



Newsletter

27 March, 2026



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

61 Boandik Terrace, Mount Gambier
Telephone: 8725 1404
dl.1020.info@schools.sa.edu.au



In support of
White Ribbon

COMING EVENTS

30 March Monday (W10)

3P8 Valley Lake Wildlife Ex

31 March Tuesday

Trumpet/Trombone

01 April Wednesday

Rm7 MIND activity

MARATHONS

02 April Thursday

SPORTS DAY

2:10 early dismissal

03 April Friday

Good Friday Public Holiday

06 April Monday (W11)

Easter Monday Public Holiday

07 April Tuesday

Trumpet/Trombone

Eye screening

09 April Thursday

Flute/Clarinet

Eye screening

10 April Friday

Whole school Movie

2:10 early dismissal

Term 2

27 April Monday (W1)

First day term 2

1 May Friday

Rm7 & Rm1 Swimming

04 May Monday

Student Leaders GRIP to SRHT

08 May Friday

Cross Country Naracoorte

Rm7 & Rm1 Swimming

From the Principal

Early Dismissals

Thursday 02 April is an early dismissal of **2.10pm** due to sports day.

Friday 10 April is also an early dismissal of **2.10pm** due to the last day of term.

Student Free Days

Monday 01 June is a student free day for term 2 week 6.

Monday 10 August is a student free day for term 3 week 4.

Monday 12 October is a student free day for term 4.

Student Closure Day will be Friday 23 October for the Show Day in term 4 week 2.

Friday 04 December is a student free day for term 4.

Governing Council AGM Meeting

The school's Annual General Meeting was held on Monday, 16 March, (w8) with new councillors joining the committee and some councillors continuing from 2025.

Chair Person: Ms Caitlyn McNulty

Deputy Chair Person: Ms Gemma Ellis

Secretary: Ms Tamara Bowd

Treasurer: Ms Matilda Warren

Council members: Mr Chris Brodie, Ms Laura Paterson, and Mr Oliver Thornley

School Fees are over-due.

If you need to discuss payment options please contact Felicity Goodwin-Perry on 8725 1404 .

If you need to apply for school card please call the school for further information or go online to fill in the application, alternatively please check your child's bag for a School Card form to be filled in and returned ASAP.

Erica Hurley

The Melaleuca Park Primary School community acknowledges the Boandik people as the traditional custodians of the land that we live, work, learn and play on.

Uniform

Our uniform consist of a navy jumper, navy and teal or navy polo shirt, navy pants/shorts/skirt and a navy and white check summer dress.

Sneakers, shoes and sandals are appropriate footwear. Slip on shoes, thongs or shoes with high heels are not acceptable as they can cause a safety issue to students.



Daily Timetable

8:00-8:30	Breakfast Club available for all students & bikes
8:30-8:45	Yard supervision
8:45 Bell	School commences
8:45-9:30	Discovery time
9:30-10:00	Circle time & Fruit break
10:00-11:15	Learning Block 1
11:15-11:45	1st Break
11:45-11:55	Eating lunch in class
11:55-1:10	Learning Block 2
1:10-1:40	2nd Break
1:40-3:10	Learning Block 3
3:10	Dismissal

Mobile Phones

Student use of personal devices at school:

All students are required to keep their personal devices 'off and away' between the start and end of each school day and while they are attending authorised school activities off-site, such as camps and excursions. Melaleuca Park Policy states that mobile phones need to be handed up to the front office if a child/student needs to bring their phone for emergency concerns when walking to and from home, at the start of the day and collected at the end of day. Access refers to both physical access, including wearing any wearable technology that fits the definition of personal devices in this policy, and remote access, such as connecting other technology to the personal device's hotspot or using headphones that are paired to the personal device.

Excellence Awards

Athena Finch

For always giving your work a go and trying new things, even when they might be challenging.

Kalani Avalua

For doing an amazing job of saying goodbye to Mum in the mornings and staying settled and engaged in her learning space. Great work, Kalani!

Charles Cruz

You are a kind and considerate member of our class who consistently gives your best in everything you do. Your dedication to staying on task and taking pride in your work does not go unnoticed—it sets a wonderful example for those around you. You are well respected by your peers, not only for your efforts but also for the positive attitude you bring each day. Your warm smile and friendly nature makes our classroom a better place.

Ivory Andrews

Ivory has been selected by her classmates because she has shown great collaboration as she shares, helps and listens to others.

Douglas Cottier

For demonstrating a strong knowledge about learning and the world around you through thoughtful discussion. Your ability to communicate ideas and share your passions has grown immensely since the start of the year. Our class loves seeing you actively engaged in meaningful learning. Keep up the fantastic work Douglas!

