

NEWSLETTER

McDonald Park School



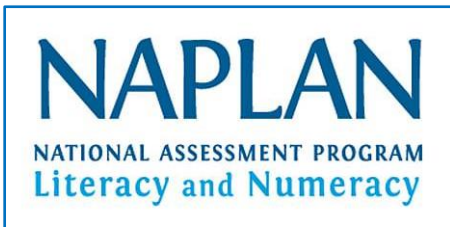
Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Principal – Kirsty Hill
Chairperson Governing Council – Talia Birks
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Issue No 3, 27/2/25 - Week 5, Term 1

NAPLAN 2025

NAPLAN online testing will be carried out in week seven and week eight of term one. This is a nationally developed program that provides schools, the Department for Education and the federal government with information about how education programs are working and what areas need to be prioritised for improvement.



Now that we are in our sixth year of NAPLAN online testing, our staff, ICT and also students are well prepared. The only test that continues to be completed as a hardcopy is the year three writing test. Students in year three and five will complete one test each day.

The sequence of testing is writing, reading, conventions of language and numeracy.

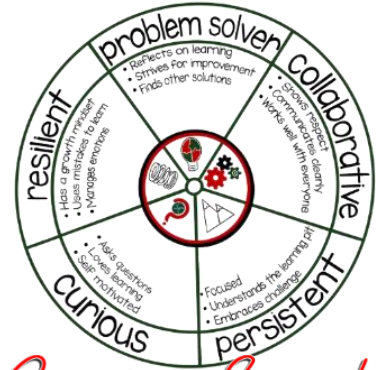
Teachers use a wide range of assessments to create a balanced and comprehensive picture of your child's learning needs. NAPLAN adds to this information by giving a snapshot of progress in literacy and numeracy for students in years three and five.

NAPLAN tests are administered during the same time period in all schools across Australia. The content of the test is aligned to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics. Students do not have to learn specific skills for NAPLAN; in fact, the best preparation is a good all-round education and a growth mindset.

NAPLAN individual student results are posted to schools later in the year – we do not have a timeframe for this at this stage.

Some parents may wish to withdraw their child on religious grounds or due to philosophical objections to testing. Parents may also wish to exempt their child if they are a new arrival in Australia or have a significant intellectual disability. A form needs to be completed and signed by the parent for a withdrawal or exemption to occur; please contact your child's teacher if you wish to exempt or withdraw your child.'

Kirsty Hill, Daniel Castle & Lia Jordan



Coming Events

WEEK 5

Friday 28 Feb

Assembly 9:15am Gym

WEEK 7

Monday 10 March

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Adelaide Cup

Tuesday 11 March

N5 Noorla Yo Long

Wednesday 12 March to

Friday 14 March

NAPLAN

Friday 14 March

CASUAL DAY

Assembly 9:15am Gym

WEEK 8

Monday 17 March to

Friday 21 March

NAPLAN

Wednesday 19 March

CAMP QUALITY Puppet

Show in gym for Rec – Yr6

Thursday 20 March

N6 Noorla Yo Long

WEEK 9

Monday 24 March to

Friday 28 March

Years 3-6 SWIMMING

Friday 28 March

Assembly 9:15am Gym

APPROVED PUPIL FREE DAYS 2025

The following dates have been approved by Governing Council for our 2025 PUPIL FREE DAYS

MONDAY 28 APRIL

FRIDAY 20 JUNE

MONDAY 21 JULY

FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER – Mt Gambier Show

FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER

VISION AWARDS

Term 1, Week 3

PROBLEM SOLVING

Presented to	By	For
Malekai G	Mrs McLean	demonstrating initiative by problem solving day to day tasks with efficiency.

ENGAGEMENT

Presented to	By	For
Meaghan H	Mr Bigg	engaging well in all lessons and trying her best.
Iris H	Mr Bigg	engaging well in all areas of her learning and being super helpful.
Saphira C	Miss Eldridge	improving her engagement and focus in all lessons.
Jacob C	Mrs McCracken	giving 100% on all tasks.
Elliott B	Mrs Dew	attempting all mental maths levels in class.
Blake W	Mrs Widdison & Mrs Tilley	having excellent participation and engagement in all learning tasks.
Imogen S-W	Mrs McLean	her excellent start to each day, amazing focus shown towards her learning.
Paiton P	Ms Mitchell	the confident and respectful way that she engages with her learning and with others.

