

NEWSLETTER

McDonald Park School



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

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Issue No 5, 27/3/25 - Week 9, Term 1

School Camps 2025

School camps are a memorable experience for our students, offering a blend of learning and activities outside of the classroom. For our primary school students, these camps also offer a chance to get to know peers in a different environment and form strong bonds. Camps also encourage independence and organisational skills as students need to ensure they stick to schedules, pack bags with everything they need and keep their dormitories organised and tidy.



Term 1:

The Year 5 cohort will venture to Warrnambool, to learn about the local history and also participate in a range of activities. The camp's program is designed to ignite curiosity and encourage students to embrace new challenges with courage. At Flagstaff Hill students will experience what a classroom was like in the 1800s and the

general life of all groups of people living in Warrnambool during this time. Students will also participate in surfing, kayaking and lawn bowls.

Our Year 6 students will visit Ballarat, steeping themselves in Australia's rich gold rush history. This historical context provides a unique educational opportunity, allowing students to connect with the past in a tangible way. The key historical events that the students will be learning about are the Gold Rush and the Eureka Stockade as well as what life was like during this period. Students will also take on challenging teambuilding activities including the giant swing, crate stacking and zip line.



Term 2:

Our year 3 and 4 students will visit Wannon Falls for a one-night camp in term 2. For many of our students this will be their first school camp. The focus of the year 3 and 4 camp is organised team building and adventure activities designed to promote collaboration and positive relationships between members of the classes.

Thank you to the parents and carers who have volunteered to assist with our school camps this year. Also, thank you to our teachers who have organised

each of these camps to a high degree of detail and thank you to all staff who are attending camps this year.

Kirsty Hill, Daniel Castle & Lia Jordan



Coming Events

WEEK 9

Monday 24 March to
Friday 28 March

Years 3-6 SWIMMING

Friday 28 March

Assembly 9:15am Gym

WEEK 11

Monday 7 April to
Wednesday 9 April

Yr 6 Ballarat Camp

Yr 5 Warrnambool Camp

Friday 11 April

Assembly 9:15am

EARLY DISMISSAL – 2:15pm

McDonald Park School is Celebrating
Neurodiversity
with our very own
SPARKLING DAY
OF INCLUSION
Wednesday
2nd of April

We will be celebrating that we are all unique and different and that we all SPARKLE and SHINE in our own way and in our own time

Please come dressed in SPARKLE or your favourite bright COLOURS!

Mrs Spencer will run different activities throughout the week to celebrate diversity and inclusion.

VISION AWARDS

Term 1, Week 7

RESPECT

Presented to	By	For
Abi G	Mr Bigg	always being respectful to her classmates and teachers.
Isla W	Miss Eldridge	finding ways to help keep our class a tidy and organised space.
Andre V	Mrs McCracken	setting an example to others of following class rules and expectations
Benji R	Mrs Widdison & Mrs Tilley	showing kindness and generosity as a class member, fostering a positive and supportive class culture.
Lylah B	Mrs McLean	outstanding respect towards all learning aspects and displaying a positive attitude daily.

THRIVING

Presented to	By	For
Lucas M	Mr Bigg	actively participating in class discussions and getting great results with his work.
Harriet K	Mrs Dew	thriving in maths.
Gemma M	Ms Munday & Mrs Bundy	growing in confidence sharing her thinking and working with others.
Brax B	Mrs McLean	an amazing work ethic, he completes all set work and is willing to accept challenges.
Kayleigh R	Ms Mitchell	the conscientious way she goes about her learning and fulfilling her leadership responsibilities.

COLLABORATION

Presented to	By	For
Evie K	Mrs McCracken	being a mentor in maths, able to explain her thinking and solutions with others.
Elliott B	Mrs Dew	listening to other people in group work.
Dhriya P	Mrs Dew	providing good feedback.



PROBLEM SOLVING

Presented to	By	For
Nathaniel M	Miss Eldridge	using effective problem solving skills to solve our 'problem of the day'.
Logan W	Mrs McCracken	accepting learning challenges and mentoring others.
Lara B	Mrs Widdison & Mrs Tilley	the careful way you work through math problems and explain your reasoning. Your clear explanations make your thinking visible.

ENGAGEMENT

Presented to	By	For
Emilia B	Mr Bigg	engaging well in all lessons and trying her best to improve her results.
Nash M	Mr Bigg	engaging well in lessons and participating well in group and class discussions.
Luka S	Miss Eldridge	consistently sharing her ideas and knowledge with the class.
Jack H	Miss Eldridge	improving his focus and engagement in all lessons.
Jax S	Mrs McCracken	showing curiosity and persistence in learning tasks.
Charlotte B	Ms Munday & Mrs Bundy	showing excellent focus and working hard in all areas.
Aisling D	Mrs Widdison & Mrs Tilley	actively participating in class discussions, asking insightful questions and sharing valuable knowledge.
Nessa B	Mrs McLean	being an excellent influence within the classroom, while engaging in all set activities.
Caylin JvV	Mrs McLean	engaging in set tasks and demonstrating an obvious improvement in confidence.
Hannah M	Ms Mitchell	the thoughtful way she interacts with her peers and dedication to her learning.



