

NEWSLETTER

McDonald Park School

Principal – Kirsty Hill

Chairperson Governing Council – Talia Birks

57 North Terrace, Mount Gambier SA 5290

Telephone 08 8724 9811 Fax 08 8725 0254 Email dl.1021.info@schools.sa.edu.au

Website www.mcpark7.sa.edu.au



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Issue No 7, 8/5/25 - Week 2, Term 2

Pupil Free Day

South Australian Curriculum Mathematics



On Monday April 28, our teaching staff focused on the mathematics learning area of the South Australian curriculum. While the curriculum is based on the Australian Curriculum it does have several changes and for this reason teachers need time to familiarise themselves with these differences and consider how they will plan and assess against these changes. 2025 will continue to be a familiarisation year with the South Australian mathematics curriculum before being implemented in 2026.

One of the key changes to the curriculum is a greater emphasis on dispositions. While dispositions aren't new, they do now require more consideration by teachers in their planning process.

Below is an explanation of dispositions from the South Australian Curriculum webpage.

DISPOSITIONS

What it is: A disposition is an enduring attitude, belief, value or pattern of thinking that influences behaviour and decisions throughout life.

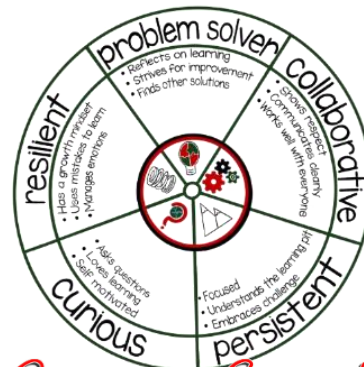
Dispositions are the 'be' element in the SA Curriculum learning standards – who learners are becoming.

Why it matters: Positive dispositions influence an individual's actions and responses, affecting wellbeing, and success in learning.

Dispositions for the area of maths are reflective, resourceful and resilience.

Our support staff used the morning of the pupil free to complete online training on cultural responsiveness and sensory processing. We have also significantly increased the amount of take-home decodable books for our developing readers and for the remainder of the day the SSOs covered 100s of these books. In the coming weeks, each of our reception and year 1 and 2 classes will have a more comprehensive range of decodables for their children to read, enjoy and share with their families.

Kirsty Hill, Daniel Castle & Lia Jordan



Coming Events

WEEK 2

Friday 9 May

Cross Country - Naracoorte

MEM FOX visit – 9:30 am



WEEK 4

Wednesday 21 May

National Simultaneous

Story time

WEEK 5

Monday 26 May

Governing Council Meeting

Friday 30 May

CASUAL DAY

WEEK 7

Monday 9 June

KING'S BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

WEEK 8

Friday 20 June

PUPIL FREE DAY

VISION AWARDS

Term 1, Week 11

PROBLEM SOLVING		
Presented to	By	For
William B	Miss Eldridge	using effective skills to solve mathematical problems.
Amity W	Mrs McCracken	thinking deeply to solve mathematical problems.
Izzy Mc	Mrs Dew	painting the garden cubby.
Stevie C	Mrs Dew	painting the garden cubby.
Ivy L	Mrs Munday & Mrs Bundy	demonstrating the learner assets and becoming increasingly confident when attempting more challenging maths problems.

ENGAGEMENT		
Presented to	By	For
Seth P	Mr Bigg	being engaged in lessons and trying his best with his work.
Levi C	Mr Bigg	engaging well in all lessons to get some great results with his work.
Scarlett P	Miss Eldridge	being engaged in art lessons and putting effort into artistic tasks.
Will W	Miss Eldridge	enthusiastically participating in all aspects of his learning.
Matilda L	Mrs McCracken	displaying a positive attitude towards all learning opportunities.
Ahna H	Ms Munday & Mrs Bundy	persisting with her media studies task and using feedback to improve the final product.
Tia R	Mrs Widdison & Mrs Tilley	having consistently high levels of engagement and a great commitment to homework.
Clifton J	Mrs Widdison & Mrs Tilley	being an interested, motivated and engaged learner in all areas.
Zaphira P	Mrs McLean	working hard to meet all learning expectations.
Van B-A	Mrs McLean	working hard to meet all task criteria and utilising feedback.
Sophie D	Ms Mitchell	the positive way she approaches her learning, effort with doing her best at all times, and with being a friendly class member.
Millie P	Ms Mitchell	the wonderful detail she included with her "Significant place in SA" painting, and for the improved effort to extend her writing further.

