

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 11, 17/09/26 - Week 9, Term 3

Swimming, Guru Animations & Music

It has been an exciting time at **McDonald Park School**, with students enjoying some fantastic learning experiences both in and beyond the classroom.



Our **Reception to Year 2 students** have been making a splash during their swimming program! Students have been developing important water-safety skills, building their confidence in the water and practising swimming techniques. It has been wonderful to see students encouraging one another, listening carefully to their instructors and showing persistence as they learn new skills. Swimming is not only lots of fun, but also provides our youngest students with valuable lifelong skills for staying safe around water.

Across the whole school, students have also had the exciting opportunity to participate in **Guru Animations**. Students explored the creative world of animation and discovered how ideas and stories can be brought to life.



The sessions encouraged creativity, imagination, problem-solving and teamwork, with students thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to create and learn in a different way.



🎵 Music Making Across the Limestone Coast

Our **music students** also had a very special opportunity to come together with students from across the **Limestone Coast** for an orchestra workshop. Working as part of a large orchestra gave our students the chance to rehearse alongside other young musicians, develop their ensemble skills and experience the excitement of making music together on a much bigger scale.

The experience culminated in a **performance showcasing everything the students had learned**. It was fantastic to see their hard work, concentration and teamwork come together as they performed for an audience. Opportunities like this help students build confidence, develop their musical skills and experience the wonderful sense of achievement that comes from being part of an ensemble.

These experiences are a great example of the diverse opportunities available to our students at **McDonald Park School** — building confidence, creativity, teamwork, independence and new skills along the way.

A big thank you to the staff, instructors, visiting presenters and community members who helped make these wonderful experiences possible for our students!



Coming Events

WEEK 9

Friday 18 September

Assembly 9:10am in gym

WEEK 10

Friday 25 September

Last day of term 3,
EARLY DISMISSAL 2:15 pm

TERM 4 – WEEK 1

Monday 12 October

PUPIL FREE DAY



VISION AWARDS

Term 3 week 9

RESPECT		
Presented to	By	For
Sienna R	Mrs Schebella	showing respect, being a great helper in the classroom who is always kind to her class mates.
Audrey Mc	Mrs Merrett & Mr Agnew	showing respect during swimming lessons by listening to the instructors.
Aleayah D	Miss Amanda, Miss Schulz & Ms Hutchinson	being a valued member of our class. She is a kind and respectful person. She listens to others and gets along with everyone in the class. Keep shining Aleayah!
Alazae P	Ms Simpson & Ms Hutchinson	being a role model to her peers through her kindness and attitude towards learning.
THRIVING		
Presented to	By	For
Azrael C	Mrs Schebella	thriving, being focused on his learning, helpful to his teachers and peers.
James H	Mrs Pitkin & Mrs Harding	listening to feedback and focusing on his next step when writing.
Aarush S	Mrs Pitkin & Mrs Harding	listening to feedback and focusing on finger spaces when writing.
Lilly Mc	Mrs Wilson & Mrs Waters	always trying her hardest; quietly participates and excitedly shares her thinking.
Rory W	Mr Clark	always doing his best during the day. Super impressive!
Anna F	Mr Clark	having a wonderful ability to concentrate on the task at hand and always doing her best.
Pippa VdL	Mr Clark	giving 100% no matter the task. She leads by example.
Spencer A	Mrs Cooper & Ms Hutchinson	his improvement in demonstrating persistence in solving problems.
Liam V	Mrs Cooper & Ms Hutchinson	making steady progress in following class and school rules and expectations. He is also taking more responsibility for his actions, which is a positive step forward.
Daphne C	Ms Huitema	working to a high standard in all areas of the curriculum, particularly maths.
Angel A	Miss Amanda, Miss Schulz & Ms Hutchinson	thriving throughout this term! She listens to others, cares about our class and completing her work. You are a superstar, keep it up!

PROBLEM SOLVING		
Presented to	By	For
Spencer C	Mr Clark	helping others clean and pack up the class. A real leader's effort.
Chase R	Ms Huitema	quickly solving problems in maths with sharing and equal grouping.
ENGAGEMENT		
Presented to	By	For
Asher P	Mrs Wilson & Mrs Waters	listening carefully to instructions, caring about his learning and trying to do his best. Well done Asher!
Everly P	Mrs Pitkin & Mrs Harding	bounding in with a smile on her face each day and for having-a-go with writing.
Issac C	Mrs Wilson & Mrs Waters	participating enthusiastically in PhOrMeS and maths lessons and showing resilience in the classroom.
Jordan D	Mrs Merrett & Mr Agnew	having increased your focus in PhOrMeS, you've made such an improvement. We are very proud of you!
Zack R	Mrs Cooper & Ms Hutchinson	actively engaging in problem solving and showing a thoughtful willingness to question processes in order to deepen his understanding.
Alexander T	Ms Huitema	writing brilliant sentences during our PhOrMeS lessons.
Owen A	Miss Amanda, Miss Schulz & Ms Hutchinson	always doing his best learning and listening in class. He completes all tasks and is a valued member of our class. Keep being awesome Owen!
Koby J	Miss Amanda, Miss Schulz & Ms Hutchinson	being a valued member of our class. He can be kind, funny and powers through even when things are hard! Keep up this consistency and you will be a copy-star!
Madsen D	Ms Simpson & Ms Hutchinson	always engaging in his learning and asking questions to deepen his understanding.



