

Penola Primary News

Monday, 10th August 2026: Issue 8

LEADERSHIP

Principal: Sam Currie

Hi Families,

We have had an outstanding start to Term 3, with a number of students participating in extra-curricular opportunities, including ICAS Assessments and SAPSASA sporting events. In addition, we also held our first Learning Expeditions Showcase of Learning, which was an incredible display of student achievement and community spirit.

We are delighted to have welcomed several new students and families to Penola Primary School this term. This includes our mid-year Foundation students, who are just beginning their school journey, as well as students joining us from neighbouring schools. It was wonderful to officially welcome everyone at last week's assembly. We look forward to getting to know our new students and their families, and building strong, positive relationships as we learn and grow together.

Learning Expedition Showcase Success

In Week 2, we proudly hosted our first whole-school Learning Expedition Showcase, and it was a tremendous success! It was inspiring to see the gym filled with families and community members, all coming together to celebrate our students' achievements.

For the past 18–24 months, our overarching goal at Penola Primary School has been to create a place where all students are actively engaged and involved in their learning. Every aspect of our professional development for staff has supported this long-term vision. Whether through our focus on mentor texts, fluency partners, questioning, feedback, or goal setting, we have deepened our collective knowledge to increase student engagement and give students greater voice and agency in their learning.

Learning Expeditions are a wonderful reflection of this, with students from Foundation to Year 6 proudly sharing their learning journeys. It was fantastic to see students eagerly discussing their work with families, demonstrating not only their achievements but also their passion and confidence.

A key feature of our Learning Expeditions was the involvement of our local community. The success of this initiative was only possible thanks to the community's enthusiastic engagement with our students and staff. We sincerely thank everyone who took the time to participate and support our school. Your involvement has provided our students with valuable opportunities to learn about Penola's key industries and the history of our town in engaging and meaningful ways. We are truly grateful for your continued support.

We are incredibly proud of both our students and educators for making this vision a reality. As our next step, the staff will take time to review our approach, and later this term, Jess Skeer and I will travel to Adelaide for further professional learning. We look forward to bringing new ideas back to Penola to make our Learning Expeditions even more powerful in 2027 and beyond.

2026 Parent Survey

The Department for Education coordinates a parent survey each year to better understand what we are doing well, where we can improve, and what is important to you as a parent or carer.
This year, the survey opened in late July and will close at midnight on Sunday 6 September 2026. During the first few weeks of the survey window, you will receive an email or SMS from the Parent Survey Team with a unique link to participate. I highly encourage you to complete the survey—it takes less than 10 minutes.

Your feedback will be used in our school improvement planning and, more broadly, to improve education in South Australia. Your answers will not identify you or your child. Only collated feedback will be provided to our school.

If you haven't received an email or SMS with your unique survey link by Friday 14 August 2026, please check your spam or junk email folders. Alternatively, contact education.ParentSurvey@sa.gov.au and include our school's name in your email. A new survey link will then be sent to you.

Book Week

This year, we will be holding Book Week in Week 6 (24th–28th August). The theme for this year is 'Symphony of Stories'. There will be a special assembly on Friday, 28th August at 9 am, where students will have the chance to show off their costumes and present some of the work they have done about a book their class has read.

Thanks,

Sam Currie

SRC Representatives – Terms 3 & 4

We are pleased to announce our Student Representative Council (SRC) class representatives for Terms 3 and 4.

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent their classes and be the voice of their peers:

2/3: Madeleine (Representative), Korrah (Proxy)
3/4: Ewan (Representative), Mason (Proxy)
5/6A: Laila (Representative), Otis (Proxy)
5/6B: Zoe (Representative), Axel (Proxy)

We look forward to seeing these students take on their leadership roles and contribute their ideas to help make our school an even better place for everyone.

We would also like to extend a sincere thank you to all of the students who served as SRC representatives and proxies during last term. Your commitment, leadership, and willingness to represent your classmates were greatly appreciated. Thank you for the positive contributions you made to our school community.



