

NEWSLETTER

McDonald Park School

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Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Issue No 10, 19/6/25 - Week 8, Term 2

PhOrMeS

2025 is the first year of full implementation of PhOrMeS across all year levels after our successful trial in 2024. PhOrMeS has replaced Words Their Way and Read Write Inc. meaning that all our students are now accessing the same word reading and spelling curriculum.

A brief explanation of PhOrMeS is below from the PhOrMeS website. Word Reading, or decoding, is taught in a sequential manner. Beginners are taught to read short, simple, phonetically regular words and progress to increasingly more difficult words across their primary schooling.

Spelling is best taught side-by-side with word reading/decoding. This is what PhOrMeS does. Students are taught to spell words with the same target graphemes, spelling rules, morphological concepts, or etymological roots they are learning to read.

Phonology: letter-to-sound relationships (codes)

Orthography: Reading & Spelling of *irregularly spelt words*

Morphology: A morpheme is the smallest unit of meaning -s = plural, re- = again

etymology: Origin and history of words

Semantics: Meaning in language

Here is what is currently being learnt across the school in each year group.

Reception: A4: 'igh' as in 'fright, light and sigh', A1 and A2: 'u', 'y', 'i' and 'k' codes

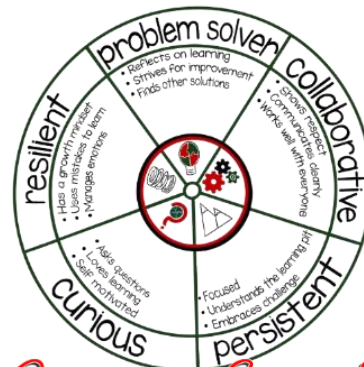
Year 1 & 2: 'air', 'ear' and 'oo' codes

Year 3 & 4: 111 rule (when to double the consonant when adding a vowel suffix such as 'ing', 'ed', 'able' etc.

Year 5 & 6: Latin morphology 'form' and Greek morphology numbers

The students are very good at explaining the codes, rules, and morphology they are learning. At home, ask your child which code/rule/morphology they learnt today and see if they can explain it to you. This will strengthen their understanding and help with long term memory.

Kirsty Hill, Daniel Castle & Lia Jordan



Coming Events

WEEK 8

Friday 20 June

PUPIL FREE DAY

WEEK 9

Monday 23 June

Governing Council

Wednesday 25 June

Mid-year Reception Transition

Thursday 26 June

Mid-year Reception Transition

WEEK 10

Monday 30 June

Reports & Student Portfolios go home

Thurs 3 July

STOMP Showcase 9:00am till 10:00am in Gym

Friday 4 July

Last day of term 2

EARLY DISMISSAL 2:15 pm



VISION AWARDS

Term 2, Week 6



PROBLEM SOLVING

Presented to	By	For
Malikye T	Mrs Spencer & Mrs Harding	persisting and using his initiative to solve day to day challenges.
Marley T	Ms Hutchinson & Mrs Deppeler	experimenting and challenging herself in math when learning new addition strategies.

ENGAGEMENT

Presented to	By	For
Alexander T	Mrs Pitkin & Mrs Harding	showing greater confidence towards his learning and being engaged during lesson time.
Mia M	Miss Day	always putting 100% effort into each learning task and spending time on small details to make her work stand out.
Eli B	Miss Day	working hard to stay on task during learning time and taking his time to make sure his work is neat and complete.
Jebb P	Ms Hutchinson & Mrs Deppeler	taking on feedback to deepen his understanding of math topics and to improve his sentence structure in writing.
Tex L	Mrs Cooper & Mrs Deppeler	improving his engagement in word study, PhOrMeS and handwriting.
Shane O	Ms Huitema	challenging his learning during math by solving complex sums.

COLLABORATION

Presented to	By	For
Nate M	Mrs Cooper & Mrs Deppeler	working collaboratively in groups and being an engaged learner.

RESPECT

Presented to	By	For
Mackenzie F	Mrs Pitkin & Mrs Harding	consistently demonstrating respect and kindness to her classmates and teachers.
Avery T	Miss Schulz & Mrs Deppeler	always being a kind and considerate class member to her peers.
Eden K	Mrs Cooper & Mrs Deppeler	being a kind, caring and respectful class member who willingly helps others.

