



## 2026 Diary Dates...

Library Borrowing: Monday

Garden: Friday

Cooking: Friday

## TERM 1

### MARCH

#### Week 7

#### Newsletter Week

Wed, 11<sup>th</sup> - Fri, 13<sup>th</sup>: NAPLAN (Yr3 & Yr5)

Fri, 13<sup>th</sup>: MP Assembly 3pm

#### Week 8

Mon, 16<sup>th</sup>: NAPLAN

Thurs, 19<sup>th</sup>: Harmony Day (wear a splash of orange)

Fri, 20<sup>th</sup>: Ride To School Day 8:30am

Fri, 20<sup>th</sup>: Ambulance Visit 10am

#### Week 9

Tues, 24<sup>th</sup>: Tasty Tuesday

Tues, 24<sup>th</sup>: Governing Council AGM 6:30pm

Thurs, 26<sup>th</sup>: Principal at Portfolio Leaders Day (Auburn Bowling Club)

#### Week 10

#### Newsletter Week

Mon, 30<sup>th</sup>: Parent Teacher Interviews

Tues, 31<sup>st</sup>: Parent Teacher Interviews

### APRIL

Thurs, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Family Easter Breakfast 8:30am

Fri, 3<sup>rd</sup>: Public Holiday - Good Friday

#### Week 11

Mon, 6<sup>th</sup>: Public Holiday - Easter Monday

Tues, 7<sup>th</sup>: Tasty Tuesday

Fri, 10<sup>th</sup>: Last Day Of Term - JP Assembly  
2:15pm Early Dismissal

## TERM 2

#### Week 1

Mon, 27<sup>th</sup>: Back to School

### MAY

#### Week 2

Fri, 8<sup>th</sup>: Do it for Dolly Day

## A note from the Principal...

SKYE IRWIN

The school year is rapidly progressing! It has been wonderful to see our students settled into their learning routines for 2026. Across the school, literacy, numeracy and wellbeing intervention programs are busily supporting student learning and helping each child build confidence and success in their learning journey.

Our recent Pupil Free Day provided a valuable opportunity for staff professional learning. Teachers from Watervale, Manoora, Auburn and Saddleworth came together at Saddleworth Primary School to engage in numeracy learning based on the South Australian Curriculum and the Big Ideas in Number. Staff worked in like groups to discuss their pedagogy, share resources, plan lessons and strengthen their understanding of the scope and sequence of numeracy progression. The aim of this work is to continue driving strong numeracy growth, build number fluency and most importantly, bring joy to mathematics learning for our students.

We are fortunate that Tasty Tuesday has returned to support our school community in Term 1. A huge thank you to volunteers Carol and Vinny who generously give their time, with proceeds going back to the school as a fundraiser. Funds raised have contributed to a new wooden storage box constructed by the Clare Men's Shed. It is hoped this will soon be installed at the Auburn Shop to safely and securely store outdoor play resources such as buckets, shovels, pots and pans for the mud kitchen. Unfortunately, when these resources are not stored securely they are damaged or vandalised, so this addition will help us care for and protect these much-loved messy play materials.



# A note from the Principal...

SKYE IRWIN

Strengthening and activating our community connections is an important part of our Site Learning Plan. Thank you to Mrs Jenner who organised for the Auburn CFS to visit the school recently. Students enjoyed learning more about the important work they do in our community. We also look forward to welcoming Ambulance SA to the school next week.

Recently our Year 6 students, along with Miss Algar and myself, attended the annual Dream and Lead Conference at the Adelaide Convention Centre. This is a valuable leadership excursion for our senior students as they begin their leadership journey for 2026. Since returning, the School Captains have been working with Lauren, Miss Algar and myself to begin shaping the direction for the year. They have been involved in thoughtful discussions about what leadership will look like in 2026 and have begun planning areas such as House Challenges, the Clare Show display, charities of focus, Kids Council, and whole-school values in action. Our Sports Captains will also be working closely with their houses to strengthen teamwork and build house spirit within Castine and Bleechmore.

