

# NEWSLETTER

## McDonald Park School

Principal – Kirsty Hill

Chairperson Governing Council – Talia Birks

57 North Terrace, Mount Gambier SA 5290

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Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

Issue No 1, 29/1/26 - Week 1, Term 1

## Welcome to the 2026 school year

We extend a warm welcome to the families who have just joined our McDonald Park School community and wish them a wonderful learning journey with us. Welcome back to continuing families and students, it is lovely to see your smiling faces again.

We welcome all staff back and Charli Kaigg who has joined our SSO team. We are ready for a productive year of learning in 2026.

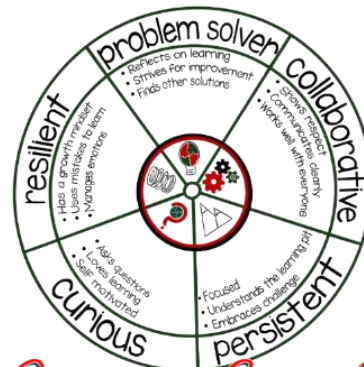
Last week staff continued to focus on how we can develop consistency across the school to maximise learning and reduce extraneous load. Routines will be a big focus for the next few weeks, as we explicitly teach how students move around the school, enter buildings, return to learning from play and maximise learning. The initial work that has occurred in this space has been outstanding and we predict a focused year of learning as a result.

To ensure every student is 'thriving' and moving forward in their learning, staff have been focusing on data collection, particularly in the area of literacy. The information gained will provide greater insight into achievements and areas to develop.

In 2026 assemblies and newsletters will be every 3 weeks rather than fortnightly. We look forward to seeing community members at our first assembly on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:10 am in the gym.

We look forward to another year of growing our vision to develop collaborative, respectful, thriving, engaged problem solvers.

**Kirsty Hill, Daniel Castle & Lia Jordan**



## Coming Events

### WEEK 3

**Monday 9 Feb**

Welcome new receptions  
Community breakfast  
8:15 am to 8:50 am

**Friday 13 Feb**

Assembly 9:10am in gym

### WEEK 4

**Wednesday 18 Feb**

Acquaintance Night  
Governing Council AGM

**Friday 20 Feb**

PUPIL FREE DAY

### WEEK 5

**Friday 27 Feb**

Come & See McPark Tour  
11:30am





# WELCOME

**all new students and their families, to McDonald Park**

## RECEPTION:

Lilly Mc, James H, Zara H, Mila W, Henry C, Cody P, Valerie T, Addison L, Jasmin M, Jack F, Reeves S, Maycee T, Norah H, Everly P, Sienna R, Zoe S, Logan K, Darcy H, Oliver H, Zacary K-S, Ava S, Vinny M, Jack B, Maia J, Winnie T, Remi G, Asher P, Alora P, Hallie R, Scarlett C, Rueben E, Autumn T-S, Ruby T, Violet H, Leo N, Ehpolo K, Harper R, Storm R, Jacob P

**YEAR 2:** Chase R, Adrina K, Avina K **YEAR 3:** Eli W **YEAR 5:** Rhitz B

**YEAR 6:** Finn R





## Student Personal Data



Incorrect student personal information eg address, parent / caregiver phone number and work location, emergency contacts names and phone numbers makes it difficult for us to contact you, especially in an emergency. Unfortunately we are no longer able to

send home details for families to check. If you believe any of your child's information has changed in any way, please let us know by emailing [dl.1021\\_info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.1021_info@schools.sa.edu.au) so that we can update your information. We are aware that things can change. Updates can be made at any time.

## Lesson & Break Times 2026

**The day timetable will be as follows:**

8:50am – 10:00  
 10:00 – 11:00  
 11:00 – 11:20 (Morning recess)  
 11:20 – 12:20  
 12:20 – 12:50 (Lunch play)  
 12:50 – 1:00 (Lunch eating)  
 1:00 – 2:00  
 2:00 – 2:15 (Afternoon recess)  
 2:15 – 3:15

**NOTE – Note the slight change to the start of lunch time.**

## 2026 Materials and Services Information

Invoices for 2026 materials and services (school) fees statements were emailed to families in January. The SA Government is once again offering the school fee rebate of \$200 per student for all eligible families in 2026. This reduces the 2026 materials and services charge to **\$173 per student.**

If your family is eligible for school card in 2026 the school card grant will cover your school fees in full and you will not be eligible for the \$200 rebate.

