

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 3, 05/03/26 - Week 6, Term 1

Learning Conversations



At McDonald Park in weeks 9 and 10, parents and students are invited to engage in 15-minute learning conversations with their child's teacher. Learning conversations form part of our whole school reporting process which builds on from our recent Acquaintance Night. Some classes taking part in school camps in weeks 10 and 11 may offer learning conversation times to families earlier in the term.

Conferences provide a chance for students and teachers to share where your child is currently at with their learning and set achievable goals. Some key areas that may be discussed are:

1. Reading: in the primary years this will be more around fluency and comprehension, whereas in the early years it may be more focused on letter sound knowledge and phonemic awareness.
2. Handwriting and writing: this will range from correct letter formation through to crafting effective sentences using various grammatical structures.
3. Basic fact fluency: our receptions are working on correct number formation, year 1 and 2 students on dot fluency and years 3-6 addition fluency.
4. Routines: at McDonald Park we have our Routines for Excellence which enables us to have a calm and safe learning environment while supporting our students to focus on learning.
5. Learner Profile: our learner profile focuses on our students being resilient, persistent, curious, collaborative, and problem solvers.

In the coming weeks, learning conversation booking sheets will be sent home with your child or posted to Seesaw. Please select your preferred times as soon as possible and return to your child's teacher.

NAPLAN



NAPLAN online testing for year 3 and 5 students will be carried out from Wednesday, March 11th to Monday, March 16th with catch up tests until Friday, March 20th. This is a nationally developed program that provides schools, the Department for Education, and the federal government with information

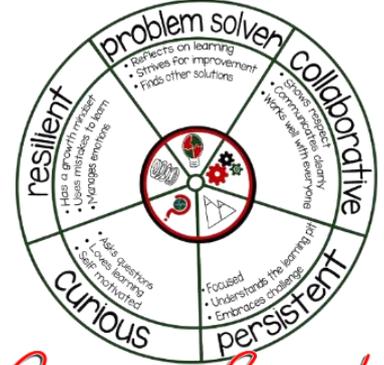
about how education programs are working and what areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

Teachers use a wide range of assessments to create a balanced and comprehensive picture of your child's learning needs. NAPLAN adds to this information by giving a snapshot of progress in literacy and numeracy for students in years three and five.

NAPLAN individual student results are posted to schools later in the year – we do not have a timeframe for this at this stage.

Some parents may wish to withdraw their child on religious grounds or due to philosophical objections to testing. Parents may also wish to exempt their child if they are a new arrival in Australia or have a significant intellectual disability. A form needs to be completed and signed by the parent for a withdrawal or exemption to occur; please contact your child's teacher if you wish to exempt or withdraw your child.

Kirsty Hill, Daniel Castle & Lia Jordan



Coming Events

WEEK 7

Monday, 9 March
PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Adelaide Cup



WEEK 8

All Week
NAPLAN testing Years 3 and 5

WEEK 9

All Week
Years 3-6 SWIMMING LESSONS
Monday, 23 March
Governing Council Meeting 7:30 pm
Friday, 27 March
Assembly 9.10am

WEEK 10

Monday 30 March - Tuesday 31 March
Rooms 11&12 - ROBE Camp
Tuesday 31 March - Wednesday 1 April
Rooms 7&8 - ROBE Camp
Thursday, 2 April
Early dismissal 2:15pm
Friday, 3 April
GOOD FRIDAY



2026 PUPIL FREE DAYS

TERM 2

Week 9 - Friday 26 June

TERM 4

Week 1 - Monday 12 October
Week 2 - Friday 23 October – Mt Gambier Show
Week 8 - Friday 4 December

VISION AWARDS

Term 1, Week 6

PROBLEM SOLVING

Presented to	By	For
William P	Mrs McCracken	demonstrating clear working out in his math problems.
Johniezel C	Miss Eldridge	stretching her thinking by finding multiple solutions to problems.

