



MUNNO PARA PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER WEEK 3, TERM 1

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear MPPS Community,

As we begin another exciting school year, we warmly welcome back our students, families, and staff, and extend a special welcome to those who are new to the MPPS community. We are looking forward to a positive and rewarding year of learning together.

At MPPS, we value the strong partnerships we have with our families and the broader community. Your involvement and support are crucial to our success, and we look forward to working together this year to create a positive and enriching experience for all our students.

Newsletters

These will go out via Dojo in Weeks 3, 6 and 9.

Assemblies

Assemblies are held in the gymnasium from 2:15pm on Fridays of Weeks 3, 6 and 9. Class teachers will message families when their class is hosting and invite you to attend and support your child/ren.

Parking

A friendly reminder to all families and visitors to please follow the parking signs around Munno Para Primary School, especially during busy drop-off and pick-up times.



IMPORTANT DATES

Annual General Meeting
Monday 16/2 4:30pm-5pm

Adelaide Cup Public Holiday
Monday 9/3

Year 6 Aquatics
Wednesday 25/3

Easter Public Holidays
Thursday 2/4 2pm Dismissal
Friday 3/4 and Monday 6/4

ASSEMBLY

Week 3, 6 and 9
2:10pm in the Gym

BELL TIMES

8:45am Teacher on duty in the yard
8:50am School day begins
10:50am Lunch play
11:20am End lunch play
1:00pm Recess play
1:20pm End recess play
3:00pm Home time

GATE TIMES

Front Gate:
Open 8:43am Close 9:15am
Open 2:55pm Close 3:15pm
Other Gates:
Open 8:43am Close 9:10am
Open 2:55pm Close 3:10pm



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The area in front of the school is a Passenger Loading Zone only on school days:

- 8:00am – 9:00am
- 2:30pm – 3:30pm

During these times, drivers may stop for 2 minutes only to safely load or unload passengers.

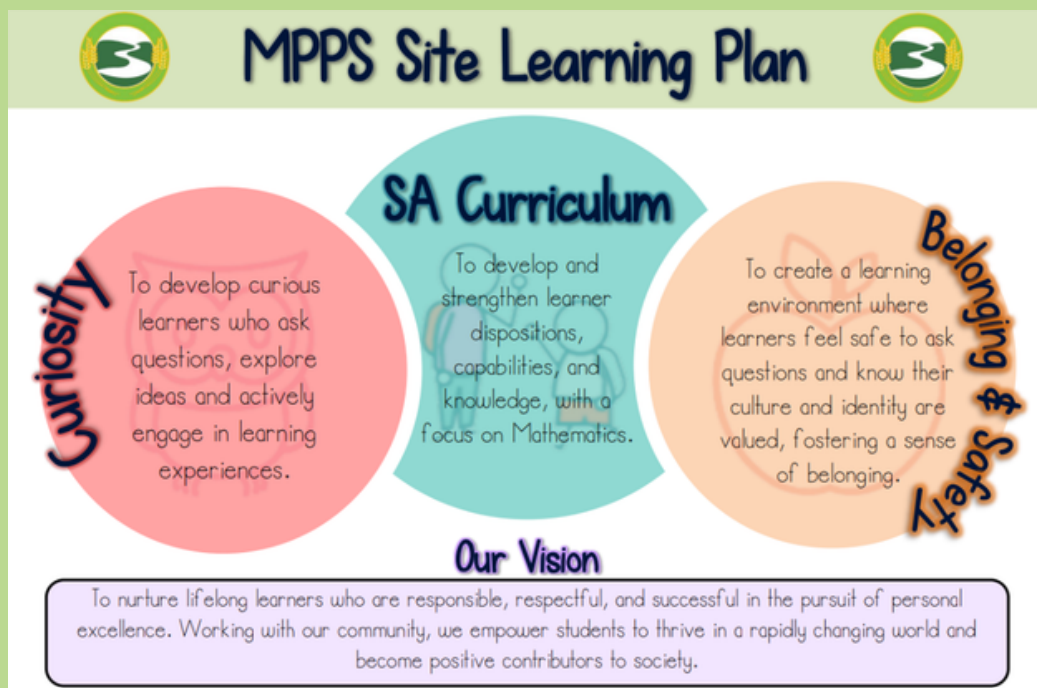
These restrictions help keep traffic moving, reduce congestion, and most importantly, ensure the safety of our students and families.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community safe.

