

NEWSLETTER

McDonald Park School

Principal – Kirsty Hill

Chairperson Governing Council – Talia Birks

57 North Terrace, Mount Gambier SA 5290

Telephone 08 8724 9811 Fax 08 8725 0254 Email dl.1021.info@schools.sa.edu.au

Website www.mcpark7.sa.edu.au



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Issue No 21, 11/12/25 - Week 9, Term 4



END OF 2025

The learning year for 2025 has concluded and it is time to celebrate and reflect on the year that has been.

We have been so proud of the learning focus throughout 2025. A change of day structure that is built on best practice and maximising learning and the introduction of PhOrMeS across the school were two changes implemented early in the year that have made a huge difference to focus and outcomes. Our data indicates pleasing achievement growth across the school. We continue to live our vision of **'working collaboratively to develop respectful, thriving and engaged problem solvers'**.

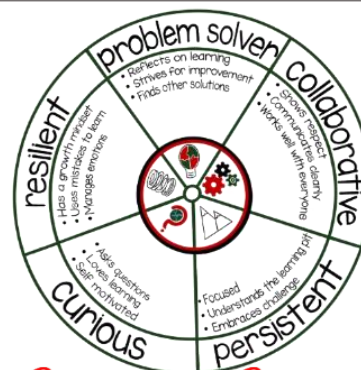
It is acknowledged that it is the individuals who collectively make a difference and support our students, be this teachers, support staff, volunteers, peers and parents. Thank you to everyone who has made a difference in the learning at McDonald Park School in 2025. It is very much appreciated.

We would like to wish Linda Ward all the best in the next chapter of her life, as she steps into retirement. Linda has given 27 years of dedicated service to McDonald Park School and in that time has supported many students, teachers and families. She will be remembered for her commitment and care to others, her organisation within the LAP program and her creativity will be thought of whenever we lay the wreath, she cleverly crafted on Remembrance Day. Linda hopes to continue her connection to the school through the LAP program, so we will continue to see her in 2026. Best wishes from the McDonald Park School community.

We take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with your families and loved ones. Best wishes to those who are graduating to high school or moving on to other locations.

See you in the new year of 2026. Please note that the school term will begin on Tuesday January 27th 2026. We also provide advanced notice of our first of four scheduled student free days which will be on Friday February 20th 2026.

Kirsty Hill, Daniel Castle & Lia Jordan



Coming Events

WEEK 9

**Thursday 11
December**

Year 5/6 Aquatics Day

Friday 12 December

Last day of term 4

Whole school assembly
9:10am in gym

Early dismissal 2:15 pm



VISION AWARDS



Award Winners from Week 7 Assembly



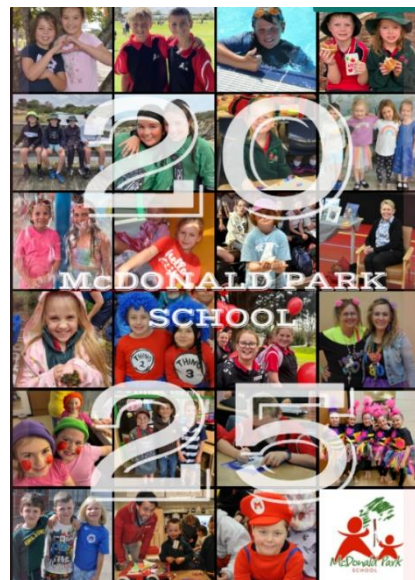
SAPSASA CRICKET

I had a great time participating in SAPSASA cricket. I got one wicket for the whole competition and my highest score in batting was 9 runs. I had heaps of time with my friends and our team won 2 out of the 5 games that we played.

Judd C



SCHOOL MAGAZINE 2025



SCHOOL MAGAZINE

Once again we are offering a school magazine for the 2025 year. This is a fantastic opportunity to capture your child's primary years in a magazine format. This year's magazine will be in full colour.