Year 2/3
Madeleine (Representative), Korrah (Proxy)



Year 3/4
Ewan (Representative), Mason (Proxy)



Year 5/6A
Laila (Representative), Otis (Proxy)



Year 5/6B
Zoe (Representative), Axel (Proxy)

Learning Expeditions Showcase











On Wednesday evening, Penola Primary School welcomed over 200 guests to our first ever school-wide Learning Expeditions Showcase. This special event celebrated the achievements of our students and underscored the valuable role of community connections in enhancing their learning experiences.

Learning Expeditions at Penola Primary School are extended, in-depth learning journeys where students investigate and explore a guiding question or real-world issue over a sustained period. These projects are hands-on, interdisciplinary, and are designed to promote active engagement, critical thinking, curiosity, and creativity.

Throughout the evening, students from across all year levels proudly presented their Term 2 learning, focusing on Penola's history, agriculture, and art within our local community. Families and community members engaged with a range of displays and presentations, each reflecting the unique focus of our classes:

- Upper Primary: Mapping Our Memories
- Middle Primary: Art in the Community
- Junior Primary: Farm to Fork

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the community experts who contributed their knowledge and time, helping bring our learning to life. Through various excursions and incursions, our students gained practical insights and formed meaningful connections with the world around them.

The showcase was a joyful celebration, with students excitedly sharing their work with their families—a highlight for everyone in attendance. Events like this reflect the strong relationship between Penola Primary School and our community, and the positive impact of learning together.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Learning Expeditions Showcase such a memorable evening. We look forward to continuing to build and strengthen our community connections through future learning opportunities.