Payment is due in full by 28 February unless you are applying for school card in 2026 or are paying by agreed instalments. Please contact the school to negotiate a payment plan if required.

**Payments may be made by using the following options:**

**Qkr! online payment application.** – This app is available free for electronic devices via Google play or the Apple app store by searching Qkr! by mastercard. *Note – Qkr! will not show the balance remaining if paying by instalments.*

**Direct Deposit** – McDonald Park School, BSB 633-000, Account Number 147553226 (for identification use the invoice number and/or family code as a reference)

**EFTPOS or Cash** – payments are accepted at the front office in person or by phoning the office on 87249811.

If you have any queries regarding school fees or would like to discuss payment options, please contact our Finance Officer, Julie on 8724 9811 or in person at the front office.

## 2026 School Card Scheme Information Update

The School Card scheme offers financial assistance with school fees (materials and services charges) for students attending South Australian schools.

Applications need to be completed via an application form at the beginning of each year.

Online application forms are available at [www.sa.gov.au](http://www.sa.gov.au) by searching school card. Families with students attending multiple schools may find this option of benefit with only one online application required to be completed per family.

Paper application forms are available from the front office for families who prefer to complete their application this way and may be lodged with the school. Eligibility for school card assistance is dependent upon your combined family gross income for the 2024-2025 financial year being within the School Card income limits:

**Eligibility income limits for a student attending a government school**

Number of dependent children	Combined gross family income limit for 2024/2025 financial year	Gross weekly school card income limit
1 child	\$75,524	\$1,452
2 children	\$76,873	\$1,478
3 children	\$78,222	\$1,504
4 children	\$79,571	\$1,530
5 children	\$80,920	\$1,556
Each additional dependent child	\$1,349	\$26

## School Uniforms

**We currently have in stock the following uniforms:**

- Summer dresses(size 4,6 & 8) \$21.00
- Hats \$8.00
- Beanie \$6.00
- Black microfibre shorts \$15.00
- Black basketball shorts (until sold out) \$12.00
- Red/black polo t-shirt \$28.50
- Green jumper \$29.50
- Pinafore \$50.00
- Black fleecy trackpant \$19.00
- Girls black leisure pant \$23.00
- School back pack \$74.00
- Green reader bag \$7.50



## Qkr! App



If you use Qkr!, you will need to update your child's details at the beginning of every year to show their new year level and room number.

Open the Qkr! app, then select the profiles page to display the manage profiles screen. You will need to enter your password to access this. Select your child,

then change their year level and room number via the drop down options. Click update profile to save changes.

If you would like to get started using Qkr! please refer to the details below for instructions on how to get started.

**Qkr! | masterpass** For quicker, hassle-free school payments, try Qkr! today

Introducing Qkr! (pronounced 'quicker') by Mastercard, the secure and easy way to order and pay for school items from your phone at a time and place that suits you.

With Qkr you can:

- Pay for a variety of school items;
- See your receipts on the app and get them sent by email if required.

**Getting started is easy - try it yourself today**

**Step 1 Download Qkr!**  
on your Android phone or iPhone. iPad users can download iPhone app

**Step 2 Register**  
Select your Country of Residence as 'Australia' and follow the steps to register

**Step 3 Find our school**  
Our school will appear in 'Nearby Locations' if you're within 10kms of the school, or search for our school by name.

**Step 4 Register your children**  
When first accessing our school you will be prompted to add a student profile for your child. This allows you to make orders and payments for them.

If you have made a purchase you can select our school from 'Previous Location'

If you're within 10 kms of the school, you can select our school from 'Nearby Locations'

## Reminders

**Hats and Uniforms** – in terms 1, 2 and 4 all students need to wear a broad brimmed or bucket hat in the yard and during outside activities such as fitness and PE. Hats are available from the front office for \$8.00. We have a school dress code and we expect all students to dress accordingly. Most items are available for purchase from the front office. Please label all items of clothing. We have a lost property bin which is located in the main building near room one (under the stairs). Please check this regularly for lost items.

