

# NEWSLETTER

## McDonald Park School



Principal – Kirsty Hill

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Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

Issue No 5, 30/04/26 - Week 1, Term 2

# Anzac Day

*Lest we forget*

The Anzac Day ceremony was good to learn more from the veterans than school can teach. Even though I was only up there for about twenty seconds and I was really tired. I felt good that I did something to honour those who died fighting for our safety all those years ago.

**Fletcher d V**

First when we got there we signed in with Mr Castle. Then we all stood around the memorial while Tony Pasin gave a speech about Anzac Day. We then had one minute silence. After this the people from around Mount Gambier, communities and other schools laid their wreaths and we laid our wreath. **Dom H**

On Anzac Day McDonald Park school student leaders represented the school at the dawn service. There were many people there. Anzac Day is where we remember people who served in the war. But the thing that made me happy was that I got to lay a wreath and that made me feel lucky. Overall I loved the dawn service and how we remember. **Ruby D**

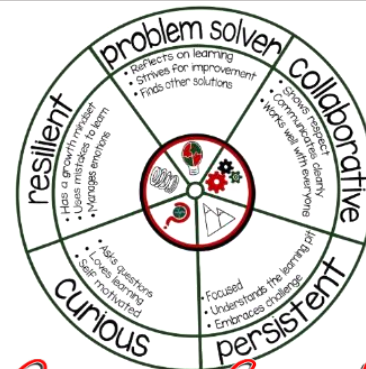
When I first got there it was quite cold, but I managed. First, some people stood around the memorial, the woman had a wreath and the men were holding fake guns. After they stopped moving the important men started talking about Anzac Day and World War One. When they stopped talking, all the wreaths were laid and we stopped for a few seconds to remember. **Lylah B**

We first signed in with Mr Castle then went to the memorial to talk about Anzac Day and what happened. Tony Pasin had a speech to say and then we did our minutes silence. After our minute of silence we laid our wreath then we left. Anzac dawn service was tiring because I had to wake up at 5:00 am. **Brax B**

This Anzac Day was the first time I've ever done a service. It made me think of how we take our safe homes for granted when so many have sacrificed their lives for us. To remember the soldiers I made Anzac biscuits. Lest we forget. **Ahna H**

When the dawn service began army members came out and people began talking and Shiley sang the national anthem. We placed our wreath and did the minute of silence then went home **Elsie K**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2026 I was lucky enough to be invited to help lay a wreath at the Anzac day dawn service. While we were there, we learnt all about the history of the Anzacs and why they are so important to Australia's formation. We even got to see some soldiers honouring the tradition. I was proud to be a representative of our school on such a perfect morning. **Chloe B**



## Coming Events

### **TERM 2 - WEEK 2**

**Friday, 8 May**

Cross Country Naracoorte

### **WEEK 3**

**Monday, 11 May**

Special Person's Breakfast  
SAKG Kitchen

**Friday, 15 May**

Assembly 9:10am Gym

### **WEEK 5**

**Monday, 25 May**

Governing Council Meeting

**Wednesday, 27 May**

National Simultaneous  
Storytime

**Wednesday, 27 May till**

**Wednesday 3 June**

Reconciliation Week

**Thursday, 28 May to**

**Friday 29 May**

YELP Camp

### **WEEK 6**

**Monday, 1 June**

Come & See McPark Tour

**Wednesday, 3 June**

ART SHOW

**Friday, 5 June**

Assembly 9:10am Gym

# SAPSASA BOYS' SOFTBALL



Congratulations to the following students from McPark who were selected to represent our school and the Lower South East in SAPSASA Boys Softball. **Jax S** and **Digby N**. The boys competed in Adelaide from Wednesday 25 March to Friday 27 March last term.

*In SAPSASA Softball we went to Adelaide and played eight games of softball. Some of the people in my team were Digby, Oliver, Jacob, Jaraby, Ethan and two Hamish's.*

*We won six games, lost one game and drew one. In my third game on the first day I hit a home run. In our last game on the last day I caught four balls playing in short stop and hit another home run. We did so good. I was so happy. We came second out of the nine teams.*

**Jax S**

*At SAPSASA Softball I played for the Lower South East. Our coach Mel was a great coach and we had an amazing team.*

*We had some downs and some highs but it was great. We won six games, tied one game and lost one. Overall we came second.*

*My Dad and I stayed at the West Beach Caravan Parks. It had a big playground, two pools, splash pad, jumping pillow and a four to five metre high trampoline.*

*It was so much fun to win but at least we came second. There were lots of skilled kids. I had a great time.*

