

NEWSLETTER

McDonald Park School



Principal – Kirsty Hill

Chairperson Governing Council – Talia Birks

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Government of South Australia
Department for Education

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Professional Learning



At McDonald Park School, we firmly believe that ongoing professional learning is essential for all staff. This commitment not only equips our team with the latest educational practices but also fosters a culture of continual improvement, collaboration, and shared responsibility for student success.

This year, our professional learning has centred on several key areas: literacy, data entry and analysis,

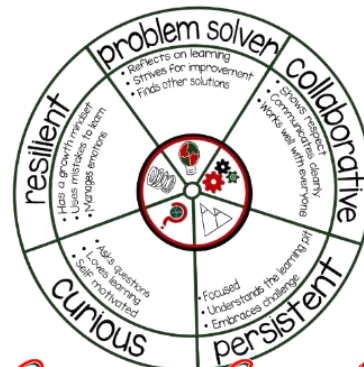
number fact fluency, and strategies to reduce cognitive load. These focus areas provide targeted opportunities to strengthen our collective knowledge, enabling staff to implement evidence-based strategies that enhance classroom teaching and improve student learning outcomes.

Whole school participation in professional learning ensures consistency across classrooms. When our educators work together to interpret data, develop literacy skills and refine mathematical fluency, we build a shared language and unified approach that supports all learners. Professional development sessions offer time to discuss, reflect and embed new practices, creating a coherent experience for students as they progress through the school.

Investing in the development of our staff means our teachers and support staff continue to upskill, staying informed about best practices. This cohesive approach underpins our goal of delivering high-quality education, helping every child achieve thrive. With strong professional learning at the core, McDonald Park School remains dedicated to providing outstanding learning opportunities for both staff and students.



Kirsty Hill, Daniel Castle & Lia Jordan



Coming Events

WEEK 4

Wednesday, 18 February

Acquaintance Night

Governing Council AGM

Friday, 20 February

PUPIL FREE DAY

WEEK 5

Friday, 27 February

Come & See McPark Tour

11.30am

WEEK 6

Friday, 6 March

Assembly

9.10am

WEEK 7

Monday, 27 Feb

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

- Adelaide Cup



YMCA OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

- ▶ Before and After School Care
- ▶ Quality Educators
- ▶ Not-for-profit organisation
- ▶ Child led programs
- ▶ Nutritious foods
- ▶ Physical and creative activities
- ▶ Vacation Care
- ▶ Excursions and incursions

CONTACT US

oshc@ymcasa.org.au

8200 2516

sa.ymca.org.au/OSHC

CHILDCARE
SUBSIDY
APPROVED

Introducing **STEM** early helps children build **problem-solving**, **creativity** and **critical thinking skills**, sparking curiosity and supporting their learning for the future, whatever path they choose.

At **OSHC**, children explore STEM every day through fun, hands-on activities like **cooking**, **gardening**, **construction play** and **creative art**. They're learning through play, building confidence, curiosity and a love of discovery, often without even realising it.

STEM ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME

LAVA LAMPS with a water bottle, vegetable oil, food colouring and an Alka-Seltzer. Discovering chemical reactions.

MARBLE RUNS with cardboard tubes, tape and marbles. Discovering gravity, motion and problem solving.

NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT, create a list for children to find in the back yard, encourages observations, discovery and categorisation.



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 so that we can update your information. We are aware that things can change. Updates can be made at any time.

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

Book Sharing and Library Connection lessons

Each class has a set time to come to the library for a library skills lesson and borrowing lesson. We ask that you please send a library bag with your child on these days to protect books in school bags. In our lessons we talk about keeping books safe by:

- Storing in a safe place away from young children, pets, pencils, food and drink.
- Some families have special places at home to store library bags.
- Return books on time for others to enjoy

Thank you so much for caring for our library books and extending their lifespan! We hope your children have many happy hours reading them.

You are welcome to visit us at anytime.
Resource centre staff



VISION AWARDS

Term 1, Week 3

RESPECT

Presented to	By	For
Luke D	Mr Bigg	showing respect to his class mates and always being helpful in class.
Angus P	Miss Eldridge	being a kind and generous class member who is always looking for ways to assist others.
Nash M	Mrs McLean	being an inclusive community member who also demonstrates respect for his learning.
Amelia F	Ms Mitchell & Ms Jordan	the kind way she supports and is inclusive of everyone.

THRIVING

Presented to	By	For
Slade F	Mrs Dew	excellence in the single word spelling test.
William B	Mrs McCracken	explaining math concepts to others.
Elliott B	Mr Bigg	getting excellent results on all of the initial testing in spelling and the basic operations in maths.
Elsie K	Ms Bundy & Mrs Dempsey	being curious and thinking outside the box to complete tasks in creative ways.
Rhitz B	Mrs Widdison & Mrs Tilley	completing tasks accurately and efficiently with a high level of independence.
Ruby D	Mrs McLean	producing some quality work samples and demonstrating social resilience.

COLLABORATION

Presented to	By	For
Ella G	Mrs McCracken	working with kindness and co-operating with others.
Estelle J	Mr Bigg	working well with others in class to achieve the lesson goals.
Ivy B	Miss Eldridge	helping Hudson to manage movement around the school and class when he had his cast on.
Eli H	Mrs Widdison & Mrs Tilley	demonstrating inclusivity and confident leadership.

