



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Principal:
Deputy Principal:
Governing Council Chairperson:
Phone: 8725 3381
Website: <http://www.reidyprkps.sa.edu.au>

Craig Scerri
Emma Hayward
Shylie Harrison
Fax: 8725 0576
Email: dl.0290.info@schools.sa.edu.au

Term 3, Week 3, 5th August, 2021

DIARY DATES

Friday 11th August
Monday 23rd August
Tuesday 24th August
Thursday 23rd September
Friday 24th September

SAPSASA District Basketball
School Photos
School photos
Student Free Day
Student Free Day

Dear parents and caregivers,

Welcome back to school after our unusual start to Term 3!

Camps, School Closure and Remote Learning

The last 2 weeks did not exactly go to plan with the state-wide lockdown being announced on our first Tuesday back. This was particularly unfortunate for us due to having our Grade 6 and 7 students attending their school camp at Woodhouse Activity Centre near Adelaide. The leadership team at school, the Education Department and myself at the camp remained in constant communication to at first, try to continue the camp and then to eventually get us back to Mount Gambier as soon as possible. The students on camp were amazing and flexible and despite having this disappointing situation put on them, showed a level of maturity beyond their years.

I would like to personally thank the parents and staff in attendance at the camp, the staff of Woodhouse and the bus company who assisted us with ensuring our return was as smooth as possible. As camp preparations were happening, the school was also developing and enacting plans in preparation for the potential and then eventual period of remote learning. In my absence this work was ably led by Emma Hayward with support from Frazer Scanlon. From the processes developed last year, we enacted the use of the established learning programs of Google Classroom and See Saw. Processes were developed to track student attendance and engagement in learning. On the pupil-free day, tasks were developed by teachers to allow for a level of learning continuity. Informed by the experience of last year, as well as my own from Victorian lockdowns, we worked at creating tasks that students could do as independently as possible. We recognised that parents are not trained teachers and could expect this situation to be as stressful for them as it was for the students.

On the first day as expected, we had an initial rush of communication caused by difficulties and confusion with things such as programs not working and passwords not being accepted. However, as people got their heads around

what they needed to do, teachers started seeing learning tasks being completed. Families who had poor internet or not enough devices were discovered and quickly provided with dongles and iPads and everything started to run relatively smoothly. As the days progressed our minds turned to building on what was happening to create a more complete learning program in the event of further lockdowns. Key to this would be utilising Google Meets for live wellbeing check-ins and lessons. This was trialled by some teachers on the final day of remote learning.

Overall, we are extremely proud of our students, staff and parents who showed a high degree of patience and flexibility during this time. We felt the program for students went well and saw a minimum of 75% engagement from all classes (some even had 100%!)

We are now working on clearly documenting our program and as mentioned earlier, including more strategies that will hopefully minimise negative impacts to learning in the future. As part of this work we will seek feedback from the parent community to better cater for all needs in the future. Once again I thank parents for their fantastic support of students at home.

Craig Scerri
Principal



At the beginning of the term our year 6/7 students attended Woodhouse activity centre. Max and William building a shelter with a few basic pieces of equipment.

Parent Engagement Survey

Most parents hopefully received an email from the Department for Education, asking for the Parent Engagement Survey to be completed. The survey was first conducted in 2020 and is a great way for schools to gain a valuable insight from the school community. The information from this anonymous survey can then be used to inform future actions, decisions and directions by the school, particularly regarding student learning and school communication. The survey will be open for 4 weeks, from **Monday 2 August to Sunday 29 August** and takes less than 10 minutes to complete. If you do not have internet access and would like to complete a paper copy, please see the front office.

Parents can find more information at www.education.sa.gov.au/parentsurvey.

