

# NEWSLETTER

## McDonald Park School



Principal – Kirsty Hill

Chairperson Governing Council – Talia Birks

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Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

Issue No 12, 15/10/26 - Week 1, Term 4



## A Splash of Success at our **COLOUR RUN** And Gear Up for Sports Day!

### Colour Run Exceeds All Expectations!

Last Thursday, our school grounds were transformed into a vibrant sea of rainbow colours for our annual Colour Run, and what a phenomenal day it was! With the temperature reaching a sunny 31°C, the weather couldn't have been more perfect for getting active outdoors. Students had an absolute blast running through clouds of bright powder, navigating the obstacle course, and cooling off under the sprinklers along the track.

We are thrilled to announce that thanks to your incredible generosity and enthusiasm, **we have reached and surpassed our fundraising goal of \$20,000 (before fees)!** This is an extraordinary achievement that will directly benefit our students and school programs.

A massive thank you goes out to our wonderful parent volunteers who gave up their time to assist on the day—from setting up obstacles to manning the colour stations, we couldn't have done it without you. We would also like to extend our gratitude to our families and the wider community for coming along to cheer on the students and for supporting this fantastic event so generously.

**Please remember that all student prize orders must be finalised by Saturday, October 31. Families will be notified via Seesaw in a couple of weeks' time once the prizes have arrived and are ready to be collected.**



### Mark Your Calendars: Sports Day & Marathon Run!

Keep those running shoes handy because the excitement continues with our upcoming **Sports Day on Thursday, November 12!** Families are warmly encouraged to come along, bring a picnic rug, and enjoy a wonderful day of community spirit. Sports Day is always a highlight on the school calendar and provides a fantastic opportunity for our students to focus on teamwork, fair play, and sportsmanship, while celebrating both personal and team achievements.

Leading into Sports Day, we will be holding our **Marathon Run events on Monday, November 9.** The runs will kick off at 9:00 AM with our 5-year-old students, with subsequent age groups setting off every 15 minutes until the final run for our 12-year-olds at 10:45 AM. Come on down to cheer on our runners as they earn early points for their house teams!

Keep an eye on your notifications—further details and schedules for Sports Day will be sent out via Seesaw very soon!



## Coming Events

### WEEK 3

**Friday 30 October**

Assembly 9:10 am in gym

### WEEK 5

**Monday 9 November**

Marathon

**Tuesday 10 November**

Remembrance Day  
Service 10:30 am

**Wednesday 11 November**

Remembrance Day

**Thursday 12 November**

SPORTS DAY

### WEEK 6

**SUNDAY 15 November**

**School Working Bee SAKG**  
**9:00 am start**

**Monday 16 November**

Patch Theatre  
Rec- Yr. 2 & Kindy Students

**Friday 20 November**

Assembly 9:10 am in gym

**Saturday 21 November**

Christmas Parade



# VISION

## AWARDS

Term 4, Week 3 Assembly

### RESPECT

| Presented to | By                      | For                                                                                    |
|--------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Eli J        | Mr Bigg                 | showing respect for his classmates and being kind to people in the yard.               |
| Shibby H     | Ms Mitchell & Ms Jordan | being the lovely human being you are. We will miss you.                                |
| Maliyah W    | Ms Mitchell & Ms Jordan | the calm, inclusive and positive way you go about school life.                         |
| Ariella W    | Mrs McLean              | working with a stronger work ethic and contributing more readily to class discussions. |

### THRIVING

| Presented to | By                     | For                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Violet D     | Mrs McCracken          | working hard on learning various multiplication facts.                                                                                  |
| Theo W       | Mr Bigg                | thriving in all work that he attempts and being very knowledgeable in class.                                                            |
| Keegan T     | Miss Eldridge          | demonstrating an excellent understanding of Math concepts.                                                                              |
| Dhriya P     | Ms Bundy & Mrs Dempsey | working consistently across all learning areas and showing commitment through independence, effort and responsibility for her learning. |
| Amelie D     | Ms Bundy & Mrs Dempsey | working consistently in all learning areas and showing commitment to improving her skills and knowledge.                                |
| Noah D       | Ms Bundy & Mrs Dempsey | showing excellent engagement in tasks about financial literacy and thinking creatively in design tasks.                                 |
| Logan W      | Mrs McLean             | consistently completing work with effort and grit.                                                                                      |