**Digby N**



## REMINDER : STAFF CAR PARK

We have had two incidents in recent weeks of staff cars being damaged throughout the day. We would like to remind parents/caregivers that the staff car park **is only to be accessed by school staff, community members that retain a disabled parking permit and deliveries to the specified loading zone.**



## WELCOME TO MCPARK SCHOOL TOUR

WEEK 6 – MONDAY 1 JUNE  
9:15 AM

Please contact the school to register

08 8724 9811

[dl.1021.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.1021.info@schools.sa.edu.au)



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

## SPECIAL PERSON'S Breakfast McDonald Park School

WEEK 3

MONDAY 11 MAY

8:30AM

Stephanie  
Alexander Kitchen

All welcome



# ROBE

year 3-4 camps

In week 10 of term 1 the 3/4 classes went to camp at Tarooki, Robe. On the way there we stopped at the Millicent Living History Museum to get an insight into what life was like in the past. We also had recess at the Millicent Playground. After arriving at camp we walked to Robe Ice-Cream for a delicious sweet treat. That afternoon we spent time around the campsite playing, exploring and climbing trees before finishing with a movie.

The next morning we had beach games at Long Beach and surfing lessons with Charlie's Surf School. We had fun playing in the sand and learning the skill of surfing. Many students were able to learn to stand up on the board and ride the waves.

Camp is an exciting, exhausting and rewarding experience that would not be possible without the support of families, the organisation of staff and the volunteers who help with supervision. Thank you to all that helped make the camp possible.

**Kate Eldridge**

*On camp we went to the Millicent Museum. There was a creepy doll with eyes that followed you. It was terrifying!!! - Hudson C*

*When we went to camp I had lots of fun. We walked to Robe Ice-Cream. I got vanilla. - Aiyviana A*

*We went to the Millicent Playground. There was a huge slide and a tunnel that was super long and dirty. - Caileigh F*

*We went to the beach and played beach games. One of the games we played was called holey bucket. The other was called river race. - Tyler J*

*My favourite part about Robe was the surfing lessons. I went on my knees but I fell off a lot. Now I can stand up on the surfboard.*

*- Ivy B*



# WARRNAMBOOL

## year 5 camp

Warrnambool, Victoria, at the Warra Gnan Camp Site, was the destination for the 2026 year 5 school camp. Students were excited about the opportunity to attend, and the weather couldn't have been better.

After our recess stop in Heywood, we arrived at our wonderful camp site and soon set off to visit Flagstaff Hill, to experience life in a colonial historical village. Here the students attended a colonial school complete with costumes and lessons and later made scones, which were delicious. A highlight of the day came later at the Flagstaff Hill light show, which told the story of the shipwreck region.

The following day groups of students participated in surfing, canoeing, bike riding and group games. For many, surfing was a new challenge, which everyone had fun and success with.

On the second night camp goers played a competitive game of Pictionary and watched the movie Oddball, which was a film about the local penguin community and was filmed in Warrnambool.

On the final morning weary campers boarded the bus to visit Tower Hill near Koroit. Here, students were led by an indigenous member of the community to learn about indigenous bush foods and artefacts.

Students had a wonderful time but were certainly eager for a well-earned rest back with their families.

A very big thankyou goes to our parent helpers, Taiggan Height, Michael Wilson and Belinda Walker who attended the camp as well as Erin Munday who made all the arrangements.

**Karen Mitchell**



# BALLARAT

*year 6 camp*

At the beginning of week 11, term one, 48 eager year six campers boarded the bus, bound for the Log Cabin Campsite at Creswick. After a long journey which included a stop off for recess at Hamilton, we arrived at the campsite and after a quick welcome we got straight into our afternoon activities of milk crate stacking, ziplining, the giant swing, trampolining and gaga ball. These activities all rely on team work, communication and challenge students to take safe risks and step out of their comfort zone. That evening, after a delicious BBQ dinner, followed by chocolate pudding, we went for a night walk and later, we sat around campfires and cooked damper on sticks.

The next day we headed to the living museum of Sovereign Hill in Ballarat where we spent the entire day. Our learning included an education session where we created tableaux of key scenes from the Eureka Stockade, a gold pour where we watched molten gold become a solid gold bar worth over half a million dollars, trying our luck at gold panning, an 1850s shopping experience and the underground Red Hill Mine tour which tells the story of the discovery of the Welcome Nugget. We returned to the campsite for an early dinner of lasagne and sticky date pudding before heading back to Sovereign Hill to experience the sound and light show, Aura. We were immersed in the 3D experience that chronicles the beginning of earth and the creation of gold, then moves to the outdoor theatre to tell the story of the Dreaming of the local Wadawurrung people before ending in a sound and light spectacular focusing on life on the discovery of gold in Ballarat, life on the goldfields and the events before, during and after the Eureka Stockade. It was straight to bed after a big day of learning!