Our Inter School Swimming Carnival was another highlight, with Auburn students demonstrating great courage and determination. Many students achieved personal bests, tried new swimming strokes and showed excellent support for one another both in and out of the pool. It was wonderful to see such a strong family turnout and we look forward to hosting the carnival here again in 2027.

This week our Year 3 and Year 5 students commenced NAPLAN. There was a slight delay during the Year 5 writing test due to an online technical issue, however this was quickly resolved and students were able to continue without disruption. Our students were well prepared through class discussions, practice tests and clear explanations of the process. This preparation has helped them approach the tests calmly and confidently.

There are several upcoming events on our calendar, including Harmony Day, where students are invited to wear a splash of orange to school. Please see the upcoming events section of the newsletter for further details, along with information about Ride Safely to School Day.

As we head into the Easter period, families are warmly invited to join us for our Easter Breakfast, beginning at 8:30am, where we will be sharing hot cross buns and pancakes together. Later that day, students will enjoy the much-loved annual Easter egg hunt, which will take place on Thursday 2nd April.

Teachers have also been making contact with families to arrange meetings for students who have an Individual Learning Plan (also known as a One Plan). Families should also have received information in their child's red folder regarding upcoming Parent Teacher Interviews. Positive and respectful partnerships between school and home play a vital role in ensuring your child receives the best possible support socially, emotionally and academically.

A reminder to families that if your child is unwell, seeking medical advice can help provide clarity around illness and support us to notify our school community if required, helping to keep everyone safe. Students who are absent from school for three or more consecutive days are required to provide a medical certificate. Please note that this is not a school-based directive, but a Department for Education attendance requirement.

Please continue to check your child's red folder regularly for important information. Governing Council nomination forms will soon be sent home as we prepare for our upcoming AGM.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support of our school community.

# Upper Primary News

## Swimming Carnival

by Ashlynn & Clara

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> of March we had swimming carnival at The Valley's in Clare with Manoora & Watervale. We did backstroke, breast stroke, and freestyle. The year 5-6 were first doing full length of the pool.

They did freestyle, next was breast stroke and backstroke was last for the 5-6s. Then it was the 3-4s turn for mid length. After all the freestyle, breast stroke and backstroke we did kick board relay. It was then the R-2 turn in the small pool to do all the strokes & kickboard relay. Then once we finished that we announced who won (drum roll) AUBURN WON! A big thank you to Manoora for hosting and to Watervale and Manoora for participating.



## Paw of Fame

by Jacky and Jazzy

We have got a new addition to our class room. The UP has decided to create the "Paw of Fame". The Paw of Fame is where you bring a photo or two of your pet to create a wall of pets. You are all welcome to visit our school and have a look.



## Dream & Lead

by Ken & Walter L

On Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March the year 6s arrived at the school early at 7 am, at 7:10 we split into groups. Jazzy, Walter. C and Storm went in Miss Algar's car. Daniel, Walter. L and Ken went in Miss Irwin's car to go to Gawler. Once all the year 6s arrived at Gawler, we went on the train to go to the Dream and Lead conference at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Once we arrived, we walked into the main area we found our seats. They told us about their life stories and what lead them to where they are now. There was even one guy that could walk on his hands and hold him self up on one finger and balance on 3 chairs! Some of us even went on stage.



## Pobble/Seven Steps

Hugo & Abi J

On Tuesday 24/2/2026 we had a man wake up at 1am in England and talk to us and 300 other schools. We were listening to him on Zoom. He woke up at this time to help us with our writing ideas. We wrote about if we like camping or not. Of course nearly everyone in the school said that they liked camping. Storm and Jacky said that they did not like it. We had to write about 3 paragraphs for whether we did or did not like it. There was also another woman named Sarah. She gave us tips on how to make our writing interesting to read.