### COLLABORATION

| Presented to | By            | For                                                            |
|--------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oliver P     | Mrs McCracken | sharing ideas with peers during learning activities.           |
| Abbi P       | Miss Eldridge | working effectively as part of a group in collaborative tasks. |

### PROBLEM SOLVING

| Presented to | By                        | For                                                                                      |
|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jebb P       | Mrs McCracken             | explaining his working out in maths lessons.                                             |
| Maci B       | Mr Bigg                   | being persistent in her Maths fluency this term to solve division problems.              |
| Tyler J      | Miss Eldridge             | striving to improve his multiplication fluency.                                          |
| Annie L      | Mrs Widdison & Mrs Tilley | her independent approach and determination when developing her paper engineering skills. |
| Zane C       | Mrs McLean                | continuing to persist when learning gets tough by using successful communication.        |

### ENGAGEMENT

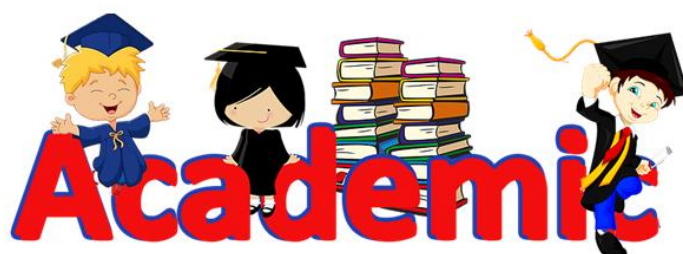
| Presented to | By                        | For                                                                                                 |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jasper C     | Mrs Dew                   | by drawing detailed observations during the Boandik Egg and Orchid time.                            |
| Olivia D     | Mrs Dew                   | her observations and drawings of how nature has changed in the Boandik season, Egg and Orchid time. |
| Lucas Mc     | Mrs Dew                   | engaging and recording observations during the Boandik season, Egg and Orchid time.                 |
| Nevika B     | Mrs McCracken             | going above the expectation in lessons and when completing homework tasks.                          |
| Taylor H     | Mrs McCracken             | actively participating in PhOrMeS morphology lessons.                                               |
| Amelia G     | Mr Bigg                   | engaging well in lessons and striving to do her best with her work.                                 |
| Toby W       | Miss Eldridge             | being a focussed worker who consistently strives to do his best.                                    |
| Sophie D     | Mrs Widdison & Mrs Tilley | her focus and care when learning and applying new paper engineering techniques.                     |
| Cheyden R    | Mrs Widdison & Mrs Tilley | his increased effort and commitment to completing his homework.                                     |
| Addison W    | Mrs Widdison & Mrs Tilley | her growing understanding of sentence structure and parts of speech.                                |
| Izzy Mc      | Ms Bundy & Mrs Dempsey    | showing persistence in maths and a commitment to improving her skills.                              |
| Delilah S    | Mrs McLean                | continuing to strive to reach her learning goals.                                                   |



World Teachers' Day



World Teachers' Day is officially recognised on Friday 30 October 2026. We celebrated earlier in the week with a morning tea for our teaching staff. McDonald Park School has a positive reputation in the local community and we often comment as a leadership team that we have amazing and highly skilled teachers at our site for which we are very grateful. We are sure that you agree and will join us in acknowledging the great work of our teachers on this day. As parents you may like to acknowledge something that you value about your child's teacher and send a Seesaw message or you may write a message with your child. The aim of the day is acknowledgement of the great work of individuals who make a difference each and every day.



At the end of each year we recognise a girl and boy from each year level for their academic achievement. Last year we asked for sponsorship from the community for these awards and had an overwhelming response. We have 12 awards valued at \$30.00 and are looking for sponsors. The recipient receives a \$30.00 voucher and certificate indicating who sponsored the award (organised by the school).

If your family or business would like to become a sponsor of these awards you will be acknowledged at the end of year presentation. Please indicate below if you would like to participate. Any further queries please contact the front office.

## McDonald Park School 2026 Academic Sponsorship

Name: ..... Telephone: .....

Email: .....