THRIVING

Presented to	By	For
Zahara R	Mrs Spencer & Mrs Harding	continuing to always try her best and diligently focusing on her tasks.
Luna S	Miss Schulz & Mrs Deppeler	increased fluency and confidence towards reading.
Hallie B	Ms Hutchinson & Mrs Deppeler	working hard in math to deepen her understanding of numbers through place value and addition.
Jamison L	Mrs Cooper & Mrs Deppeler	displaying a growth mindset in taking the time to complete your work to the best of your ability.
Lara P	Ms Huitema	writing very detailed, descriptive sentences during literacy lessons.



LIONS MAD MINUTE

This is an initiative by the Lions Club which aims to develop young people's confidence when speaking to a group. It is an impromptu speaking competition for year 5 students across the region, where they talk to an audience on a randomly selected topic for 1 minute. Last week we had our school competition, which was judged by Lions club members, to see who would be representing our school in the Grand Challenge against students from other schools in week 9 at Mount Gambier High School. Congratulations goes to Millie P, Chloe B and Sailor W.



SAPSASA CROSS COUNTRY

It was lots of fun at the State Cross Country Championships. When we got there Dad and I said "wow!" because there were so many cars. It was good conditions for running. I felt like I did well. I came 88th out of 190 runners. It was awesome.

Max Y

On Thursday the 5th of June, I competed at the Oakbank Racecourse for the State Cross Country Championships. I ran 3 kilometres against roughly 250 other 12 year old kids. I came 118th and got a time of 13 minutes. After the race I explored around and went to the ice-cream truck. I got a jumper with my name on it. Overall it was a great experience and I would love to do it again.

Kade J

On Thursday 5th of June I went to Adelaide to run in cross country for my 3rd time in 3 years. My race was at 10:14 am and was 3km. I was nervous when I went to the marshalling area and then I found Kade and we warmed up together. That made me feel better. When the race started I was pretty angry because I couldn't get to the front of the pack because people were jamming me in and were pushing. When people started to get tired I knew because I could work my way towards the front. I came 36th out of 205 people. **Benji R**



Week 10: Stomp Dance Company – Whole School Dance Initiative

In Week 10 of Term 2, Stomp Dance Company will deliver a dynamic three-day dance intensive for all students from Reception to Year 6. During this program, students will learn and rehearse four to five choreographed routines, gaining valuable experience in performance and movement.

This exciting opportunity is designed to support students in learning routines, perfecting their roles, and building confidence. It also fosters a deeper understanding of being part of a large ensemble, where teamwork, collaboration, and cooperation are essential in every session.

There is no cost to families as it has been covered by the Rural and Isolated Funding. All students will participate as part of catering for a balanced curriculum, covering all aspects of 'The Arts'.

The skills developed through this programme are fundamental as we prepare for our upcoming whole school musical. We are enthusiastic about the benefits this program brings and look forward to participating in this enriching learning experience.

On the Thursday morning from 9:00 am to 10:00 am there will be a showcase where classes will get the opportunity to perform the dances they have learnt. This will be in the gym and parent/caregivers are welcome to attend.

RECONCILIATION WEEK

In the lead-up to Reconciliation Week, many classes have been deeply engaged in learning about Australia's First Nations Peoples. Some explored key events such as the 1967 Referendum, Sorry Day, and Mabo Day, while others focused on the rich diversity of First Nations languages spoken across the country. Across the school, there has been a strong emphasis on understanding Australia's shared history and listening to the experiences and perspectives of First Nations people throughout time. Inspired by this year's theme, Bridging Now to Next, each student created a leaf reflecting on what they know, say or do now and what steps they can take next. Here are some statements our students created.