# Upper Primary News

## CFS Visit

by Storm & Liliana

On the 26th of February, we had the CFS visit APS. We got to hold their heavy gear, and we got to spray the fire hoses! We got to ask lots of questions and got great answers. We got to explore the truck and their UTE. We got to see their thermometer that they call a and when we put it on someone they turned white. We learnt that the cat in tree myth was not true, and guess what? You can be a cadet at the CFS at twelve!! We also got to see the hose that is at the front of the firetruck. We are so lucky we can have the CFS visit Auburn Primary School and we thank them so much for visiting. We welcome CFS anytime to APS .



## SAKG Program

by Cyrus & Clancy

We have been working hard back in the kitchen and garden this year. In cooking we baked scones and made our own plum jam from the plums we picked in our garden. Our delicious scones were topped with the home made plum jam and whipped cream.

In gardening we have been harvesting lots of produce and getting garden beds prepped for our next lot of planting.

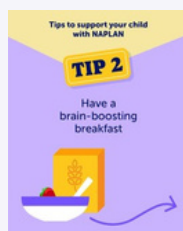


## NAPLAN

by Abby E

On Wednesday the year 3s and year 5s did NAPLAN writing test. You get to write a story on the topic that you are given and you have 45 min or more. You stay quiet and do not talk.

We also have a math test, a language conventions test and a reading test coming up. The year levels that do NAPLAN are year 3 ,5 ,7 ,9.



## Footy Tipping

by Mitch & Archie

In footy tipping we have to pick a team and we have to watch to see if the team wins and who ever had the most points wins. Footy tipping is a fun part of the Upper Primary class. There are four mystery rounds every year. This is where you get a little piece of paper with all the games on it you will choose your teams and fold up the paper and give it to Miss Algar. It was the first round last week and we are soon going to see who will be at the top. A lot of people picked different teams.





## Top 5 Fave Takeaways from the Global Flourishing Study

By [Dana Kerford](#), Founder of URSTRONG

Every now and then, a research report lands in my inbox and I think... "YES. THIS."

That was my reaction when I read about the [Global Flourishing Study](#) – one of the largest global studies ever conducted on what helps people truly thrive.

The study looks beyond happiness and asks a bigger question: What actually helps people flourish across their lifetime?

Spoiler alert... friendships play a huge role! And honestly? Our URSTRONG Schools are already doing so much of what this research confirms really matters. So, here are my **Top 5 Fave Takeaways** from the study:

### ★ Fave Takeaway #1: Relationships Are a Core Ingredient of a Flourishing Life

One of the clearest messages from the research is this: "Strong, supportive relationships are not optional extras – they are central to wellbeing and long-term flourishing."

In the study, flourishing includes things like meaning, health, character and financial security... and close social relationships. Friendship isn't a side note. It's baked right in.

At URSTRONG, this is exactly why we teach kids how to create healthy, feel-good, GREEN-ZONE friendships. We don't assume they'll "just figure it out." We give them a shared **language of friendship**, kid-friendly terms, so they can talk about what's going on socially and make informed choices.

This is where tools like:

- **Friendship Fires™** (conflict = hurt feelings, misunderstandings, disagreements)
- The **Friend-o-Meter** (how does this friendship actually feel?)
- **Inner-Ninja** (how to treat yourself like a best friend first)
- Kid-Friendly Strategies for **Making Friends** (like Super Introducer, Quick Question, Friendship Magnet, and Ask & Pass)
- Being **Kind-on-Purpose** (because kindness isn't accidental)

...become powerful. Kids learn that friendships take skill, not luck.

### ★ Fave Takeaway #2: Childhood Belonging Has Long-Term Impact

Another big insight from the Global Flourishing Study is how strongly **childhood experiences of belonging and inclusion** predict adult wellbeing.

People who felt socially supported as children were more likely to report:

- stronger relationships
- higher trust in others
- greater overall flourishing later in life

And on the flip side... feeling like an outsider in childhood can linger.

