COMING EVENTS

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<th>Issue No. 3</th>
<th>03/03/11 - Week 5, Term 1</th>
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**Week 5**
- 4/3 – Clean Up Australia Day

**Week 6**
- 8/3-11/3 – Labs on Legs
- 14/3 - PUBLIC HOLIDAY
- 15/3 - Whole School Assembly
- 7/3-11/3 – Swimming Rooms 9, 10, 1 and 2
- 15/3-18/3- Swimming N1/N2

REMINDERS
- Please return your 3 Way Conference Slips to your child’s teacher as soon as possible so that you can be booked in for a session.
- LABS ON LEGS notes and money need to be returned to the front office as soon as possible – if not returned children cannot attend. Thank you!

SCHOOL CARD
Have you applied for school card in 2011? If you are intending to apply for school card for 2011, please collect a form from the front office as soon as possible. School card needs to be applied for each year. If you require further information please contact Fiona Fox at the Front Office or phone 87249811. Materials and Service Charges are now overdue and payable $253.00 for the year. Please pay at the front office asap.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE
At McDonald Park Schools we believe school should provide a safe, success orientated and caring environment. We believe that students need to attend school regularly in order to participate fully and gain maximum benefit from schooling. Regular attendance enables children to access a full education, enabling them to reach their full potential.

Improving student attendance rates remain one of DECS key focus areas. Research shows that success in learning is directly proportional to regular attendance and participation in education programs. Non-attendance and irregular attendance can be viewed as early indicators of the potential for disengagement from school. There is a correlation between under-achievement in primary school and non-attendance in latter years and consequently lack of success in adult life. Research has shown that once students have begun to absent themselves from school, and the initial cause remains undetected or unexplored, it is likely that the pattern of absence will continue and escalate through the student’s schooling years. Late arrival at school through the primary years is often related to non-attendance during secondary school. If a child is absent from school for 10 days each term, by the time they complete primary school it would have equated to a whole year of schooling that they have missed.

The DECS attendance policy states that schools will intervene when attendance and engagement patterns indicate that learners are at risk of not realising their educational and social development potential. “All site leaders must ensure that intervention occurs after 10 days of accumulated absence or sooner if the child or student has a poor attendance record”. Student attendance reports are examined each term to ensure that students are regularly attending school. Unexplained absences will be followed up by the School Counsellor who will refer students at risk to the DECS Attendance Officer.

Student must notify the school if there is a reason, whether it be for family reasons, illness or appointment. Just a reminder that Daily Physical Activity (DPA) begins promptly at 9:00am for all classes. Students arriving late will miss out on valuable fitness time and interrupt the learning program for their teachers and classmates. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Donna Stokker - School Counsellor

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM
At McDonald Park students participate at many levels of decision making. We provide a range of opportunities that enable learners to develop decision making skills. These skills include the ability to:

- Negotiate aspects of the curriculum making learning more purposeful and relevant.
- Critically reflect on personal learning in order to take social action as a global citizen.
- Actively participate in whole school decision-making and consultation.

The Student Leadership team is one such opportunity. Each year students from year 7 write applications and participate in interviews for the six positions on our student leadership team. This year we received a large number of quality applications, which made selecting the team a hard task. The successful applicants are Tessa Megaw, Georgia Revill, Amber Hood, Cameron Pritchard, Matthew Sykes and Will Cook; congratulations to each of them.
ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

STARTS MONDAY WEEK 6

REGISTRATIONS NEED TO BE IN A.S.A.P.

Activities available for this term are:

**MONDAYS 3:20 pm to 4:20 pm – YRS Rec-3**
INDIGENOUS GAMES

**TUESDAYS 3:20 pm to 4:20 pm – YRS 4-5**
FUTSAL
(Indoor Soccer)

**THURSDAYS 3:20 pm to 4:20 pm – 6-7**
FITNESS CLUB
(McPark Gym)

_________________________________________
Signed:

Name: ____________________________________________
Room: __________________

Year Level: ___________________

Session you’d like to attend:

- [ ] **MONDAYS 3:20 pm to 4:20 pm – YRS Rec-3**
  INDIGENOUS GAMES

- [ ] **TUESDAYS 3:20 pm to 4:20 pm – YRS 4-5**
  FUTSAL - (Indoor Soccer)

- [ ] **THURSDAYS 3:20 pm to 4:20 pm – 6-7**
  FITNESS CLUB - (McPark Gym)
LITTER AT MCDONALD PARK

Classes have discussed the problem that we have with litter in our school grounds. The Litter committee asked all classes to discuss the following:

How does litter collect around our school?
How does litter impact on our school and how does it fit with our school values?
What can we do to stop litter being dropped?