These will be available to order via the Qkr! App

The cost is \$31.50

If you require postage, it will be an extra \$7.50



2026 CLASSROOMS

ROOM	YEAR LEVEL	TEACHER(S)
A1	Reception	Deanne Spencer & Suzanne Harding
A2	Reception	Amy Pitkin & Suzanne Harding
A3	Reception	Sue Wilson & Laura Day
Rm 3	Year 1/2	Rose Cooper & Ashleigh Hutchinson
Rm 4	Year 1/2	Lydia Huitema
Rm 5	Year 1/2	Michelle Schulz & Ashleigh Hutchinson
Rm 6	Year 1/2	Amber Deppeler & Ashleigh Hutchinson
Rm 7	Year 3/4	Trudi Dew
Rm 8	Year 3/4	Melissa McCracken
Rm 11	Year 3/4	Paul Bigg
Rm 12	Year 3/4	Kate Eldridge
N3	Year 5/6	Helen Widdison & Stacey Tilley
N4	Year 5/6	Katherine Bundy & Laura Dempsey
N5	Year 5/6	Vanessa McLean
N6	Year 5/6	Karen Mitchell & Lia Jordan
T1	NIT Japanese F-4	Adina Hill
T5	Rec/Yr1 Science	Sally Strachan
T6	NIT/Health/PE	Sonya Jolly & Daniel Castle
Rm 13	Science	Carrie Bisnov
N1	Design/Tech	Erin Munday

YEAR 6 GRADUATION AWARD WINNERS

congratulations

AWARD	STUDENT NAME	SPONSOR
Best all Round Year 6 Girl	Lara B	Lions Club Mount Gambier
Best all Round Year 6 Boy	Benji R	Lions Club Mount Gambier
Continuous Improvement Award	Destiney B	Bendigo Bank
Continuous Improvement Award	Djakobe L-J	Bendigo Bank
Continuous Improvement Award	Ember B	Bendigo Bank
Continuous Improvement Award	Madalyn M-C	Bendigo Bank
Academic Award	Alexis R	Collins Bookstore
Academic Award	Aisling D	Collins Bookstore
Humanity Award	Stella C	Nickson Farms
Humanity Award	Charlotte B	Nickson Farms
Community Award	Sophia P	Governing Council
Community Award	Hudson F	Governing Council
School Pride Award	Kade J	Green Triangle Electronics
School Pride Award	Meah Mc	Green Triangle Electronics
School Pride Award	Paiton P	Green Triangle Electronics
School Pride Award	Baden D	Green Triangle Electronics
Sports Award	Benji R	Hughes & Loveday



Mount Gambier New Years Eve Festival 2025



<https://www.trybooking.com/DGQXA>

Chunky Custard - REX
Alison Newman - Any Other Sunday

Sing Along With Jimmy - The Snow Queen (Tamara Seeley)

LIVE MUSIC - HORSE CARRIAGE RIDES - SNOW QUEEN INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE
LASER TAG - PRO WRESTLING SOUTH AUSTRALIA - VARIETY OF FOOD & BEVERAGE VANS
PETTING ZOO - MARKET STALLS - KIDS PLAY ZONE - PLUS MORE!

KIDS ACTIVITIES RUN FROM 6PM TILL 11PM & ANIMAL ACTIVITIES TILL 8:30PM

Adults: \$15 Kids/Concession: \$10 Family: \$35

Event runs from 6pm to 12am - Fireworks at 9:15pm and 12am!
Gates open at 5pm - Mount Gambier Show Grounds 1 Pick Ave 31/12/25

FREE BUS SHUTTLE SERVICE AVAILABLE ADJACENT FROM RSL

NO BYO ALCOHOL, BIKES, SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS & PETS

BYO PICNIC BLANKET - GOLD COIN PARKING



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



tyre centre



The Border Watch



INTERSPORTS - BUCIK TYREPOWER - TONY PASIN - HENRI POST JEWELLERS

City of Mount Gambier

SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAM

15 December 2025 to 25 January 2026




Rainbow Jellyfish

Monday 5 to Sunday 11 January | During opening hours
Mount Gambier Library
 Create a colourful jellyfish hanging decoration using a paper bowl and streamers! Drop-in DIY activity for the whole family to enjoy.
FREE | All ages | Bookings not required



Colourful String Charms

Monday 5 January | 10:00am | Mount Gambier Library
 Make your own dazzling charm! Using bright threads, crisscross them through a wooden shape, and finish with a tassel for a charm that's ready to hang, gift, or show off!
FREE | Ages 7+ | Bookings essential



Big Summer Read Launch Party

Tuesday 6 January | 10:00am to 12:00pm | Cave Garden/Thugi
 Get ready for a morning of family fun! Whacky Mac live performance, Little Animal Encounters petting zoo, face painting and more! Pack your morning tea and meet us in the Cave Garden/Thugi. Drop-in event, perfect for families.
FREE | All ages | Bookings not required