Site Learning Plan

We are excited to share a snapshot of our MPPS Site Learning Plan, which guides our work together this year. Grounded in the SA Curriculum, our focus is on developing curious learners, strengthening learner dispositions and capabilities (with a strong emphasis on Mathematics), and continuing to build a safe, inclusive environment where every child feels a strong sense of belonging.

This plan reflects our shared commitment to high-quality teaching and learning and to nurturing confident, capable learners. We look forward to engaging with students, staff, and our wider community as we bring this work to life throughout the year.



Before School

To help keep everyone safe, the school yard is supervised from 8:45am. For this reason, students should not arrive at school before this time. The school gates will open shortly before 8:45am. When students arrive, they are welcome to go straight to their classroom and wait quietly for the bell, at which time teachers will open the rooms. Please note that all playground areas are out of bounds before school.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

After School

School finishes at 3:00pm, and we ask that students are collected promptly at this time. Yard supervision concludes at 3:15pm.

If any students remain at school after this time, they will be brought to the front office and a parent or carer will be contacted. Thank you for your support in helping us keep all students safe at the end of the day.

Governing Council

The Governing Council plays a vital role in shaping the future of our school. It provides a platform for parents, caregivers, and community members to collaborate with school staff in making important decisions that affect our students' education and well-being.

Each year, the MPPS Governing Council holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM). This is an important opportunity for our school community to come together and reflect on the work of the council over the past year.

What happens at the AGM?

The AGM includes several key responsibilities, including:

- Parent member elections, where required, and the opportunity to declare election results
- A chance for the Chairperson and Principal to speak about the site
- Reporting on the site's proceedings, operations, and the finances of the council since the last AGM

This year, there will be no nominations or elections, as all current Governing Council members have one more year remaining in their term of office.

The AGM remains a valuable opportunity for families to stay informed, celebrate the work of the council, and continue supporting our school community.

The AGM will be held on Monday 16 February at 4:30pm in the Library.

We look forward to seeing you then.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

OSHC

Dear parents, carers and families,

You are invited to participate in a survey to provide brief feedback on the Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service on our school grounds. The survey takes less than five minutes and is completely anonymous.

The survey is administered by the Department for Education and your feedback supports service planning and helps strengthen overall service delivery.

Your answers will never identify you or your child.

You can access the survey via the link below, which is open until Saturday 28 February 2026:

<https://survey.education.sa.gov.au/n/LK0Sn83>

You can also access the survey via the QR code:



If you have any questions about the survey, please do not hesitate to contact the department's OSHC Team via email: education.OSHCReform@sa.gov.au.

Andrew Castenetto
Principal



PBL FOCUS FOR WEEKS 1,2,3

**Our school
values**

Responsibility



**Non Classroom
Procedures**

**Review
Lesson**



WELCOME BACK MRS MCROSTIE

Hello Everyone,

For those who may not know me yet, I'm Mrs McRostie, and I'm thrilled to be back at Munno Para Primary after my maternity leave, continuing in the role of Coordinator - Literacy and Numeracy Improvement. It's wonderful to reconnect with our fantastic students, families, and staff.

The start of the school year has been buzzing with energy and excitement as formal learning gets underway. As a whole school, we're embracing structured literacy blocks to support reading and writing. In Reception to Year 2, students are continuing with InitialLit, extending their phonics knowledge and building strong literacy foundations. Our Years 3–6 students are engaging with Spelling Mastery, learning practical strategies, patterns, and rules to strengthen their spelling and writing confidence, supported by daily reviews and fluency activities.

We're also rolling out the new South Australian Curriculum, which gives all students a consistent and relevant learning framework. A big focus for us this year is nurturing positive learning dispositions—like resilience, reflectiveness, and resourcefulness—to help every student grow and feel confident.

Bond Blocks will continue as a key Maths intervention program at our school, offering hands-on activities that strengthen number sense and essential skills. We're excited by the positive outcomes we're seeing and will keep families updated along the way.

It's also shaping up to be a busy term! Our Years 3–6 students are undertaking DIBELS testing, which helps track progress and inform teaching in literacy. Year 3 and Year 5 students will soon participate in NAPLAN, a valuable opportunity to demonstrate their skills in literacy and numeracy and Year 1 students will be taking part in the Numeracy Check, supporting the ongoing development of strong foundational maths skills.

Thank you so much for your continued support - I look forward to a wonderful year ahead. Please feel free to reach out any time.

Kind regards,
Sonya McRostie



CHILDRENS UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

We are excited to announce that we are bringing The **Childrens University Australia** program back to Munno Para Primary School! Stay tuned - more updates are coming soon!