Our last day of camp ensured everyone completed their last activity and we thanked the wonderful camp staff before loading the bus to head home.

Thank you to the staff of the Log Cabin Campsite and Sovereign Hill for providing varied, challenging and interesting learning experiences for our students. Thanks to David from Mount Gambier Bus Lines for getting us all there and back safely. Thanks also to parents Damien Bickley and Catherine Nahm and staff Shane Lewis, Vanessa McLean, Katherine Bundy and Lia Jordan for being willing and able to come along and support our year six camp.

**Helen Widdison**





# MCDONALD PARK SCHOOL - TERM 2, 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1	27/04	28/04	29/04	30/04	01/05
WEEK 2	04/05	05/05	06/05	07/05	08/05 SE Cross County Naracoorte 
WEEK 3	11/05 Special persons breakfast 	12/05	13/05	14/05	15/05 Assembly 9.10am
WEEK 4	18/05	19/05	20/05	21/05	22/05
WEEK 5	25/05 Governing Council mtg	26/05	27/05 Reconciliation Week  National Simultaneous Storytime	28/05 YELP camp	29/05
WEEK 6	01/06 Reconciliation Week Come & See McPark Tour 9.15am	02/06	03/06  Art Show	04/06	05/06 Assembly 9.10am
WEEK 7	08/06 Public Holiday - King's Birthday	09/06	10/06	11/06	12/06 Casual day Story Dogs
WEEK 8	15/06	16/06	17/06	18/06	19/06
WEEK 9	22/06 Governing Council mtg	23/06	24/06 Mid year Rec transition	25/06 LGU visit Mid year Rec transition	26/06 Pupil free day
WEEK 10	29/06 All reports and portfolios to go home	30/06	01/07	02/07	03/07 2.15pm early dismissal

# YMCA OSHC REGIONS A NEW BEGINNING

We're excited to introduce a **new approach** to child and youth development across our regions, focused on **shared values, equal importance**, and **positive identity**.

This initiative creates **clear, aspirational connections** that are easy to understand and share, strengthening consistency across all YMCA communities while supporting **meaningful growth** for every child and young person.

**BELONG**



*Creating inclusive spaces where every child feels valued and accepted*

MOUNT GAMBIER LIBRARY

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Term 2: 28 April to 2 July 2026

### STEM CLUB

#### 3...2...1... BLAST OFF!

Tuesdays 4:00pm to 5:00pm

Get ready for an out-of-this-world term inspired by NASA's Artemis II mission around the Moon! Each week, space explorers will dive into hands-on STEM challenges packed with creativity, problem-solving, and fun!

Suitable for ages 8 to 12. Bookings essential.



### MINECRAFT CLUB

#### MINECRAFT MAYHEM

Wednesdays 4:00pm to 5:00pm

Get ready for a term full of Minecraft fun! Tackle a new challenge every second week, with free play, exploring, and building in between. No matter how you play, there's something exciting every session at Minecraft Mayhem.

Suitable for ages 7+. Bookings essential.



### LEGO FAN CLUB

#### LEGO ADVENTURES

Thursdays 4:00pm to 5:00pm

LEGO builders will take on a series of fun and creative challenges designed to spark imagination and develop building skills.

All LEGO provided, just bring your imagination! Bookings not required.




6 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier  
Phone 08 8721 2540  
[mountgambier.sa.gov.au/library](http://mountgambier.sa.gov.au/library)

Mount Gambier Library

## NATIONAL FAMILIES WEEK

### FAMILY NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY

Thursday 14 May, 5:30pm to 7:00pm

Celebrate Families Week with a night of free kids' activities, games, and food – fun for the whole family!

Drop in event, bookings not required.

**BUNNINGS  
MAKER  
TABLE**

**GLITTER  
TATTOOS**

**BALLOON  
ANIMALS**

**STEM  
ACTIVITIES**

**ARTS  
AND  
CRAFTS**

**GAMES**

**DINNER  
PROVIDED**





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- ✓ Be 18 years or older
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- ✓ Be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment
- ✓ Have a child in school, starting school next year, or be studying yourself
- ✓ Get a regular income (can be you or your partner)
- ✓ Agree to join in free online financial education workshops

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