LEARNING TO SPELL PART TWO

In the last newsletter, we began with some information about the way children learn to spell. This week, we follow up with some common questions parents ask about spelling.

Should I get my child to sound out words?
It depends! It’s often difficult for children to know what letters are needed for what sounds because the English language has 44 sounds but only 26 alphabet letters. If words are phonetic, with each letter having one sound, then you can suggest they sound out each letter.

Child: How do you spell lost?
Parent: This is a word that you can sound out. Say the word slowly and stretch out each sound.

However, not all words are phonetic and for some sounding out can be no help at all; for example, with a word like ‘they’.

Should I get my child to write each word ten times?
There is little benefit in writing words many times because it is rarely done with joy! Rather, they may write (copy) the word and simultaneously be thinking about something else.

What spelling strategy can I teach my child?
Look-Say-Cover-Write-Check is a popular learning approach for spelling because it encourages your child to use a range of strategies:

- **Look** at the whole word and identify letter patterns, small words in the longer word, break it into syllables, check for suffixes and prefixes. Close your eyes and visualise (see) the whole word.
- **Say** the word by stretching out the sounds in the word while still looking at it. Name the letters.
- **Cover** the word.
- **Write** the whole word from memory while saying it slowly.
- **Check** whether you wrote the word correctly. Does it look right? If yes, go on to your next word. If no, go through the steps again. Do not ask your child to practise spelling words orally. Words already well known are easy to spell aloud, but unfamiliar words need to be written so your child can check to see if they look right.

What if my child guesses the spelling?
Guessing is a spelling strategy used by people of all ages if they aren’t sure how to spell a word. Suggest that your child pronounces the word slowly, says the word in parts, and then writes the sounds that are heard. While this will not always be successful, your child will probably write some letters correctly and then you can be helpful.

What if my child keeps asking me how to spell words?
It depends on the word. If the word is unusual such as a place, trade, or person’s name, write the word (and maybe point out an interesting feature of the word) and let them return to their writing. If it is a word that they could reasonably learn to spell, ask him or her to first write it so you can see what is already known. Congratulate your child on the attempt (even if just one or two letters are correct) and then write the correct spelling for them.

Look for what is correct in the word and positively acknowledge it. Say something like:

- That’s so close to being right. You’ve got all the letters but the ‘a’ and ‘i’ need to be the other way around.
- I used to have trouble remembering how to spell this word too. Let me show you how I learned it.
- It’s just one letter that you need to remember. I can see why you spelled ‘they’ with an ‘a’ because it sounds like it has an ‘a’. It actually has an ‘e’ in that place. Let’s think about how you can remember to put an ‘e’.
Learning to spell is a developing process so children will misspell words before they spell them correctly. Teachers can only help your child to become a better speller if he or she is willing to write. If teachers ‘red pen’ all errors, some children may refuse to write or they may limit the amount they are writing. Teachers focus on correcting a few key words at a time (including those already taught) and may leave less pressing errors to be attended to at a later date.

What if the spelling words seem too hard or too easy for my child?
Talk with your child’s teacher.

Is there a place for spelling rules?
Yes, and spelling rules are part of our spelling curriculum. However, most ‘rules’ are actually generalisations that work for many, but not for all, words (for example, ‘i’ before ‘e’ except after ‘c’), and they can be helpful (up to a point). Some spelling rules are so complex that often it is easier to help your child work out a way to learn how to spell a word than trying to teach them a rule.

Sandy Davey, Kirsty Trahar, Sharon Day, Michele Waters
SENIOR STAFF

2017 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 any new children who will be starting at McDonald Park in 2017 or of families leaving McDonald Park would you 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.

TRANSITION

Transition processes are underway for both secondary and preschool students. Sites have already been in contact to pass on information and begin planning to cater for needs of individuals.

Teachers from McPark will visit the kindy to meet children and will then stay over for a period of time. Activities will also be planned to familiarise children with school.

Transition days for both reception and high school visits will be on Wednesday, 7 December and Thursday, 8 December 2016.