Classes returned their ideas and 2 representatives from each class met to work out the most popular suggestions. They discussed the positive and negatives for each idea. The representatives then used 3 spots each to vote for the strategies that they considered were the best to stop litter from being dropped.

The results were:

- Encourage students to reduce packaging in their lunch boxes. ‘Nude Food’ where possible do not bring wrapping to school. If there is any packaging that can’t be avoided, it should be put into the class bin before leaving the classroom.

- Students who have not finished eating by play time must eat in the shaded passive play areas. All food litter must be placed in bins there before going to play. All canteen food must be eaten in the passive play areas as well.

- Students will be selected to be Litter Monitors. Their role will be to encourage fellow students to remember not to drop litter.

Year 4-7 Students will be invited to apply to be a Litter Monitor. They will have training to ensure that their role is an encouraging and positive one.

We appreciate families supporting us to look after our school environment. We will provide ideas for lunch and recess food that doesn’t need packaging.

Let’s all work together to KEEP MCPARK BEAUTIFUL!
Litter Committee: Noah Miatke, Ella Ackland, Tayla Waters, Jobe Stuart, Hayden Pawelski, Simone Morony, Mitchell Sheridan, Brianna Burns, Courtney Holmes, Mrs. Spencer & Mrs. Williams.

NATIONAL LIMESTONE SYMPOSIUM

Classes from rooms A1, A6 and Room 8 visited the Limestone Symposium at the Old Goal site on Wednesday 23rd February as part of their Art class. On display was a variety of different techniques and levels of expertise.

The sculptures were amazing and the students involved enjoyed discussing with the artists about their inspiration and tools used.

Thank you to Ms Hinkley, Mrs Ward, Mrs Durbidge, Ms Neale and Mr Height who helped with supervision on the day.

Karen Mitchell
**HOUSE CAPTAINS FOR 2011**

**CUNNINGHAM**
Captains
Mikaela Horrigan N6 & Damon Wilmot N5
Vice Captains
Kaycee Rodda N4 & Patrick Garvin N2

**McDONALD**
Captains
Mitchell Muller N6 & Alyssa Stock N5
Vice Captains
Sarah Flett N2 & Brody Parsons N1

**WATSON**
Captains
Kate Lehmann N4 & Tyson Sneath N6
Vice Captains
Shaye Morton N4 & Brayden Madeley N4

**LINDNER**
Captains
Mitch Smart N6 & Danika Tilley N5
Vice Captains
Ella Healey N4 & Tom Widdison N4

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**EAST GAMBIER JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB**
Registration and Coaching
Clinic with Senior Players
Sunday 27th February 11.00am
with sausage sizzle to follow
All intending players, previous and new very
welcome for U12 A, B & C, U14, and U16.
**Apologies to Heather 0412 871 619**
Please bring Medicare / Private Health details to register.
Fees can be paid on the day.

**POSITIVE PARENTING FOR ANY REASON**
Tantrums, sleeping, behavioural problems
A training session to support - parents - carers - guardians
with children
**When** - March 21st 2011 - 9:30 am-12:30 Wednesday
**Where** - Family Relationship Centre -Cnr Helen St & Bay Rd Mt Gambier
**Enquiries** - Ann, 1800 880 913
**Cost** - Gold coin donation

**DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE AUTISM?**
Early Days provides workshops for mothers, fathers and
other family carers of children 6 years and under who have
an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or are going through
the assessment and diagnosis process. Early Days is a
national program funded by the Federal Government
under the Helping Children with Autism Strategy and is run
by local facilitators.

**What can Early Days?**
• Learn about Autism Spectrum Disorder and what it
  means for your child and your family.
• Learn practical strategies that can make a difference to
  your child’s development.
• Learn how to choose therapies and get the most out of
  services

**Workshop details:**
**INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP**
Inclusive Directions
71 Suttontown Rd Mt Gambier 08 87250211
26th March 2011 - 9am – 4.30pm
• Free of charge to attend
• Workshops are held in small groups and so give you the
  chance to meet other parents
• Lunch & light refreshments available
• Childcare is not provided
**To Register Freecall - 1800 334 155**

**DOES YOUR TEENAGER PUSH YOUR BUTTONS?**
Do you want to learn new ways of addressing their
behavior?
Mums and Dads are invited to register for a Parenting
Teenagers workshop
The workshop is 2 x 3 hour sessions over 2 weeks and it is
free
**WHEN**
March 23rd + 30th 5:30 – 8:30
June 22nd + 29th 5:30 – 8:30
September 14th + 21st 5:30 – 8:30
November 9th + 16th 5:30—8:30
**WHERE** Family Relationship Centre, 1 Helen St, Mt Gambier
**ENQUIRIES** Family Relationship Centre, 87213500

**CHOOSING THE RIGHT RESTRAINT FOR YOUR CHILD**