YELP

Our native bee hotels are ready!



Our YELP students have finished creating four native bee hotels for our school garden! We researched native bees, planted bee-friendly native plants and carefully designed and built hotels to provide safe spaces for native bees to rest.

A big thank you to Bunnings Mount Gambier for generously donating timber, bamboo and native plants to help make our project possible. We can't wait to see if Blue Banded Bees move into our new hotels next year!



2027 ENROLMENTS

During term four we will begin the process of setting up classes for the following year. It is essential that we know as soon as possible of any changes in future enrolments. If you know of any new children who will be starting at McDonald Park School in 2027 or of families leaving McDonald Park School, please contact us as soon as possible. The allocation of teachers and number of classes at each year level is dependent on accurate information, so we appreciate your support in notifying any changes to the front office.

GUIDELINES FOR CLASS PLACEMENT

- Class composition is based on expected numbers for each year level and where possible to provide flexibility to allow for the placement of new enrolments.
- This school appreciates that sometimes, because of special circumstances, parents would like to have input into the class selection for their child.
- Whether a student remains with a teacher for more than one year is at the discretion of the school.
- Students need to be distributed evenly across classes within the school in accordance with Department for Education guidelines.
- At the end of third term, a note will be placed in the newsletter advising parents that the process is about to begin and requesting that parents put information in writing regarding their child's needs. All requests to be submitted by Friday, week one of term four. This information needs to be completed annually, requests will not be carried over for future years.
- Requests must be child focussed and on the basis of a welfare issue - medical or social / emotional need. (**NOT** a request for a specific **teacher**)
- Recommendations from pre-school teachers will be taken into consideration when allocating reception students.
- Late submissions will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.
- Prior to class selection, students will be given the opportunity to list the names of five preferred learning partners within the same year and these are to be acknowledged by parents.
- While all requests will be considered, **there are no guarantees**, allocation of students to classes will ultimately be at the discretion of staff.
- The process takes six to seven weeks to complete and is completed as part of the staff meeting schedule.



Next term we will begin organising classes for 2027. If parents have information which will help with their child's placement, **please put this information in a letter addressed to the principal, marked 'confidential' by Friday October 16 2026, the end of week one of next term.** We cannot promise that we will be able to meet every request. However, the information will be taken into consideration. Please do not request a specific teacher.

SAPSASA TRACK & FIELD



I went up to Adelaide to compete in four events for SAPSASA Track and Field. I did shot put, discus, relay and high jump. I placed in three of the four events. I came second in the high jump and the relay and third in the shot put. I am proud of what I have done. The weather was sunny but there was a bit of wind that made it a little cold. The track was super bouncy which felt really good. I had lots of fun there and it was great to see some friends. It was pretty scary at first, but I got used to it.

Dom A

I had an amazing time at SAPSASA Track and Field. It was an awesome experience. I hope that lots of people can experience this throughout their life. I recommend if you get to go to get any piece of merchandise for a memory of a moment to cherish forever. I made friends with people and talked with people from across South Australia. I saw new techniques that people used in shot put and discus.

Shibbyahna H

My experience at SAPSASA Track and Field was great. I had a great time. I only just cleared 1 metre and I got out at 1 metre 5 centimetres. I drew in fourth position for the high jump and came fourth in the relay. In the relay I was the fourth person to run. It felt like it was all down to me.

My first event was high jump, after high jump I had about two hours until the relay. I personally didn't think I would have got that far. I am surprised I even jumped that high.

My Dad and Mum told me to just believe in myself, so that it what I did. I did it for my family and my friends.

Scarlett P

Representing the Lower South East for SAPSASA track and field was really fun. I got to race against a lot of girls my age. It was really fun seeing all my friends and racing in the baton relay. All the girls I raced were really fast and I got to see how fast they really were. There was one bad thing that happened in the baton relay, one girl tripped over because another girl crossed over lanes. Overall SAPSASA was a really fun time and I would do it again.

Alissa H



SAPSASA track and field was really fun. It was held at the SA Athletics Stadium. I was in the 10 year old girl's division three discus team. I got to meet lots of new people and learn a lot of new skills to help improve my technique. Even though I got fifth overall and not top three I still had a lot of fun and I'm really proud of myself for getting to the SAPSASA track and field team for 2026.