**Hot weather** – All areas of the school are air-conditioned, which provides students with pleasant learning conditions at all times. For this reason we do not send students home when the forecast is 38 degrees or above. If parents wish to collect their child it is their choice. We also have an extreme weather policy and students are kept inside during break times on wet and very hot days.

**Medication** – Please remember to ensure your child's medications eg asthma puffers, epi-pens, ADHD medicine are not past their expiry date and that you have supplied the school with the necessary medication and health care plan signed by your doctor.

**Materials and Services** – Invoices and school card forms were posted out to families last week. Please see front office staff if you didn't receive one.

**Nut Allergies** - DfE requires schools to promote and construct learning environments that are safe and supportive. Students and staff may have anaphylactic (severe allergic) conditions, that include nut allergies. This means that exposure at school may constitute a risk to the health and wellbeing. It is not possible to guarantee that the environment will be completely free of potential hazards, however, compliance to reasonable guidelines will minimise the potential risks.

**Where a parent of a child with an allergy to nuts or nut products has alerted the school to the fact (backed by medical evidence /documentation), the school will manage the situation in the following way:**

### Parents

- Parents and caregivers being asked to take this into consideration when they are packing their child's lunch. Where possible pack an alternative to peanut butter, Nutella or similar, nuts, peanut cooking oil and other foods that may contain nuts.

### Students

- Students being encouraged NOT to share or purchase food for other students.
- Students being encouraged to wash hands after eating.
- Students bringing food that contain nuts or nut products being asked to eat that food away from any other students and to wash their hands after eating.

### Staff

- Staff supervising eating at lunch time in classrooms or another confined area.
- Staff made aware of students who have anaphylactic responses, including nut allergy.

## McPark on Facebook



McPark has a page on Facebook. Search for McDonald Park School and 'like' our page to keep up to date with what's happening. We will post information for parents and caregivers on a regular basis. Our newsletter can be accessed online at:

[Latest news - McDonald Park School](#)

## Academic Award Winners 2025

<b>FOUNDATION:</b>	<i>Lacey C &amp; Jakobus G</i>
<b>YEAR ONE:</b>	<i>Lara P &amp; Huey E</i>
<b>YEAR TWO:</b>	<i>Tali J &amp; Lukas H</i>
<b>YEAR THREE:</b>	<i>Johniezel C &amp; Elliott B</i>
<b>YEAR FOUR:</b>	<i>Amity W &amp; Nathaniel M</i>
<b>YEAR FIVE:</b>	<i>Fletcher dV &amp; Lylah B</i>

## Learner Profile Award Winners 2025

<b>Room A1:</b>	<i>Benjamin M</i>
<b>Room A2:</b>	<i>Mackenzie F</i>
<b>Room A4:</b>	<i>Alice D</i>
<b>Room T2:</b>	<i>Estelle J</i>
<b>Room T3:</b>	<i>Yasmin C</i>
<b>Room 1:</b>	<i>Nash M</i>
<b>Room 2:</b>	<i>Romeo L</i>
<b>Room 3:</b>	<i>Anna C</i>
<b>Room 4:</b>	<i>Aubrey H</i>
<b>Room 5:</b>	<i>Evie K</i>
<b>Room 6:</b>	<i>Amelia J</i>
<b>Room N1:</b>	<i>Caleb P</i>
<b>Room N3:</b>	<i>Blake W</i>
<b>Room N5:</b>	<i>Nessa N</i>
<b>Room N6:</b>	<i>Chloe B</i>

## Resource Centre

We look forward to another magical year of reading, learning and library events in the resource centre.

### Library staff this year are:

Suzanne Harding (teacher librarian)  
Nicole Thompson (SSO)

We are always grateful for the support of volunteers whose help assist our resource centre in being organised and progressive, which in turn benefits student learning so please see us if you would like to volunteer.

- students will have a 30 minute borrowing session per week
- we ask that all students bring library bags (cloth or plastic) to protect books
- please encourage your child to return books to the library each week on their library day
- if you find books at home, these can also be returned to school anytime
- we love to see you so if you have questions, please drop in to chat to us

**Happy Reading from the  
resource centre staff**



## Governing Council AGM

There are many ways in which parents and members of the school community can become involved in our school. Becoming a member of the Governing Council is one way that you can become involved in the school.