ENGAGEMENT

Presented to	By	For
Jeff M	Mrs Spencer & Mrs Harding	displaying a "can do" attitude when facing new challenges and demonstrating to others how to complete the task.
Ally G	Mrs Cooper & Ms Hutchinson	her focus and commitment towards her learning; giving her best effort.
Benjamin M	Mrs Cooper & Ms Hutchinson	displaying a growth mindset in taking the time to complete your work to the best of your ability.
Thea J	Ms Huitema	being consistently engaged with her learning and always trying her best in every activity.
Avina K	Miss Schulz & Ms Hutchinson	being actively engaged and participating positively in all learning.
Jamison L	Miss Schulz & Ms Hutchinson	his positive attitude towards all learning areas, regularly sharing his ideas.
Georgia H	Mrs Deppeler & Ms Hutchinson	actively engaging in all learning tasks with a positive attitude.
Owen G	Mrs Deppeler & Ms Hutchinson	showing strong engagement and excellence in Maths fluency.
Cody E	Mrs McCracken	showing a great desire to learn and improve.
Harper S	Mr Bigg	engaging well in lessons and having a growth mindset at school.
Lexii B	Miss Eldridge	being engaged in her learning and always striving to do her best.
Jameson D	Miss Eldridge	regularly sharing his ideas, opinions and knowledge in class discussions.
Marli Mc	Mrs Widdison & Mrs Tilley	demonstrating creative design thinking as she developed and refined her prototype.
Clifton J	Mrs Widdison & Mrs Tilley	demonstrating strong knowledge, curiosity and active engagement throughout the Parliamentary Workshop.
Romeo L	Ms Bundy & Mrs Dempsey	showing continuous effort and engagement across all aspects of learning.
Stevie C	Ms Bundy & Mrs Dempsey	consistently working with effort and engaging in class discussion by giving thoughtful answers and ideas.
Emilia B	Mrs McLean	producing outstanding work samples, indicating high level connection with learning.
Lylah B	Mrs McLean	continued engagement with learning and demonstrating strong leadership skills.
Blake W	Ms Mitchell & Ms Jordan	displaying an excellent attitude towards learning and adapting to new programs and routines.

COLLABORATION

Presented to	By	For
Ava Stone	Mrs Spencer & Mrs Harding	maintaining a positive, encouraging and optimistic attitude which helps motivate others.
Scarlett C	Mrs Wilson & Miss Day	always looking for ways she can help others in the classroom.
Michelle N	Mrs Cooper & Ms Hutchinson	working collaboratively in groups and being an engaged learner.
Alice D	Ms Huitema	working well with others, thoughtfully considering the needs of her peers, and applying herself diligently to all areas of learning.
Lily M	Miss Schulz & Ms Hutchinson	working well with others and helping her peers when they need extra support.
Seth P	Mrs Dew	offering to undertake class jobs.
Gabriella P	Mrs McCracken	sharing ideas in group situations.
Brax B	Mrs McLean	demonstrating exemplary leadership skills within our community.

THRIVING

Presented to	By	For
Winslow T	Mrs Wilson & Miss Day	growing daily in her confidence and being prepared to try new and challenging things at school. Well done Winnie.
Elijah P	Ms Huitema	consistently doing his best and putting in 100% effort in all aspects of his learning.
Ava C	Mrs Deppeler & Ms Hutchinson	consistently upholding our classroom values and being well organised and ready for learning.
Ryder K	Mrs Deppeler & Ms Hutchinson	making a great start to the school year by being a positive role model to those around him.
Tim R	Mrs Dew	excellence in speed of sums in number fluency.
Arabella A	Mr Bigg	thriving during PhOrMeS and maths fluency lessons.
Amelia J	Mrs Widdison & Mrs Tilley	consistently demonstrating focus, effort and active engagement in all lessons.
Iris H	Ms Bundy & Mrs Dempsey	continually working towards improvement and using feedback to help her.
Brayse G	Ms Bundy & Mrs Dempsey	outstanding improvements in writing and persisting through challenges.
Jacob C	Mrs McLean	demonstrating an improved work ethic and displaying a stronger connection to learning.
Caleb P	Ms Mitchell & Ms Jordan	being a totally switched on learner who has adapted well to the new routines and expectations.