This is why I feel such deep gratitude for URSTRONG Schools. By proactively teaching Friendology – not just reacting to problems – you're creating environments where kids feel seen, equipped, and supported before friendship challenges escalate.

With skills-based lessons like, **Be An Includer**, kids are locking in these important relationship strategies. And, our URSTRONG Schools are wrapping around our monthly wellbeing themes like Kindness, Diversity, Community, and Empathy...reminding students that everyone belongs.

### ★ Fave Takeaway #3: Friendship Skills Support Learning (Not Compete With It)

Here's something educators intuitively know and see in their classrooms every day – and this research strongly reinforces: "Children learn better when their social world feels safe and settled."

When kids are stuck in Friendship Fires, worrying about exclusion, or unsure where they stand socially, learning becomes harder...impossible even. **Attention drops. Anxiety rises. Engagement suffers.** (This is exactly why I created a friendship skills curriculum way back in 2009 in the first place. My students couldn't learn when they weren't feeling good in their friendships! My heart hurt for them.)

When we teach kids friendship skills, we're not taking time away from learning... we're clearing the path toward it.

This is why Friendology lessons support academic outcomes:

- fewer classroom conflicts
- improved peer collaboration
- greater confidence to participate
- stronger sense of belonging

URSTRONG Schools aren't choosing between wellbeing or academics. They are strengthening both. In fact, URSTRONG Schools are creating the BEST environments for children to flourish.

### ★ Fave Takeaway #4: Trust Is Built (and Friendology Helps Build It)

The Global Flourishing Study also highlights **trust** as a key contributor to flourishing... believing that people are generally kind, safe, and worth connecting with.

But trust doesn't magically appear.

It's built through everyday experiences like:

- learning how to repair friendships
- recognising unhealthy dynamics (Red-Zone Friendships)
- understanding when to lean in or step back
- knowing the difference between Mean-on-Purpose and accidental behaviour

This is where Friendology's kid-friendly concepts really shine. Our **Friendship Fact #3** teaches students that **TRUST & RESPECT are the two most important qualities of a friendship**. They learn and practise what trust looks like in-action. Our URSTRONG Schools don't just tell kids that trust is important, they explicitly teach them what it looks like and how to show up for their friends.

### ★ Fave Takeaway #5: URSTRONG Schools Are Already Doing What the Research Recommends

And this might be my favourite takeaway of all...

The Global Flourishing Study doesn't just tell us what matters – it validates the work URSTRONG Schools are already doing every day.

By prioritising friendship skills, our amazing schools are:

- investing in long-term wellbeing

- supporting better learning conditions
- helping children build lifelong relationship skills

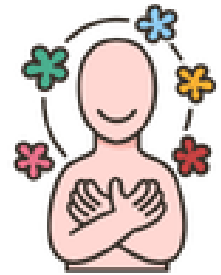
To every school teaching our Friendology friendship skills curriculum...  
 To every educator using the language of friendship daily...  
 To every leader who understands that relationships matter...

This research backs you up.

If the Global Flourishing Study reminds us of one simple truth, it's this: **A flourishing life is built through relationships.** And when children are given the skills, language, and confidence to navigate friendships... they don't just cope. They flourish. Thank you, URSTRONG Schools, for leading the way. 🧡



# WELLBEING NEWS



As wellbeing officer, I'm always looking for free, trustworthy services that can help kids and parents. The Kids Helpline has been around since 1991 and helped millions of children from ages 5 – 25. Kids are able to call or webchat with professional counselors who can help with any issues, big or small. As parents we can't be expected to know it all or be professional counsellors, so if you think your child might benefit from talking to someone about things that are bothering them, maybe give Kids Helpline a try. The following information is from the Kids Helpline website; [kidshelpline.com.au](http://kidshelpline.com.au)

## How Kids Helpline can help your child

**1800 55 1800**

Knowing what kind of help is available from Kids Helpline means you have the option of getting your child extra support when they need it.