In week 4, on **Wednesday, 18 February at 6.30pm**, we are holding our Annual General Meeting of the Governing Council. This is a great opportunity to hear what has been happening at our school and find out what the Governing Council has been involved in over the past year. It is also the time when we elect and organise our Governing Council for 2026.

### What does a Governing Council member do?

You represent the views of members in the school community and encourage their participation. When the entire school community works together to support learning, children succeed, not just in school but throughout their lives.

### The Governing Council:

- Provides a forum for parent, staff and student participation and decision making and ensures that the educational, social and cultural needs of the community are addressed.
- Plans for improvement in learning and wellbeing for all students through setting the values, vision, mission, site plan and local policies for our site.
- Allocates all of the resources available to the site to support the improvement of learning and wellbeing outcomes for all students.
- Monitors learning and wellbeing outcomes and reports annually to the site's community and the Minister of Education.
- Works collaboratively in the best interest of the site and its community.

### Governing Council Sub-committees:

The Governing Council has the power to establish committees under its constitution.

We have sub-committees that give advice on finance and in the past, sport, buildings and grounds including the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program and fundraising.

We welcome new parents to join and any current members that wish to remain involved. It is a great opportunity to be a part of your child's education and influence at the decision making level. It is also a way of finding out more about teaching and learning programs. If you wish to nominate yourself or another parent please fill in the form below and return to school.

### **MCDONALD PARK SCHOOL GOVERNING COUNCIL**

I wish to nominate myself .....  
for Governing Council in 2026.

I have spoken to ..... and  
wish to nominate them for Governing Council.

Signed .....

Email address:

.....





## MCDONALD PARK SCHOOL - TERM 1, 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Events subject to change at school's discretion if need arises)



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1	26/01 Public Holiday - Australia Day	27/01	28/01	29/01	30/01
WEEK 2	02/02	03/02	04/02	05/02	06/02
WEEK 3	09/02 WELCOME New Receptions Community Breakfast 8:15 am to 8:50 am	10/02	11/02	12/02	13/02 Assembly 9.10am
WEEK 4	16/02	17/02	18/02 Acquaintance night Governing Council AGM	19/02	20/02 PUPIL FREE DAY
WEEK 5	23/02	24/02 Year 5/6 Parliament excursion	25/02	26/02	27/02 Come and See McPark 11.30am
WEEK 6	02/03	03/03	04/03	05/03	06/03 Assembly 9.10am
WEEK 7	09/03 Public Holiday - Adelaide Cup Day	10/03	11/03 NAPLAN	12/03	13/03
WEEK 8	16/03 NAPLAN	17/03	18/03	19/03	20/03
WEEK 9	23/03 Governing council 7.30pm Swimming lessons yrs. 3-6	24/03	25/03	26/03	27/03 Assembly 9.10am
WEEK 10	30/03	31/03	01/04	02/04	03/04 Public Holiday - Good Friday
WEEK 11	06/04 Public Holiday - Easter Monday	07/04 Yr. 6 Ballarat/Creswick camp Yr. 5 Warrnambool camp	08/04	09/04	10/04

Section break

## O.S.H.C. @ MCPARK



YMCA OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

- ▶ Before and after school care
- ▶ Quality educators
- ▶ Child led programs
- ▶ Art and crafts
- ▶ Cooking experiences
- ▶ Sporting activities
- ▶ Learn life skills
- ▶ Create long lasting friendships
- ▶ Vacation care with excursions and incursions

**ENROL NOW**

CHILDCARE SUBSIDY APPROVED

**CONTACT US**  
 oshc@ymcasa.org.au  
 08 8200 2516

the Y

## THANK YOU

A big thank you to the following members of our school community who kindly donated their time throughout the Christmas holiday break to care for our McPark Chooks.