2026 SCHOOL AND SPORTS CAPTAINS

We are excited to share that our school captain and sports captain selection process for 2026 has been completed. This year, students had the opportunity to nominate themselves for leadership roles and participated in an interview with myself and Mr C.

We congratulate our new School Captains for 2026: Lily, Ella, and Mehlaqa.

Congratulations also to our new Sports Captains:

- Sapphires: Elijah and Deborah
- Rubies: Layla and Jaeden
- Diamonds: Maddi and Teagan
- Emeralds: Rina and Amelia

Thank you to all students who nominated themselves and participated in the process. We look forward to seeing our captains lead and represent our school with pride this year.

Sarah Mellors
Deputy Principal



UPDATE FROM MRS SHIELDS

My name is Kari Shields and I am the Aboriginal Education Teacher here at Munno Para Primary School. I also support our EALD (English as an Additional Language or Dialect) students and assist Mr Hunter with wellbeing initiatives.

I am fortunate to coordinate several programs for our First Nations students, including Malpa and Yaitya Tirkanthi. These programs are designed to strengthen our students' cultural understanding and experiences while also teaching them about important topics such as health and wellbeing.

This term, we are introducing a new initiative across the school – structured play. Beginning Monday of Week 4, SSOs will be present in the yard during play times to engage students in a variety of activities, including giant games, soccer, playdough, and Lego. This initiative aims to enhance students' social wellbeing and strengthen their sense of connection with their peers and our school community.

I am looking forward to a busy and exciting year ahead.

Kari Shields
AET, EALD & Wellbeing for Learning



WELCOME TO OUR NEW RECEPTIONS

Our newest students have had a wonderful start to school, settling into routines and expectations while building friendships and getting to know one another.

M1 and M2 have been busy engaging in lots of purposeful play, fine motor activities, learning speech sounds, early number skills, and developing confidence in the classroom. We have also been doing lots of learning in our PBL lessons about our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Success, helping students understand what these look like in our classrooms and out in the yard.

It's been lovely to see their growing independence, curiosity, and enthusiasm for learning as they begin their school journey.



WELCOME BACK TO PE AT MUNNO PARA PRIMARY SCHOOL!

Hello everyone, and welcome back to another exciting year of PE at Munno Para Primary School!

Junior Primary – Move, Learn and Grow

This year, our Junior Primary students will be participating in the **Move, Learn and Grow** program. This fantastic, evidence-based program was developed by a local Occupational Therapist and PE teacher to support students in building strong **fundamental movement skills**.

Throughout the year, students will focus on areas such as fine motor development, balance, rhythmical movement, coordination, and other essential physical skills.

Upper Primary – Building Skills for Sport and Sports Day

Our Upper Primary students will continue developing key movement skills such as **running, jumping, and throwing**. These skills will help prepare students for upcoming school events, including Sports Day, where students may participate in activities such as sprints, long jump, and high jump.



Sports Day – Week 11

Mark your calendars! Sports Day will take place in **Week 11 on Friday**.

This year, **Triskills** will be providing engaging activities for all students to enjoy. Alongside these activities, students will also take part in sprints and other exciting events.

Some students will also have the opportunity to earn extra points for their Sports Day team by participating in **Mini Sports Day High Jump and Long Jump events**.

Lunchtime Tower Defence – Back by Popular Demand!

Our D Block and K Block students are invited to join the **Lunchtime Tower Defence Competition** (a dodgeball-style game), held on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**.

We have had a large number of students sign up for Term 1, and the competition will continue each term with new teams formed at the beginning of each term.

SAPSASA Opportunities

Throughout the year, our Year 5 and 6 students will have the opportunity to participate in **SAPSASA events**, competing against students from other schools in a range of sports. Information and updates will be shared with families as these events approach.



WELCOME BACK TO PE AT MUNNO PARA PRIMARY SCHOOL!

Important PE Reminders

✓ Hats & Sun Safety

Some PE lessons take place outdoors, so students are required to wear a hat. Sunscreen will be available and encouraged, however students are responsible for applying it themselves. We appreciate your support in reminding your child to use sunscreen regularly.

✓ Appropriate Footwear

Please ensure students wear suitable shoes for PE, especially for activities involving running and jumping.

✓ Injury or Illness

If your child is unable to participate in PE due to injury or illness, please send me a message before their lesson.

I'm looking forward to another fantastic year of learning, movement, and fun in PE and Health!

Jamie Barnett
Health and PE Teacher



2026 M&S Fees

M&S Fees for 2026 have been emailed out to families and caregivers.

M&S fees for 2026 are \$306 per student. The government rebate of \$200 has been applied and the remaining amount payable per student is \$106.

