

NEWSLETTER

McDonald Park School



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Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Issue No 4, 26/03/26 - Week 9, Term 1

SCHOOL CAMPS

The end of term 1 is fast approaching with still so much more to do. Week 9 saw families coming into school for their learning conversations and to see first-hand the exciting learning that has been happening for their child. Throughout week 9 our year 3/4 and 5/6 classes participated in a week of swimming at Wulanda Recreation Centre, building on important swimming skills whilst having lots of fun.

Our upcoming camp experiences for Years 3–6 are just around the corner, providing students with valuable opportunities to develop independent living skills, learn, grow, and connect beyond the classroom.



In Week 10, our Year 3/4 students begin their camp experience by visiting the Millicent Museum and exploring local history. They will stay at a campsite in Robe, giving them a wonderful opportunity to experience sleeping away from home, build independence, and develop confidence in a supportive

environment. Students will work together in small groups, strengthening teamwork and cooperation and as a special treat, they'll also enjoy some ice cream during their trip!

Year 5 students will travel to Warrnambool in week 11 and have a camp experience that focuses on water activities, team building and collaboration. As part of our stepped camp policy, this age group have the opportunity to experience an extended camp over 2 nights, further developing their independent living skills.

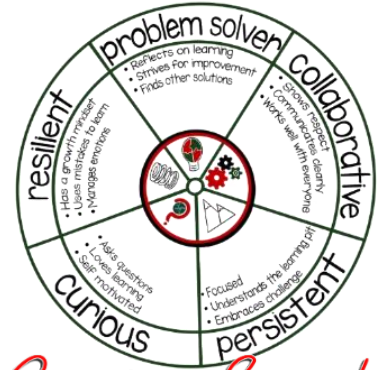


Also in week 11, our Year 6 students will travel to Ballarat to visit Sovereign Hill, where they will immerse themselves in the gold rush era. Through interactive experiences, role-playing, and exploration, students will strengthen their understanding of Australian history while developing important life

skills such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. Camp opportunities support students in building independence, resilience, and self-confidence.

All camps offer exciting opportunities for students to explore new environments, try new activities, and strengthen friendships. We look forward to seeing students challenge themselves, develop new skills, and create lasting memories through these experiences.

We sincerely thank all staff and parents who have volunteered their time to be on camp and provide this opportunity for our students.



Coming Events

WEEK 9

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

SPARKLING DAY OF INCLUSION

Please come dressed in SPARKLE or your favourite bright colours.

Early dismissal 2:15pm

Friday, 3 April

GOOD FRIDAY

WEEK 11

Monday 6 April

EASTER MONDAY

Tuesday 7 April to Thurs 9 April

Year 6 Camp – Ballarat

Year 5 Camp – Warrnambool

Friday 10 April

McDonald Park School is Celebrating

Neurodiversity

with our very own

SPARKLING DAY OF INCLUSION

★ Thursday 2nd of April

We will be celebrating that we are all unique and different and that we all SPARKLE and SHINE in our own way and in our own time

Please come dressed in SPARKLE or your favourite bright COLOURS!

Mrs Spencer will run different activities throughout the week to celebrate diversity and inclusion.

VISION AWARD WINNERS

TERM 1 – WEEK 9

RESPECT		
Presented to	By	For
Hallie B	Mrs Cooper & Ms Hutchinson	being a respectful member of the class, always using her manners and being inclusive of others.
Lily D	Miss Schulz & Ms Hutchinson	being a respectful member of the class and always looking for ways to help others.
THRIVING		
Presented to	By	For
Oliver H	Mrs Spencer & Mrs Harding	growing in confidence and showing "bravery" by trying new and challenging things.
Maia J	Mrs Wilson & Miss Day	always trying her hardest in all areas of learning. Maia is gentle and kind with others; always.
Leo C	Mrs Cooper & Ms Hutchinson	excellent effort and achievement in mathematics lessons. Well done!
Layla S	Mrs Cooper & Ms Hutchinson	displaying a growth mindset in taking the time to complete her work to the best of her ability.
Lacey C	Ms Huitema	her genuine love of learning, producing pleasing results.
Mackenzie F	Miss Schulz & Ms Hutchinson	continually improving in speed of sums in number fluency.
Oscar S	Mrs Deppeler & Ms Hutchinson	consistently demonstrating focus, effort and active engagement in all learning opportunities.
Lara P	Mrs Deppeler & Ms Hutchinson	excellence in all learning areas and quickly adapting to new programs and routines.

PROBLEM SOLVING		
Presented to	By	For
Archer S	Ms Huitema	using his problem solving skills to solve mathematical sums in place value.
ENGAGEMENT		
Presented to	By	For
Maycee T	Mrs Spencer & Mrs Harding	consistently engaging with her learning, showing a positive attitude and applying herself in all learning areas.
Ehpolo K	Mrs Pitkin & Mrs Harding	successfully experimenting with paper technique skills such as scrunching, curling, concertina and fringing.
Rueben E	Mrs Wilson & Miss Day	preparedness to learn new things and his pride in showing us. He's working with greater independence.
Willow O	Mrs Cooper & Ms Hutchinson	her focus and commitment towards her learning; giving her best effort.
Ty M	Ms Huitema	actively participating and engaging in all learning activities.
Ellie-Mae Mc	Miss Schulz & Ms Hutchinson	regularly sharing ideas and opinions during class discussions.
Billie S	Mrs Deppeler & Ms Hutchinson	being engaged in her learning and always striving to do her best.
COLLABORATION		
Presented to	By	For
Hallie R	Mrs Spencer & Mrs Harding	maintaining a positive and encouraging attitude when thoughtfully working with others.
Claire A	Mrs Pitkin & Mrs Harding	being brave and supporting friends in the classroom and the playground.
Alazae P	Mrs Deppeler & Ms Hutchinson	being a kind and thoughtful class member who is always looking for ways she can support others.