SPONSORSHIP 2016

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 16 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 participation. Please indicate below if you would like to participate. Any further queries please contact the front office.

McDonald Park School
2016 Academic Sponsorship

Name: .................................................................

Telephone: .................................................................

PHONE MESSAGES

In any school the front office is a very busy place. We are happy to pass on messages to students about urgent matters, but we do ask that all non-urgent messages be kept to a minimum.

Please arrange with your children what is going to happen at home time before they go to school in the morning.

BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS

In term four, the Family Relationship Centre would like to run their Bringing Up Great Kids program within our school. Using the metaphor of ‘messages’, Bringing Up Great Kids looks at:

• Messages from the past - where our parenting messages come from and the impact these may have on the way we choose to parent our own children.
• The message centre - brain development and why children behave the way they do, taking into account their age and brain development.
• Giving and receiving messages - the nonverbal messages we give our children - the effect of our body language and tone of voice when we communicate.
• Messages of behaviour - what children need - appropriate responses to their behaviour and the ability of parents to regulate their own emotions so they can respond to their children’s needs.

This program will consist of four two hour sessions over four weeks. We are hoping to run these sessions on Tuesdays from 9.00am to 11.00am. The total cost to parents will be $10.00. In order for the program to achieve the best results, the organisers request that no child attend the session.

If you feel you are interested in participating in this wonderful opportunity, please fill in the expression of interest below.

______________________________________________________________________________

Bringing Up Great Kids

Expression of interest to attend Bringing Up Great Kids program.

Name: .................................................................

Telephone: .................................................................

Child’s Name: ______________ Room: ____
PARENT SURVEY

Each year we invite parents to provide us with feedback about our school through an online survey. This year we are providing all parents with a link to the survey and inviting you to participate. If you choose to participate, your responses will be completely anonymous. Information collected through the survey helps us to make improvements to the services we deliver. We hope that you will find the time to participate. The survey closes on Friday, 11 November 2016. You may access the survey at the following link:
https://www.schoollsurvey.edu.au/s/Eux4fkta
survey access code: nu2JPHZL
Alternatively you may wish to complete a printed version of the survey, which can be collected from the front office and must be returned one week prior to the close of the survey so that the data can be entered by the closing date.

CANTEEN

A term four canteen price list will come home with today’s newsletter. Please note that the price changes are effective from Monday of next term.

NATIONAL SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

On the 15th of September I flew to Darwin with the South Australian State Swimming Team. When we arrived in Darwin our team went straight to the competition pool for a short training session before going to the sports stadium for the opening ceremony.

Over the week of the championships I competed in four events which included the 4 by 50 metre medley relay (butterfly), 4 by 50 metre freestyle relay and the 50 by 100 metre freestyle. In each of these events I achieved PB’s (personal bests).

In between swimming we had an excursion day where all state teams came together on the Crocodile Jumping Cruise, along the Adelaide River.

Overall it was a great experience, I learnt new things from my state coaches, made new friends and achieved great times in my swimming events. It has shown me that training hard pays off!

Elijah S, room 9

OVAL SLOPE REDEVELOPMENT

Last week I talked with Ms McAuley about the redevelopment of the sloped area near the garden. I asked Ms McAuley what it was they were doing.

“We are revegetating the slope, there will be a winding path (now visible) and a dry creek bed. There will be bird boxes to replace the homes of the birds that lived in the old trees. The path will be lined with spinifex grass as a border.”

I then asked who is involved.

“Rooms 8, N2, A3 and A4, also Charlie B, Angus W and Clayton P are helping to shape it alongside YELP.”

Curiously I asked what YELP was.

“It is the Youth Environmental Leaders Program, they are also helping us out.”

Ethan L on behalf of the SRC

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations Aiden C, Yashen S and Darcy W on being selected to be part of the Lower South East SAPSASA cricket team. SAPSASA cricket will be held in Adelaide in November.

COMMUNITY NEWS

WHO LIKES GETTING DIRTY? KIDS DO!