Child Protection Curriculum

Over the course of term 3, the topic 'Recognising and Reporting Abuse' will be covered from the Child Protection Curriculum in health lessons with Renae Cliff and Heath McShane. Within this topic, the children will learn the proper names given to parts of the body, as well as what is considered appropriate and not appropriate touching. The difference between safe and unsafe secrets will be discussed, as well as the importance of saying no when necessary and seeking support from those that they trust. This is a compulsory curriculum taught within all South Australian Government Schools to ensure students are armed with age-appropriate knowledge and strategies to protect them and keep them safe. If you have a question, please feel free to contact either Heath McShane or Renae Cliff.

Musical - Paws and Claws

At the end of last term, over 80 year 6/7 students participated in the musical production Paws and Claws at the Sir Robert Helpman Theatre. This was a great production about two different groups, cats and dogs. Groups that never got on and who were fighting for control of the alleyway behind the bakery. They both wanted all the good food from the bakery that was thrown out each night. But a cat and a dog became friends and then everything was complicated. Eventually they all learned it was better to work together rather than fight against each other. With ten great songs and a whole lot of 'great' dad jokes, students were able to take part in an amazing experience and produced an exciting show.

'I enjoyed being a part of the musical because it was such a fun experience. Performing onstage in front of an audience felt great and the feeling that I had after all our performances can only be described as amazing. It took lots of time and effort but it definitely paid off in the end.'

Sebastian Ricketts

COVID Update

From today we are able to begin downgrading COVID restrictions that have been in place over the last few weeks. These following activities can resume:

- whole school assemblies (students only).
- choir and dance rehearsals within the school.
- all extracurricular activities within the school.
- incursions, excursions and intrastate camps.
- events held at offsite venues with approved COVID safe or COVID Management Plans.
- events held with in the school or preschool grounds (such as performances and concerts) providing:
 1. density requirements and physical distancing requirements are met by all attending adults.
 2. masks are worn by adults and students in year 8 and above who are not performing.
 3. all attendees are encouraged to COVID safe check in.
- school sports including interschool sport training, trials and competitions.

*Please note that school events could be cancelled/postponed at short notice due to changing situations.

The following measures remain in place until further notice:

- all interstate camps and travel must be postponed.
- staff and students in years 8 and must continue to wear masks.
- where possible, please hold parent teacher interviews online.
- all adults (including staff) must COVID-Safe check in each time they enter the site.
- continue to limit the numbers of parents on site, and when this is unavoidable, they must, wear a face mask and practice physical distancing.

Unfortunately the final dot point means that we need to continue having student pick-ups and drop-offs from the school gates. The school is hopeful that these restrictions will be lifted sooner rather than later, which would mean we can have everyone back within the school as soon as possible.

We thank you for your continued support in following these guidelines.

Year 6/7 Camp - Woodhouse Activity Centre

The tube slide was the funniest activity. Halle and I partnered up the whole time and at one point we both shouted and screamed because we thought it wasn't going to stop because it had already passed 4 mats and didn't slow down at all!

Ainsley



Camp was a great way to bond friendships and make other friendships stronger. Although we didn't get to experience all activities we still got to learn new skills and get out of our comfort zone. Thankyou Woodhouse Activity Centre you did us very well for the time spent there, I would definitely go again!

Ruby D



In laser skirmish when the hunters (Mr Scerri and Ms Helps) came it meant there was 15 minutes left in the game. I had some close calls! I sprinted across the field in front of a hunter but he only got me once. I was very lucky I made it to the end of the game with only 75 health left. I was so happy I made it. A few mates of mine made it as well. We were all so excited we had made it.

Logan.

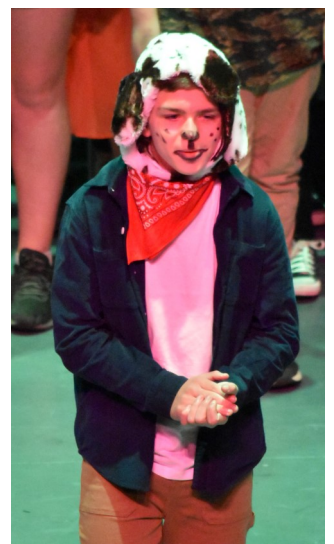


When it was my turn, I grabbed onto the rope and swung. I tried to grab the second rope, but I missed. I was very off balance and out of control. My little twig arms couldn't hold on, So I gave in and just fell and sank into the river. The worst part wasn't because I was drenched, but because Helen was filming me!