On the 14<sup>th</sup> September, the STEM Bright Future program came to visit us. I had a blast. My favourite part was the activities, They were educational and fun. My three favourite activities were the VRs, Dr Eureka and the Beach Energy activity. They taught us crucial skills for adulthood. They talked about possible pathways that STEM can take you for example, engineering. The program was delivered by AREEA and Beach Energy.

The overall program was awesome (it was also free) and it made me think about what else STEM can do for you.

#### **Caleb N6**

At the start of the activity rotations, I did the circuit bit. It was a kit filled with magnets, light bulbs, sound maker and batteries that powered the whole thing up. You had to make a circuit that works. The Gravitrax activity involved building towers and rolling a marble down, so it was like a train track. The Turning Tumbles is a game where you had to make sure that the right pieces were in the right spot so that the correct coloured marbles fell down.

My favourite activities were VR and Dr Eureka because they were very interesting games. I feel like this would be a good job opportunity because there are a lot of different jobs (in STEM).

#### **Mai N6**



# SPORTS DAY

## REMINDERS

We welcome all parents and their families to come and support their children for the day. Please bring a packed recess and lunch. The canteen will be open for counter sales, drinks and ice-creams only. There will be **NO lunch orders** processed on the day. A BBQ will be available for the lunch period, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Parent helpers are welcome.

Please respect the allocated areas for sprint viewing in the centre of the oval. It is an OHS issue for parents to be at the finish line.

### Footwear

For students to perform at their best in any sport or athletic activity it is important to have the right equipment. Their footwear is no different. Here is some good advice from Bryce Strachan, a local podiatrist.

Athletics generally involves a lot of running, which requires a 'RUNNING' shoe (also known as a jogger or sneaker). A running shoe should be a LACE-UP shoe, it should bend at the ball of the foot and it should have a strong heel counter. The laces should be tied firmly to hold the shoe on the foot correctly to give the most support and shock absorption. This is to maximise performance and minimise injuries.

Some shoes such as SKATE shoes or STREET shoes look like running shoes; however they don't perform like one. Often these types of shoes are heavy, have little shock absorption and don't lace up correctly, so avoid these when doing athletic activity.

### Clothing

It would be great to see as many students in polo tshirt or t-shirts of their team colours. All students are required to wear clothing that is consistent with the school dress code. It is not appropriate to wear tops that do not have sleeves.

### Hats

Wearing hats will be compulsory for Sports Day, as with every other day. Legionnaire, wide brimmed or bucket hats are all acceptable. Hats that are named are easier to return to their owners. Hats will be able to be taken off for championship events and events such as high jump, hurdles etc but will need to be worn when students are not actively involved in the event.

### Water

Please ensure that your child/ren have a bottle of water that is clearly marked with their name. This will ensure that they stay hydrated and well throughout the day.

**A Sports Day timetable and map will be sent home in week 4.**



# SAPSASA BASKETBALL



My experience at SAPSASA Basketball was amazing. All of the schools we played were really hard to beat. The hardest team to beat was definitely Tenison as they have a lot of young talent. Most of the teams we played had an SA Country player which made them even harder to beat. Our team also played amazing. We made it to the grand final in Adelaide but sadly we lost by 2 points to Tenison.

Altogether I had a great experience at SAPSASA Basketball and I had lots of fun.

**Caleb P**

Our team got all the way to the final and lost by 2 points to another Mount Gambier team which was Tenison. I knew all the Tenison boys so it was good if anyone won that wasn't us, I wanted it to be Tenison.

I think our whole team played really well and it was really unlucky that we lost. Our team had really good chemistry throughout the tournament. The loss that we had in the finals was McPark's first loss in 2 years which is crazy. It was a really fun experience.

**Dominic A**

McPark got second in the SAPSASA Basketball competition. It was fun. I liked it. The final was the first game we lost, it was sad and hard to watch on the bench. The car ride home was a sad and mad ride. It was fun being part of the SAPSASA boy's basketball team.

**Zane C**

The experience that I had throughout the tournament was amazing. It was my first year in SAPSASA Basketball and we made it to Adelaide. I am so happy we made it to the grand final. We lost by 2 points against Tenison. At our hotel in Marion, I had loads of fun in the pool, on the water slide and in the arcade. Thank you to my coach and team mates for making my first year in SAPSASA amazing.