As part of our community nursery project Nature Glenelg Trust runs four community workshops per year on topics relating to plant conservation. Generally aimed at adults, this time we are targeting a different audience: primary school aged children. The workshop is suitable for a range of ages, and will interest students with a passion for the environment, science, or those who enjoy nature craft and/or simply playing with mud!

Participants will learn about native wildflowers and create their own seed balls by hand, which they can take home to water and watch grow.

Thursday, 13 October 9.30am to 11.00am
Vansittart Park, Mount Gambier

For more information and to book, please contact Rose, 0437 597 685, rose.thompson@ngt.org.au.
PERMISSION TO BORROW BOOKS

From time to time a book is shortlisted by the Children’s Book Council of Australia, or purchased by our library, with content which should be restricted to older students or may be upsetting to certain students. There are two processes which we have in place to address this issue.

Some titles are restricted to year six and seven students only. If a younger student attempts to borrow the book, the computer system recognises the age of the student and will not allow the borrowing to occur.

Alternatively, we are able to place an electronic alert on a particular title, so that whenever a student tries to borrow it an alert pops up on the screen. A permission note is then sent home with the student, indicating the nature of the concern and requesting parental permission before the student borrows the book. The permission note must be brought back before the book is allowed to be borrowed.

For the most part, we select books for our collection with great care and avoid purchasing those with questionable content. However some titles are useful for particular themes or units of study and do have a place in the library for those purposes. When we use these titles in our resourced based learning, teachers guide the discussion with care.

If you or your child come across a book which you think should have an alert placed on it, please feel free to phone or email Suzanne or Sharon (teacher librarians) in the library and we will review the book. If parents or caregivers have any concerns about any of the books in our collection, please feel free to contact us to discuss.

Resource Centre Staff

KITCHEN GARDEN CATCH UP

Congratulations to all the children who participated in making a scarecrow to enter in the Banner Mitre 10’s school scarecrow competition. Daisy the scarecrow won first prize!

We will now find her a nice place to live in the garden where everyone can admire her prize winning good looks!

Also congratulations to room nine, the champion pond life surveyors for the term, recording 19 different fresh water creatures in the garden’s wildlife habitat ponds.

A big thank you to Tyler and Ethan from NS, who led the ‘Endless Pleasures’ garden tour last Friday at very short notice. The boys did a magnificent job of informing and entertaining the tour group as they showed off the school’s kitchen garden.

Next term the garden market will be on again on Fridays at home time at the front of the school. Bring your wallets to grab a bargain!

Sam Baker
GARDEN SPECIALIST

CELEBRATING SUCCESS
AWARDS - TERM 3, WEEK 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presented to</th>
<th>By</th>
<th>For</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph L</td>
<td>Mrs Cooper</td>
<td>His persistence in using and controlling his new computer mouse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keele N</td>
<td>Mrs Cooper</td>
<td>Always striving for excellence in all of her work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logan W</td>
<td>Mrs Bisnov &amp; Mrs Schleuniger</td>
<td>Your effort and positive attitude to all learning tasks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noah G</td>
<td>Mrs Bisnov &amp; Mrs Schleuniger</td>
<td>Effort and improvement in reading.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmony C</td>
<td>Mr Opitz</td>
<td>Demonstrating lots of knowledge when writing explanation texts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baille W</td>
<td>Mr Opitz</td>
<td>Being helpful in the class and offering your support to others in their learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kodie W</td>
<td>Ms McAuley &amp; Miss Pratt</td>
<td>His love of learning in science and efforts to expand his knowledge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoey N</td>
<td>Ms McAuley &amp; Miss Pratt</td>
<td>Her empathy towards others and natural ability to work collaboratively in any given situation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniella D</td>
<td>Miss Michalski</td>
<td>Showing great persistence during a complicated task which enabled her to not only complete it but also help lots of others to complete it too. Great work Daniella.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison E</td>
<td>Miss Michalski</td>
<td>Showing great improvement in reading and showing confidence to take risks with his learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tannah S</td>
<td>Mrs McLean</td>
<td>Being class artist, who is happy to assist/mentor other students in many learning areas. Excellent presentation of her learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noah M</td>
<td>Mrs McLean</td>
<td>For his consistent mature approach towards his learning. He asks excellent questions and strives to improve his understanding in all learning areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alyssa S</td>
<td>Ms Munday &amp; Mrs Tilley</td>
<td>Consistently taking on challenges in learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gage P</td>
<td>Ms Munday &amp; Mrs Tilley</td>
<td>Showing greater confidence and engagement with his learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah C</td>
<td>Mrs Widdison &amp; Mrs Tilley</td>
<td>Immensely improved commitment to homework.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebony C</td>
<td>Mrs Widdison &amp; Mrs Tilley</td>
<td>Being a positive class member and for showing commitment to learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caitlin C</td>
<td>Mrs Aston</td>
<td>Completing all learning tasks to a high standard and listening well to feedback.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica G</td>
<td>Mrs Aston</td>
<td>Effort and consistency with her homework.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CANTEEN HELPERS