PROBLEM SOLVING

Presented to	By	For
Meaghan H	Mrs McCracken	showing an understanding of various addition strategies.
Joey D	Miss Eldridge	being an excellent problem solver when working out the solution to Rebus puzzles.
Jesse W	Mrs Widdison & Mrs Tilley	persisting with tasks and working through challenges.

ENGAGEMENT

Presented to	By	For
Eli W	Mrs Dew	engagement and excellence in fluency maths testing.
Chaz P	Mrs McCracken	actively participating in all learning opportunities.
Harriet K	Mr Bigg	engaging really well in lessons and being an active learner.
Hailie W	Miss Eldridge	being engaged in class discussions, regularly sharing her ideas and knowledge.
Sailor W	Ms Bundy & Mrs Dempsey	her positive attitude and high engagement and participation in learning.
Zeppelin F	Ms Bundy & Mrs Dempsey	engaging with all tasks with a positive attitude.
Chloe B	Mrs Widdison & Mrs Tilley	being actively engaged and striving to do her best in all she does.
Beau R	Mrs McLean	being prepared to move out of his comfort zone and give new things a go.
Storm A	Mrs Mclean	utilising a strong work ethic daily, being a positive/inclusive class member and being a respectful community member.
Nathaniel M	Ms Mitchell & Ms Jordan	actively engaging in learning conversations and completing tasks to a high standard.



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5 February 2026

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Dear Parents, Carers and Families

You are invited to participate in a survey to provide brief feedback on the Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service on our school grounds. The survey takes less than five minutes and is completely anonymous.

The survey is administered by the Department for Education and your feedback supports service planning and helps strengthen overall service delivery.

Your answers will never identify you or your child.

You can access the survey via the link below, which is open until **Saturday, 28 February 2026**:

<https://survey.education.sa.gov.au/n/LK0Sn83>

You can also access the survey via the QR code:



If you have any questions about the survey, please do not hesitate to contact the department's OSHC Team via email: education.OSHRReform@sa.gov.au.

Kirsty Hill
PRINCIPAL



GENEROSITY • RESPECT • HONESTY



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

AUTISM INCLUSION TEACHER



Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to introduce myself as the Autism Inclusion Teacher (AIT) for McDonald Park Primary School. I currently teach Foundation and have taken on this exciting role again in 2026.

Autism Inclusion Teachers are a nation-leading initiative, which aims to build teacher understanding and knowledge around supporting children and young people with autism. Each public primary school in South Australia has appointed an AIT who will guide and support their staff in developing best practice whilst teaching and engaging with students who are on the autism spectrum. I have a wealth of experience of teaching students diagnosed with autism. I also have a deep interest in supporting our teachers and school support officers, to develop their skills and abilities, with an aim in improving the learning outcomes for our students on the autism spectrum.



The AIT role is to build the skills, knowledge and understanding of autism amongst our teachers and school services officers (SSOs) by engaging them in formal learning sessions. The expected outcomes are that teachers and SSOs will then apply this new knowledge when teaching and supporting children with autism in their own classrooms. The AIT role does not include working directly with students with autism, nor are they involved in student or parent conferences.

I am currently working with other AITs, from a variety of school sites across the Limestone Coast, to develop and build upon my current knowledge of working with students with autism. The Department for Education provides an Autism Inclusion Multidisciplinary (AIM) team to support me in the AIT role. The team includes, senior advisor educators, developmental educator, psychologist, occupational therapist, speech pathologist and an Aboriginal cultural project officer. The information from the AIM team is evidence-based and informed by the autistic and autism community. This research is linked to incorporating a student on the autism spectrum's particular interest into daily teaching routines as a means to motivate and further engage in learning.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for further information about improving support for children and students with autism.

Kind Regards,

Deanne Spencer





come & see McPark

Enrolment Tours

2026 mid year & 2027 enrolments

Friday, 27 February
11.30am

8724 9811 to register



seen

THE FILM

Mount Gambier Community Screening

A free, meaningful night out for parents and carers that will leave you with real tools for your family



World Hearing Day 2026
3 March

FROM COMMUNITIES TO CLASSROOMS:

Hearing care for every child



Act now so no child is left behind due to ear or hearing problems.



Wednesday, February 25


Dress Circle, The Riddoch | 6pm-8pm

Arrivals from 5:30pm. Meet ac.care's Family Relationship Service team to learn more about local support.




SEEN is a ground-breaking documentary exploring the transformative power of personal healing for parents and its impact on child brain development.

Free event | 1hr13min run time | Light refreshments provided
The Riddoch is located at 1 Bay Road, Mount Gambier

SCAN QR CODE



REGISTER NOW

ac.care    City of Mount Gambier



SIES

Statewide Inclusive Education Services

regional connect

Government of South Australia
Department for Education

COME JOIN THE TERM 1 PARENT/CARER REGIONAL CONNECT!

The Statewide Inclusive Education Services (SIES) is hosting our termly regional information session.

Join us via Microsoft Teams (click the link below to register) to learn about support and services from SIES followed by **Maria Aydin** our Developmental Educator, Inclusive Practices talking about setting your child up for success.

Thursday 26th February 2026 1pm - 1:45pm

Register [here](#)

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