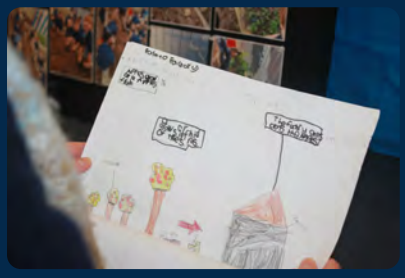
Learning Expeditions

Junior Primary: Farm to Fork



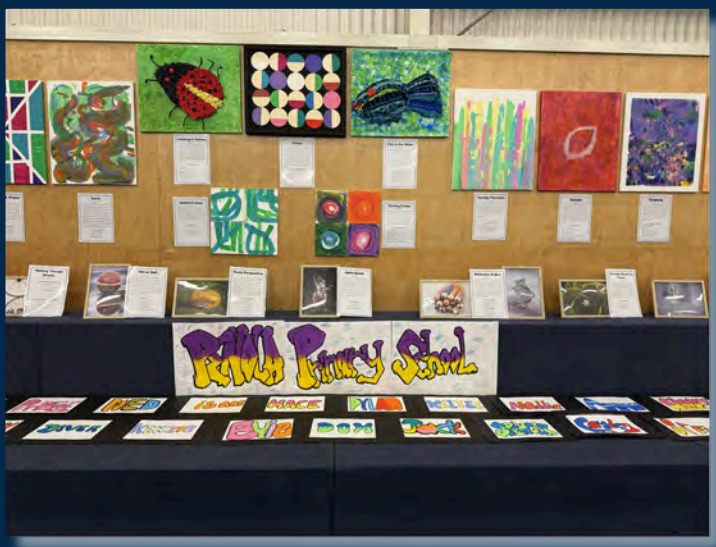








Middle Primary: Art in the Community

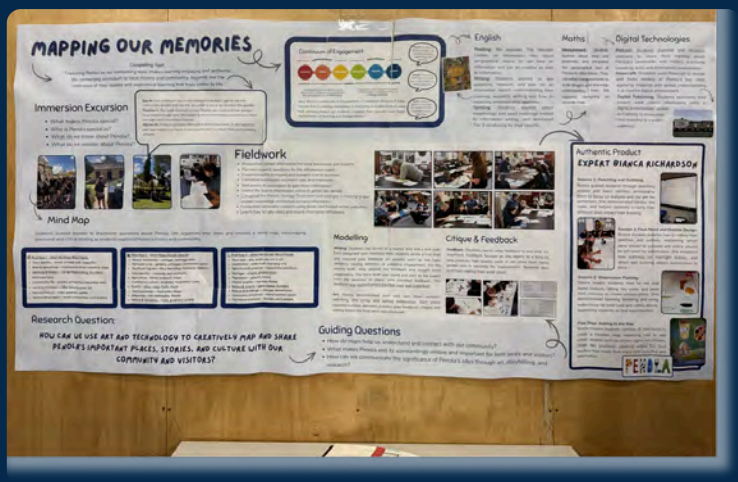




Learning Expeditions

Upper Primary: Mapping Our Memories



















Celebrating Student Creativity – Year 2/3/4 Art Gallery Opening Night









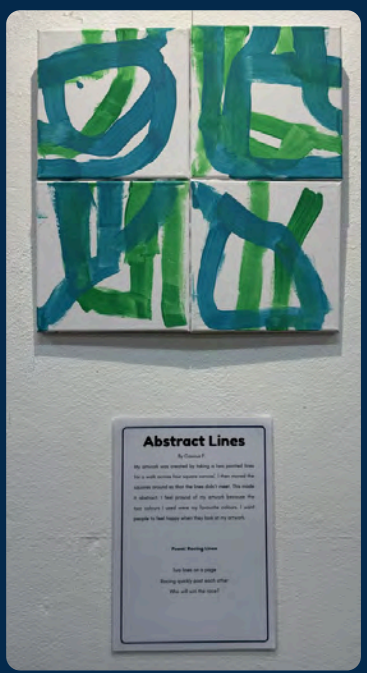


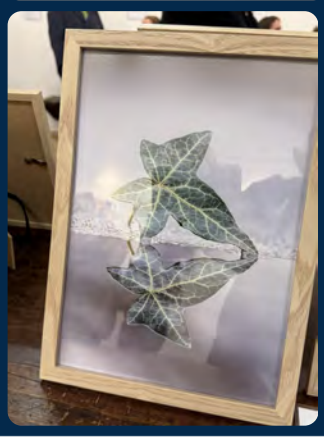


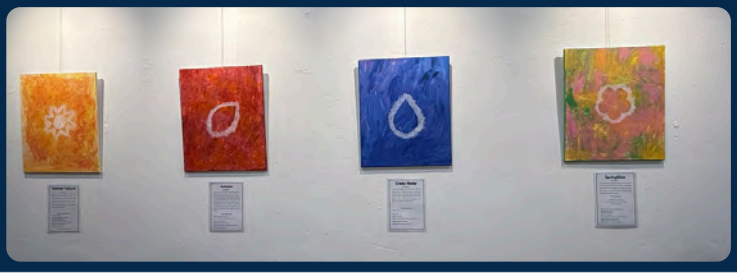
Last Friday afternoon, our Year 2/3/4 class proudly held their Art Gallery Opening Night at Still Water Studio. The students were thrilled to share their artwork with the Penola community, showcasing the creative skills they have developed throughout their Learning Expedition.

As part of this journey, the students explored art within the Penola community and drew inspiration from local artists and environments. Their hard work has culminated in an impressive exhibition, which is now on display as part of the SALA program, running throughout August.

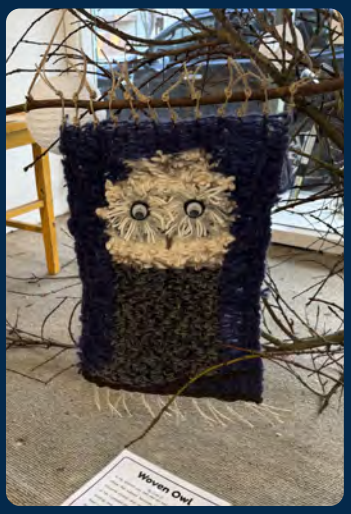
We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported our students and their artistic endeavours. If you have the chance, please visit Still Water Studio to see the wonderful works our talented students have created.