Phone Michelle 87254221

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Beginning</th>
<th>Mon 17th Oct</th>
<th>Mon 24th Oct</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Jo</td>
<td>Jo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Tamara</td>
<td>Tamara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Deb, Belinda</td>
<td>Krystal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Deb, Belinda</td>
<td>Deb, Belinda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>School closure day</td>
<td>Deb, Jo</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Friday, 23 September was the Jump Rope for Heart jump off day. Thank you to all families who participated in fundraising. Please pay sponsorship money online or to the school in cash by **TOMORROW**. No money will be accepted at school after tomorrow.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**SA Water VACSWIM**

“SA Water VACSWIM, SA’s most iconic aquatic safety program has opened for registrations with organisers encouraging all families to sign up early.

13,000 primary school aged children will take part at over 130 pool and beach locations from 3rd to 11th January 2017, in line with the Christmas and New Year holidays.

VACSWIM is a Government of South Australia initiative providing children with opportunities to develop skills and positive experiences in the areas of water safety, confidence and competence in the water, personal survival activities and basic aquatic emergency procedures.

VACSWIM is described as the best value for money holiday program with individual enrolment starting at $30.00 per participant.

To register families can log onto [www.vacswim.com.au](http://www.vacswim.com.au)
COMMUNITY NEWS

Keynote Speakers include:

Chris Ulmer  Teacher, Speaker and Founder of Special Books by Special Kids
Dr Michelle Garnett  Clinical Psychologist and Founder and Director of ‘Minds & Hearts’
Mark Le Messurier  Teacher, Counsellor and coach to young people and their parents
Chris Varney  Founder and Chief Enabling Officer of ICAN Network

Event Dates

Tuesday 15 Nov 2016
9:30am – 4pm Full Program of Speakers
Norwood Concert Hall, The Parade, Norwood SA

Wednesday 16 Nov 2016
Regional Breakout Session
Port Pirie, location TBC

Thursday 17 Nov 2016
9:30am – 4pm Regional Breakout Session
The Barn Palais, 747 Glenelg River Road, Ml Gambier SA

For more information and to register online go to: directions.org.au/events/conferences
COMMUNITY NEWS

MakerSpace @ the Mount Gambier Library
5th September - 16th October 2016
City of Mount Gambier

Creative Writing Workshops
MONDAY 5th September
Creative Writing Workshop
Want to learn more about the craft of Creative Writing? Develop your writing and confidence, and learn theory and work-shopping skills in a friendly, supportive atmosphere with Birdie (Grey). Bring your laptop or writing material.
2pm - 5pm - Youth & Adults - Multifunction Room - Free

TUESDAY 6th September
3D Design & Print
Drop in to explore the 3D design program, TinkerCad. No design skills necessary. Volunteers on hand to help you print your design in 3D.
12pm - 5pm - All Welcome - Library Floor - Design Free
Print: Gold Coin - Drop In

TUESDAY 6th September
3D Scanning
NEW! Create a 3D model from a physical object using our 3D scanner.
12pm - 5pm - All Welcome - Library Floor - Free - Drop In