RESPECT

Presented to	By	For
Vinny M	Mrs Spencer & Mrs Harding	offering help to others who are struggling, especially in a group activity.
Ella G	Mrs Pitkin & Mrs Harding	being a wonderful role model to new reception children, helping them settle into school.
Blare H	Mrs Pitkin & Mrs Harding	being a wonderful role model to new reception children, helping them settle into school.
Jesaur R	Mrs Wilson & Miss Day	always being kind and positive. Jessie thinks the best of everyone.
Jasmine G	Mrs Cooper & Ms Hutchinson	being a respectful member of the class, always using her manners and being inclusive of others.
Zoey P	Ms Huitema	demonstrating a mature approach to learning, showing dedication and always doing her very best in all tasks.
Charlotte S	Miss Schulz & Ms Hutchinson	being a kind and generous class member who is always helping others.
Ava D	Mrs McCracken	following the class rules and setting a good example for others to follow.
Raven T	Mr Bigg	always showing respect to her fellow classmates and her teachers.
Arnav G	Mr Bigg	always being respectful to his classmates in the room.
Marty S	Miss Eldridge	being a kind and thoughtful class member who's always looking for ways to help others.

Mt. Gambier Library Excursion



Rooms 7 and 8, along with Mrs. Harding, were invited to take part in a very special and unique project. Danni Reade (Mount Gambier Library) and local author, Bianca Richardson, have developed a 'Children's history walk map' of significant local historical objects in the Cave Garden precinct. We were so honoured to be chosen to trial this map and as they said to us, we were the first people in the world to do so!



The map took us from the suitcase outside the library, to the Percy Browne Swimming Baths, the original fire station and under the wisteria arbour, with many other surprises in between. Fun facts and historical information were sprinkled throughout the map.

Conversations, questions and wonderings flowed, and both students and adults learnt an enormous amount about the history of our town.

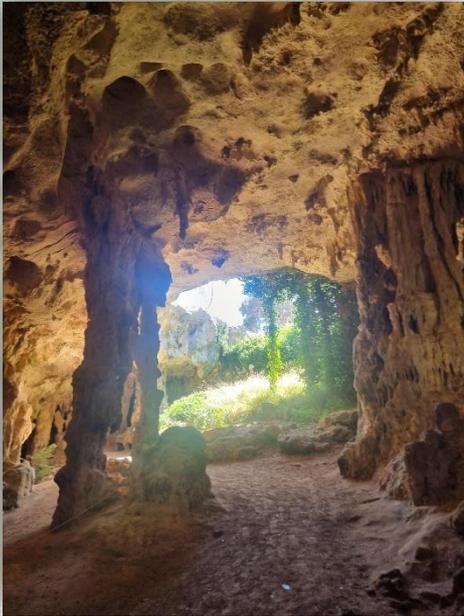
Danni and Bianca asked for our feedback, which they will apply to the map before the public has the pleasure of using it.

The launch for the 'Children's history walk map' is coming soon. We thank our parent volunteers who accompanied us on our excursion.



YELP

Young Environmental Leader Program



On Wednesday in Week 5 we went on our very first YELP excursion to the amazing Naracoorte Caves National Park.

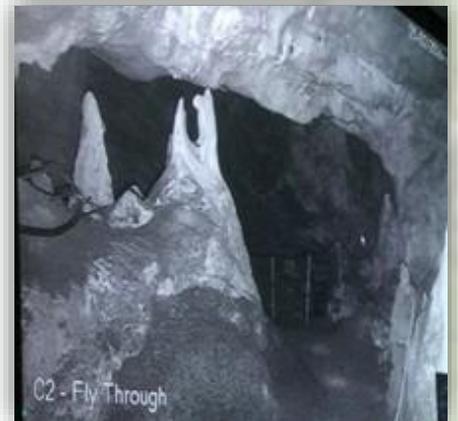
First, we went into the Wonambi Fossil Centre. We saw megafauna and we could not believe how BIG they were! Some of them were way bigger than animals we see today. There was an exhibit showing what the landscape used to look like thousands of years ago when megafauna roamed around. We saw lots of skeletons from animals of the past and even some that are still around today.

