



**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Education

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Term 1, Week 11, April 8th, 2021

### DIARY DATES

Friday April 9th  
Tuesday April 27th

End of Term 1 early dismissal 2.15pm  
Term 2 commences

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As Term 1 draws to a close I reflect on what a whirlwind it has been. It has been a tremendous and steep learning curve for myself, so I feel fortunate to have found myself in such a supportive school community. The SA education system is striving for high growth and excellence. Mount Gambier has an excellent network of schools who support each other in their improvement journey. For this reason, I feel privileged to have come to Reidy Park Primary at such an exciting time.

### **Curriculum Update**

As the year progresses I will keep the community updated about all of the exciting things happening in our classrooms, especially those programs that may be new to the school. Two of the programs that have been introduced to support reading improvement are the Fountas and Pinnell BAS testing for our 3-6 students and InitialLit for our R-2 students (Grade 2 will begin work to introduce this program later in the year).. BAS is an assessment tool that allows teachers to see how well our students decode and comprehend texts. This information allows teachers to plan for student point-of-need instruction. This tool replaces the PM benchmarking (reading levels) that was used in previous years so you may have noticed some changes to take home readers during the first term. Ms. Judd will be running parent information sessions about this new system so look out for further information regarding this. InitialLit is a program that targets improving Phonics and other reading skills in our junior students. This program is being led by our Deputy Principal Emma Hayward and is already having a huge impact on students with the latest testing showing dramatic improvement compared to previous years. This program is a great example of the strength of our local school networks as we chose to use this program after it was shown to be successful in other local schools. We look forward to continued success over the next 3 terms and beyond.

### **ANZAC Day Commemorations**

The local RSL have invited our students to take part in two services being scheduled for the ANZAC Day weekend. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, some of our students will be at the Vansittart Gardens to celebrate Kapyong Day which commemorates a battle that Australian troops fought in during the Korean War. Students will assist in setting up 100 white crosses and get to meet local veteran and current servicemen and woman. We will also have some of our student leaders laying a wreath at the dawn service on ANZAC Day. Both these events are a fantastic opportunities for students to not only support the local community but also be a part of something that is incredibly important to Australian culture and history.

*Craig Scerri*  
**Principal**



Adam, Billy and Linkon have been very busy working on clay sculptures during their visual art lessons.



## April school holidays

headspace are offering a program of **FREE activities throughout the April school holidays.**

Pokemon Go  
Tuesday 13/4 - 1.00PM - 3.00PM

Donut Decorating  
Wednesday 14/4 - 3.00PM - 5.00PM

Board Games  
Friday 16/4 - 2.00PM - 4.00PM

Video Games  
Monday 19/4 - 2.30PM - 4.30PM

Gold Class Cinema  
Thursday 22/4 - 5.30PM - 7.30PM

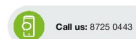
Outdoor games & chill  
Friday 23/4 - 1.00PM - 3.00PM

### Monday 12 - Friday 23 April

These FREE activities are for school students aged 12+  
All welcome, you don't need to be a headspace client to attend these activities.

Check out our facebook & Instagram pages for updates about these events and other news about the centre.

Spots are limited! To secure your place in an activity, call us on 8725 0443



headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health

## Pangula Mannamurna Youth Group

Pangula Mannamurna  
Aboriginal Corporation  
Our Health In Our Hands

**YOUTH GROUP**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**21ST APRIL 2021**

**1pm until 3.30pm**

**Children aged 12-16yrs Welcome**

Pangula Mannamurna Community Hall  
Food and Drinks Provided

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

For more information phone 8724-7270  
and ask for Jordan

**TRANSPORT AVAILABLE**  
within Mount Gambier City Limits

| Room | Presented to | For   |
|------|--------------|---|
| 1    | Tristan H    | Respect. Showing respect at all times.  |
| 2    | Braxton C    | Having the courage to try new challenges.   |
| 3    | Aylah H      | Always trying her best in her work.   |
| 4    | Kaitlyn G    | Showing courage and having a growth mindset in maths.                                     |
| 5    | Jye D        | Amazing improvement when solving subtraction problems. Great persistence.                 |
| 6    | Kobe R       | Having the courage to make positive choices.  |
| 7    | Eli J        | Showing a keen interest in his Science learning and explaining how planets orbit the sun. |
| 8    | Blake L      | Being an outstanding learner  |
| 10   | Rhiley M     | A very detailed scientific report.  |
| 12   | Steven B     | Having confidence and showing a positive attitude.  |
| 13   | Lucy K       | Supporting a new student at Reidy Park. Thank you for your kindness and empathy.          |
| 15   | Tate A       | Focusing on his learning and being a responsible class member.                            |
| 16   | Gracie W     | Taking care in her work and showing persistence with all learning areas.                  |
| 17   | Charlotte P  | Having an excellent attitude towards her learning.  |
| 20   | Kaitlyn F    | Trying her best in her learning and being kind to everyone.                               |
| 22   | Mia W        | Being a kind friend.  |
| 23   | Audrey S     | Using lots of detail during visual art.   |
| 24   | Logan L      |   |
| 25   | Ebony R      | Making strong choices.  |