MONDAY 7th September & THURSDAY 8th September
Making Crochet Violets
For the NZAC Caravan Choir Up Hi! With simple to follow instructions, and led by local volunteer, we are asking the public to join us in creating crochet or knitted violet which will be displayed on a Memorial Wall. All materials supplied. Pop by for an hour - maybe two!
Meet some like-minded people and enjoy a little afternoon tea.
12:30pm - 3pm - All Welcome - Multifunction Room - Free

SUNDAY 11th September
Treasure Journals
Make your own treasures journal for you to personalise with your own memories, souvenirs and mementos. Perhaps you want a keepsake diary? A book of poems or a collection of quotes. Anything is possible.
1pm - 3pm - Adult - Limited Spaces - Bookings Essential

MONDAY 12th September
Creative Writing Workshop
Want to learn more about the craft of Creative Writing? Develop your writing and confidence, and learn theory and work-shopping skills in a friendly, supportive atmosphere with Birdie (Grey). Bring your laptop or writing material.
2pm - 5pm - Youth & Adults - Multifunction Room - Free
## Mount Gambier Library School Holiday Program
### 30th September - 7th October 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday 07</th>
<th>Monday 03</th>
<th>Tuesday 04</th>
<th>Wednesday 05</th>
<th>Thursday 06</th>
<th>Friday 07</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30-8:30</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
<td>10:30-12:00</td>
<td>10:30-11:10</td>
<td>10:30-11:00</td>
<td>10:30-11:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Light Disco</td>
<td>Blocktoberfest Inspired 3D Printing Under 8</td>
<td>Mashed Up Upcycling Under 8</td>
<td>Interactive Magical Story Telling in the Cave Under 8</td>
<td>Move &amp; Groove</td>
<td>Design &amp; Make Beautiful Glitter Snow Globes Under 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCK IN Ages 8-12</td>
<td>2:30-3:30 Mindful Mandala Sand Art Best suited from 8</td>
<td>2:30-3:30 Minecraft Best suited from 6</td>
<td>2:30-3:30 Design &amp; Create Geometric Art Best suited from 8</td>
<td>10:30-12:00 Blocktoberfest Inspired 3D Printing Under 8</td>
<td>2:30-3:30 Design &amp; Create Unique Snow Globes Best suited from 8</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3:30-4:30 Minecraft Best suited from 6</td>
<td></td>
<td>3:30-4:30 Minecraft Best suited from 6</td>
<td></td>
<td>3:30-4:30 Minecraft Best suited from 6</td>
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Bookings are ESSENTIAL / Spaces Limited / Bookings open on the 26/9/16. Please note Baby Bounce, Storytime & LEGO Fan Club will not run during the School Holidays. For further information and to book either come into the library, go to www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au/library or call (08) 8721 2540.

## Mount Gambier Library School Holiday Program
### 10th - 16th October 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 10</th>
<th>Tuesday 11</th>
<th>Wednesday 12</th>
<th>Thursday 13</th>
<th>Friday 14</th>
<th>Saturday 15 &amp; Sunday 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30-11:30</td>
<td>Mashed Up Upcycling Under 8</td>
<td>10:30-11:30 Create &amp; Make Amazing Balloon Designs Under 8</td>
<td>10:30-11:00 Move &amp; Groove Under 8</td>
<td>10:30 New Release Movie &amp; Popcorn Under 8</td>
<td>10:00-3:00 Blocktoberfest LEGO Fan Event All Welcome / Gold Coin Donation / The Main Corner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30-3:30</td>
<td>Bead &amp; Build Workshop for Key Chains &amp; Jewellery Making Best suited from 8</td>
<td>2:30-3:30 Interactive Art Enjoy drawing while listening to an imaginative story Best suited from 8</td>
<td>2:30-4:00 YOUTH Workshop presented by YAG “Musically Speaking” Best suited from 12</td>
<td>2:30</td>
<td>2:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:30-3:00 Minecraft Best suited from 6</td>
<td>3:30-4:30 Minecraft Best suited from 6</td>
<td>3:30-4:30 Minecraft Best suited from 6</td>
<td></td>
<td>2:30</td>
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