Now I understand how Aboriginal people might have felt

Next I want to learn more about their languages

Now I know about all the unfairness and rudeness in the past

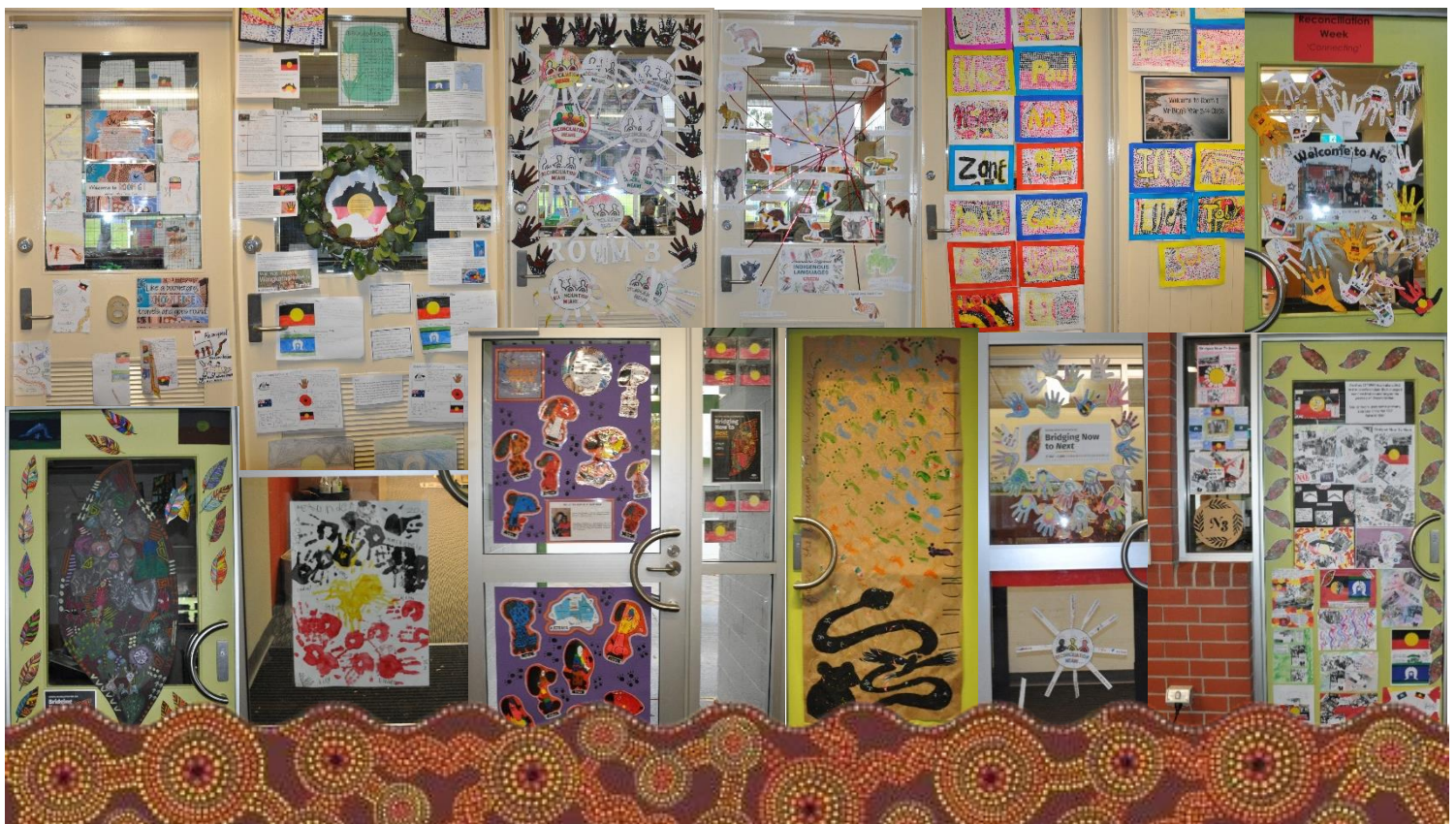
Next I want to share my knowledge with the future and current generation.

Now I understand how Reconciliation Week began and how it was created

Next I will share this information and pass it on to people who want to learn



We also celebrated Reconciliation Week with a competition to decorate our doors with learning about Reconciliation. Although there were many great displays of work, Room 4 and N3 won this by showing their understanding of empathy, history and thinking about the future. We thank all classes who participated and a big thank you to OSHC who also joined in with this learning and created a wonderful door.



CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

SATURDAY 5 JULY TO SUNDAY 20 JULY



City of
Mount Gambier



SATURDAY 5 JULY TO SUNDAY 20 JULY: CAST IN BLUE COLOURING IN FREE | ALL AGES

During opening hours @ The Riddoch Arts & Cultural Centre

DIY Cast in Blue colouring in pages available in The Riddoch's foyer. Bookings not required.