Weaving with Auntie Val

Wednesday 7 January | 11:00am | The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre
 Boandik Elder Auntie Val Brennan will start you on raffia starters and teach you the basics of weaving. All abilities welcome.
FREE | Ages 8+ | Bookings essential



Early Literacy Programs

Thursday 8 January | 10:00am | Mount Gambier Library
Connect and Play
 Connect with your child and other families through interactive play. Enjoy a range of play-based activities, followed by group songs and parachute fun!
FREE | Ages 0 to 5 | Bookings not required



Come and Try Spheros

Thursday 8 January | 2:00pm | Mount Gambier Library
 Pop in and play with a Sphero robot! Steer your robot through twists, turns, and surprises in our obstacle course. BYO device with Sphero Edu app installed.
FREE | Ages 7+ | Bookings not required



Barnbul

Monday 15 December to Sunday 25 January | During opening hours
The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre
 A family-friendly place to draw, weave, learn and yarn. Come and illustrate or weave or sit in the yarnning circle, surrounded by local native flora.
FREE | All ages | Bookings not required



Weaving with Rachel in Barnbul

Friday 19 December | 11:00am | The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre
 Join Rachel Burke for a weaving session in our yarnning circle. All abilities welcome.
FREE | Ages 8+ | Bookings essential



Christmas in the Cave

Saturday 20 to Wednesday 24 December | During opening hours
Mount Gambier Library
 Get into the festive spirit and celebrate traditions from around the world with our DIY community craft and colouring activities. Drop-in activity.
FREE | All ages | Bookings not required



Carols in the Cave

Sunday 21 December | 11:00am | Mount Gambier Library
 Celebrate the festive season with a magical sing-along in our enchanting Children's Cave/Yulangu Kanapinan. LED candles and glow sticks available for a gold coin donation to the Mayor's Community Christmas Appeal.
FREE | All ages | Bookings not required



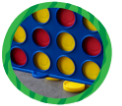
Big Summer Read Activity Quest

Monday 29 December to Sunday 25 January | During opening hours
Mount Gambier Library
 Take on the Big Summer Read activity quest and complete a range of reading and library activities to go into the draw to win exciting prizes! Drop into the Library to collect your activity card.
FREE | All ages | Bookings not required



Giant Games

Friday 9 to Sunday 11 January | During opening hours
Mount Gambier Library
 Drop by the Library for school holiday excitement and challenge your friends and family to some super-sized, giant games!
FREE | All ages | Bookings not required



D&D

Friday 9 January | 2:00pm | Mount Gambier Library
 Immerse yourself in the world of Dungeons and Dragons as we undertake an epic quest. Players from all experience levels welcome.
FREE | Ages 12 to 25 | Bookings essential



Emoji Hunt

Monday 12 January to Sunday 18 January | During opening hours
Mount Gambier Library
 The emojis are playing hide-and-seek in the library! Can you spot them all? Go into the draw to win fun prizes! A DIY activity for the whole family to enjoy.
FREE | All ages | Bookings not required



Pop Up Playgroup

Monday 12 January | 9:30am to 11:00am | Cave Garden/Thugi
 Join the Library and Centacare Family Connections Program in Cave Garden/Thugi for a playgroup suitable for preschool children and their families.
FREE | All ages | Bookings not required



Draw and Discover

Monday 12 January | 2:00pm | Mount Gambier Library
 Learn some fun drawing tips, explore your imagination, and bring your characters to life in this creative drawing workshop run by local children's book illustrator Bianca Richardson.
FREE | Ages 10+ | Bookings essential



Early Literacy Programs

Tuesday 13 January | Mount Gambier Library
Baby Bounce
 11:00am
 In this session we encourage face to face play between parents and babies, lots of laughing, giggling and singing. Suitable for ages 0 to 18 months.
CFS Storytime
 11:30am
 Join us for a special Storytime and activities with the Country Fire Service.
FREE | Ages 0 to 5 | Bookings not required



3D Printing

Tuesday 13 January | 2:00pm to 4:00pm | Mount Gambier Library

Using TinkerCad, choose a design or build a unique creation, to be printed for collection at a later date.

Note – parental supervision required throughout the session.

FREE | Ages 7+ | Bookings not required



Bush tucker and Native Plants with Uncle Ken

Wednesday 14 January | 11:00am | The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre

Learn about our native local plants and their uses in bush tucker with Boandik Elder Uncle Ken.

