

MIDDLEMOUNT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL – SHARON ANDERSON

Great Start

We have had a fantastic start to the new school year. All students have settled in well. I would like to thank parents for supporting us in this. Students are wearing the school uniform beautifully, are well prepared and learning for the year is well underway. Welcome to all of our new families!

Our 2017 staffing will be finalised on Thursday 2 February, based on our student enrolments. Because of the unpredictable nature of our student enrolments this year, our class structures were based on the best information we had at the end of 2016. Unfortunately, it is looking like our primary class structures will change. Parents will be notified about any changes at the end of this week.

Communication

School information is communicated to parents in a number of ways:

- Our fortnightly newsletter is emailed to all parents and caregivers.
- Primary class teachers and our junior and senior secondary coordinators send out a weekly email to parents.
- Notes are sent home for specific events or when parental permission is required.
- Our facebook page provides updates and reminders.

We try to be responsible about our environment footprint and energy and paper consumption. For this reason, most of our communication is electronic. We ask that parents ensure that we have your up to date contact details so that information is not missed and that parents check their emails for school communications regularly.

When we send notes home, these are given to either:

- the youngest in the family, or
- only those students involved



Week 2 Term 1

Dates to Remember

Thu 9 February –
Peak Downs Sport
10 -12years
Netball – AM
Soccer – PM

Mon 13 February –
P & C Meeting

Fri 17 February –
Student Leadership
Ceremony 9:45am

Mon 20 February –
Peak Downs 10 – 12
Years Rugby League &
Union

Fri 24 February –
MCS Swimming Carnival
9yrs – 18yrs

27 Feb – 3 Mar
Year 5/6 Camp

Fri 10 March –
School Photos

Fri 10 March – CH
Soccer 10-12yrs

Thu 16 March – MCS
Cross Country 9-18yrs

Mon 20 March -
Peak Downs 10-12yrs
Cross Country – AM
Touch – PM

Fri 24 March –
'Excuse Me, I Was Here
First' P – 6 Arts Council

Fri 31 March –
Last Day Term 1

FROM THE PRINCIPAL – CONT

Same Day Notification

It is an Education Queensland requirement that parents are notified of a student absence on the same day as the absence. At the moment we are doing this by phoning parents. In the coming weeks, parents will receive a text message on their phones. We ask that you ensure your contact details are up to date by completing the “Update Details” form which will be sent home with students this week.

Emergency Contacts

We are finding that the emergency contact details we have for some students are outdated or non-existent. It is crucial that we have emergency contacts for students when their parents are not contactable. Please ensure that you check these details on the “Update Details” form which will be sent home with students this week.

Attendance Policy

Attached to this email is our 2017 Attendance Policy. It is important that all parents are aware of their responsibilities when students are absent. Teachers will provide work for absent students under some circumstances with appropriate notice. However, if students are absent for extended periods of time, teachers cannot be responsible for their learning.

Early Start/NAPLAN Assessments

Over that past couple of weeks teachers have been busy collecting data on students in literacy and numeracy to assist our planning for the semester. This testing allows us to identify gaps in students’ knowledge and skills and potential for extending students. Our prep students have all engaged in the Early Start assessments; these help us to track children’s progress in literacy and numeracy and to plan for early intervention.

Getting to School Safely

This is a great time of year to talk to your children about their safety while travelling to school. All students, not just young children, should be reminded about:

- using footpaths
- use a pedestrian crossing where possible
- make sure you look both ways before crossing any road
- make sure that cars can always see you if you are about to cross a road

Student Resource Scheme

We have had a great response to the SRS with a large proportion of our families already paid. If you wish to participate in the Student Resource Scheme please contact our school office to arrange payment. Students will not be issued with resources until payment is made.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL – CONT

Our School Vision and Pedagogical Framework for 2017

Our Vision

Working with high expectations and pride, towards continuous improvement in teaching practices and student outcomes.