MONDAY 7 JULY TO SUNDAY 13 JULY: COSY CREATIONS FREE | ALL AGES

During opening hours @ Mount Gambier Library

Get creative and decorate your own paper mittens and beanies. A fun winter craft that's perfect to take home and display for a cosy winter touch! Drop-in DIY craft, bookings not required.

MONDAY 7 JULY: CRINKLE AND CREATE COLLAGE FREE | AGES 5+

10:00am @ Mount Gambier Library

Tear, scrunch, and stick colourful tissue paper to create your very own vibrant collage masterpiece! Bookings essential.

TUESDAY 8 JULY: EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS FREE | UNDER 5'S

BABY BOUNCE

11:00am @ Mount Gambier Library

In this session we encourage face to face play between parents and babies, lots of laughing, giggling, and singing. Suitable for ages 0 to 18 months. Bookings not required.

STORYTIME

11:30am @ Mount Gambier Library

Nurture a love for reading, build language and comprehension skills, and have fun! Sing songs and share a story, followed by an activity. Suitable for ages 2 to 5 years. Bookings not required.

TUESDAY 8 JULY: 3D PRINTING FREE | AGES 7+

Drop-in session between 2:00pm and 5:00pm @ Mount Gambier Library

Using TinkerCad, choose a design or build your own unique creation, which will be printed for you. Bookings not required.

WEDNESDAY 9 JULY: MOUNT GAMBIER/BERRIN: NAIDOC WEEK 2025 **FREE | ALL AGES**

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST AND CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

9:00am to 12:00pm @ Vansittart Park

Event includes: colour run, giant games, hands on family activities, free food and drinks.
Presented by Aboriginal Family Support Services and local community organisations.

WEDNESDAY 9 JULY: LAVA LAMPS **FREE | AGES 7+**

10:00am @ Mount Gambier Library

Mix up some bubbly magic and make your very own lava lamp! Watch the colours dance and take your cool creation home. Bookings essential.

WEDNESDAY 9 JULY: VR CELESTIAL PAINTING **FREE | AGES 12+**

2:00pm @ The Riddoch Arts & Cultural Centre

Using the celestial themes from the Almost Here, Almost Now exhibition, create virtual starry paintings in Tiltbrush as a collaboration, taking turns to fill a sky with creative wonders.
Bookings essential.

THURSDAY 10 JULY: EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS **FREE | UNDER 7'S**

JOIN YOUR FIRST TEDDY BEAR PICNIC!

10:00am @ Mount Gambier Library

It's teddy bear picnic day! Bring your teddy and join us for biscuit decorating to celebrate.
Bookings not required.

THURSDAY 10 JULY: MOVIE: SHAUN THE SHEEP: FARMAGEDDON (G) **FREE | ALL AGES**

2:00pm @ The Riddoch Arts & Cultural Centre

As we consider our place in the world through the exhibition Almost Here, Almost Now we follow the adventures of Shaun the Sheep and his flock as they deal with intergalactic visitors to the farm. Bookings essential.

FRIDAY 11 JULY TO SUNDAY 13 JULY: GIANT GAMES **FREE | ALL AGES**

During opening hours @ Mount Gambier Library

Pop into the Library this weekend for school holiday fun and enjoy playing giant games. Drop-in activity, bookings not required.

FRIDAY 11 JULY: MOUNT GAMBIER/BERRIN: NAIDOC WEEK 2025 **FREE | ALL AGES**

GENERATIONAL FAMILY DAY

11:00am to 3:00pm @ Valley Lake/Ketla Malpi

Free family and cultural activities and entertainment. Presented by Burrandies Cultural Connections and local community organisations.

FRIDAY 11 JULY: SCROLL MAKING **FREE | AGES 12+**

2:00pm @ Mount Gambier Library

A hands on baking session where you will learn to make delicious cinnamon scrolls – mixing, rolling, and creating your own sweet treat to take home and bake! Bookings essential.

SATURDAY 12 JULY: TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT**FREE | AGES 8 TO 17****10:00am @ Mount Gambier Library**

Get ready for non-stop action at the ultimate Table Tennis Tournament where lightning-fast reflexes and razor-sharp focus collide! Who will dominate the table and claim the crown? Only one way to find out. Game on! Bookings essential.