Isabelle Brodie

You embody the school value of working hard by being persistent in your learning and always trying your best. You show a strong passion for your learning in the classroom, as well as when working with Shani. Keep up the great effort and continue doing your best.

Lily Fry

For taking initiative and being a strong sports captain during Warm-up Wednesdays. We are looking forward to you leading on sprots day.

Be Kind Afternoon Tea Awards

Dean Waihape

Dean you consistently show kindness to everyone in our class. When other people are upset, you think about things that would make them feel better and try to bring a smile to their face. Well done Dean!

Zayne Hill

You always try your best. You respect other students right to learn and you will include everyone in your play always. Great start to the year Zayne.

Memphis Schreiber

Memphis you are a valued and respectful member of the year 6 class, who is always kind to your peers and teachers. You make the effort to say thank you when we open the door for you or even if we hand you a sheet of paper. You are always the first to offer to assist your peers if they are struggling. We appreciate your manners and kindness in our class.

Carson Pitts

You are a kind, caring and thoughtful member of our class. Keep up the great work!

Harlie Delaney

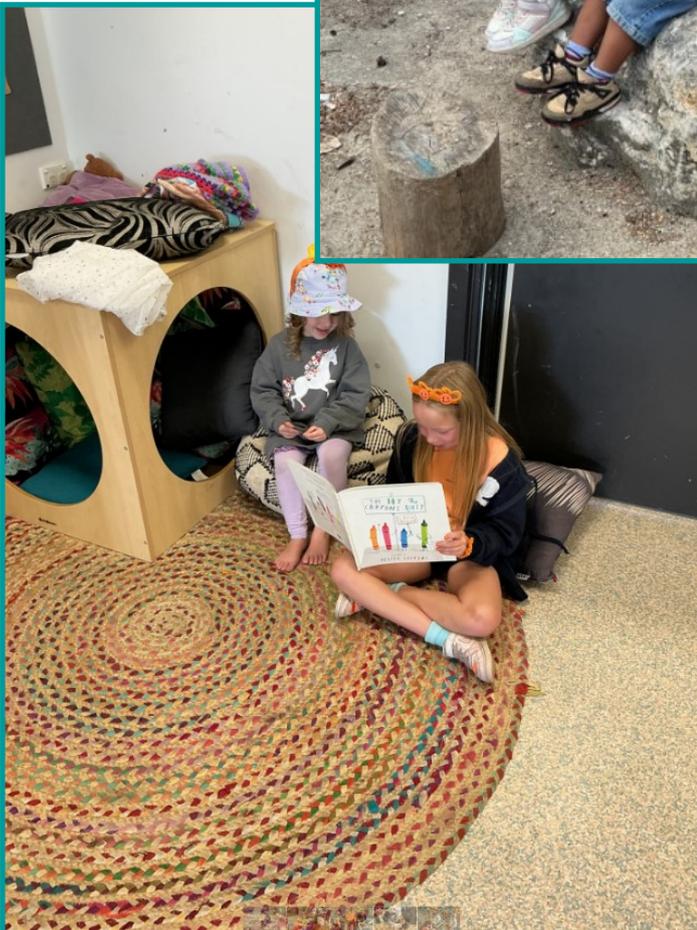
You consistently show kindness, care and include everyone to make our classroom a happier place. Thank you for being a wonderful friend and a role model for kindness.

Poppie Stephens

Poppie, you have started the year fantastically well. You have demonstrated strong leadership skills in the classroom by consistently showing respect and kindness to both your educators and peers. Well done on being such a wonderful role model for our class.



3P8 Kindergarten visit



Story Dogs Program returns in 2026

Melaleuca Park Primary School is delighted to welcome back our regular Story Dog visitor this year. 'Bella' and her handler, Karen, will be joining us every Tuesday to support Mrs Maxwell's class with their reading.

The Story Dogs program partners with classroom teachers to assist students in developing their reading skills. Each week, 'Bella' and Karen will work with the students, who will have the opportunity to leave their classroom and read one-on-one to 'Bella'. As an approachable Australian Shepherd, 'Bella' makes reading a positive and enjoyable experience—she doesn't mind if students make mistakes and simply loves listening to stories.

'Bella' is well-trained and especially enjoys performing tricks, receiving treats, and hearing new stories. She has been practicing at home and is eager to return to Melaleuca Park Primary School.

If you are interested in volunteering in this rewarding program, please contact Lesly Okholm, our Story Dog Coordinator, on 0410 036 567 or by emailing lesleyokholm7@gmail.com.