Next, we learnt about the Bat Cave. We weren't allowed to go inside because it would disturb the bats and affect their life cycles. We learnt that the bats choose this cave because it has only one entrance, which keeps them

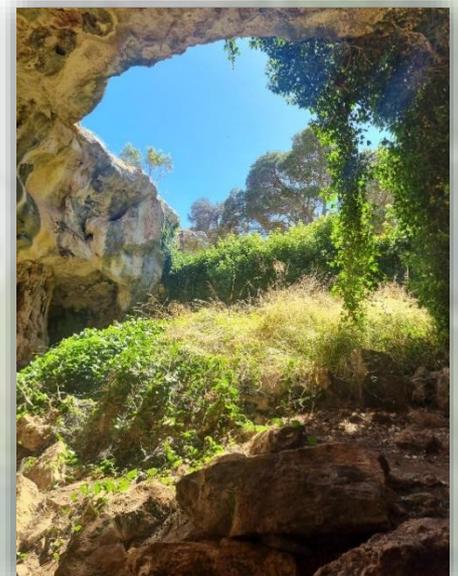
safe. The cave stays at about 40 degrees due to the bat guano (poo!) and the tiny, microscopic insects that live in it and help break it down.

Then we explored Blanche Cave. The bats use this cave in winter to hibernate. When they are hibernating, the cave is closed to the public, so they aren't disturbed. Inside the cave we saw bat nests, a dead possum that has been fossilising for about 30 years so far, and a palaeontologist site where scientists have collected more than 80 fossils!

We had such a great day learning about caves, fossils and bats. We are so excited for camp next term and can't wait to start planning our sustainability project!



Sailor, Nessa and Tilly



STUDENT LEADERSHIP 2026



Brax B, Lylah B, Chloe B, Ruby D, Dom H, Ahna H, Elsie K, Fletcher dV

SPORTS CAPTAINS





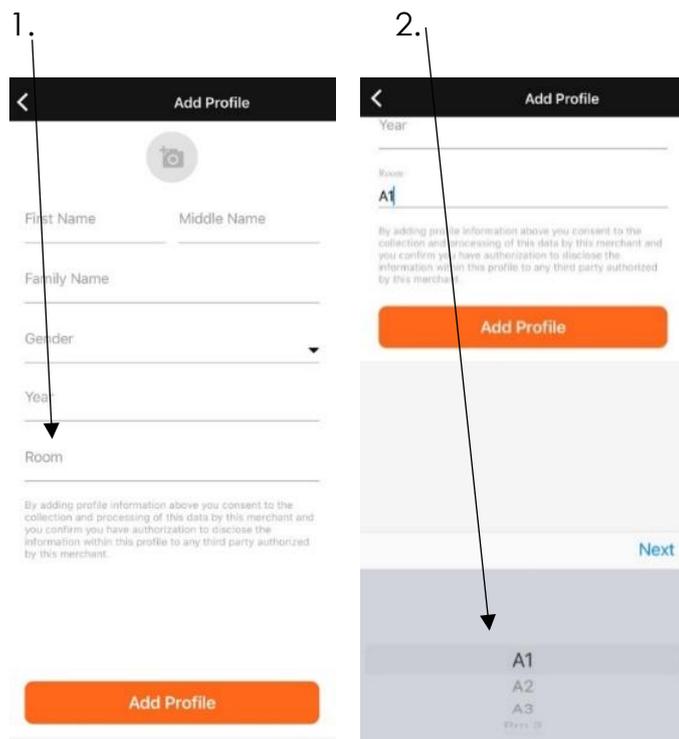
If you have signed up to use the Qkr! app could you please check that your child is in the correct class for this year.

By default, it will select the first class on the list which is A1.