VISION AWARD WINNERS

From week 6
Term 1



SAPSASA SWIMMING

Congratulations to the following students from McPark who were selected to represent our school and the Lower South East in SAPSASA swimming. **Oliver E, Amelia F and Isabelle F.** They competed in the state championships in Adelaide on Monday, March 23rd.

SAPSASA swimming was a lot of fun. I learnt many new things about swimming. I got third in my 50m freestyle in my heat so I didn't get a medal.

The events that I was in were the 50m freestyle, 50m backstroke and the 9 x 50m freestyle relay.

I made many new friends also. It was a great experience and boosted my confidence in swimming. It made me join the Mount Gambier Swim Club. Swimming makes you very fit and strong.

Oliver E

I had an amazing weekend swimming for the Lower South East. We stayed in Glenelg all weekend in a hotel next to the beach.

On the Monday we drove over to the pool. Once we went in they showed us where to put our district shirts when we go up for a race. After that we went in the pool to warm up. After warming up we got ready for our races.

After all three of my races I had my relay. Our team did well but we didn't win. I had an amazing weekend trying by best.

Amelia F

When swimming for the Lower South East it was both fun and competitive. Ollie and I did good and had fun. I felt like I represented to team well and it was nice that our team was kind to each other.

It was hard, but you try your best. It might be competitive but I still like swimming. I love being part of a team and representing school in events so it was fun.

I would do it again but I will be in year 7 next year and I won't be able to swim for school unless they do it next year.

Isabelle F



**Lower South East
SAPSASA DISTRICT**



SAPSASA ATHLETICS DAY

On Thursday, March 19, 34 representatives from McDonald Park took part in District Athletics Day at Mount Gambier High School. Students are selected to participate based on their results from Sports Day.

District Athletics Day provides students with an opportunity to compete and if they win their event, they then can compete at SAPSASA athletics in Adelaide later in the year.

Our students were positive representatives of our school, and all competed to the best of their ability. Quite a few students achieved personal bests and several winners and placegetters including Ivy B. who set a new record in the 800m with a time of 3:15.94.

Nash: My favourite part was running in the 100m sprint.

Flynn: I'm happy that I made it to district athletics and got to compete at Mount High.

Chloe: The 800m was favourite part of the day because I got to run all the way around the track.

Alissa: I enjoyed running the 100m and 200m sprints.

Ivy: I loved running in the 800m and setting a new record!

Amelia: My favourite part was the 100m and 200m heats.

Zoe: I loved winning the high jump and getting a ribbon.

Elliott: The long jump as I got second

Arabella: Getting first in discus

Hemi: My favourite event was the 200m heats.

Estelle: Running the 800m because I love running.

Max: Running the 800m because I got a personal best.



AGE LEVEL	EVENT	NAME	PLACING/RESULTS
9 year old girls	800m	Ivy B	1 st 3.15.94 (new record)
	200m	Ivy B	2 nd 36.89
	High Jump	Zoe Y	1 st 90cm
	High Jump	Jordyn B	3 rd 80cm
	Shot Put	Paige G	2 nd 4.57m
	Discus	Tali J	2 nd 9.55m
10 year old girls	High Jump	Scarlett P	1 st 110cm
	Discus	Arabella A	1 st 16.31m
10 year old boys	High Jump	Albert N	2 nd 105cm
	Long Jump	Elliott B	2 nd 3.22m
11 year old girls	High Jump	Amelia J	3 rd 115cm
	Long Jump	Stevie C	3 rd 3.15m
	Discus	Shibbyahna H	1 st 16.29m
11 year old boys	800m	Max Y	3 rd 3.01.06
12 year old girls	100m	Alissa H	2 nd 15.52
	200m	Alissa H	3 rd 34.55
	Long Jump	Chloe B	2 nd 3.31m
	Shot Put	Dom H	3 rd 5.04m
12 year old boys	200m	Blake W	3 rd 32.77
	High Jump	Dom A	1 st 135cm
	Shot Put	Dom A	2 nd 7.89m



O.S.H.C. HOLIDAYS

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

INCURSION (In-House Care)	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





Is your child heading to Primary School in 2027?

Could an **extra \$500 help with their education costs?**

Join Saver Plus, Australia's longest running financial education and matched savings program. Saver Plus is a free program that has supported over 68,000 people to develop lifelong savings habits and receive up to \$500 to assist with education costs.

The Smith Family

is delivering Saver Plus

To support families at

All SA Schools

ENQUIRE NOW



Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St. Laurence and is delivered in partnership with The Smith Family and Berry Street. It is funded by ANZ and the Department of Social Services.

What is Saver Plus?

A free 10-month program that helps you save for your own or your children's education.

- Build lasting savings habits
- Be better prepared for unexpected expenses
- Stay in control
- Improve personal wellbeing

Who can join?

To be eligible for Saver Plus, you must meet all of the following criteria:

- Have a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card
- Receive an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment*
- Be studying yourself or have a child in school (can be starting school next year)
- Have regular income from work (you or your partner)
- Be 18+ years old

*Many income types and Centrelink payments may qualify. Not sure if you qualify? Just fill out the enquiry form and a Savings Coach will reach out to you.

To confidentially find out more, call Saver Plus or fill out the enquiry form in the link.

1300 610 355 saverplus.org.au

FREE

Easter Family Night

26th March 2026

Bunnings Mt Gambier

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Enjoy Easter activities and games, meet the Easter Bunny, FREE Sausage Sizzle connect with local community groups, and learn more at our HEATING NIGHT, sharing tips and support to help keep homes warm this winter. A great night for families and community spirit.

Don't miss out, register now!

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