Our Values

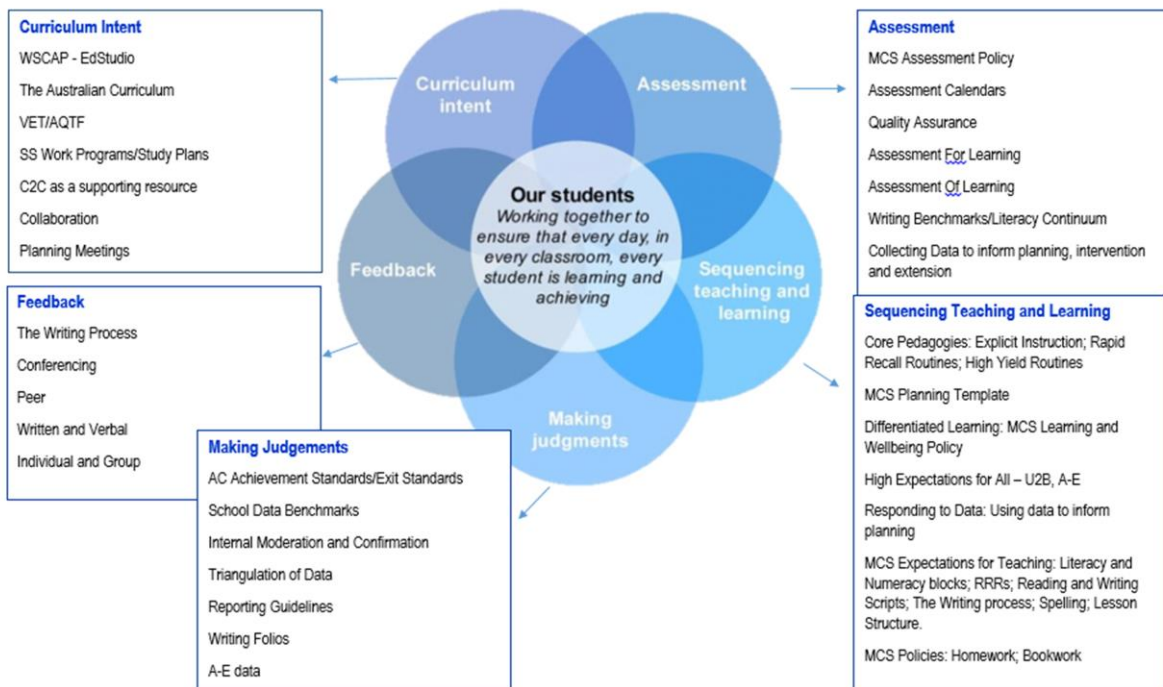
Explicit high expectations of all learners

Valuing individuals and expecting and recognising success

Partnerships with parents

Personal responsibility and accountability.

The MCS Pedagogical Framework – Dimensions of Teaching and Learning



Working together to ensure that every day, in every classroom, every student is learning for life and achieving their personal best, in a supportive and caring environment.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – CHERRYL PERRY



Welcome back

Thank you to for ensuring that your child had all their equipment and uniforms for the first day of school – we have had a very smooth first week of school.

It was a privilege to observe the fantastic speeches from our primary candidates on Monday afternoon. All students who participated should be very proud of their achievements. Primary School Leaders will be announced on primary parade on Monday 6 February. Student leaders will be given an opportunity to attend Grip Student Leadership Conferences in week 3 to network with their peers across the region and gain important leadership skills.

Primary and Secondary School Leaders Ceremony will be on Friday, 17 February at 9.45am in the Hall. All Welcome

ATTENDANCE WEEK 1 : Every Day Counts

Each fortnight I'll publish the accumulative attendance percentages for each year level to date, and the change from the previous week. This will give staff a chance to have important conversations with students on parades and in care group classes about how their level is progressing. Remember 95% attendance rate – no more than 5 days off per term!

- Please contact the school if your child will be absent.

Congratulations to year 3, 4, 6, 7, 11 and 12 for meeting the MCS attendance rate.

Week 1 Attendance Chart

Year Level	%
Prep	94.38%
1.	92.68%
2.	89.68%
3.	98%
4.	95%
5.	91.68%
6.	95.91%
7.	95.91%
8.	90%
9.	90%
10.	80.91%
11.	97.51%
12.	97%

FROM THE SECONDARY DEPARTMENT – LISA SMALL

I would like to welcome you all back to a new and exciting year! Despite some slight hiccups with the on boarding of the BYOx, students have settled into the new year smoothly. Congratulations students for being well prepared and ready to learn!