Open Qkr! app

Click on McDonald Park School

Click on Profile to Add/Edit



CALLS TO FRONT OFFICE



In a school the front office is a very busy place. We are happy to pass on messages to students about urgent matters, but we do ask that all non-urgent messages be kept to a

minimum.

In addition to the front office being busy, please be mindful that teachers are not able to check Seesaw messages while teaching during the day and may not see a message until after the school day. Please arrange with your children what is going to happen at home time before they go to school in the morning.

OSHC @ McPARK

OSHC CUSTOMER SUPPORT INFORMATION

Our friendly Customer Support team is here to support you every step of the way, from enquiries and enrolments to bookings and accounts.

CONTACT DETAILS

E oshc@ymcasa.org.au
P 8200 2516

OPERATIONAL HOURS

9:00am – 5:00pm



OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE



OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE McDonald Park OSHC

Important information

What is included

Breakfast and afternoon tea will be provided. Programmed activities including excursions, incursions and in-house activities.

What to bring

YMCA OSHC promotes a healthy eating environment and encourages families to provide their children with a healthy assortment of food to bring for recess, and lunch. As well as healthy brain food and a water bottle every day.

Fees and cancellations

All bookings must be received by Monday 30 March to avoid a \$3 casual fee. Cancellations must be made two weeks prior to the date of the requested care to avoid payment. By making a booking you are agreeing to pay the fees through your direct debit account in addition to normal OSHC bookings. Please review our terms and conditions online for our fee and policy information.

Excursions

Please make sure you arrive at the service at least 30 minutes before the bus departure. Please make sure you sign the Excursion Authorisation when you sign your children into OSHC for that day. While bus drivers in SA are exempt from ensuring passengers under 16 years are restrained. YMCA will make every effort to ensure the safety of all children by using seatbelts that are supplied and be guided by our policies and transport risk assessments.

Learning outcomes:



OUTCOME 1
Children and young people have a strong sense of identity



OUTCOME 2
Children and young people are connected and contribute to their world



OUTCOME 3
Children and young people have a strong sense of wellbeing



OUTCOME 4
Children and young people are confident and involved learners



OUTCOME 5
Children and young people are effective communicators

Sun Smart Policy

Sun Smart guidelines are followed so please ensure children are in appropriate clothing and no singlets or thongs. Sunscreen is provided but if your child is sensitive to sunscreen, please bring your own.

Things to remember

Please note that we are a nut-aware service and ask that you do not bring food that contain nut products. Handheld electronics and smart watches are not permitted at the centre. We welcome feedback and suggestions at any time, please see your centre staff. Programmed activities are subject to change.

Operational hours

OSHC will be open from 6:30am - 6:00pm, please sign in and out between these times.

Daily fees

In-house: \$65
 *CCS Reduced fee: \$9.75 - \$35.75
 Excursion and Incursion: \$85
 *CCS Reduced fee: \$12.75 - \$46.75

*Estimation of fees after subsidy is applied



Book your session via the Xplor Home App
 Visit sa.ymca.org.au/OSHC for more information



OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

INCURSION / IN-HOUSE	FULL FEE	\$67.80	CCS REDUCED FEE*	\$9.75 - \$35.75
	FULL FEE	\$88.70	CCS REDUCED FEE*	\$12.75 - \$46.75

*Estimation of fees after subsidy is applied

Vacation Care | 13 April–24 April

WEEK 1

Monday
13 April

Incursion

Hydration Station



Keeping hydrated is very important at OSHC. Spend the day decorating your own drink bottle and misting fan to take home.

Outcomes: 2, 3, 4, 5

Tuesday
14 April

Excursion

Arena 51



Bring your jump socks and drink bottle for a fun morning at Arena 51
Depart: 9:15am
Return: 11:30am
Transport: Private Bus
Try 'Not to Laugh Challenge' in the afternoon.

Outcomes: 3, 4, 5

Wednesday
15 April

In-House

Hour Of Power



Listen for the whistle!
On the hour from 10:00am to 3:00pm the whistle will blow; you will be given a task to complete. Will you have the power?