SUNDAY 13 JULY: WINTER MOVIES**FREE | ALL AGES****11:00am @ Mount Gambier Library**

Join us for an all-ages, family friendly movie screening! Drop-in activity, bookings not required.

MONDAY 14 JULY TO SUNDAY 20 JULY: SCAVENGER HUNT**FREE | ALL AGES****During opening hours @ Mount Gambier Library**

Come into the Library and find all of the hidden items cast in blue! Drop-in DIY activity for the whole family. Bookings not required.

MONDAY 14 JULY: POP-UP PLAYGROUP**FREE | UNDER 5'S****10:00am to 12:00pm @ City Hall**

Join the Mount Gambier Library and Centacare at City Hall for a playgroup suitable for preschool children and their families. Bookings not required.

TUESDAY 15 JULY: EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS**FREE | UNDER 5'S****GROOVE AT YOUR FIRST BABY RAVE!****10:00am @ Mount Gambier Library**

A fun-filled dance party designed for babies, toddlers, and their grown-ups – get ready to rave in the cave! Bookings essential.

TUESDAY 15 JULY: 3D PRINTING**FREE | AGES 7+****Drop-in session between 2:00pm and 5:00pm @ Mount Gambier Library**

Using TinkerCad, choose a design or build your own unique creation, which will be printed for you. Bookings not required.

TUESDAY 15 JULY: PAINT YOUR FIRST D&D FIGURE**FREE | AGES 10+****2:00pm @ Mount Gambier Library**

Discover the art of painting 3D D&D figures! Detail, shade, and highlight miniatures to bring your characters and monsters to life. Bookings not required.

WEDNESDAY 16 JULY: MEGAFUNA CLAY**FREE | AGES 7+****10:30am @ The Riddoch Arts & Cultural Centre**

Getting ready for the arrival of Cast in Blue, create your own mythical mega fauna based on the discoveries of animal bones from the depths of our sinkholes using polymer clay. Bookings essential.

WEDNESDAY 16 JULY: FORT FRENZY

FREE | AGES 5+

2:00pm @ Mount Gambier Library

Build, launch, and defend your fort in this exciting challenge. Who will knock down the competition and claim victory? Bookings essential.

THURSDAY 17 JULY: EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS

FREE | UNDER 5'S

MUSICAL MOMENTS

10:00am @ Mount Gambier Library

Join local music teacher, Tara Gladigau for a fun and interactive parent-child session, creating musical moments! Bookings not required.

THURSDAY 17 JULY: PLAY YOUR FIRST GAME OF MINECRAFT!

FREE | ALL AGES

2:00pm @ Mount Gambier Library

Jump into the blocky world of Minecraft. Build, explore, and play your very first game; perfect for beginners and curious creators! Bookings not required.

FRIDAY 18 JULY TO SUNDAY 20 JULY: GIANT GAMES

FREE | ALL AGES

During opening hours @ Mount Gambier Library

Pop into the Library this weekend for school holiday fun and enjoy playing giant games. Drop-in activity, bookings not required.

FRIDAY 18 JULY: MAKE YOUR OWN TERRARIUM

FREE | AGES 12+

2:00pm @ Mount Gambier Library

Step into a world of creativity and nature with our DIY Terrarium Workshop! Layer, plant, and design your own miniature ecosystem — no green thumb required. Let's get planting! Bookings essential.

SUNDAY 13 JULY: WINTER MOVIES

FREE | ALL AGES

11:00am @ Mount Gambier Library

Join us for an all-ages, family friendly movie screening! Drop-in activity, bookings not required.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE

- Bookings essential for all sessions (unless stated otherwise) and open Monday 30 June.
- Bookings can be made by contacting us as below or scan the QR code.
- Our school holiday sessions are very popular and usually book out. If you have booked in and can no longer attend please call to cancel so another child can enjoy.
- Parents and guardians must remain with children under the age of 12 during sessions.



Mount Gambier Library

6 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier | Phone 08 8721 2540

publiclibrary@mountgambier.sa.gov.au | mountgambier.sa.gov.au/library

The Riddoch Arts & Cultural Centre

1 Bay Road, Mount Gambier | Phone 08 8721 2563

riddoch@mountgambier.sa.gov.au | theriddoch.com.au