CALLS TO FRONT OFFICE

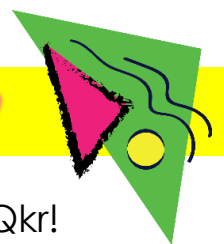
In a school the front office is a very busy place. We are happy to pass on messages to students about urgent matters, but we do ask that all non-urgent messages be kept to a minimum.

In addition to the front office being busy, please be mindful that teachers are not able to check Seesaw messages while teaching during the day and may not see a message until after the school day.

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



Casual Day ~ Week Seven



Week 7's casual day raised \$358. \$286 in cash and \$72 via Qkr!
Funds raised will be going towards playground upgrades.



Camp quality

Puppet Show

In week 8 the people from Camp Quality came to our school to perform a puppet show about cancer. My favourite part about it was how the AFL was going on in the show. I liked how at the end, the girl made it. What I didn't like was why they had to show us this. I think it is because cancer is a really big thing these days, so we should have some knowledge about it. Nathaniel M

Last week we saw the camp quality puppet show. My favourite part was when Tom was in the soccer match. Luka S

Last week we saw the camp quality show. My favourite part was when the brother scored a goal. Isla W

Camp quality was good and they taught us about cancer. The bit that I didn't like was Aussies bit. My favourite bit was the whole rest of the show, except Aussie. Alexis B

Last week we watched a story about a girl that had cancer and her brother Andy who was a soccer player. He made the team and he played on the bench. Ryder W

Last week we saw a puppet show about cancer. We learnt what cancer is like. I really liked the bit when they went to the disco. The characters were Ariel and Tom. Ariel is a puppet and she had cancer. The show was by camp quality. I really liked the show. Harper S

The camp quality show was the best because it wasn't loud. It was good. The brother played soccer and the sister had cancer. Zade K



STUDENT VOICE

Student voice is a valuable element in our school. This year we have made some changes to student voice. We now have two student leadership groups in our upper primary, the ambassadors and the sports captains. Each class has a student representative who attends 'think tank' meetings three times a term. During these meetings, the students work in cross age groups, lead by an ambassador to discuss specific topics, such as fundraising, how community points should be used and the new playground development. We have had two meetings so far and it has been great to hear the opinions and ideas of students from across the school.



WALKING WITH THE SEASONS



On Wednesday we went to Honan's Native Forest. We got to throw a boomerang and we got to collect wattle seeds to crush because we were trying to make flour. - **Tyson T2**

Yesterday we went on an excursion to Honan's Native Forest. On the excursion we crushed wattle seeds and we did the kangaroo dance. We saw jumping ants and animal footprints. - **Luna T2**

On Wednesday we went to Honon Native Forest. I liked throwing the boomerang. I got to be rocked in the kangaroo skin blanket. We sat on logs and didn't talk. We heard forest and animal sounds. I had a fun day at Honon Native Forest. - **Riley T3**

Last week we went on a excursion to Honon Native Forest. My favourite part was throwing the boomerang. We also went on a walk with Damien and Mel. We did a kangaroo and emu dance with Uncle Doug. We made smoke with fire sticks, I made smoke on my first try. I collected blackwood seeds, but then I put them back. - **Ava T3**



On Tuesday Mr Snotbottom came to our school and did a comedy performance. My favourite part was when he called people up to be in the band. He called Mr Bigg up to show us his snotty bottom. I loved it when we could ask him questions and take a photo with him. It was very funny when Romeo put the snotty tissue on his head like a hat. **Scarlett P**

I liked the Mr Snotbottom performance because it was funny and silly. Also I liked it because he was squirting water at us and he was putting his clothes on backwards. His pants were falling down. He had all of these tops that had heaps of different things written on them. It was funny when Romeo had a dirty cloth on his head. **Amirah M**

Yesterday Mr Snotbottom came to our school. My favourite bit was when he got his band from the crowd. Romeo was picked from my class **Will W**

On Tuesday we saw Mr Snotbottom and he was very funny. My favourite part was when the band didn't show up so he created a band from the audience. **Theo W**

Mr Snotbottom was really funny. I liked it when he squirted water all over us. My favourite bit was when he put the snotty cloth on Romeo's head. The band was really funny. **Hemi L**

Yesterday we watched a performance made by Mr Snotbottom. My favourite part was the band. I also liked the part when Mr Snotbottom showed us that he is a snotbottom. **William B**

Yesterday we went to see Mr Snotbottom. I liked it because it was funny. My favourite part was when he made kids be his band. They played a mop a duster and some bins. It sounded like rock music. **Saphira C-G**



Mr SnotBottom

Tuesday 25 March

SAPSASA INFO.