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Thursday
16 April

In-House

Create Time Capsules



Create special items to add to your very own time capsule. These can be taken home to bury or keep somewhere safe as a special memory for the future.

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Friday
17 April

In-House

Extreme Tracks and Wheels



Bring your bikes, scooters and helmets.

Spend the day making car tracks through the school, chalk an obstacle course to ride on and colour a wooden car to take home.

Outcomes: 3, 4, 5

WEEK 2

Monday
20 April

In-House

Gross Things



Immerse yourself in all things GROSS! Taste some funky foods, make gooey slime and play with our sensory trays that have some interesting objects.

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Tuesday
21 April

In-House

Sonic The Hedgehog



Complete challenges to collect the rings. Keep your eyes out they may also be hiding.

Make hedgehog balls in the kitchen.

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Wednesday
22 April

Excursion

Valley Lakes Playground



Spend the morning having fun and exploring the playground at the Valley Lakes.

Depart: 9:45am
Return: 11:45am
Transport: Private Bus

Outcomes: 3, 4, 5

Thursday
23 April

Incursion

Little Animal Encounters



Come to the country and learn to line dance. Paint a highland cow and have a special visit from the Little Animals Encounter group.

Start: 12:30pm
Finish: 2:30pm

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Friday
24 April

In-House

ANZAC Day Celebrations



Expect to get sandy today! We will be spending the day creating items out of natural materials to create an army base with figurines and accessories to play with in the sand pit.

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5



Book your session via the Xplor Home App

Visit sa.ymca.org.au/OSHC for more information

McDonald Park OSHC
50-55 North Terrace, Mt Gambier, SA, 5290
Kelly Griffin
0428 401 962

OSHC Support Team
P 08 8200 2516
E oshc@ymcasa.org.au
f /YMCA SA OSHC



COMMUNITY NEWS

SPL SKATE PARK LEAGUES

the Y 2026 SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIONAL SERIES



SUNDAY 12 APRIL

PORT MACDONNELL

SKATE PARK COMPETITION



SCAN TO REGISTER
SCOOT 11:00am
BMX 12:30pm
SKATE 1:30pm

Boat Ramp Access, Port Macdonnell SA 5291, Australia
Free entry, all ages and abilities welcome.



WWW.SKATEPARK.YMCA.ORG.AU

SKATEPARKLEAGUES



2027

Year 7 school tours

Families of current year 6 students are warmly invited to tour Grant High School.

Tours will depart regularly from the Junior Floor on Wednesday 25th of March 2026, with the first tour departing at 3:30pm and the last tour at 6:00pm.

Tours will take approximately 45 minutes.

- ✓ Staff led tours
- ✓ Learn about curriculum
- ✓ Sporting opportunities
- ✓ Classrooms and Educational Technology
- ✓ Community Structure
- ✓ Extra curriculum opportunities



Wednesday 25 March 2026



3:30pm - 6:00pm

No RSVP required

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY 2026 APRIL 15TH

4 young Australian's an hour present to a homelessness service

Ruby's Art Exhibition for YHMD!

YHMD is a national celebration of young people's resilience and an important day of advocacy for sustainable and innovative solutions to support the needs of children and young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

What does 'home' mean to you?

Art from local young people will be on a digital display for 3 weeks at The Riddoch Balcony. Sharing messages of hope, resilience, or ideas for change because everyone deserves a safe space to call home.

April 15th @ The Riddoch Balcony

The Riddoch Arts & Cultural Centre @1 Bay Road, Mt Gambier.

Ruby's is a free service for young people and their families. We work alongside families to help bring them together when they are experiencing relationship difficulties or conflict.

For more information about the art exhibition, or to find out more about Ruby's call us 8725 4383.

Grant High School presents

ROCK OF AGES

HIGH SCHOOL EDITION™

Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre

Thursday 2nd of July
Friday 3rd of July 2026
Matinee and Evening Performances

Book by Chris D'Arienzo
Arrangements and Orchestrations by Ethan Popp

By Arrangement with ORIGIN™ Theatrical
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc., A Concord Theatricals Company