Arabella A



OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Vacation Care | 28 Sept–9 Oct

IN-HOUSE NON-SUBSIDY ANNUATION	FULL FEE	\$70.60	CCS REDUCED FEE*	\$9.75 – \$35.75
	FULL FEE	\$92.40	CCS REDUCED FEE*	\$12.75 – \$46.75

*Estimation of fees after subsidy is applied

WEEK 1

Monday
28 September

In-House

Ahoy, Mateys



All hands on deck! Join us for a swashbuckling day of pirate adventures. Treasure hunts, games, crafts and plenty of fun decorating ready for the high seas.

Outcomes: 2, 4, 5

Tuesday
29 September

Excursion

Tactical Ops



Go on a special mission to Reidy OSHC. Become a part of the Tactical Ops Team, play laser tag, build forts and conquer obstacles. Depart: 10:30am Return: 12:45pm Transport: Private Bus

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Wednesday
30 September

In-House

Apprentice Tradie



Get ready to learn, create, and get hands-on! Today you will have the opportunity to try out different trades and skills through fun, practical activities, challenges and team-based experiences.

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Thursday
1 October

Incursion

It's Party Time



Get ready to dance, laugh and party! We're turning OSHC into a mini disco with music, lights, dancing and fun party games. Show off your best moves, dress to impress and you might even win a prize!

Outcomes: 3, 4, 5

Friday
2 October

Incursion

Dwyers Boxing



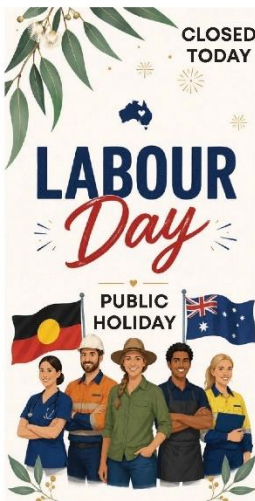
Enjoy an exciting boxing incursion, learning basic moves, coordination, and fitness in a fun, safe, and energetic session.

Start: 10:00am
Finish: 12:00pm

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

WEEK 2

Monday
5 October



Tuesday
6 October

Incursion

Colour Me Crazy



Design and colour your own name tile, collaborate on a colourful group mural, or enjoy a variety of fun and engaging colouring activities that you can take home.

Outcomes: 2, 4, 5

Wednesday
7 October

In-House

Interactive Tech Fun



Get moving while having fun with technology! Enjoy active games and activities like GoNoodle, Just Dance, SingStar, and Wii Fit to build coordination, stay active, and make screen time more engaging.

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Thursday
8 October

Excursion

Sheep, Snacks and Screens



Get ready for a Baa-riant movie adventure! Sit back, relax and enjoy the movie with your friends.

Depart: 9:30am
Return: 1:00pm
Transport: Private Bus

Outcomes: 2, 3, 4, 5

Friday
9 October

In-House

Air Track Action



Get ready to jump, tumble and have fun at Air Track Gymnastics Day! Learn new skills, challenge yourself and enjoy a day packed with movement, laughter and gymnastics.

Outcomes: 2, 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



CASUAL DAY/ DISCO FUNDRAISER - Friday Week 7

Thank you to everyone who donated either
gold coins or via the Qkr! app.
The total raised to go towards playground improvements
was **\$1,571.12**

Community News



\$hop for your School
14 SEPTEMBER – 18 OCTOBER

Upload receipts

1ST PRIZE ** \$5000
2ND PRIZE \$2500
1ST PRIZE \$1000

Earn points

Turn your everyday shopping into points for your school.
Shop at participating retailers, upload your receipts.

Help your chosen school compete
for a share of \$8,500 in prizes!



FIND
OUT
MORE

*See website for Competition Ts & Cs.

**Mount Gambier**
Marketplace
Essentially Local



Come & Try Open Day
Equilus
formerly Riding for the Disabled.

Friday 9th October
10am - 2pm
Entry- \$30 per family
635 Sunnybrae Rd
Wandilo SA 5291
Open to all abilities and ages
BBQ Lunch available to purchase.
Come and experience-grooming, riding and driving horses, as well as other non-horsey children activities in the indoor arena.

Proudly supporting and attending
Glitter & Glow Parties
0489 247 548
MOBILE PARTY BUSINESS

All funds raised go to supporting Equilus Mount Gambier

For animal welfare weight restrictions apply to horse riding. Waivers must be signed on the day

Do you have a health care card? You could be eligible for Saver Plus.

For every dollar you save, you'll get a dollar from ANZ to spend on educational costs, up to \$500.

1300 610 355
saverplus.org.au


saverplus

Build lifelong,
life-changing
savings habits
AND
find out how **ANZ**
will double your
savings, up to \$500

Saver Plus supports people to develop life-long savings habits. It's delivered by Brotherhood of St. Laurence, The Smith Family and Berry Street Yooralla. It's funded by ANZ and Department of Social Services, learn more at saverplus.org.au

saverplus.org.au
1300 610 355

Saver Plus Information Sessions

Would you like to know more about the Saver Plus program?

Join us for an information session to hear more about joining or ask any questions you may have.

Eligibility criteria apply, to find out more visit
<https://saverplus.org.au/>

Register via link
[Register Here](#)
or via QR Code




saverplus