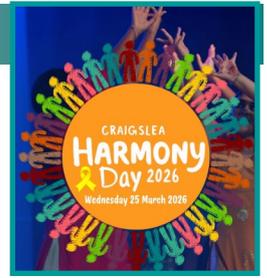
SAPSASA Track N Field



Thank you to all students for being part of the Melaleuca Park Track and Field team. We hope you enjoyed participating in the various events held at MGHS. Please note: Delilah was absent at the time the team photo was taken.

Harmony Day Celebrations

Harmony Day in Australia was celebrated on Saturday, 21 March 2026, coinciding with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This special day—and the broader Harmony Week (Monday 16 to Sunday 22 March 2026)—recognises and celebrates Australia's vibrant cultural diversity under the theme “Everyone Belongs.”



Harmony Week focuses on inclusiveness, respect, and fostering a sense of belonging for all. The colour orange, symbolising social communication and meaningful conversations, is worn and displayed to show support for these values.

At Melaleuca Park Primary School, we embraced the spirit of Harmony Day with a series of joyful and meaningful activities. As part of our involvement, we held a successful fundraiser selling Zooper Doopers and cupcakes. Funds raised will support future cultural and inclusive initiatives within our school community.

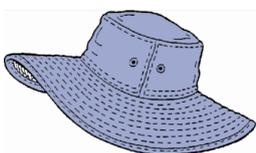
Our students enjoyed having their photos taken in the photograph ring of lights, which created a fun and memorable experience while highlighting the importance of inclusion and togetherness.

We thank all students, families, and staff who participated and helped make Harmony Day at our school a warm, welcoming, and unifying event.

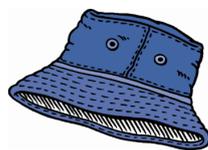


SunSmart

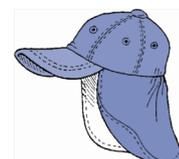
During Terms 1, 3 and 4 (this is when the UV Index level reaches 3 and above) all students need to have a SunSmart hat. SunSmart hats are broad-brimmed hats, bucket hats, or legionnaire style hats. A SunSmart hat not only protects the face, head, neck and ears, it can also reduce the amount of UV radiation reaching the eyes by 50 %.



**Broad-brimmed
Legionnaire Style**



Bucket



SAPSASA Swimming Championships

A huge **congratulations** to Charlie for his outstanding efforts representing the Lower South East at the SAPSASA Swimming Division 3 Championships at the Adelaide Aquatic and Leisure Centre yesterday!

Charlie showed fantastic team spirit throughout the day, cheering loudly for his teammates from the stands. In the pool, Charlie took on 50m Butterfly for the very first time, finishing an impressive 6th in the 12-year-old boys category with a time of 1:19.39.

He also anchored the 11-12 year old boys 4x50m freestyle relay, swimming a strong final leg to help the team secure 8th place. Charlie smashed his personal best during the relay with a 50m freestyle split of 50.65—a new PB! Well done, Charlie, on your sportsmanship and individual results.



3P8 Art



Jelly fish
by Mason
Melaleuca Park ES
yr.3



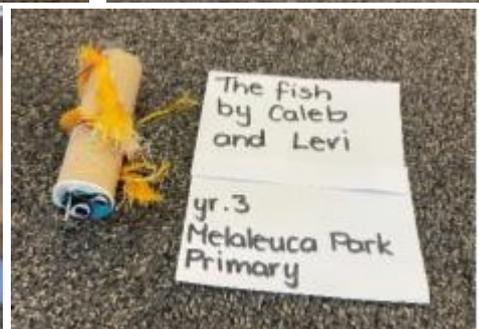
Turtle
by Harlie
yr.3
Melaleuca Park
Primary



Blue Jellyfish
by Charlie H
yr.3
Melaleuca Park
Primary



Jelly fish
by Joel and
Patrick
yr.3
Melaleuca Park
Primary



The fish
by Caleb
and Levi
yr.3
Melaleuca Park
Primary



The Seabird
by Lilly and
Ivory
yr.3
Melaleuca Park
Primary



When can
we see?
By Jordan and
Tharlan
yr.3
Melaleuca Park
Primary

Our year 3 class went on camp in week 2 of

this term, we cleaned up the eight Mile Creek beach with Damien. We then entered an art competition with the **"Litterarty"** group in Bondi, Sydney. We wrote about them and sent photos and videos of our art pieces made from the rubbish we had picked up off the beach. We found out this week our class came runner up (second place) for the Primary School division out of the whole of Australia. We are very proud.