As well as track and field events we have lots of students nominating to participate in up-and-coming SAPSASA competitions such as netball and football. Please be aware that some events are only open to specific year levels. If your child is considering participating in these, please keep an eye on Seesaw as all information will be shared through this platform. Students can come and get a hard copy of information from the front office once the SAPSASA information has been posted to Seesaw. There will be information coming out shortly about Cross Country, which will be held on Friday May 9th in Naracoorte.

School T-Ball



Connor - I favourite moment was catching the ball for the first time ever and getting someone out. I also hit a home run. It was great!



Logan - I have loved hitting home runs and getting people out when I throw the ball to the base where they are running.



Zade - I can finally hit really far and I am proud of myself. My coach Ben was really helpful and kind.



Wednesday, April 2nd (Week 10) is World Autism Awareness Day. This global event has been celebrated since 2007 to raise awareness, acceptance, and appreciation of autistic people. At McDonald Park, we are dedicated to creating an inclusive environment where every student feels valued and supported. Our Autism Inclusion Teacher (AIT), Deanne Spencer, promotes inclusion and diversity by sharing best practices and resources through the AIT initiative. The poster below shares some considerations that have been made by the autistic and autism communities around some respectful ways we can promote autism awareness, acceptance and appreciation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Deanne Spencer for further information about improving support for children and students with autism.



Promoting
Autism
Awareness



AUTISM INCLUSION TEACHER INITIATIVE

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 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 (UNCRPD, 2016).



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District Athletics Day

On Friday 21st of March a group of students, ranging from years 3-6, travelled to Grant High School to participate track and field events in the district Athletics day. These students represented our school well and we are proud of the way they conducted themselves on the day. Whether they attained a place or not, each student used persistence and resilience to do their very best in their event. Thank you to the parent community who came to support our students, the SAPSASA organising body, in particular Tony O'Connell and Grant High School for ensuring the day ran smoothly. We have 5 students who placed first in an event and will be invited to participate in SAPSASA in Adelaide. We wish them good luck and know they will continue to strive for their best.

EVENT	NAME	PLACE
9 year boys 100M	Elliott B	2nd
9 year boys Shot Put	Jay C	3rd
9 year boys Discus	Jay C	3rd
9 year girls 100m	Ella P	3rd
9 year girls 800m	Gabriella P	2nd
9 year girls Long Jump	Gabby A	2nd
9 year girls Shot Put	Gabby A	1st
10 year boys 100m	Nash M	3rd
10 year boys High Jump	Jax S	2nd
10 year boys Discus	Jax S	1st
10 year girls 200m	Amelia J	1st
10 year girls 800m	Amelia J	2nd
11 year boys 800m	Cruz C	1st
11 year girls 800m	Chloe B	3rd
11 year girls High Jump	Anna L	3rd
11 year girls Shot Put	Charlotte B	2nd
11 year girls Long Jump	Chloe B	3rd
11 year girls Discus	Charlotte B	1st
12 year boys 200m	Judd C	2nd
12 year boys 800m	Benji R	1st
12 year boys High Jump	Judd C	2nd





Play Therapy
Family Therapy
Parent Coaching
School Workshops
Holistic Child & Adolescent Therapy

At Calm Kids, we want to ensure that children in rural and remote communities have access to quality support services.

We provide a safe, supportive environment for your child/adolescent to explore their challenges and discover their own ability to heal through a variety of tools, strategies and experiences.

Trusted relationships are everything when it comes to healing, and our counsellors are highly experienced in connecting with young people of all ages. They will provide your child with the opportunity to experience a range of healing modalities so that your child can choose what feels right for them. Art, yoga, talking, psycho-education (learning about their minds and bodies), play, somatic experiences, and relaxation are all ways in which a child can explore their internal challenges and create a healing space with the support of our counsellors.

Calm Kids offers support for children & adolescents who are experiencing:

- anxiety
- depression
- social challenges
- ADHD/ASD/ODD
- family conflict
- behavioural challenges
- trauma
- body issues
- lack of confidence
- transition challenges (eg. new school)



Our counsellors are available for online consultations. We use a program called Teleo to provide engaging sessions. You can book directly via our website or call the number below.

