One of the skills that we would like to develop in students is a love of learning; to be curious about the world that we live in and be self motivated to answer their personal wonderings about why things are the way that they are. In the same way McDonald Park values the fact that our staff are life long learners and are constantly seeking to update their skills and knowledge and improve their classroom practice. This in turn is beneficial for the students in their classrooms.

Over the past term teachers have been working with their colleagues to research and develop their learning in the area of ‘differentiation’. This is the way a teacher responds to and meets a variety of students’ needs in the classroom. To meet students’ needs, teachers differentiate by modifying the content (what is being taught), the process (how it is taught) and the product (how students demonstrate their learning). Some teacher groups wanted to develop their questioning skills and engage students in an inquiry process that leads to deeper learning. Another group has focused on their maths program and how they can best cater for all needs within the classroom, including challenging and stretching the capable mathematicians. A number of groups have explored ways to increase student voice, collaborative and flexible grouping as a means to differentiate the curriculum.

Research has shown that teachers learn best from each other, giving mutual support to research current educational thinking, trial strategies, observe and gain feedback from colleagues. Staff have been completing these research inquiries during staff meeting time and their own time. It has been impressive to hear the professional dialogue and see staff trialling different things, as students are encouraged to take risks and give new things a go.

Sandy Davey, Kirsty Trahar, Sharon Day, Michele Waters

SENIOR STAFF

Governing Council has approved two pupil free days for staff professional development. The first will be on Monday, 20th June and the second on Monday, 25th July, which is the first day of term three.

Both days will be spent working with Kym Brown, an experienced educator who has worked both in South Australia and overseas. The topic for the workshops is ‘Towards Engaged and Self-Disciplined Learners: Reframing the Management of Student Behaviour’.

On day one staff will be introduced to the Response Ability Pathways Framework, which underpins the two-day learning experience. The Framework highlights the importance of connecting with children and young people whose behaviour is preventing them from learning effectively and building prosocial relationships with others around them. The session also include a reasonably detailed examination of what resilience science and neuroscience are telling us about the roots of behaviour.

Day two is focused on helping learning to become more self-disciplined and strategies to build a respectful classroom. This learning will build on the professional learning that staff have been undertaking in regards to student engagement and enable us to develop classroom cultures that support participation of all students, reducing interruptions to learning caused by student behaviour.

We appreciate your support of professional learning for our staff, which ultimately benefits the learning for all students at McDonald Park School.
Almost hidden behind the hype of the STEM Summit was the SSO conference ‘The Only Way is Up’ that was held on the same day and hosted over 200 SSOs from around our region. This full day of training and information addressed issues including ICT, the role of the classroom support SSO, staff wellness and a motivational presentation from Robyn Moore. Our SSOs are highly skilled and greatly valued in our school community and this was an outstanding opportunity to participate in these sessions as well as take the chance to improve professional networks and school connections throughout the course of the day. This day was another great example of high quality professional learning organised and provided by our local schools.

A reminder to parents that for the safety of all children you may not park in the staff car park when dropping off or picking up children, unless you have a disabled permit. The gates will be shut from 3.15pm to 3.30pm each day and must not be opened. Thank you for your co-operation.

The school has been contacted by local residents on a number of occasions about cars being parked across their driveways, both before and after school. We ask that parents and caregivers be mindful where they park at these times as it makes it difficult for residents to come and go from their homes when this happens. Thank you.

Congratulations to Mitchell S on being selected for the 12 and under SAPSASA Australian football team. The championships are being held in Maroochydore, Queensland in July.

Please note that the year 6/7 football lightning carnival scheduled for 9th June, has been postponed until term three, date is still to be confirmed.
The Premier’s Reading Challenge ends 9th September. Please keep sending forms to the resource centre. This is a wonderful way to celebrate our reading successes. Medal presentation will be in November.

On Monday 6th June, McDonald Park School was represented in the netball lightning carnival hosted by Mount Gambier High School. We had two teams entered with both teams doing very well. One of our teams convincingly won every game until going down by two goals in an exciting match against the finalists, Tenison. The girls showed exemplary sportsmanship on the day, even helping other teams with students who had never played netball before. A big thanks to Lori-Anne Copping and Samantha Grigg for their coaching expertise on the day!

Naomi Aston

The children have been busy with seasonal activities in the garden - planting broad beans, lettuce, peas and native plants, harvesting parsnips and leeks to cook in the kitchen and picking hundreds of cabbage white caterpillars off the brassicas. There have also been three furry little visitors to the garden to brighten up the cold winter days. Rosie, Daisy and Marigold the guinea pigs (or is that Emo, Chewbacca and Punk?) are quickly getting used to a lot of attention.

Market News
I will be away on Thursdays for the rest of the term, so the home time garden market will now be on Fridays in good weather, hope you have googled lots of Jerusalem artichoke recipes!

Sam Baker
GARDEN SPECIALIST
WORLD OF MATHS
This week the Maths Roadshow visited our school. Students saw how maths is applied to real life situations and gained insight into problem solving, working in teams and also various maths principles which are part of the curriculum this year. Every session was highly engaging and showed children that maths can be fun!

COMMUNITY NEWS
Southern Cross Cultural Exchange are still URGENTLY trying to find families for the last seven French students and one Italian student arriving on 6th July. Can you please help?
Host families do not need to have a child the same age to have a student, what we require is people with a kind heart and a willingness to help bring different cultures closer together.
Anyone interested to know more contact me on 08 8323 0973, email jeh1313@bigpond.net.au.

MOUNT GAMBIER GIRL GUIDES
Are you aged between 7-17 years and like to meet new friends, adventure and the outdoors, craft, cooking, learning new skills? Then come and join Girl Guides.
Guide Hall, O’Halloran Terrace
Tuesdays 5.30 to 7.30pm
0422 941 543 or michelleyates76@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

CANTEEN HELPERS
Phone Michelle 87254221

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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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ICE AGE
BLUE LIGHT MT GAMBIER & THE OATMILL CINEMA PRESENTS
Ice Age 5 Collision Course
Thursday 30th June @ 6.15pm
Tickets $6.00 and can only be purchased from the Mount Gambier Police Station.
Buy your own food & drinks from the Oatmill Cinema.
Parents / Caregivers to collect their children at 8.15pm.
A fully Supervised event – no pass outs.
A smoke-drug-alcohol free event.
Recommended for Ages 7-13yo.

OATMILL CINEMA