COLLABORATION		
Presented to	By	For
Gabriella P	Mr Bigg	working very well with others in group and partner work in class.
Emmi S	Mrs Dew	working with others to sort library books into level boxes.
Amelia J	Mrs Dew	working with others to sort library books into level boxes.
Lexii B	Mrs Dew	working with others to sort library books into level boxes.
Violet D	Mrs Dew	working with others to sort library books into level boxes.

RESPECT		
Presented to	By	For
Evie F	Mr Bigg	showing excellent respect to her class mates and teachers alike.
Mikayla T	Miss Eldridge	being a kind and considerate class member who always looks for ways to help.
Rydah P	Mrs McCracken	consistently demonstrating respect and consideration towards classmates and teachers.
Austen G	Mrs McLean	working hard to improve focus to demonstrate understanding across the curriculum.

THRIVING		
Presented to	By	For
Gabriella A	Mrs McCracken	showing greater confidence to share her ideas within class discussions.
Charlotte B	Ms Munday & Mrs Bundy	her inclusivity, empathy and outstanding leadership skills.
Stella C	Mrs Widdison & Mrs Tilley	showing leadership, initiative and a commitment to learning.
Kieran N	Mrs McLean	consistently dedicating his attention to all learning areas.





On ANZAC Day, our student leadership group, accompanied by Ms Bundy, Ms Hill and Mr Castle, attended the ANZAC Day Dawn Service. Our students laid a wreath on behalf of McDonald Park School and learnt about the history of ANZAC Day and the ANZACS. Despite the service being very early in the morning, our students enjoyed the experience and valued the opportunity of being able to represent our school on this important occasion.



On ANZAC Day, all of the student leaders went to the dawn service. We got little poppies to stick on our jumpers and we stood for an hour to listen to the people speaking. Finally after that we placed a wreath and watched everyone else place their wreaths.

Baden D

On ANZAC Day, the student leaders went to the dawn service which started at 6:20am. We listened to people speak to us about the war and heard the last post. This was followed by the honour of laying the wreath. **Kayleigh R**

On ANZAC Day, the student leaders went to the ANZAC dawn service. Our school were called to lay a wreath on the plaque to respect the ones who died at war. After the read was laid down, everyone had to take off their hats and beanies to do a minutes silence to pay respect for those who died. It was very delightful to see so many people who cared for those who died in war.

Meah Mc

On ANZAC Day, the student leaders went to the dawn service. We were among many other schools and sports clubs, there to pay our respects. It was a very interesting and important experience. It was good to see so many people there telling the fallen soldiers that they did not die in vain. **Aisling D**

I really enjoyed it because we got to see some of the soldiers and we honoured them by laying a wreath. It was a good experience to be a part of it. **Tyler G**

It was a long service and standing still the whole time, but it was interesting hearing all the speeches and I enjoyed being a part of the service and representing our school. **Paiton P**

I liked how we showed so much respect when we laid the wreath. It was exciting for me because I have never been at a dawn service before. **Charlotte B**

I liked how much respect was shown towards the ANZACs and I was amazed how the soldiers stood around the monument, staying still. It was great to see all the other schools there. Charlotte and I placed our wreath. **Sophia P**



BALLARAT CAMP

Year 6



At the beginning of week 11, term one, 53 eager year six campers boarded the bus, bound for the Log Cabin Campsite at Creswick. After a long journey which included a stop off for recess at Hamilton, we arrived at the campsite and following a quick welcome we got straight into our afternoon activities of milk crate stacking, ziplining, the giant swing, trampolining and gaga ball. These activities all rely on team work, communication and challenge students to take safe risks and step out of their comfort zone. That evening, after a delicious dinner of chicken schnitzel, potatoes and salad, followed by chocolate pudding, we went for a night walk and met Shaun, the resident sheep. Later, we sat around campfires and cooked damper on sticks.