Phone: 0475 293 027 (Australia)
WhatsApp: +61 475 293 027 (International)
Email: gadmin@calmkidswellbeing.com.au
Website: calmkidswellbeing.com.au



Adventure Awaits

APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS



Ignite Your Child's Sense of Adventure This Autumn with Wilderness Escape!

As the weather cools, let your child embrace the great outdoors with **Wilderness Escape!** For over 34 years, we've been South Australia's leading provider of dynamic, educational outdoor programs for kids aged **5 to 17**. Our fully qualified and experienced staff create a **safe, supportive, and exciting** environment where kids can explore, learn, and grow.

This **April school holidays**, we're offering an action-packed mix of **land and water-based activities** to keep kids active and engaged. Whether they're **kayaking, fishing, and snorkelling** or tackling activities at our **Mount Lofty Adventure Hub**, there's an adventure waiting for every young explorer!

No experience? No problems! Our expert instructors provide all the equipment and guidance needed, ensuring every child feels confident taking on new challenges. More than just fun, our programs help kids **build resilience, make new friends, and develop a deeper connection with nature.**

Spots fill fast—secure your child's place today!

Call (08) 8165 2022

<https://wildernessescape.com.au/school-holiday-programs/>

let the adventure begin!



Get up to \$500 for education costs

Limestone Coast Unpaid Carer Forum

Continue conversations and share your insights about services and supports for unpaid Carers.

Workshop topics will include:

- How does Carers SA support Carers?
- What are the gaps in supporting Carers in your region?
- How can we work together to better support Carers in your region?

Tuesday 8 April 2025
10:30am - 12:00pm
Online Forum

“ These forums are a fantastic way to connect service providers in a region. They can only strengthen and improve services for Carers. ”





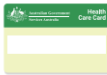
RSVP by Tuesday 1 April 2025
communityengagement@carerssa.com.au
or 08 8291 5600



Get up to \$500 for education costs

Achieve a savings goal for 10 months, and ANZ will match it up to \$500.

To be eligible, you need to meet all of these requirements:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 
18 years or older | 
A regular income (you or your partner) | 
Attend free online financial education workshops | 
Are studying yourself or have a child at school, or starting next year |
| | | | 
Current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card |

Saverplus.org.au
1300 610 355



Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in partnership with The Smith Family and Berry Street. It is funded by ANZ and Department of Social Services.

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Vacation Care | 14 – 25 April

REGULAR / NON-SUBSIDY	FULL FEE	\$65.00	CCS REDUCED FEE*	\$9.75 - \$35.75
	FULL FEE	\$85.00	CCS REDUCED FEE*	\$12.75 - \$46.75

*Estimation of fees after subsidy is applied

WEEK 1

Monday
14 April

In-House
Colour Run



Let's make today colourful! Dress up in your favourite colour, get your hair sprayed and add a unique design to our collaborative mural. Bring a white shirt because after lunch we are doing a colour run!

Outcomes: 1, 3, 4

Tuesday
15 April

Excursion
Circus Training



We're heading to Blue Lake Gymnastics to learn some epic tricks! Before ending our day with circus games and face painting.

Depart: 10:45am
Return: 12:30am
Transport: Private Bus

Outcomes: 3, 4, 5

Wednesday
16 April

Incursion
Hands On



Get creative with art, cooking and science. Use tools and wood supplies to construct your own character to take home. Bunnings will also be hosting a pot and plant event.

Start: 1:00pm
Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Thursday
17 April

In-House
Hot Wheels



Bring along your wheels today, who will be the fastest on the track? Don't forget your helmets!

We're designing our own crafty car and then opening our "car wash" station.

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Friday
18 April



PUBLIC HOLIDAY

WEEK 2

Monday
21 April



PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Tuesday
22 April

In-House
Mythical Realm



Step through the portal into our own magical world, come dressed as an enchanted being ready to explore our potions and slime, come on daring quests and bring your own creatures to life.

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Wednesday
23 April

Incursion
Bounce Into Fun



Get active for our basketball clinic, but the bouncing fun doesn't stop there! We're doing activities involving various round materials such as papier mâché, magnet marble runs, target competitions and more!

Outcomes: 2, 3, 4, 5

Thursday
24 April

In-House
Relax Beauty Retreat



Welcome to the OSHC beauty retreat, where we can relax and get pampered in our PJs. Make your own pizza, create your own playdough and walk along our sensory path.

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Friday
25 April



lest we forget
ANZAC DAY
25 April



Book your session via the Xplor Home App

Visit sa.ymca.org.au/OSHC for more information

McDonald Park OSHC
50-55 North Terrace, Mt Gambier, SA, 5290
Esther Feast
0428 401 962

OSHC Support Team
P 08 8200 2516
E oshc@ymcasa.org.au
f /YMCA SA OSHC

the **Y**