**Lucas M**

SAPSASA Basketball was really fun and enjoyable. Sometimes we got emotional and tired. We came second and lost to Tenison by 2 points. I'm kind of glad that for two years in a row McPark made it to Adelaide.

**Brax B**

My experience at Adelaide was lots of fun. When we got to Adelaide the whole team was at the water park. We were in the pool for half the day. When we woke up in the morning everyone was very sore because of the water slide.

Our first game wasn't great but we still won. Our next few games we were playing great. We got to the semi finals and won so were in the grand final against Tenison. The game was close the whole way through, but in the end they won by 2 points.

**Van A**

Last week when I went to SAPSASA Basketball I really liked it, it was fun. We won every game but we lost in the grand final by 2 points against Tenison. It was still fun. We did verse a few of our friends from Tenison but I reckon we did a good job in that game. I think it was just that they scored the last 2 points. They just did better than us. Dom scored 15 to 20 points in one game. I didn't score but I was mainly passing and sharing the ball around when I got it. Our defence was really strong. I think that Dom, Caleb and Van played the best throughout the tournament.

**Brayse G**

SAPSASA Basketball this year was lots of fun, even though we got runner up in the grand final against Tenison by 2 points. We went un-defeated for nearly two years in a row but we lost that one game this year. We all stayed at the Marion Holiday Park and we all clogged up the water slide.

**Oliver E**



# MCDONALD PARK SCHOOL - TERM 4 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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



|        | MONDAY                                                                             | TUESDAY                                          | WEDNESDAY                                             | THURSDAY                                                       | FRIDAY                                                 |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| WEEK 1 | 12/10<br>Pupil free day<br>Literacy guarantee                                      | 13/10                                            | 14/10                                                 | 15/10                                                          | 16/10                                                  |
| WEEK 2 | 19/10                                                                              | 20/10                                            | 21/10                                                 | 22/10<br><b>COLOUR RUN</b><br>2.15pm<br>Choir performance SRHT | 23/10<br>School closure day<br>Mt Gambier Show<br>     |
| WEEK 3 | 26/10<br>Governing council 7.30pm                                                  | 27/10                                            | 28/10                                                 | 29/10                                                          | 30/10<br>Assembly 9.10am                               |
| WEEK 4 | 02/11                                                                              | 03/11                                            | 04/11                                                 | 05/11                                                          | 06/11<br>Year 1/2 Sleepover                            |
| WEEK 5 | 09/11<br>Marathon                                                                  | 10/11<br>Remembrance Day<br>Service 10:30 am<br> | 11/11<br>Remembrance Day                              | 12/11<br><b>SPORTS DAY</b>                                     | 13/11                                                  |
| WEEK 6 | 16/11<br><b>Patch Theatre</b><br>R-2 & Kindy students                              | 17/11                                            | 18/11                                                 | 19/11                                                          | 20/11<br>Assembly 9.10am<br>21/11 Christmas parade<br> |
| WEEK 7 | 23/11<br>Governing council 7.30pm                                                  | 24/11                                            | 25/11                                                 | 26/11                                                          | 27/11<br>Casual day<br>GOLD COIN<br>DONATION<br>       |
| WEEK 8 | 30/11                                                                              | 01/12                                            | 02/12<br>Kindy/Yr 6 transition                        | 03/12<br>Kindy/Yr 6 transition<br>Whole school transition      | 04/12<br>Pupil free day<br>2027 planning               |
| WEEK 9 | 07/12<br>Reports & portfolios sent home.<br>Student leadership applications<br>due | 08/12                                            | 09/12<br>Class party day<br><br>Year 6 graduation<br> | 10/12<br>Year 5/6<br>Aquatics day<br>                          | 11/12<br>Assembly 9.10am<br>2.15pm early dismissal     |

MOUNT GAMBIER LIBRARY

## SA CHILDREN'S WEEK

Friday 23 October to Sunday 1 November 2026

**Celebrate Children's Week at the Library!**

Discover the joy of reading, learning and creativity by taking part in one of our early literacy programs or after school clubs.

You can also drop in and enjoy activities in the Children's Cave/Yulangu Kanapinan - all for free with your library card!

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### CAVE CRAFT CREATIONS

All week during Library opening hours

Celebrate Children's Week with a crafty adventure. Grab a craft caddy, get creative, and make something special to take home. Suitable for children of all ages. A DIY activity to be enjoyed by the whole family.