The next day we headed to the living museum of Sovereign Hill in Ballarat where we spent the entire day. Our learning included an education session where we created tableaux of key scenes from the Eureka Stockade, a gold pour where we watched molten gold become a solid gold bar worth half a million dollars, trying our luck at gold panning, an 1850s shopping experience and the underground Red Hill Mine tour which tells the story of the discovery of the Welcome Nugget. We returned to the campsite for an early dinner of roast pork, vegetables and sticky date pudding before heading back to Sovereign Hill to experience the sound and light show, Aura. We were immersed in the 3D experience that chronicles the beginning of earth and the creation of gold, then moves to the outdoor theatre to tell the story of the Dreaming of the local Wadawurrung people before ending in a sound and light spectacular focusing on life on the discovery of gold in Ballarat, life on the goldfields and the events before, during and after the Eureka Stockade. It was straight to bed after a big day of learning!

Our last day of camp ensured everyone completed their last activity and we thanked the wonderful staff before, once again, loading the bus to head home.

Thank you to the staff of the Log Cabin Campsite and Sovereign Hill for providing varied, challenging and interesting learning experiences for our students. Thanks to Jim from Mount Gambier Bus Lines for getting us all there and back safely. Thanks also to parents Riana Knight, Danny Vinko and Jeremy Priddle and staff Shane Lewis, Shiloh Fennell, Kristy Drage, Katherine Bundy, Deanne Spencer, Lia Jordan for being willing and able to come along and support our year six camp. **Helen Widdison**



Story Dogs Volunteers



CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Story Dogs is a Literacy Charity and our mission is to make reading fun for children, so that they become confident lifelong readers

When children read to a dog the outcomes are amazing:

- They have FUN
- They are not judged
- Their focus improves
- Their reading skills increase
- Their confidence soars

Our school would like to start this reading support program.

However to do this we need to find suitable volunteers.

- Do you have one morning free each week?
- Do you have a calm, obedient and gentle dog?

If yes, please consider joining the Story Dog Team



For more information please visit the website storydogs.org.au

Mount Gambier Coordinator
Lesley Okholm: lesleyo@storydogs.org.au

Staffing Updates

This term we welcome back, Laura Dempsey from maternity leave. We are thrilled to have you back with us. At the same time, we want to send our warmest wishes to Hannah Waters, who is finishing up to begin maternity leave at the end of week 2. We wish Hannah, Todd and Eli all the joy, love, and happiness that comes with this special time - enjoy every moment!

We welcome Ben Savage to A4, he will be taking the class from Monday to Wednesday and Laura Day will continue to teach them on Thursdays and also Fridays.

Community News

Keep your child's smile healthy - for FREE!

Limestone Coast Dental is proud to support the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS). Eligible children aged 0-17 can access up to \$1,132 in FREE dental care over 2 calendar years through Medicare.

Services covered include: check-ups, clean, x-rays, fillings and fissure seals, extractions, root canals

No out-of-pocket costs for eligible services!

Where:

Limestone Coast Dental, 38 James Street, Mount Gambier SA 5290

Call us today to check eligibility or book an appointment on 87 230 230
Please have your Medicare card details ready.

Your child's dental health is important - let us help keep their smile bright and healthy!
Bulk billed under Medicare's Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS). Terms and eligibility apply.



ENROLMENT TOURS

**Sunday, 1 June 2025
2.00pm**

**Monday, 2 June 2025
10.00am**

Please phone the school to register

p: 08 8724 9811
e: dl.1021.info@schools.sa.edu.au
57 North Terrace, Mount Gambier SA 5290
www.mcpark7.sa.edu.au



MAY IS HISTORY MONTH AT THE MT GAMBIER PUBLIC LIBRARY

1-31 May | during Library opening hours
Whose House is That? - Photographic Display
Help us identify our large collection of unidentified real estate images from the 1970s and 1980s.