FREE | Ages 8+ | Bookings essential



Water Heroes Presented by OzFish

Wednesday 14 January | 1:00pm to 3:30pm | Mount Gambier Railway Lands

Join OzFish for a fun, free outdoor adventure where families can explore a local waterway, study and identify aquatic bugs, and learn how to fight litter to protect our waterways.

Two session times available.

FREE | Ages 5+ | Bookings essential via OzFish website



Early Literacy Programs

Thursday 15 January | 10:00am | Mount Gambier Library

Connect+ and Play

Connect with your child and other families through interactive play. Enjoy a range of play-based activities, followed by group songs and parachute fun!

FREE | Ages 0 to 5 | Bookings not required



Henna Designs

Thursday 15 January | 2:00pm | Mount Gambier Library

Local Henna artist Alma will guide you through the ancient art of Henna designs, with each participant receiving a special take-home pack.

FREE | Ages 12+ | Bookings essential



Embroidering Your Memories

Friday 16 January | 11:00am | The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre

Based on the work by Heather Shearer in Saltbush Country, create pictures of something you remember from your childhood using coloured thread.

\$5 | Ages 8+ | Bookings essential



Big Summer Read is a nationwide reading campaign which aims to address the 'summer slide' by engaging young people in reading for pleasure and supporting literacy development.

Participation:

Log the number of days spent reading, number of books read, or complete both categories.

The portal can be found at the Big Summer Read website readbooks.com.au/bsr or scan the QR code.

Qualify for prize draws:

To qualify for the national prize draw, participants must engage in reading for a minimum of five days, or read a minimum of five books.

For every additional five days logged or five books read, participants will receive one additional entry into the prize draw.

Sign up today!

Participants can register at any point throughout the challenge. Sign up by scanning the QR code.



Important things to note

- Bookings essential for all sessions (unless stated otherwise).
- Bookings can be made by contacting the individual venue as below or scan the QR code.
- Our school holiday sessions are very popular and usually book out. If you have booked in and can no longer attend please call to cancel so another child can enjoy.
- Parents and guardians must remain with children under the age of 12 during sessions.



Mount Gambier Library

6 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier | Phone 08 8721 2540

publiclibrary@mountgambier.sa.gov.au | mountgambier.sa.gov.au/library

The Riddoch Arts & Cultural Centre

1 Bay Road, Mount Gambier | Phone 08 8721 2563

riddoch@mountgambier.sa.gov.au | theriddoch.com.au



3D Printing

Tuesday 20 January | 2:00pm to 4:00pm | Mount Gambier Library

Using TinkerCad, choose a design or build a unique creation, to be printed for collection at a later date.

Note – parental supervision required throughout the session.

FREE | Ages 7+ | Bookings not required



Whimsical Windchimes

Wednesday 21 January | 10:00am | Mount Gambier Library

Design and decorate your own colourful windchime to hang and jingle in the breeze!

FREE | Ages 5+ | Bookings essential



Water Heroes Presented by OzFish

Wednesday 21 January | 1:00pm to 3:30pm | Mount Gambier Railway Lands

Join OzFish for a fun, free outdoor adventure where families can explore a local waterway, study and identify aquatic bugs, and learn how to fight litter to protect our waterways.

Two session times available.

FREE | Ages 5+ | Bookings essential via OzFish website



Sensory Play

Thursday 22 January | 10:00am | Mount Gambier Library

Engage your child's senses with exciting textures, colours, and activities in this hands-on sensory play session. Dress for mess!

FREE | Ages 0 to 5 | Bookings not required



Game On

Friday 23 January | 2:00pm | Mount Gambier Library

Race to the finish in our Mario Kart gaming competition, with the chance to win a prize. Speed, skill, and plenty of fun await!

FREE | Ages 12+ | Bookings not required



4 Fantastic EVENTS FOR YOUNG CARERS

FREE

Some events have limited places so be quick!

Mount Gambier

1 Valley Lake Playground inc BBQ

5-8 year olds

Tuesday 20 January 2026

12pm-2pm



2 Tantanoola Cave Tour (transport provided)

9-12 year olds

Monday 16th December 2025

1pm-4pm



3 Tantanoola Cave Tour (transport provided)

13-17 year olds

Monday 19th January 2026

1pm-4pm



4 Dinner at Nalou

18-25 year olds

Tuesday 23 December 2025

5pm



To RSVP or for further information please contact us on 0491 066 939 or email youngcarersteam@carerssa.com.au