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Our students have the opportunity to be involved in an exciting program: 'Children's University'. Children's University (CU) aims to encourage high quality out of school activities for children aged between 5 and 14 years, engaging the wider community as learning partners in this process. The most important principles of CU are that participation is voluntary and activities must take place outside the normal school day during lunch, after school, weekends and holidays. All CU learning is designed to inspire children to think about their futures with a greater knowledge of the careers and professions that they could aspire to.

Led by the Adelaide University, CU aims to nurture aspirations and develop a love of learning. Children and young people enrolled in CU are issued with a *Passport to Learning* which records their individual learning journey. After the first 30 hours of learning, children are rewarded for their participation at a graduation ceremony held at the Wulanda. Children can graduate multiple times depending on the hours they accrue. Information on the hours, and award levels, can be found in the *Passport to Learning*.

Participating students have access to activities at school, online and also in the wider community (*Learning Destinations*). These activities have been validated by CU trained staff as good learning experiences. Once your child becomes a member, a full list of *Learning Destinations* and online activities can be found by logging on to the CU Portal.

If your child would like to become a member of CU for 2026, please use the QR code to enroll your child.

There is an annual fee for the 2026 membership of \$5.00 per member, which includes a passport per member. This can be paid directly to the school.

Thank you.

Natasha Hemmings-Dunn





Kimochis

social and emotional learning

What are Kimochis?

“On the surface, we’re a family of cuddly critters and a big bowl of emotions. Underneath, we’re a proven system for helping kids grow and transform by dealing skillfully with their feelings.”



HI! I'M BUG.

COMMUNICATION TOOL FOR:

- Fear of change
- Positive social and academic risks
- Positive self-talk

MY STORY

Really smart, a skilled conversationalist and is known to talk himself and the others out of any given situation because he likes to examine all sides.

Lives in a Manzanita tree

Has a swimming hole with a tethered rope swing in the center of his living room.

Lucky number: 2

**"ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS"
APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM 2026**

4th - 6th
Saturday - Monday
Easter bags



7th - 10th
Tuesday - Friday
Sock Rabbits



11th - 13th
Saturday - Monday
Wool Sheep



14th - 16th
Tuesday - Thursday
Goat puppets



17th - 19th
Friday - Sunday
Animal plates



20th Monday
Hands-On Animal
Experience 10am -
12noon Free entry

Animal badge making



21st - 23rd
Tuesday - Wednesday
Animal masks



24th - 26th
Thursday - Sunday
Anzac day craft



**Port MacDonnell
Community Complex**
For more information please
call 8738 3000

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday 9am-5pm
Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays: 11am-3pm
CLOSED: Good Friday (Friday April 3rd)
& Anzac day (Saturday April 25th)



**District Council of Grant welcomes you to a
hands-on Animal Experience**



Visit the animals then
pop into the Complex
to make your own
animal badge

Free
entry

MONDAY 20TH APRIL 10AM - 12NOON

**Port MacDonnell
Community Complex**
For more information
please call 8738 3000 or inbox us!





CALM & CONFIDENT KIDS

Confidence & Self-Esteem Programme (Ages 8–10)

Supporting children to build confidence, self-esteem, coping skills, and manage worries and big feelings.

A structured program using psychoeducation and play-based approaches.

6-week small group programme (limited places) supporting children to develop:

- ✓ confidence
- ✓ self-esteem
- ✓ coping skills to manage worries and big feelings

Includes support from therapy dog Dobby

- 📍 The Convent, Mount Gambier
- 📅 Mondays 5–6pm (Term 2 starts 27th April)
- 💰 \$150 programme • introductory rate Term 2



Limited spots available to keep groups small and supportive

limestonecoastcounselling.com.au

Or contact: 0475 908 503

The District Council of Grant presents

Youth Week

Art Session with Susie Briffa

MYSTERY COLOURING

Suitable for ages 12-25

Wednesday 15th April at 2pm
at the Port MacDonnell Community Complex

Use colourful pens to outline shapes on a page that's already filled with colour. You decide what the blobs become — animals, people, fantasy scenes, anything your imagination sees. Turn random shapes into unique art, with no right or wrong way to create!

Free of Charge

Bookings essential by calling 8738 3000



Bush Playgroup

FREE

Wednesday
22 April

10.00-11.30am

Honan Mint Trails

Kangaroo Flat Rd, GLENCOE
(Swamp Gum Carpark)

Come along to connect with nature and explore the scrub while engaging in fun activities.

For families with children aged 0-5*

Please wear enclosed footwear and bring snacks, drink bottles, hats and sunscreen.
*Older siblings are welcome.

CONTACT

Sandra 0488 946 896 | Di 0419 674 070

Updates via the Family Connections Program Facebook Group.