7 and 14 May | 2:00pm - 3:00pm
Immersive Storytelling
Combining virtual reality, 360 degree footage, photographs from the Les Hill Photographic Collection and oral recordings from local residents capturing memories of days gone by. Bookings not required.

Sunday 11 May | 11:30am
Church Hill Historic Walking Tour
Travel along Penola Road and trace the social changes of our city over the last 175 years. Bookings essential.

Tuesday 13 May | 11:30am
Storytime - The Imagineer by Christopher Cheng
The Imagineer is the story of Penny who goes exploring in her Grandpa's shed and finds lots of gadgets from long, long ago. Suitable for ages 2 years and older. Bookings not required.

Tuesday 20 May | 10:00am
Nostalgia Nook
Join us for a cuppa and a chat as we talk about objects, people, events and memories from days gone by. Bookings encouraged.

Friday 23 May | 1:30pm
Why I love Historical Fiction - Dr Helen Edwards
Join South Australian children's and young adult author Helen Edwards as she discusses her love for historical fiction, research processes, and writing techniques. Suitable for youth and adults aged 12+. Bookings essential.

Sunday 25 May | 11:30am
Pints, Prayers and Pupils: The Surprising History of Mount Gambier's Pubs - Historic Walking Tour
What do church services, school lessons, libraries, and mortuaries have in common? 150 years ago, you could find them all inside the local pub! Join us for a fun and fascinating dive into the social history and colourful characters behind some of Mount Gambier's oldest buildings. Bookings essential.



Inclusive Teaching & Learning
SIES



CARE PLANS AND NDIS PROVIDERS IN SCHOOLS INFORMATION SESSION

The Department's Statewide Inclusive Education Services (SIES) will be hosting an information session about care plans and NDIS providers in schools presented by Nicolle Rerich, Manager, Disability, Policy & Legislation via Microsoft Teams (scan the code below).

If you're a parent or carer of a student with disability at a Department School, you are invited to the session where SIES staff will also be available to discuss resources and supports.



THURSDAY
22nd MAY 2025



1pm - 2:30pm



Join the meeting here



8235 2871



sies.admin@schools.sa.edu.au



www.SIES.sa.edu.au



FREE

Mother's Day Family Night

Bunnings Mt Gambier



Thursday 8th of May

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Activities and fun for the whole family


Join us to celebrate Mum's.
Mum can make her own mini Kokadama.
Kids can make their mum a gift and play games with our community groups.
Free Sausage Sizzle and Popcorn.

Don't miss out, register now!



Scan Me






LIMESTONE COAST REGIONAL PLAN

Have your say and help shape the future of the Limestone Coast region

yourSAy.sa.gov.au/limestone-coast-regional-plan



The Limestone Coast Regional Plan (the Plan) is open for consultation from Tuesday, 25 March until 11:59pm Tuesday 17 June 2025.

The Plan provides a vision and comprehensive strategy for the sustainable development of the Limestone Coast over the next 30-years.

The Plan will identify where an extra 8,610 homes can be located and where jobs will be created as the region's population expands. It will provide greater certainty to community, councils and the development sector on the long-term growth of the Limestone Coast in response to the increasing demand for housing.

The community is invited to share its views on key priorities of the Plan including:


- the location of new housing and employment
- how transport networks will service these areas
- the essential infrastructure needs to support growth
- identifying areas that could benefit from renewal
- protecting specific areas from future development.

Get involved


View the Plan and have your say at:
regional.plan.sa.gov.au

In person and online drop-in sessions will be provided covering key topics of the Plan. Register to attend a session at: plansaevents.eventbrite.com

For further information: email PlanSA@sa.gov.au or call the PlanSA Service Desk on 1800 752 6644.



Government of South Australia
Department for Housing and Urban Development



STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

