHIP

Principal: Sam Currie

Hi Families,

As we near the end of Term 3, we continue to provide our students with incredible opportunities both within and outside of school. Over the last few weeks, we have had students represent our school in SAPSASA basketball, where our Senior Boys team progressed through to participate in the regional tournament in Mount Gambier. It was incredibly pleasing to see our students participate with outstanding sportsmanship and respect towards each other, their competitors, and the referees. In addition, we have had 13 students represent the school in Adelaide for Choir earlier this week, and of course our Year 4/5 students had a wonderful time on their camp in Robe last week.

Nurture Signal – Strengthening Student Engagement and Learning

Over the past couple of terms, our Year 3/4 and Year 5/6A students have been trialling an online resource called Nurture Signal. Initially, the platform was used to provide teachers with feedback about how engaged students were in their learning.

Since then, this work has continued to grow and evolve. Teachers Alex and Gemma have been working closely with Dr Amy Berry from The Engagement Hub, along with Padraic Hogan and Darragh Lynch from Nurture Signal, to explore the important connection between student engagement and learning. Together, they have continued to develop the resource to include formative assessment questions, dispositional check-ins, and immediate feedback for students on their responses.

This collaboration has focused on strengthening classroom engagement through the use of formative assessment practices, providing students with greater opportunities to participate actively, deepen their understanding, and take increasing ownership of their learning.

Earlier this week, we were delighted to welcome Padraic Hogan from Ireland, Darragh Lynch from Sydney, our Education Director Fleur Roachock, Education Lead Di Loveday, and Dr Amy Berry from The Engagement Hub to our school.



During their visit, the team spent the morning observing and filming staff and students as they engaged in learning experiences developed through this work. It was wonderful to share firsthand how these approaches have grown and evolved within our classrooms. We have greatly valued seeing this initiative develop over the past few terms and witnessing the positive impact that Nurture Signal is having on student engagement and learning. As we have done with our Learning Expeditions this year, this is another example of how we continue to explore ways to positively engage our students and seek their feedback so that we can keep improving as educators.

Student Placement for 2027

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, our goal remains to place each student in an environment where they can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. If you have specific information regarding your child's placement, please contact me directly by email at Sam.Currie685@schools.sa.edu.au or by phone by Friday, 23rd October (Week 2, Term 4).

Please be mindful that we cannot fulfil all requests; however, your insights will assist us in making thoughtful decisions.

Thanks,

Sam Currie

RU OK DAY

On Monday 7th September, Penola Primay School began the day with a whole-school Welcome Circle before students joined groups to take part in four enjoyable activities together.

Throughout the day, conversation cards were used to encourage students to check in with one another, listen carefully and engage in meaningful conversations.

The day concluded with a whole-school photo, serving as a wonderful reminder that the message of R U OK? is an important one at Penola Primary School.

Asking the question, starting the conversation and being there for one another can make a meaningful difference.

















Year 4/5 Robe Camp









Festival of Music Choir Performance

On Tuesday 15th September, 13 of our students performed at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre as part of the Festival of Music choir, joining around 1,200 students from across the state.



It was an exciting and memorable experience for our students, who represented our school with enthusiasm and pride. From the afternoon rehearsal through to the evening performance, their energy and commitment were outstanding. Although it was a long day, with rehearsal in the afternoon, a break, and then returning to the stage for the main performance, our students embraced every moment.



The smiles on their faces throughout the day said it all. They had an awesome experience and should be very proud of their efforts. Performing in such a large-scale event at a major venue was a wonderful opportunity, and one that will no doubt be remembered for years to come.



We congratulate all 13 students on their fantastic participation in this special event.





Bright Future STEM

Yesterday, the Bright Future STEM program visited to showcase Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths and the diversity of career opportunities within the resources and energy industry in these exciting fields. This program was delivered by Australian Resources and Energy Employer Association (AREEA), introduced students to STEM industry role models who highlighted what they love most about their rewarding STEM careers in the resources and energy industry and focuses on hands-on, interactive activities and experiences all relatable to the real world.















CANTEEN NEWS:

Marcia has been settling in well in the canteen and has enjoyed getting to know our school community. We thank everyone for making her feel so welcome as she takes on this role.

We would also like to extend a sincere thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who have helped out in the canteen this term. Your time, support and willingness to lend a hand are greatly appreciated. The canteen could not run so smoothly without your generosity and commitment.

Thank you again to everyone who has supported the canteen this term.

Canteen Duty

(10.30 TO 12.00)

FRIDAY, 25th September - Bekk Partridge

TERM 4

FRIDAY, 16th OCTOBER - Tahlia Mullan

FRIDAY, 23th OCTOBER - Pupil Free Day

FRIDAY, 30th OCTOBER - School Closure

FRIDAY, 6th NOVEMBER - Anna McGregor

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Important dates for Term 3, 2026

25th September - Assembly at 9am and Early dismissal at 2.15pm

12th October - Term 4 starts back.