**Ashleigh O and Theo O-M.  
 Kit C, Malekai G, Mia, G and  
 Azrael C,  
 Ciara D, Aisling D and Jameson D.  
 Julie B, Nessa B and TJ B.**



# McDonald Park School

## Canteen Prices – Term 1, 2026



The canteen menu aims to provide healthy and nutritious food and drinks consistent with the DfE 'Right Bite' Healthy Eating Guide for schools and pre-schools and 'The Australian Dietary Guidelines for Children and Adolescents'. You can order your child's lunch via the Qkr! app before 8:30 am each morning or alternatively, please write your **CHILD'S NAME** and **ROOM NUMBER** on a large paper lunch bag. Lunch bags are available from the canteen 10 for 50 cents or alternatively from Coles or Woolworths. Forks required for foods brought from home will be 10 cents each.

Foods brought from home will **NOT** be re-heated in the canteen due to health regulations. Any price changes or new items will be notified in the school newsletter. Late lunch orders will be accepted; however, they will be given what is available and if there is insufficient money in the bag the order will be reduced. **THERE IS NO CREDIT AVAILABLE FROM THE CANTEEN.**



Daily Specials					
<b>TUESDAY (ONLY)</b> <i>To be ordered on Qkr! app by 12:30 pm on a Monday</i>		Sushi Assorted flavours and prices. See on Qkr! app			
<b>THURSDAY (ONLY)</b>		Hot Dog in Bread		\$4.00	
		Hot Dog in White Roll		\$5.00	
		Cheese		0.50c	
		BBQ, Sweet Chilli, Tomato Sauce, Mustard		0.50c	
<b>THURSDAY MEAL DEAL</b>		Hot Dog, flavoured Milk, Cookie		\$9.50	
<b>FRIDAY (ONLY)</b>		Pie		\$6.00	
		Pasty		\$6.00	
		Sausage Roll		\$5.00	
		Party Pie / Party Sausage Roll		\$2.00	
<b>FRIDAY MEAL DEAL</b>		Pie / Pasty & Juice		\$8.50	
		Sausage Roll & Juice		\$7.50	
		2 Party Pies & Juice		\$7.00	
		2 Party Sausage Rolls & Juice		\$7.00	
<b>Sauces</b>	<b>Soy</b>	0.50c	<b>Tomato</b>	0.50c	<b>Sweet Chilli</b> 0.50c
Hot Food					
Cheese Burger & Sauce	\$7.00	Macaroni Cheese	\$6.25		
Chicken Burger, Lettuce & Mayo	\$7.00	Spaghetti Bolognese	\$6.25		
Hot chicken & gravy roll	\$6.00	Nachos with Salsa, Cheese & Sour Cream	\$6.00		
Crumbed chicken sub, lettuce & mayo	\$6.50	Pizza – BBQ Chicken	\$5.50		
Sweet Chilli chicken sub, lettuce & mayo	\$6.50	Pizza - Hawaiian	\$5.50		
Garlic Bread	\$3.50	Steamed Dim Sim	\$2.00		
Garlic Bread & Cheese	\$4.00	Wedges with Sweet Chilli & Sour Cream	\$6.25		
Garlic Bread with Ham & Cheese	\$4.50	Wedges & Tomato Sauce	\$5.40		
Lasagne	\$6.25				
Lunch Packs					
Jurassic 3 x Dino Nuggets Pack Noodle salad, Carrot sticks, Cucumber	\$6.80	Pirate Pack – 2 pieces of fish & Wedges	\$7.90		
Jurassic 6 x Dino Nuggets Pack Noodle salad, Carrot sticks, Cucumber	\$7.80	Veggi slice & Salad Pack Carrot, Cucumber, Noodle Salad	\$8.00		
3 x Gluten Free Nuggets & Salad	\$6.80	Bento Box LARGE 6 Potato Gems, 3 Mini Spring Rolls, 3 Dim Sims, 2 Corn Cobs	\$8.00		
6 x Gluten Free Nuggets & Salad	\$7.80	Bento Box SMALL 4 Potato Gems, 2 Mini Spring Rolls, 2 Dim Sims, 1 Corn Cobs	\$7.00		
Pirate Pack – 1 piece of fish & Wedges	\$6.90				