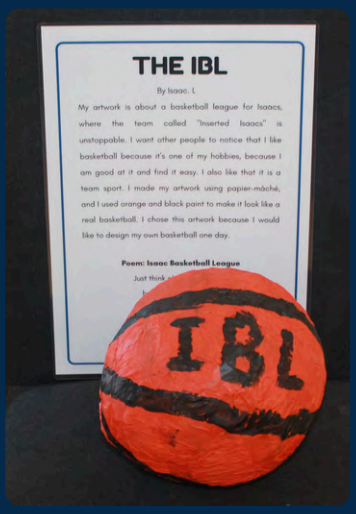






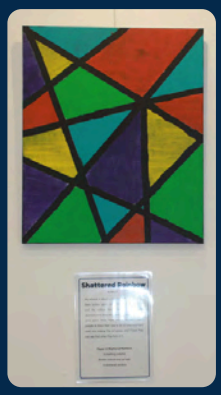
SCHOOL NEWS: Year 2,3 and 4 Art Exhibition cont..











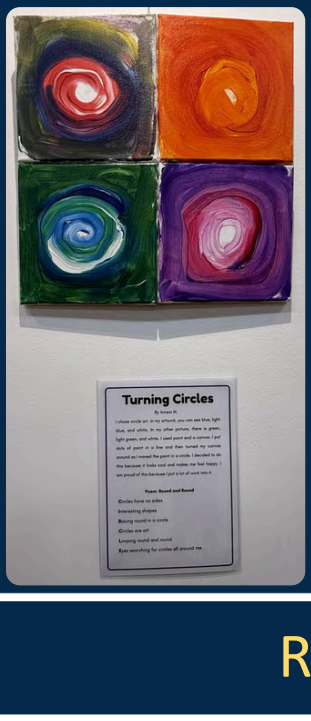


















Foundation and Year 1 Learning Expedition: A “Farm to Fork” Experience with Foodland Penola

Foundation and Year 1 Learning Expedition: A “Farm to Fork” Experience with Foodland Penola

As part of our Foundation and Year 1 Learning Expedition, “Farm to Fork,” students were thrilled to welcome Carly Hill from Foodland Penola to our school. Carly shared her valuable behind-the-scenes insights into how Foodland operates and the crucial journey our food takes before reaching our tables.

During her visit, Carly explained the processes involved in getting food from the farm to the shop, and highlighted the many steps that keep our food fresh and safe for everyone. Students were fascinated to learn about where their food comes from, how it is transported, and what happens before it arrives in their lunchboxes.

We are very grateful to Carly for sharing her time, knowledge, and passion with us. Her visit helped the students gain a deeper understanding of how important local stores are to our community and the effort that goes into ensuring we all have access to fresh produce.

A special thank you to Carly and Foodland for the very generous goody bags provided—a wonderful and much-appreciated surprise for our students!





Celebrating Principals' Day – Thank You, Mr Currie!

Last Friday was Principals' Day, and at Penola Primary School, we celebrated early on Thursday with a special lunch and a video created by the students.



We extend our sincere thanks to Mr Currie for his ongoing dedication, leadership, and commitment to our school. His positive influence is felt every day by the students, staff, and the wider Penola Primary School community.

We are truly grateful for his support and all that he does to help our school thrive. On behalf of everyone at Penola Primary School, we hope you had a wonderful Principals' Day celebration.

Happy Principals' Day, Mr Currie—you truly deserve it!

CANTEEN NEWS:

Welcome to Our New Canteen Manager – Marcia Gregory

It is our pleasure to announce and warmly welcome Marcia Gregory as the new Canteen Manager at Penola Primary School.

Many in our community will know Marcia from her previous role as owner of the Coonawarra Store, where she built a wonderful reputation for creating delicious meals, cakes, and lunches. Marcia brings with her a wealth of experience, a love for good food, and a passion for serving others.

We are excited for Marcia to bring her skills and creativity to our school canteen. She is committed to providing healthy, tasty, and affordable options for all students and staff, and to making the canteen a welcoming and inclusive space.

We invite students, staff, and families to stop by the canteen to say hello to Marcia, and to welcome her to the Penola Primary School community. We look forward to the delicious creations Marcia will bring to our canteen and wish her much success in her new role.

Please note that all lunch orders must be placed by the QKr! cut-off time of 8.30am. We kindly ask families to ensure their orders are submitted on time to help our canteen run smoothly and efficiently. Thank you for your cooperation.