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### BUBS GALLERY TOUR

Tuesday 27 October 10:30am at Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre

It is never too early to appreciate art! Enjoy a tour tailored for the youngest visitors and their families of the exhibition Tide Be Runnin'... Suitable for parents and carers with babies who aren't walking yet. Free event, bookings essential. Scan the QR code to book.

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### BEDTIME STORIES AT THE LIBRARY

Thursday 29 October at 6:00pm

Pop on your pyjamas and bring the whole family along as we share favourite picture books and magical tales before bedtime. Drop in event, bookings not required.

City of Mount Gambier



## Personalised Anxiety Treatment for Children 'PATCH'



**Free home-based assessment and personalised treatment for 7 to 12 years old children with fear and anxiety disorders**

Does your child become very afraid of certain situations or objects, worry about a lot of things, get very distressed, or try to avoid things they fear?

**About the study**

Our team at Griffith University may be able to assist you. We are conducting a nationwide study that includes the following services at no cost to families:

- A thorough assessment of your child's anxiety with a trained psychologist via the telephone;
- A computer task to determine your child's treatment response style
- Your child receiving either standard CBT or personalised treatment delivered via Telehealth or In-Person; and
- Two follow-up telephone assessments with a trained psychologist post-treatment, and 6-months after treatment to track your child's progress.

The study aims to find out if personalised treatment based on your child's treatment response style is more effective than one-size fits all treatment. This will mean that there are more personalised evidence-based treatments available for helping anxious children.

**Contact us**

This study is being funded by the Wellcome Trust and is led by Professor Allison Waters and a team of experts in childhood anxiety disorders. For more information about our study and our team, or if you would like your child to participate, please contact us:

(07) 3735 3351  
[cadp@griffith.edu.au](mailto:cadp@griffith.edu.au)  
<https://www.griffith.edu.au/griffith-health/school-applied-psychology/research/childhood-anxiety-disorders>

**W** wellcome

**Griffith UNIVERSITY**  
 Queensland, Australia



You may be eligible for

# FREE KIDS DENTAL SERVICES

Did you know, your child may be eligible for free dental care under Medicare's Child Dental Benefit Schedule? A quick call is all it takes to determine eligibility.

Online booking available at [cleandentalcare.com.au](http://cleandentalcare.com.au), call us on 7715 0059 or pop in and see us at 2/18 Helen St.

*We care for your smile in a warm, reassuring and friendly environment.*

## CLEAN DENTAL CARE

WELCOMES PAST AND NEW PATIENTS FOR

- Dental hygiene with EMS Airflow Guided Biofilm Therapy and management of gum diseases for all ages
- General dental care (checkups, treatment, etc) for children under 18 years of age
- At-home and in-office Zoom whitening
- Customised sports mouthguards




To celebrate International Day of People with Disability, Mayor Kylie Boston on behalf of the Southern Limestone Coast Council invites you to

## Art-Ability 2027 Program Launch

**Thursday 3 December 2026**  
 Mount Gambier Regional Airport  
 Commencing at 10:00am

Be the first to know about the 2027 Art-Ability Exhibition which will be presented across Council's two galleries in July and August 2027. Pick up a complimentary Art-Ability Creative Pack (limited numbers available and only for people with disability) and learn how to get involved!

RSVP essential by Friday 27 November 2026 to Council's Community Development Team on (08) 8738 3000 or [pmcc@slcc.sa.gov.au](mailto:pmcc@slcc.sa.gov.au)

When responding, please also kindly advise of any dietary or accessibility requirements and if you will be bringing a guest.

REIGNING A GRADE BARBER SHIELD PREMIERSHIP CLUB

## EAST GAMBIER CRICKET CLUB

# UNDER 12 CRICKET TRAINING

ALL SKILLS. ALL PLAYERS. ONE CLUB.

WHEN THURSDAYS 4:00PM - 5:00PM

WHERE EAST GAMBIER NETS AT McDONALD PARK

CONTACT BEN CLARK 0438 845 863

OPEN TO NEW & EXISTING PLAYERS

GO BULLDOGS!

IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS BUILD TEAM SPIRIT PREPARE FOR THE SEASON