Promoting
Autism
Awareness



World Autism Awareness Day is April 2nd

Since 2007, the United Nations has observed this day to affirm the rights and freedoms of autistic people. Today we have moved beyond raising awareness to promoting acceptance and appreciation of autistic people and their contributions to society.

Below are some considerations around respectful ways to raise awareness and promote acceptance and appreciation. To be inclusive when referring to an autistic learner, you can understand and respect their identity by recognising their unique strengths and abilities. Celebrate and affirm your learner however they choose to identify. We have presented the preference of the majority of the autistic community, however we encourage you to use respectful curiosity to learn and affirm each individual preference.



We use the infinity symbol to represent autism.

The infinity symbol also represents neurodiversity and the infinite ways of being. It can symbolise the infinite potential and possibilities. The continual loop represents the continual need for support, understanding and acceptance. We avoid using puzzle pieces as they can suggest that autism is puzzling, or needs to be solved, or that autistic people need to fit in.



We use rainbow or gold to represent autism.

Rainbow represents the spectrum, diversity and that all colours are included. Gold represents value and worth. The chemical symbol for gold is Au. We avoid using blue, as it represents the stereotype that it's more common in boys. The 'light it up blue' campaign is associated with an American organisation that wanted to fix or cure autism. Many people in the autistic and autism communities avoid associating with this.



Try using identity-first language and avoid diagnostic terms.

'Autistic student' is an example of identity-first language, versus 'student with autism'. Autism is a valuable and important part of someone's identity, which is why many people prefer to use identity-first rather than person-first language. Try using terms such as 'autistic' and 'autism'. ASD is a diagnostic term. Unless you are specifically talking about a diagnosis, autism is not seen as a disorder. Similarly, we recognise that everyone's ability varies between every area of living. This is a dynamic view of functioning, versus describing someone as a high or low functioning autistic.



We are inclusive.

Attending education, having needs and engaging in interests is something that everybody has and does. Having a disability might make those things different, but not special. Inclusive education is a fundamental human right of all learners (UNCRC, 2016).



ROAD SAFETY IT STARTS WITH ME

SA Police Road Safety Centre

MILLICENT SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

In partnership with the Wattle Range Council, the SA Police Road Safety Centre will be attending the Millicent Road Safety Centre offering a school holiday program aimed at primary school students. The program provides education on pedestrian and cycle safety, including road rules. The program is delivered by police officers.



A mock roadway is located at the centre and provides a safe environment for participants to become familiar with road signs, pedestrian safety and road rules.

The free school holiday program provides an opportunity for children to gain vital road safety education. Participants in the two-hour program will have a classroom session and a practical session on pedestrian safety and bicycle riding on the mock roadway to put into practice their newly learnt knowledge.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own bicycles and helmets but a range of bicycles designed to cater for all riders and their abilities and helmets will be available for use.

The following two age groups are catered for and the sessions are aimed at children 5 to 8 years and 9 to 12 years. Sessions will be conducted at the Millicent Road Safety Centre, Fifth Street Millicent:

- Tuesday 14 April 2026 10am to 12pm for 5 to 8 years
- Tuesday 14 April 2026 1pm to 3pm for 5 to 8 years
- Wednesday 15 April 2026 10am to 12pm for 5 to 8 years
- Wednesday 15 April 2026 1pm to 3pm for 9 to 12 years

To book your child into one of these sessions please visit Eventbrite and search SA Police Road Safety Centre Millicent School Holiday Program.

For more information on our range of programs visit www.police.sa.gov.au/road-safety or use the QR code below to take you straight to SAPOL's road safety page. To book a FREE road safety session email SAPOL_RoadSafetySection@police.sa.gov.au



SA POLICE ROAD SAFETY CENTRE

MILLICENT SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Looking for something to do with the kids in the April school holidays? Join SA Police for a free road safety session at the Millicent Road Safety Centre, Fifth Street Millicent on:

- Tuesday 14 April 2026 10am to 12pm for 5-8 years
- Tuesday 14 April 2026 1pm to 3pm for 5-8 years
- Wednesday 15 April 2026 10am to 12pm for 5-8 years
- Wednesday 15 April 2026 1pm to 3pm for 9-12 years



To book your child into one of these sessions please visit Eventbrite and search SA Police Road Safety Centre Millicent School Holiday Program.



For more information on our range of programs visit www.police.sa.gov.au/road-safety or use the QR code on the left to take you straight to SAPOL's road safety page.



Disclaimer: This publication contains only general guidelines and strategies for dealing with safety and security, and no guarantees or representations are made concerning their effectiveness. SA Police accept no responsibility for any injury or loss resulting from the application of these strategies.