Sandwiches			
Cheese Sandwich	\$3.00	Salad Sandwich	\$5.00
Chicken & Salad Sandwich	\$6.00	Tuna & Salad Sandwich	
Chicken Sandwich	\$4.50	Tuna Sandwich	
Egg Sandwich	\$4.50	Vegemite Sandwich	
Ham & Salad Sandwich	\$6.00		
Ham Sandwich	\$4.50		
Rolls			
Cheese Roll	\$3.50	Ham & Salad Roll	\$6.50
Chicken Roll	\$5.00	Salad Roll	\$5.50
Chicken & Salad Roll	\$6.50	Tuna Roll	\$5.00
Egg Roll	\$5.00	Tuna & Salad Roll	\$6.50
Ham Roll	\$5.00	Vegemite Roll	\$3.50
Salads			
Munch and Crunch Box Crackers, Cheese, French Onion Dip, Carrot, Cucumber	\$6.50	Super Salad Bowl Add Sweet Chilli Chicken Tender Add Plain Chicken Tender Add Ham Add Tuna	\$9.50 \$2.00 \$2.00 \$1.50 \$1.50
Noodle Salad LARGE TUB	\$5.50		
Noodle Salad SMALL TUB	\$4.50		
Wiggly Worm Box Cheese sandwich, Mini Muffin, Seasonal Fruit, Carrot, Cucumber	\$6.50		
Snacks			
Bag Rice Crackers	0.50c	Seasonal Fruit	\$1.50
Chocolate Chip Cookie	\$1.50	Jumpy's	\$1.00
Muffin	\$1.50	Monster Noodles	0.60c
Honey Soy Chips	\$2.00	Popcorners Cheese	\$2.00
Milo Cereal	0.50c	Popcorners Sweet & Salty	\$2.00
Cereal Mix	0.50c	Popcorn (Bag)	\$1.50
Drinks			
Bottle of Water	\$2.50	Pure Fruit Juice - Orange	\$3.50
Nippy's Milk - Honeycomb	\$3.70	Pure Fruit Juice - Apple & Black Currant	\$3.50
Pop Top Milk - Chocolate	\$3.70	Up & Go - Strawberry	\$3.70
Pop Top Milk - Strawberry	\$3.70	Up & Go - Banana	\$3.70
Pure Fruit Juice - Apple	\$3.50	Up & Go - Chocolate	\$3.70
Frozen Items			
Mini Callipo	\$2.50	Sour Lemon Icy Pole	\$2.50
Paddle Pop	\$2.50	Sourz Watermelon Icy Pole	\$2.50
Vanilla Ice-cream Dandy Cup	\$2.50		
Frozen Yoghurt	\$2.50		

## Community News



# NETBALL TRYOUTS

**Sun 1st Feb**  
13U, 15U & 17U - 10:00am  
B1 & B2 - 11:30am  
A & A2 - 12:45pm

**Tues 3rd Feb**  
11U - 4:30pm  
13U, 15U & 17U - 5:00pm  
B1 & B2 - 6:00pm  
A & A2 - 7:00pm

**Sun 8th Feb**  
11U - 9:30am  
13U, 15U & 17U - 10:00am  
B1 & B2 - 11:30am  
A & A2 - 12:45pm

**Tues 10th Feb**  
11U - 4:30pm  
13U & 15U - 5:00pm  
17U, B1 & B2 - 6:00pm  
A & A2 - 7:00pm

**Juniors start at 5 years old  
(must be turning 6 in 2026)  
Boys can play until they  
turn 12!**

**MGNA Courts  
Margaret Street Mt Gambier**

**Enquiries & apologies to  
intruders@mga.com.au  
0408 849 525**


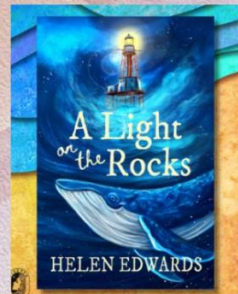


**Let us know  
you're interested  
by scanning the  
QR code to  
register for  
trials!**

## Author Event with Dr Helen Edwards A Light on the Rocks

Join us for an author event celebrating "A Light on the Rocks" — a haunting maritime adventure inspired by the true history of the S.S. Admella wreck and the Cape Jaffa Lighthouse. Exploring themes of survival, ocean conservation, and the wild beauty of the sea, this tale weaves real events with mystery, magic, and unforgettable characters.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026 11:00am**  
Light refreshments provided

**Port MacDonnell Community Complex**  
For more information and bookings  
please call 8738 3000

Port MacDonnell  
COMMUNITY COMPLEX

District Council of  
**Grant**