22nd October - School Photos

23rd October - Pupil Free Day

30th October - School Closure Day - Penola Show

20th November - Splash and Swim Carnival

Contact Us:

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Respect, Responsibility, Inclusivity

Penola Primary School
Term 3, 2026 Calendar

10	21/9	22/9	23/9	24/9	25/9 **Assembly - 5/6 B at 9AM** **Early Dismissal at 2.15pm**

Penola Primary School
Term 4, 2026 Calendar

1	12/10 Sporting Schools Soccer	13/10	14/10	15/10	16/10
2	19/10 Sporting Schools Soccer	20/10 CHOIR Rehearsal	21/10 CHOIR Mount Gambier Concert	22/10 SCHOOL PHOTOS	23/10 **PUPIL FREE DAY**
3	26/10 Sporting Schools Soccer	27/10	28/10	29/10	30/10 **PENOLA SHOW SCHOOL CLOSURE**
4	2/11 SAPSASA Girls AFL →	3/11	4/11	5/11	6/11
5	9/11 SAPSASA Tennis →	10/11	11/11	12/11	13/11
6	16/11 Swimming Lessons	17/11 Swimming Lessons	18/11 Swimming Lessons	19/11 Swimming Lessons	20/11 **Splash and Swim Carnival**
7	23/11	24/11	25/11 PHS Transitions	26/11 PHS Transitions	27/11
8	30/11 Year 6 Camp →	1/12	2/12	3/12	4/12
9	7/12	8/12	9/12	10/12	11/12 **LAST DAY SCHOOL**

Respect, Responsibility, Inclusivity

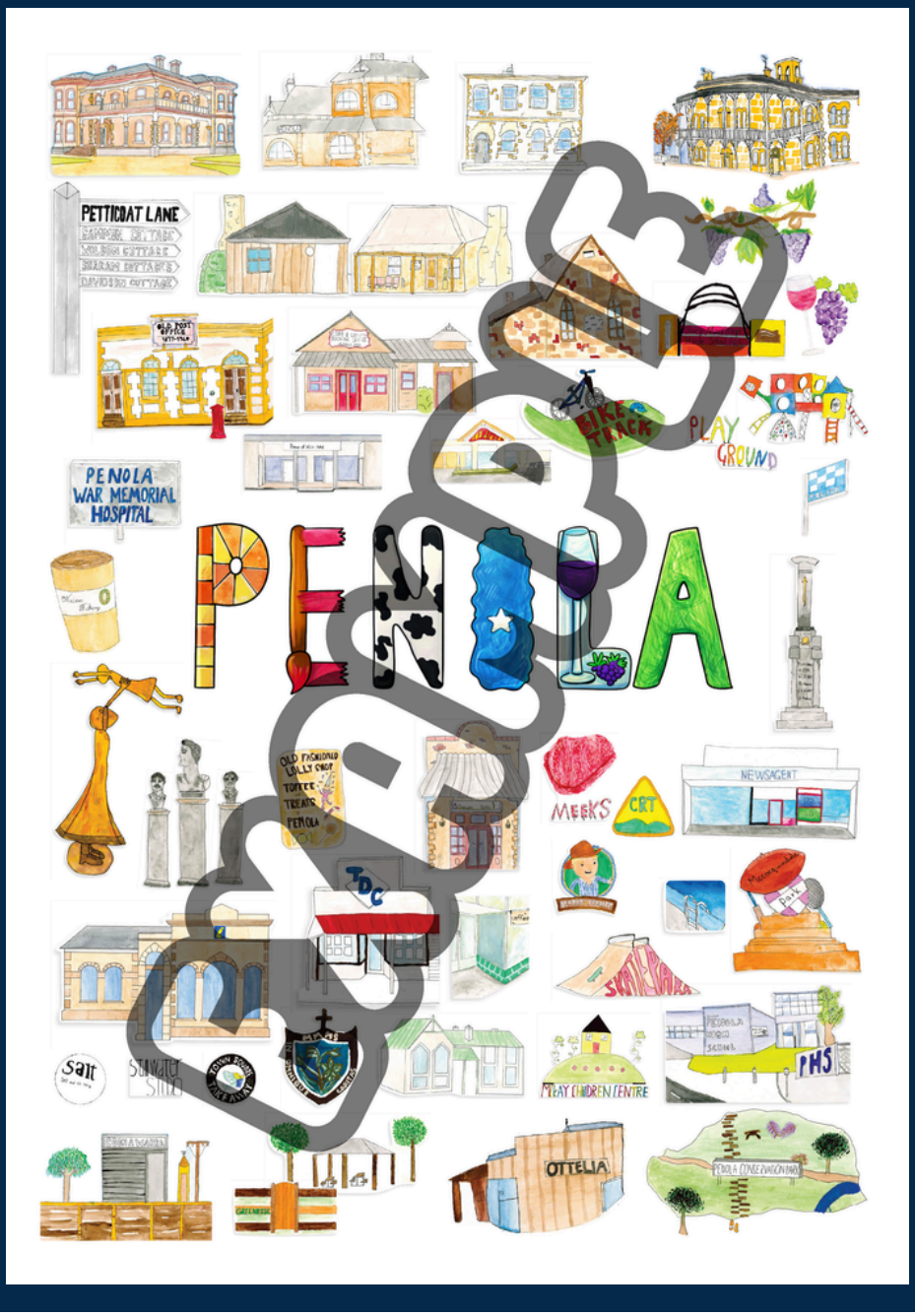
SCHOOL EVENTS:

PENOLA TEA TOWELS

In term 2, the year 5/6 cohort were busy exploring and researching local places and spaces in our town. In celebration we have brought our artwork together to create a keepsake. Funds raised from this work will go towards our end of year school camp.

If you are interested in purchasing a Tea Towel please fill in your details via the link below!

Penola Tea towel - Expression of Interest



COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Our students are invited to enter the OneFortyOne Forest Photo Competition!

Share what you love about our local forests through photos and 100 words or less for a chance to win great prizes, including 4 x $250 local business vouchers for both the Primary and Secondary category winners.

Plus, there's a $500 prize for the winning school.

Enter here: pollunit.com/polls/forestphotocomp
More information: onefortyone.com/community/photo-competition

Entries close on Monday 26th October.

Have fun and happy snapping!



COMMUNITY EVENTS:







