

Penola Primary News

PENOLA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday, 28th August 2026: Issue 9

LEADERSHIP

Principal: Sam Currie

Hi Families,

We have yet another incredibly busy week at Penola Primary School! Students are completing their final ICAS Assessments, Year 1 students have completed Phonics Screening Checks, SAPSASA Basketball, choir visits, Movie Night, Book Week Assembly and more. With so many things happening, it is fantastic to see our students remain focused on their activities and work so positively with each other and their educators.

SSO Week

Last week, we celebrated and thanked our incredible School Services Officers (SSOs) for all that they do at Penola Primary School.

From welcoming smiles at the front office to assisting in classrooms, coordinating resources, supporting student learning, and ensuring our operations run smoothly, our SSOs consistently go above and beyond. Their positivity, expertise and commitment make a real difference in our students' lives and the daily life of our school.

Leaders could not run the site without their incredible admin team, and teachers could not run their classrooms as smoothly without their SSOs. Our SSOs truly are the backbone of our school community—supporting students, teachers, and families every day with warmth, dedication, and care.

On behalf of the entire Penola Primary School community, we extend our heartfelt thanks to each of our SSOs during SSO Week. We are grateful for everything you do!

Term 3 and 4 Pupil Free Days / School Closure

Across the remainder of the year, the school has two remaining Pupil Free Days and a school closure. The dates are as follows:

- Pupil Free Day: Term 3, Week 9 – Friday, 18 September
- Pupil Free Day: Term 4, Week 2 – Friday, 23 October
- School Closure: Term 4, Week 3 – Friday, 30 October

Our Pupil Free Day in Week 9 will focus on mathematics, with teachers exploring fluency routines, predominantly focusing on the four basic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division).

Following this day, we will provide you with information on how we will trial these routines across Term 4 and how you can support your child at home to improve their number fluency.
PAT Assessments and Phonics Screening Check

This term, students in Years 2–6 will undertake the compulsory PAT assessments in Reading Comprehension and Mathematics. These tests will be administered during Weeks 8 and 9, with catch-up sessions scheduled in Week 10 for any students who are absent. The data collected from these assessments provides valuable insight into student achievement, assisting teachers in planning at the school, class, and individual levels. While families do not receive a formal report from these assessments, you are welcome to speak with your child's classroom teacher if you would like to discuss your child's results.

In addition, last week our Year 1 students completed the statewide Phonics Screening Check. The expected achievement standard is for students to correctly answer 28 out of 40 items.
We are proud to share that our Year 1 students have once again achieved excellent results, highlighting the effectiveness of our Junior Primary programs, the delivery of our InitiaLit program, and the targeted interventions we provide throughout the year.

2027 Student Enrolments

Future enrolments are an important factor in determining the school's classes and staffing configurations. To support our planning for next year, I ask families of Foundation students (starting in 2027) who have not already contacted the school regarding their child's enrolment, to please do so as soon as possible.

If you know of any families who are considering enrolling their children at Penola Primary, please encourage them to contact the school so that we can organise a meeting and a school tour to show them the wonderful opportunities we can provide.

Additionally, if you know that your child will be leaving Penola Primary at the end of 2026, please notify us as soon as possible. This information helps us plan our class structures for next year.

Thanks,

Sam Currie

Book Week Celebrations

Today, we celebrated Book Week with a memorable assembly and a colourful parade, bringing together students and staff to share their love of reading. The excitement continued throughout the day, with students proudly displaying creative costumes inspired by their favourite books and characters.

As part of Book Week, we also celebrated Woof Day and enjoyed a Movie Night featuring "Oddball" to highlight the Story Dogs program, which is dedicated to building students' reading confidence. These events added a special touch to our week and helped promote the importance of reading in a fun and engaging way.

Throughout the week, classes participated in a range of activities related to their class novels and favourite books. From reading sessions to creative projects, students explored new stories and deepened their appreciation for literature.

The Book Fair was another highlight, providing an opportunity for students and families to browse and purchase books, fostering a lifelong love of reading.
Book Week was a wonderful success, filled with imagination, teamwork, and enthusiasm. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making these events enjoyable and inspiring for our school community.





Book Week





















Woof Day Success – Celebrating Story Dogs!

On Wednesday, it was heartwarming to see so many students participating in Woof Day, proudly wearing orange to show their support for the Story Dogs program.

Students enjoyed a fun-filled Movie Night, featuring Oddball, complete with tasty popcorn and hot dogs.

Woof Day aimed to raise awareness of the Story Dogs initiative, which is dedicated to building students' reading confidence and fostering a genuine love of reading. We are fortunate to welcome Story Dogs to our school twice each week, where they work with our Year 2 students in the library.

Thank you to everyone who joined in on Wednesday – it was a fantastic day, combining fun activities with support for this invaluable program!











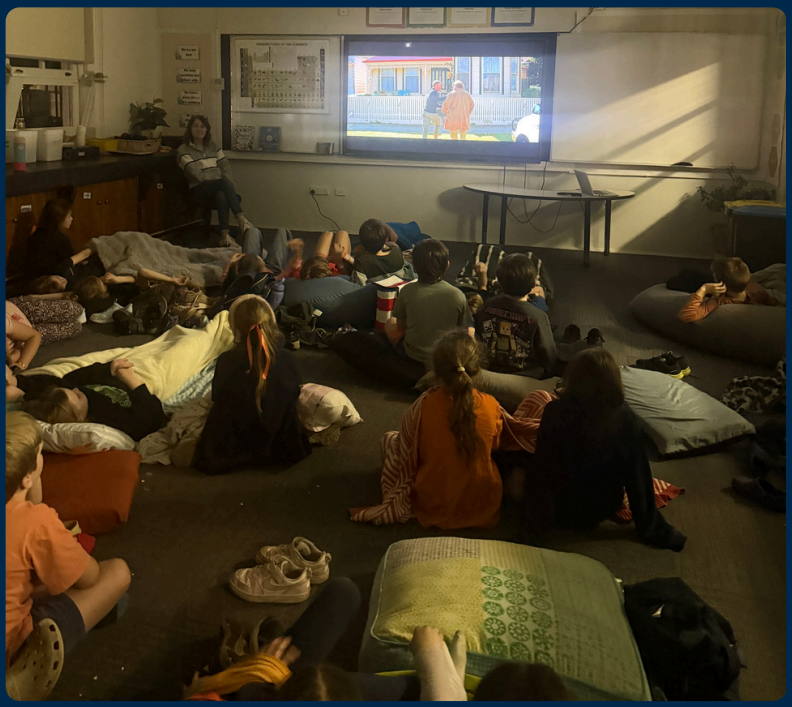


Movie Night - Oddball











Celebrating Toni's 20 Years of Dedication



We are proud to honour Toni for her extraordinary milestone—20 years of dedicated service as a School Services Officer. Over the past two decades, Toni has played a vital role in supporting both students and staff at our school, consistently demonstrating professionalism, compassion, and unwavering commitment.

Toni has been particularly influential in her work with students who have additional needs. Her caring approach and ability to recognise each child's unique strengths and challenges have made a lasting impact on many lives. Toni's patience and empathy shine through in everything she does, earning her the respect and gratitude of students, families, and colleagues alike.

We sincerely thank Toni for her loyalty and the positive difference she continues to make at Penola Primary School. Toni, your contribution has helped foster an inclusive and supportive environment for everyone, and we are truly grateful to have you as part of our team.

Congratulations on this fantastic achievement!








Thank You to Our Wonderful SSO Team!

Thank you to our amazing SSOs at Penola Primary School!

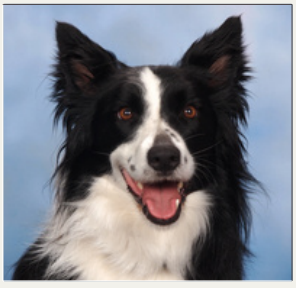
We are grateful for all the support, care and hard work you give.

You help our school in so many ways, every single day.

"You are truly appreciated!"












SAPSASA District Basketball

On Wednesday, we took three teams to Millicent to compete in the SAPSASA District Basketball Carnival.
It was a fantastic day of basketball, with our students showing great teamwork, sportsmanship and determination. It was wonderful to see their confidence and skills continue to improve throughout the day as they played against teams from across the district.
A special congratulations to our Boys A Team, who made it through to the playoffs and have now advanced to the Regional Day in Week 8!
We are very proud of all our students for the way they represented our school, both on and off the court.
Well done to everyone involved, and we wish our Boys A Team the best of luck at the next stage!











Hot Shots Tennis at McCorquindale Park

Students from Years 3 to 6 participated in an action-packed Hot Shots Tennis Day at McCorquindale Park. This event was the culmination of several weeks of focused tennis skill sessions, expertly delivered by local coach Heidi. These sessions helped students develop fundamental tennis skills, with an emphasis on backhand techniques and correct stance.



Hot Shots Tennis Day provided a valuable opportunity for students to put their new skills into practice. Supported by tennis coaches, they took part in a variety of games designed to reinforce their learning.
Throughout the day, students were organised into teams and rotated across courts, allowing them to play with different peers and encouraging teamwork and sportsmanship.



The event was filled with enthusiasm and energy. Students challenged themselves, supported their teammates, and showed a positive attitude towards learning and improvement. It was wonderful to see so many demonstrating resilience and trying their best, regardless of their previous experience with tennis.

Hot Shots Tennis Day was a great success, fostering a love of tennis and physical activity. The experience not only improved tennis skills but also encouraged teamwork, resilience, and a strong sense of community values.







SCHOOL NEWS: Choir News

On Thursday 27th August, Cathy Lange, Music Conductor for the Adelaide Festival of Music came to Penola to run a rehearsal. Our school will be going to Adelaide to perform on Tuesday 15th September, at the Entertainment Centre. It was a great session with students from Reidy Park, Glenburnie and Naracoorte Primary Schools coming together to sing songs we have been learning this year.

We are looking forward to experiencing a fun night is Adelaide!



CANTEEN NEWS:

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, 4th September - Karly Honner
FRIDAY, 21st September - Cassandra Jackson
FRIDAY, 18thSeptember - Ben Deglaitis

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Important dates for Term 3, 2026

4th September - Father's Day Stall
7thSeptember - RU OK Day
9th- 11th September - Year 4/5 Camp
10th September - R-3 Cricket Clinic
17th September - STEM Bright Futures
18th September - Pupil Free Day

Contact Us:

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Respect, Responsibility, Inclusivity

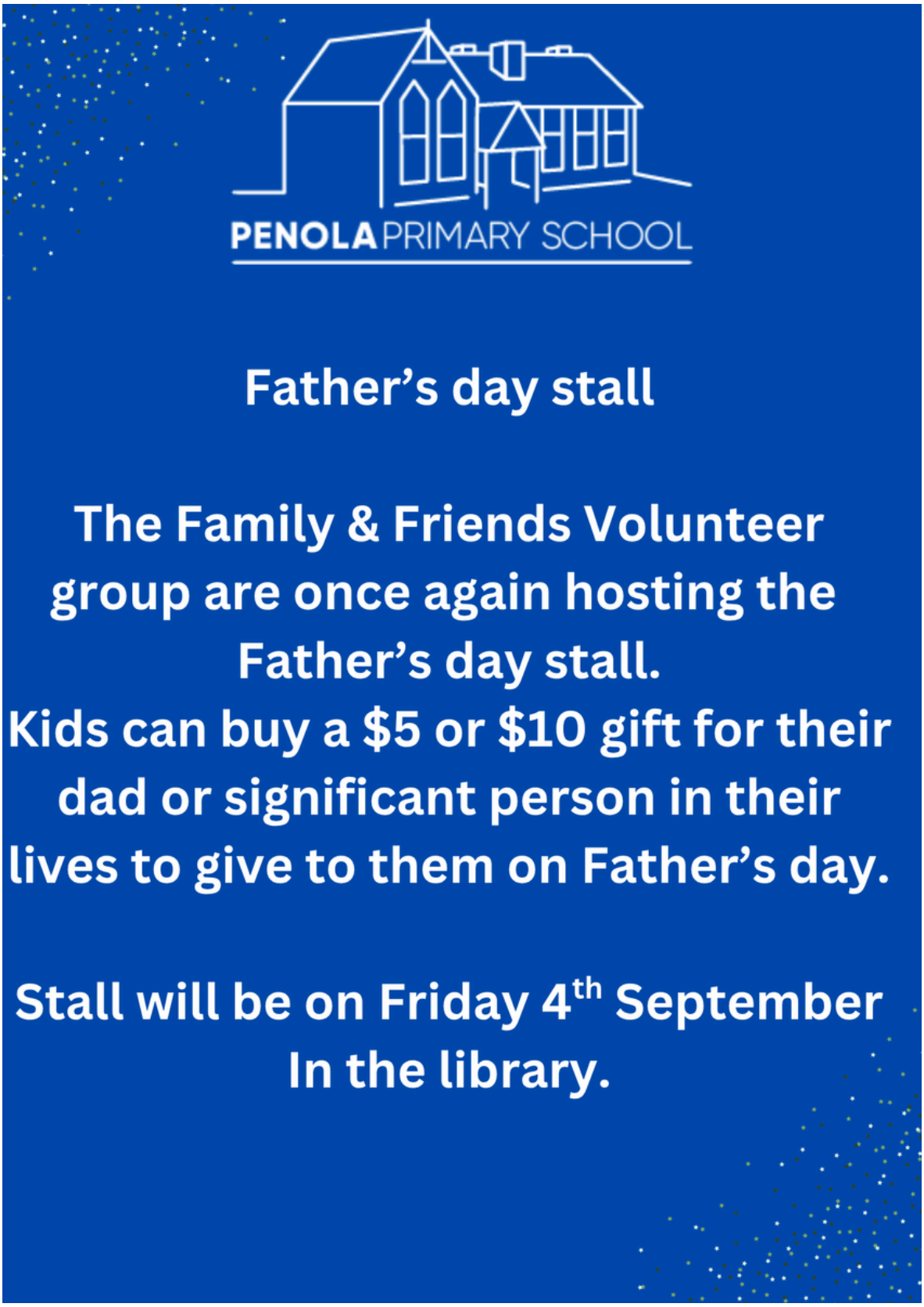
Penola Primary School
Term 3, 2026 Calendar

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 SAPSASA Track and Field	27/8	28/8 Book Week Assembly /Parade
7	31/8	1/9	2/9 SAPSASA Track and Field	3/9 CHOIR 11.30am -1.40pm	4/9 Father's Day Stall
8	7/9 RU OK Day	8/9	9/9 Year 4/5 Camp →	10/9 R-3 Cricket Clinic 8.50am - 11.20am	11/9
9	14/9	15/9	16/9	17/9 STEM Bright Futures Yr 5-6	18/9 PUPIL FREE DAY
10	21/9	22/9	23/9	24/9	25/9

Respect, Responsibility, Inclusivity

SCHOOL EVENT:




CENTRAL
BASEBALL CLUB
COME & TRY
& REGISTRATION DAY!
2026 - 2027 SEASON
COME & TRY
6TH SEPTEMBER
10 - 11AM
COME & TRY
13TH SEPTEMBER
11AM - 12:15PM
REGISTRATION DAY
13TH SEPTEMBER
11AM - 2PM
MGDBL CLUBROOMS - BLUE LAKE SPORTS PARK
COME AND TRY IS OPEN TO EVERYONE OF ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS FROM 8+ YEARS
NEW PLAYERS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO COME OUT AND HAVE A GO!
MAKE NEW FRIENDS
LEARN NEW SKILLS
BE PART OF THE TEAM!
★ AGES 8+ WELCOME! ★
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!