Sam



Year 6/7 Musical - Paws and Claws



Rubbish in the Yard

Two superstar students, Tayla and Annabelle, noticed that there has been lots of rubbish in the yard. This has made them sad because they know the negative impact that rubbish can have on the environment. Rubbish is bad for animals who can eat it and get sick. They are also annoyed because there are actually heaps of bins that people could be using, especially in the quad. This is where most of the rubbish is! They are sick of people not following the **rules**, so please use the bins!



Science in Room 11

In science this term, Room 11 are investigating forces to be able to build Rube Goldberg machines. Today we tested electrostatic force. This force attracts or repels objects. We charged balloons with static electricity by rubbing them (friction) on our hair, the carpet, our jumpers and smooth surfaces. We measured the strength of electrostatic force by how long a charged balloon stayed attracted to the ceiling. Some students hair created no electrostatic force. Jackson and Halle's balloons, charged with friction from their hair, remained attracted to the ceiling for more than 40 minutes! Liam's balloon, charged with friction from a whiteboard screen, was still on the ceiling at home time!



National Science Week at the Mount Gambier Library

MOUNT GAMBIER LIBRARY

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 2021

Food - Different by Design

14 – 22 August

Special Storytime
Tuesday 17 August
 10:30am to 11:00am
 Come along and enjoy a Science Week Storytime! Using George the Farmer's video 'Apples' and book 'Hailstorm Heroes', we will learn about growing, processing and storing apples to enjoy all year round.
Suited to under 5 year olds.

Where in the World is My Lunch From?
Tuesday 17 August
 1:00pm to 2:00pm
 What food is in your lunchbox? Where does the food come from? Why is it important to eat locally? Children will play a game and participate in an activity exploring local, international and Australian foods.
Suited to Reception to Grade 3.

Don't Waste it, Recreate it!
Wednesday 18 August
 School session: 10:00am to 10:45am
 Community session: 4:00pm to 4:45pm
 Discover how to turn food waste into skin products that you can use for yourself or someone at home!
Suited to Grade 7 and over.

Bee Hotels: Why Bees Deserve 5-star Accommodation!
Thursday 19 August
 Session 1: 10:00am to 10:45am
 Session 2: 1:00pm to 1:45pm
 An introduction to the importance of bees, the challenges facing bees and how we can assist in future sustainability of bees. BYO ceramic mug per student to make and take home their own 'Bee Hotel'. Special guest: local beekeeper.
Suited to Grades 4 – 6.

City of Mount Gambier

science week

Mount Gambier Library
 6 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier SA 5290
 Phone 08 8721 2540



Term 3 Planner 2021

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1	19/7 Year 6/7 Camp	20/7	21/7	22/7	23/7
WEEK 2	26/7	27/7	28/7	29/7	30/7
WEEK 3	2/8	3/8	4/8 Governing Council Meeting 7pm	5/8 Newsletter	6/8
WEEK 4	9/8	10/8	11/8 District Basketball Day	12/8	13/8
WEEK 5	16/8	17/8	18/8	19/8 Assembly	20/8
WEEK 6	23/8 School Photos	24/8 School Photos	25/8	26/8	27/8 Book Week Parade
WEEK 7	30/8	31/8	1/9	2/9 Assembly	39/
WEEK 8	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	10/9
WEEK 9	13/9	14/9	15/9	16/9 Assembly	17/9
WEEK 10	20/9	21/9	22/9	23/9 Student Free Day	24/9 Student Free Day End of Term 3