### How a Kids Helpline counsellor can help your child

Kids Helpline is always open - 24 hours a day, every day of the year. They can help with any issue, anytime.

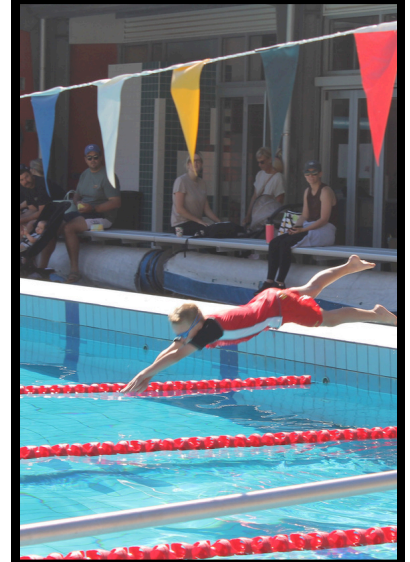
- Professional support from someone outside the situation
- No question or problem is too big or too small
- Evidence-based counselling from qualified experienced counsellors
- Strategies tailored to suit your child and their needs
- Referrals to other services if needed
- Support in a crisis plus ongoing counselling
- Information plus helpful tips and strategies
- Support with issues online such as cyberbullying

### What happens when your child calls?

Deciding to talk to a counsellor can be a big step for your child. You, or another relative or friend, can help them make the call

- It's a free call even from a mobile phone
- They can ring for a chat and ask questions
- They can ask for a male or female counsellor
- They can ask for the counsellors name and talk to them again
- Calls can be anywhere from 5 minutes to 50 minutes
- Webchat with a counsellor is also available 24/7
- Your child can request an interpreter
- Kids Helpline will not tell anyone what they talk about unless your child or someone else is in a life threatening situation

# SWIMMING CARNIVAL



AUBURN  
CWA



AUBURN  
CFS VISIT



LIBRARY  
CLUB



# Auburn Primary School Playcentre



Hi Families, We have been exploring the wonderful world around us. We love collecting from our amazing school garden encouraging our babes to touch, look and create. This exploring also helps to develop fine motor skills through manipulation and sorting of nature objects.



We also continue to talk to our Kimochi friends. Kimochi means "feeling" in Japanese. The Kimochis help our babes navigate big, small and complex feelings. They help us learn 5 keys of communication which is getting someone's attention, using a talking voice, using a talking face and body, choosing helping words and how to redo hurtful moments.



See you all Friday 9-11am

Bee x

# kids council

**Made by Walter  
C and Daniel**

In kids council we have heard from the teachers that the representatives are going to be from the UP, Archie and Mitchell, the MP, Tess and Mary, and the JP, Addie and Ryan. So far, we have not had any meetings but we are looking forward to the upcoming meetings to discuss our house challenges and who our charities are. The kids council is a group of kids who get together, once a week, and have discussions about anything the classes have brought up. The two school captains will be running the meetings each week. The classes have a meeting each week as well and they write what they want to happen, then it gets brought to the kids council to be decided whether it should happen or not.



# OSHC update



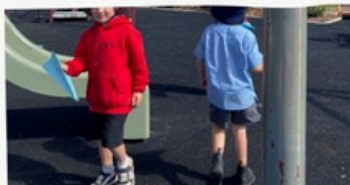
At OSHC we have been delving into cultural festivals such as the Lunar New Year and Ramadan, science experiments and caring for our oceans.