Junior Phase and Senior Phase Coordinators

This year we have the pleasure of Luana Davidson (Junior) and Emma Marlow (Secondary) taking on the roles as coordinators. Both will be sending weekly emails regarding important dates, information about subjects/classes and upcoming assessment and events. The coordinators are the first point of contact regarding support for your student's study or daily school life. Their contact details are:

Junior Phase Coordinator (7-9)	Luana Davidson	lrday1@eq.edu.au
Senior Secondary Coordinator (10-12)	Emma Marlow	emar110@eq.edu.au

Welcome to the Secondary Department

MCS Secondary Department would like to extend a warm welcome to our Year 7 students joining us in 2017. We hope you have found this week enjoyable. We would also like to welcome three new secondary teachers to staff: Mr Joshua Crossley (ENG/Drama), Mr Matthew Heidecker (Maths, Science) and Mrs Danielle Crowther (HASS/Digital Tec) who will be joining us later in the term. We trust that you will enjoy your time at MCS.

Assessment Calendars

Term 1 assessment calendars will be issued to students by the end of Week 2. Students are encouraged to have these visible so they can be viewed on a daily basis. This will help to ensure they are prepared for all upcoming assessment pieces. These calendars will also be sent home via the Junior and Senior Phase Coordinators.

Semester Overviews

All secondary students will also receive a booklet by the end of Week 2 that contains Semester Overviews for all subjects offered in their year level. The overviews give students and parents a brief outline of the topics to be covered each week for both Term 1 and 2. I recommend that these are also kept on hand and referred to regularly.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mrs Small on lsmal22@eq.edu.au or 4981 2333.

FROM THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT – TAMARA STOLBERG

Parent Class Information Sessions

Class information sessions will be held in the later part of week three. Your child's teacher will email the day and time. Sessions will be held on different days and times so that parents with children in different grades can attend all information sessions.

Student Leaders

Congratulations to all of the year six students who nominated for a leadership position in 2017. I was extremely impressed with the quality and effort that students put into their speeches.

Curriculum

In 2016, one of our core goals was to model consistent and effective teaching and learning practices across all of our classes. To achieve this goal every primary classroom implemented a set literacy block in session 1 and 2 and a numeracy block in session 3 or 4 every day. These set literacy and numeracy blocks have been successful and we will continue with this set model in 2017. The primary team will continue to monitor and develop our pedagogy, curriculum and assessment throughout 2017 to improve student achievement.

What is included in a literacy and numeracy block?

At MCS our literacy block includes reading, writing, handwriting, spelling, phonological awareness and a rapid recall routine. We use the Daily 5 resource to teach reading strategies and comprehension skills. Teachers also deliver explicit instruction lessons on targeted reading and comprehension skills and strategies. Our writing workshops encourage students to write and include mini lessons on grammar, punctuation, revising and editing. Rapid recall routines are short 10 minute lessons that focus on moving content knowledge (spelling rules, vocabulary) from a student's short term memory into their long term memory. Our MCS numeracy block includes cumulative practice of basic skills (counting, facts), a rapid recall routine that focuses on number development and a maths lesson.

Why do we make the students resit NAPLAN tests?

In week 1 of term 1 and term 3 our year 3 to 9 students resit the numeracy, reading, language conventions and writing NAPLAN tests from a previous year. We then analyse this data to assist with our planning and intervention support. Using a software program called CQ3S we enter the data and use this software to identify areas of strengths and areas for improvement for individuals and classes.

BOOSTER SESSIONS

A note about booster sessions will be sent home with primary school students on Wednesday. Please consider whether this would be a beneficial program for your child to be involved in. We will be doing sight words and reading with Year 1-6 students and gross/fine motor skills with Prep students.

Have a read of the note and send the permission note back to your child's classroom teacher or to the office.

SPORTS NEWS

Welcome back to 2017! Term 1 & 2 are busy times for CH Sporting Trials. Please be reminding students to check the student notices, announcements on parade and checking the board outside of Miss Marlow's office for upcoming trials. It is the responsibility of the student to pick up all relevant permission and transport forms for their chosen sport and return forms to the MCS office by the nominated date on the forms. This ensures that students are nominated for their sport by the date set by the convening school and don't miss out on any trials.