COLLABORATION

Presented to	By	For
Nathan B	Mr Bigg	working well in groups during lessons.
TJ B	Miss Eldridge	working collaboratively with other students, assisting them with using Canva.
Harry W	Miss Eldridge	being a leader in the class, teaching new students routines such as looking after the chickens.
Albert N	Mrs McCracken	working collaboratively in group activities.
Lexii B	Mrs Dew	working well with others.
Amelia J	Mrs Dew	working well with others in partner and group work.
Skyla L-R	Mrs McLean	being a wonderful, helpful class member. Happy to help everyone.

RESPECT

Presented to	By	For
Romeo L	Miss Eldridge	being a respectful class member who is consistently helpful.
Johniezel C	Mrs McCracken	following class rules and school values.
Destiney B	Mrs McLean	always being respectful towards learning and everyone in our community.

THRIVING

Presented to	By	For
Luke D	Mr Bigg	thriving in all lessons and being super helpful in class.
Mia G	Mrs McCracken	being a curious learner.
Amelia Flier	Ms Munday & Ms Bundy	her strong and confident start to a new school year.
Sophia P	Ms Munday & Ms Bundy	showing commitment to her role in leadership.
Zac Hellyer	Ms Munday & Ms Bundy	beginning the new year with confidence and resilience.
Logan M	Mrs Widdison & Mrs Tilley	bringing energy, knowledge and curiosity to all learning opportunities.
Hailee R	Ms Mitchell	the wonderful way that she has settled into the class and for the positive way she engages with her learning.



STORY DOGS

Welcome Janine & Peppa

McDonald Park School is very excited to have Janine and Peppa returning as regular visitors to our school to help our students with their reading. Janine and Peppa will be visiting every Thursday to read with our year one to three classes.

The Story Dogs program partners with the classroom teachers to help students with their reading. They will work with four students each week. The students will come to the resource centre to sit one-on-one with Janine and Peppa and read to Peppa because she loves to listen and will not mind if the student makes a few mistakes. She just wants to have a fun time so that books and reading become a joyful experience.

Peppa is an Australian Shepherd. She attended all the usual training schools as she grew up, starting with puppy school and then into obedience and agility classes.



Other students may have a chance to participate if the chosen students are absent. If you are interested in volunteering in this rewarding program, please contact the co-ordinator – Helen Williams at helenw@storydogs.org.au

NOORLA YO-LONG



On Monday week 4 the student leaders and sports captains were fortunate to go to Noorla Yo-Long adventure site. The students participated in activities which helped them to build on their understanding of what it means to be a good leader and the importance of good communication and listening skills. They were challenged at different times and learnt strategies which can help in these situations. There was a lot of climbing and balancing and many students enjoyed the challenge of the indoor rock-climbing walls. All the block classes will be attending Noorla Yo-Long this term however the program will be different than the leadership day.



Melaleuca Park
KINDERGARTEN

Is your child turning 4 before 31 October 2025?

Did you know we can offer an extended transition process at Melaleuca Park Kindergarten starting in term 3, 2025.

Call into Kindy and meet our wonderful staffing team to chat about how we can best support your child.

For more information call 088723 5513 or email dl.6534.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

ENROL NOW

Complete a registration of interest form at:

FESTIVAL on the GREEN

FREE EVENT

CULTURAL DANCE, MUSIC, FOOD, DOOR PRIZES, ACTIVITIES AND MORE...

Free Food Vouchers
Limited availability

Saturday March 15th 2025 | Cave Garden / Thugi Mount Gambier | 11am - 3pm

Bring your own **seat!** Don't forget your **deck chair** for a relaxed day on the green!



This event is funded by the Limestone Coast Community Connections team. For more information on Community Connections and regional support, visit the website using this QR code.

MARCH 19 2025

PMCT presents Positive KIDS

6 week program supporting kids/teens to develop communication, confidence, emotional intelligence and more.

For ages: 8 - 15
Time: 5:30 to 6:30pm

Topics include:

- Self-awareness, emotions & regulation
- Personal growth, stress, motivation
- Social skills, communication, empathy
- Relationships and problem solving
- Empowering others, leadership and influence

To Book Call: 0466 094 630 (limited spaces)

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YOUTH WEEK PRESENTS CHILL & CHAT

An event for 12 - 25 year olds

TAKE A BREATHER DURING YOUTH WEEK, CHILL & CHECK IN WITH YOUR MATES

FREE DRINKS AND SNACKS AVAILABLE FOR ATTENDEES AGED 12-25

Wednesday 9 April
3.30PM - 5.00PM
Metro Bakery & Café

No bookings required.
This is a free event for people aged 12 - 25.

Food | Drinks | Music | Games

headspace Mount Gambier

Mount Gambier & Districts Suicide Prevention Network

For more information about Chill & Chat, call headspace Mount Gambier on 8725 0443