Payment of M&S fees can be paid as soon as possible by the following platforms:

- QKR!
- Direct payment into the schools bank account
- In person or by phone
- Payment Plan: If you require a payment plan, please come in to the office as soon as possible to organise one.

If you plan to apply for school card, please visit sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard and follow the steps provided.

If you have any questions or would like to set up a payment plan, please email dl.1482.finance@schools.sa.edu.au



APPLYING FOR A SCHOOL CARD



All types of School Card applications are now online.



You can access the online forms from any device that gets internet, including mobile devices, such as tablets and smart phones, as well as laptops and computers.

Applying online is easy! Simply follow the steps below.

STEP 1

Visit sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard

STEP 2

Select the type of School Card you would like to apply for (for example 'Type A') and follow the prompts.

STEP 3

Complete all mandatory fields.

Please note: you cannot submit your application unless all mandatory fields are complete.

STEP 4

Once you have completed a page click on the 'NEXT' button.

STEP 5

Once you have filled out all pages click the 'SAVE' button.

Please note: If you exit the form without clicking details will be lost.

You can save the form, and return to complete it another time, by clicking on the 'SAVE' button.



sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard



6 Helpful Tips for School Zones

As parents and caregivers, we have a great responsibility to ensure children stay safe in school zones. We also play a key role in educating children about road safety.

Here are 6 helpful tips for safety in school zones.

- 1** Consider alternative transport modes to reduce the number of vehicles in school zones.
- 2** Allow enough time to take your child to the school gate safely and without rushing.
- 3** Always observe parking signs and speed limits in and around school zones. They are designed to keep your child safe.
- 4** Talk about traffic safety with your child. Identify and discuss places where it is safe to get out of the car and to cross the road.
- 5** Teach your child how to cross the road using the 'stop, look, listen and think' process – stop at the kerb, look and listen for traffic and then decide whether it is safe to cross.
- 6** Park a few streets away and walk your child to school to reduce congestion and improve safety. This is also good exercise and helps teach your child road safety rules.

For further information please contact
City of Playford

8256 0333
playford@playford.sa.gov.au

playford.sa.gov.au

🔗 playford.sa.gov.au/stayconnected



Parking safely around schools



Parking safely around schools

We all know parking and traffic around school can be frustrating but going against the road rules places not only your child's life at risk, but those of others. Tragedies can occur if care is not taken to abide by these rules.

Common Parking Restrictions



No Parking Signs

You may use this area for drop off and pick up only, for a maximum of 2 minutes. You must not queue or wait here. The driver must remain with the vehicle.

Kiss and Drop Zones

are generally near the school gates and are designated by 'No Parking' signs.

Here are some key reminders when entering a Kiss and Drop Zone:

Follow the rules of 'No Parking' signs

Be mindful of others who are also dropping off their children

Keep an eye out for children crossing the road when exiting the Kiss and Drop Zone

Be mindful that queuing for the Kiss and Drop zone may result in other breaches to the road rules

If your child is unable to enter/exit the vehicle and enter the school independently, consider parking and walking your child in



No Stopping Signs/ Yellow Lines

Both No Stopping Signs and Yellow Lines mean the same thing. There might be one or the other or both. Drivers must not stop on a length of road to which this restriction applies, even if you are stopping for a short period to pick up a child. Stopping here may cause a traffic hazard as well as congestion. You cannot stop near a school crossing, always follow the signs and yellow lines.



Bus Zone Signs

You must not stop within a bus zone at any time. This zone is only available to public buses. If there are no signs, you are not allowed to stop within 20 metres of the approach to a bus stop or within 10 metres of the departure side.

Double Parking

Drivers must not stop next to a vehicle already stopped or parked at the kerb at any time.

This practice is illegal and creates dangerous situations for traffic flow and for pedestrians crossing a road.



Example of cars double parked in a school zone.

Introducing **STEM** early helps children build **problem-solving, creativity** and **critical thinking skills**, sparking curiosity and supporting their learning for the future, whatever path they choose.

At **OSHC**, children explore STEM every day through fun, hands-on activities like **cooking, gardening, construction play** and **creative art**. They're learning through play, building confidence, curiosity and a love of discovery, often without even realising it.

STEM ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME

LAVA LAMPS with a water bottle, vegetable oil, food colouring and an Alka-Seltzer. Discovering chemical reactions.

MARBLE RUNS with cardboard tubes, tape and marbles. Discovering gravity, motion and problem solving.

NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT, create a list for children to find in the back yard, encourages observations, discovery and categorisation.



**OUT OF SCHOOL
HOURS CARE**