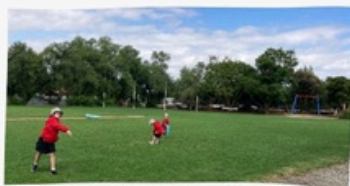
science week - leaf prints and experiments

cultural festivals - making samosas

weetbix truffles and individual endeavour



We also encourage individual initiative and curiosity, when it differs from our anticipated program. Lego construction and individual art works often take us on new adventures and exploration. Recently we also jumped into experimenting with paper planes



At OSHC we encourage healthy snacks and the life skills included in making and adapting them to our tastes and preferences with what we find in the pantry.

Smoothies, weetbix truffle balls, ice cream in a bag, samosas and fruit kebabs have been a hit recently.



paper planes and fruit kebabs

## **Booking for OSHC reminder**

***For same day / emergency bookings please call the OSHC phone 0428 810 208, so we can ensure that the school and children know where they need to be at pick up time***

# CCS - Child Care Subsidy

Most families are entitled to the Child Care Subsidy. The Child care subsidy assists families with the cost of utilising care services to support parents with work commitments and other family needs. The figure below shows how the CCS can be applied to reduce the cost of attending OSHC. Each family is assessed individually, on a case by case basis.

However, your CCS may lapse if you have not used the service in 14 weeks. You may need to head to the website to reapply.

Families can apply through MyGov. For further information and eligibility head to:

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/child-care-subsidy>

	Standard After School Care Before School Care	Casual After School Care	Vacation Care / Pupil Free Day
<b>FEE</b>	<b>\$28</b>	<b>\$35</b>	<b>\$80</b>
<b>CCS Rate</b>	<b>Fee payable after CCS is applied</b>		
10%	\$25.20	\$31.50	\$72.00
20%	\$22.40	\$28.00	\$64.00
30%	\$19.60	\$24.50	\$56.00
40%	\$16.80	\$21.00	\$48.00
50%	\$14.00	\$17.50	\$40.00
60%	\$11.20	\$14.00	\$32.00
70%	\$8.40	\$10.50	\$24.00
80%	\$5.60	\$7.00	\$16.00
90%	\$2.80	\$3.50	\$8.00

# APS 2026 DATES TO REMEMBER



# NATIONAL RIDE2SCHOOL DAY IS ON IT'S WAY!

**Friday 20 March 2026**



**RIDE2  
SCHOOL**

Meet us at Centenary Park at 8:30am to Ride or Scoot to School.  
Helmets and safety wear are important to remember.  
We will be crossing the road at the crossing at The Rising Sun Hotel  
and traveling along Saint Vincent Street to school.

Auburn Primary School   
Fairness • Respect • Excellence • Safety • Happiness



# Reminder

Governing Council  
AGM

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
6:30pm, School Library

# 2026 RSMU NETTY mini hawks



**A FUN PROGRAM TO INTRODUCE OUR  
LITTLE HAWKS TO NETBALL**

*for kids born 2020-2022*

## what's troubling your kids?



**we support all young people aged 5-25**

[kidshelpline.com.au](http://kidshelpline.com.au) | 1800 55 1800





THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN

EST. **Autumn Garden** 2011  
**Festival**

# GUEST SPEAKERS & TOPICS

Sunday 19<sup>TH</sup> April, 2026  
Clare Showgrounds



10am From Harvest to Health. Simple ways to grow your food that nourishes body, mind & soul by Paulie Calaby



10.30am Water saving Wicking Beds by Mark Smith from Adelaide Hills Vegie Gardens



11am Healing drought damaged soil with Soil Scientist and Regenerative Farmer Adam Burford



11.30am Costa Georgiadis - Host of ABC's Gardening Australia



12.30pm Sophie Thomson- Sophie's Patch 2.0 Re-wilding and Revegetating a challenging landscape



1.30pm Growing Australian Natives and Water-wise Gardening by Brenton Whellum from Nuthin but Natives

## The Panel 2pm

Join Costa Georgiadis, Sophie Thomson and Soil Scientist Adam Burford for a question and answer forum on any gardening and soil questions you need answering.

MC'd by Environmentalist and Regenerative Farmer:  
Rebecca Sullivan