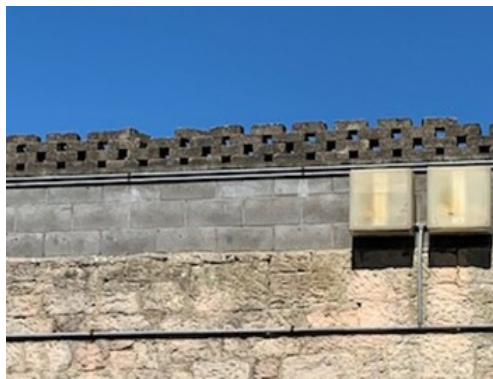


# Old Gaol Excursion

On Wednesday last week, the students from Room 15 & 16 went to the Old Mount Gambier Gaol to look at how it was used in the past and how it is used now, as part of our History Inquiry. Mel Stephenson took us on a tour of the Old Gaol. She told us what the jail was like when it was used as a prison. The cells were dirty and only had cement floors. Now the cells are used as accommodation. They have nice comfy beds in them, they are lovely and clean, and like a motel room. She showed us the Warden's area, which are now dorms with lots of bunk beds and a kitchen. One of the prisoners painted a mural on the wall that surrounds the old exercise yard. He wanted to paint the street so the prisoners could imagine what it was like outside, but he wasn't allowed to. A professional artist came and taught him how to paint. There is still some very sharp wire on top of the wall, so that the prisoners couldn't escape. The jail is made out of dolomite and limestone, found around Mt Gambier. One of the bricks has fallen out and the Stephenson's have discovered that behind the brick are bits of old newspaper that would be 150 years old, which you can still see the writing on! The women's exercise yard, is a fun place now where you can play with balls, and have functions, such as weddings, listen to a band and have a BBQ. We ate our lunch in this area, played basketball and played games. The brickwork on top of the old Women's exercise yard would have made it hard to escape. The jail has some really nice gardens in different areas now, which is nice for the guests to relax in.



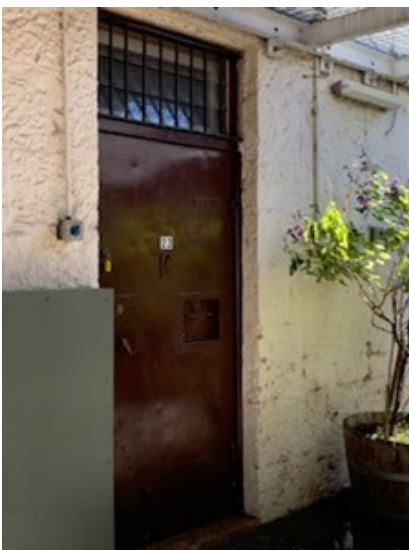
The entrance to the gaol.



Brickwork on top of the women's exercise yard.



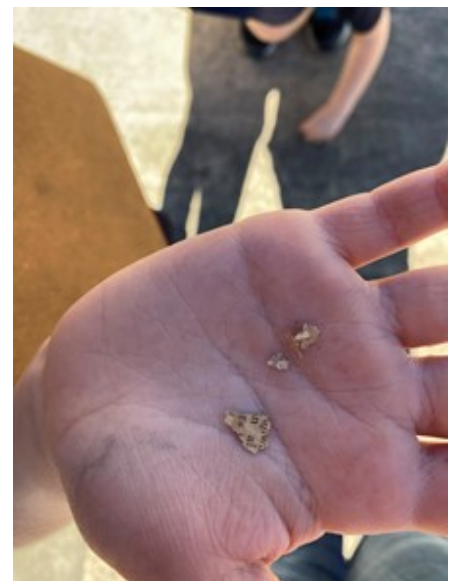
Having fun in the old women's exercise yard.



One of the cell doors. A bit different to when it was a prison. Everything has bars on it! Even the undercover walkways



The mural a prisoner painted.



The 150 year old bits of newspaper found behind the brick.