Also, Central Highlands School Sport has a Facebook page that also lists upcoming trial dates and updates regarding trial dates.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please feel free to contact myself on 4981 2333 or emar110@eq.edu.au.



Don't forget to cover up and wear hats when dropping and collecting students from school. All children will have a hat in their bag and it takes only seconds for this to be put on before heading home. Be a great role model for your child and wear a hat as well – also, little ones in prams and toddlers. We all know that repeated exposure to the sun for even short periods of time can cause damage to the skin.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Charlotte (Prep A) – For being confident and not being afraid to put your hand up and have a go. You're a STAR Charlotte!

Boden Ritchie (P1/B) – For being a kind and considerate class member and showing excellent initiative helping our Prep friends in the classroom. You're a STAR Boden!

Ruby Smith (1A) – For always working hard during our morning literacy time. You are a STAR Ruby, keep it up!

Byron Hurricane (2A) – For insightful contributions to our class discussion about months and seasons. You're a STAR Byron!

Sophie Harris (2B) – For being a STAR participant during our class reading and calendar activities on the carpet. Well done Sophie!

Felicity Berzinski (3A) – For being an amazing role model to other students and always following the STAR rules. Keep up the great work Felicity!

Tyrone Matheson (4A) – For starting the year with your best efforts and completing your NAPLAN tests. Keep up the STAR effort Tyrone!

Khan Donaghy (5/6A) – For being an excellent role model and a great peer to new students. Keep up the STAR effort Khan!

Shona Pember (5/6B) – For completing her Language Convention test independently. Keep it up Shona, you're a STAR!

KIDS CLUB

Kids Club will be starting up on Friday 10 February.

Time:- 5.00pm to 6.30pm.
When:- Every Friday night during School term.
Grades:- 1 to 6
Where:- Middlemount Community Church hall
Alfred Quinn Drive
Costs:- \$2.00 per night plus we have a tuckshop

It's a night for the kids to let off steam after a week of school and to meet new friends and have fun.

For further information please contact Glenda Morrison on 4985 7724.

Parents once again we need your help to come on roster to help us lead the children.



Dear Parents,

In 2017, *Queensland Health* is providing free vaccinations for all Year 7 students, on dates to be confirmed, as part of Queensland Health's annual School Immunisation Program. All Year 7 students are being offered free vaccinations as recommended on the National Immunisation Program to protect against human papillomavirus (HPV) and diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough).

The vaccinations will be conducted by a team of authorised registered nurses and/or a medical practitioner.

A consent pack will be given to your child to bring home. Please read the information booklet carefully, sign the consent card and return the consent card to the school .

Parents are encouraged to ensure their children have breakfast on the morning of vaccination.

For more information about diseases, vaccines or School Immunisation Program, visit www.health.qld.gov.au/immunisation or call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84).

School-based Youth Health Service

The School-based Youth Health Service is delivered in partnership with Education Queensland to address the health and wellbeing of the young people and the school communities in Brisbane state secondary schools.

School-based youth health nurses provide:

- Individual health consultations with assessment, support, health information and referral options related to:
 - Healthy eating and exercise
 - Relationships
 - Personal and family problems
 - Feeling sad, worried and angry
 - Sexual health
 - Smoking, alcohol and other drugs
 - Growth and development
 - Promoting health and wellbeing with a “whole school approach” to support the development of healthy school environments.
 - Making recommendations on health resources to support curriculum, teaching and learning activities in schools.

The school-based youth health nurse does not provide medical treatments, first aid, medications, physical examinations, or ongoing counselling.

Referral information

Parents or young people can self-refer or a referral can be made by a health professional or school staff.

Contact your state secondary school office to enquire how an appointment is made.

It is a voluntary confidential service for young people.

Contact us: 49 812 333

MUSIC NEWS

Any students in years 4 to 12 interested in learning an instrument this year, who have not already seen Miss Haylock. Need to see her tomorrow in the music room.

POSITION VACANT:

Middlemount Community School has a position for a cleaner, 10 permanent hours and 2 temporary hours total of 12 hours. It is 4 afternoon shifts Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm. For the application package please contact Jenny Collins at the school. Applications close 15 February, at 3 pm.