Canteen Duty

FRIDAY, 14th August - Isabella Heysen
FRIDAY, 21st August - Tahlia Mullen
FRIDAY, 28th August - April Possingham

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Important dates for Term 3, 2026

12th August - MASA Quiz Night Yr 5/6 @ PHS
24th - 27th August - Book Fair
26th August - WOOF Day Wear a splash of Orange
28th August - Book week Assembly/ Parade

Contact Us:

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Respect, Responsibility, Inclusivity

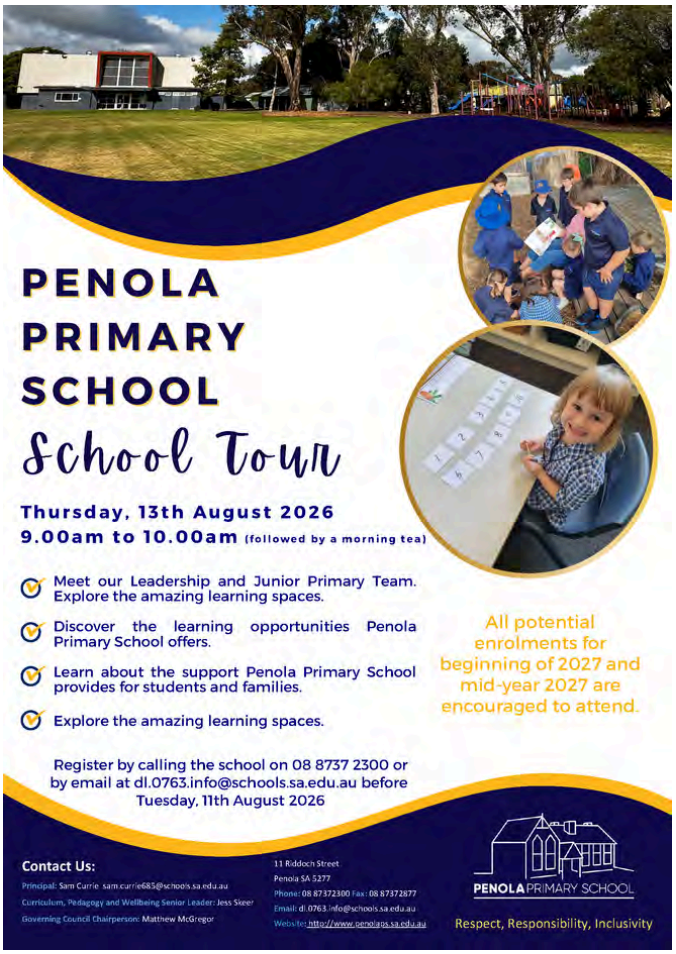
Penola Primary School
Term 3, 2026 Calendar

PENOLA PRIMARY SCHOOL

1	20/7	21/7	22/7	23/7	24/7
2	27/7	28/7	29/7 Learning Expedition Presentation Evening 3.00pm-6.30pm	30/7	31/7
3	3/8	4/8	5/8	6/8	7/8 **Assembly - 5/6 A**
4	10/8 SAPSASA Soccer Adelaide →	11/8	12/8 MASA Quiz Night Yr 5/6 @ PHS	13/8 Hot Shots Tennis Yr 3-6	14/8
5	17/8 Year 6 Camp Information Night	18/8	19/8	20/8	21/8
6	24/8 **Book Fair** →	25/8	26/8 WOOF Day Wear a splash of Orange Movie Night -Oddball 4.30pm-7.30pm	27/8	28/8 **Book Week Assembly /Parade**
7	31/8	1/9 Music in my Suitcase Performance	2/9	3/9	4/9 **Father's Day Stall**
8	7/9	8/9	9/9 Year 4/5 Camp →	10/9	11/9
9	14/9	15/9	16/9	17/9 STEM Bright Futures Yr 5-6	18/9 **Assembly - 5/6B**
10	21/9	22/9	23/9	24/9	25/9

Respect, Responsibility, Inclusivity

SCHOOL EVENT:





SCHOOL EVENT:



