

MIDDLEMOUNT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL – SHARON ANDERSON

Welcome back!

Welcome back to MCS for 2018. I hope that all of our families enjoyed the break. Our students have certainly returned ready and keen to learn. It has been wonderful to meet our new families and welcome them to our community. We hope you settle in well.

Our Core Business

While this year, we will be pursuing a new improvement agenda, some things remain our core business at MCS. Our vision statement guides everything we do:

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

Our students are guided by the same four School Behaviour Expectations, our STAR Rules:

- Safety First
- Take Responsibility
- Achievement
- Respect



Our Improvement Agenda

For the last four years, we have focussed on improving Writing and we will continue to practise the effective strategies we have developed. From 2018, our focus shifts to Vocabulary. In P-10, there will be a focus on spelling and vocabulary. In secondary, we will focus on vocabulary and reading.

Why did we choose Vocabulary, Spelling and Reading?

1. Data. We collect data about our students learning regularly and it shows us where we need to improve.
2. Teacher observations about student needs. We analysed qualitative data from teacher observations about how our students are progressing and what they need.
3. Changes to senior assessment. The new senior assessment and tertiary entrance system will require students to develop specific reading and vocabulary skills and to develop better study practices.



Week 2 Term 1

Dates to Remember

Thu 8 February –
Leadership Ceremony

Fri 9 February –
Swimming Carnival
Year 3 – 12

Fri 9 February –
CH Rugby League &
Netball Trials
13 -18 years

12 – 16 February –
Magnetic Island Camp

Thu 15 February –
CH Soccer Trials
13 – 18 years

Fri 16 February –
Peak Downs Rugby
League & Netball Trials

Tue 20 February –
CH Touch Trials
13 – 18 years

Tue 6 March –
Planet Rhythm

Fri 9 March –
School Photos

Tue 13 March –
Cross Country

Mon 19 March –
Peak Downs Cross
Country & Touch Trials

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 PRINCIPAL – CONT

What will it look like?

There will be some very obvious changes for students that parents will notice.

1. Our new approach to spelling. All of our teachers and teacher aides have been trained in a new approach to spelling called “Words their Way”.
2. Regular explicit instruction in vocabulary. All students in years 1-10 will be provided with a vocabulary booklet.
3. Regular explicit reading instruction across all secondary subjects.
4. Increased expectations of secondary students for reading “miles”, ie. they will read more.
5. A new approach to homework in secondary, designed to prepare students better for the rigours of senior external assessment.

New Subjects in Senior

This year, we have introduced three new subjects to our senior curriculum: Engineering Skills (replacing Certificate I Engineering), Modern History and Mathematics B. Despite our small size, we endeavour to maintain as many options as possible for our senior students. We are able to offer at least four options on each line, which caters for most of our students. Further options are available through distance education and private registered training organisations. The great benefit to students is the small class sizes, which means lots of extra attention and help.

	Authority (these subjects contribute to an OP Score)	Authority registered (Non-OP)
Line 1	English	English Communication
Line 2	Maths A, Maths B	Pre-Vocational Maths
Line 3	Science 21 , Drama	Drama in Practice, Hospitality, Science in Practice
Line 4	Modern History, Visual Art	Visual Art in Practice, Recreation Studies
Line 5	Physical Education, Home Economics	Furnishings, Cert I IDMT
Line 6	Biology, Film, TV and New Media	Media Arts in Practice, Engineering Skills
Line 7		Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEW)

Student Leaders

Our 2018 student leaders have begun their work already with parades and other duties.

School Captains: Jake Barber and Charlotte Briese

Primary Leaders: Charlotte Wilson and Taylor Lennane

Primary House Leaders: Mackenzie – Max Clark; Isaac - Will Jones; Connors – Peyton Jaszczyszyn

Elections for House Captains and Student Council Representatives will occur in the next week, with our Leadership Ceremony happening on Thursday 8 February at 9am. Junior Secondary positions will not be appointed this year due to the reduced size of our secondary student body.

Class structures

We have begun the 2018 year with a significant drop in student enrolments. This will mean a restructure of primary classes. This will occur before the end of week 2 and parents will be informed by letter.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL – CONT

Student Resource Scheme

If you wish to participate in the Students Resource Scheme, please ensure that payment is made to the office as soon as possible so that students can access resources like Mathletics and secondary textbooks. If you do not wish to participate, you will need to provide these resources for your student.

Uniform

Students have returned to school with high uniform standards. Thank you! We appreciate the effort that parents make to support our uniform expectations. Parents are reminded that shoes should be all black for all students every day. Secondary students who are habitually out of uniform will be asked to resolve the problem by calling home or going home to change or if necessary, they will be provided with uniforms at parents' expense. Students who do not comply with uniform expectations are excluded from non-curriculum activities such as going to the shops on Wednesdays.

Parking

Parents are reminded that the Stop, Drop and Go Zone at the front of the school is NOT a parking spot. This area is for cars to stop, drop off children and then immediately move off. We ask also that parents do not enter the staff car park near the office to drop off children. This is not a safe place to drop children off and it endangers the lives of children who may be present in the car park area.

School Sores (Impetigo)

Please be aware that there have been some reported cases of school sores in Middlemount. The advice we have from Queensland Health is that children with diagnosed cases of school sores should *"be excluded from school until they have received appropriate antibiotics for at least 24 hours. Sores are not contagious if covered, or after the child has taken antibiotics for 24 hours. Weeping or crusted sores on exposed areas should always be covered with a watertight dressing until at least 24 hours post antibiotics commenced and for as long as practical."*

Therefore, children are able to attend school, if they have been treated appropriately and all sores are covered.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – SARAH QUINN

Leadership Ceremony

Our annual Leadership Ceremony will take place on **Thursday 8 February** at 9am in the school hall. All parents/caregivers are invited to attend. If your child is to be acknowledged as a school leader, we extend a special invitation to you to attend and participate in the ceremony.

Swimming Carnival

The Year 3 to Year 12 MCS Swimming Carnival is on **Friday 9 February**. Primary students are to come to school in their swimmers, secondary students can get changed at the pool. Students need to bring a towel, goggles, swim cap, sunscreen, sun safe clothing (to wear while not swimming and home), hat and \$2.60 or a swim pass (for entry into the pool). Primary students are to meet their teacher at their classroom at 8:30am to mark the roll. Students will then assemble in the tuckshop undercover area to walk in to the pool with their 'house'. Secondary students need to assemble in the undercover area near the tuckshop at 8:30am.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – CONT

Nominations for events will be taken on the day – there will be no pre-nomination. Upcoming events will be announced throughout the day and students wishing to participate in the event will be required to marshal at the end of the pool to be allocated a race/lane. A program of events, with approximate times, will also be displayed in a variety of places in the pool vicinity. Students can participate in either the 25m or 50m races for each stroke ie. only one race per stroke. However, students can nominate for different swim lengths for different strokes during the carnival eg. A student may swim in 50m Freestyle, 25m Backstroke, 25m Butterfly and 50m Breaststroke.

If students choose to do the 25m race they will earn points for their house. For the 50m races, students will earn points for their house as well as points towards 'Age Champion'. There will be divisions for students 9 years – Open. Students who are/turning 8 years old will participate in a variety of activities in and outside the pool during the day which will earn their team points, but they will not compete for Age Champion.

Students also have the opportunity to be nominated as 'Best Dressed' and 'Best Team Spirit' for their house which will also earn their house points.

Year 12 students are running a sausage sizzle to fundraise for their graduation and the pool canteen will also be open to purchase food and drink. Parents are welcome to come down to watch and cheer but we ask that you please sit in the parent tent.

A whole school parade to announce the Swimming Carnival results will be held on **Monday 19 March at 2pm** in the school hall.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

School Photos

School photos are almost upon us again! School photo day will be **Friday 9 March**. We have engaged MSP Photography to create our school records this year and you are invited to purchase prints of your child. Please ensure that your child is in correct school uniform on the day. Secondary students must wear full formal uniform, including all black shoes.

On photo day, **every student will be photographed** regardless of whether you are purchasing or not. Your child will bring home a personalised order envelope from the photographers. Please take care to read and follow all the instructions carefully. This will ensure your order is processed smoothly and efficiently and will help you to avoid any late fees. You will have the option to order online or with cash in your student's envelope. Please take care to follow the instructions carefully.

Additional order envelopes are available from the school office for separated parents, blended families and grandparents. You will need to collect these **on or before photo day** and give it to the photographer on photo day. Be sure to write "Mum's order" or "Dad's order" on top of your envelope.

To order a sibling or friends photo, please collect Sibling and Friends Order Envelope from the school office on or before photo day, or order it online **at least 24 hours in advance**. *Please note: Sibling photos are only for siblings who all attend the school.*

If your child has been photographed in a **special group** (ie sports team or leadership team), order envelopes will be available in the weeks following photo day. Please watch this newsletter for information when they will be available.

As school staff are unable to help with photography enquiries or payments, please direct your questions and comments directly to MSP Photography by phoning 4921 3355.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – CONT

ICAS Tests

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) is an independent skills based assessment program which recognises and rewards student achievement. The tests are for Year 2 – 12 (except Digital Technologies and Writing which are for Years 3 – 12). In 2018 the following tests will be held:

ICAS Subject	ICAS Sitting Date	Price (incl.GST)
Digital Technologies	Tues 8 May	\$9.90
Science	Tues 29 May	\$9.90
Spelling	Wed 13 June	\$13.20
Writing	Thurs 14 June	\$19.90
English	Tues 31 July	\$9.90
Mathematics	Tues 14 August	\$9.90

If you would like your student/s to participate in one or more of the 2018 ICAS tests, please bring payment to the office by March 21 2018.

Did you know that MCS has a Facebook Page

Middlemount Community School has a Facebook page. This will not replace the various forms of communication that are already established within the the school but serve as a platform for reminders of key dates and events.

The page will be monitored a number of times during the day but any urgent matters should be directed to the school office on 4981 2333.



Upcoming Dates

Term 1 is already set to be very busy. Here are some dates for your diary!

February

Friday 9	MCS Swimming Carnival (Year 3 – Year 12) Central Highlands Rugby League and Netball Trials (13 – 18 years)
Monday 12 – 16	Year 7 -10 Magnetic Island Camp
Monday 12	Central Highlands Basketball Trials (10 – 12 years)
Thursday 15	Central Highlands Soccer Trials (13 – 18 years)
Friday 16	Peak Downs Rugby League and Netball Trials
Tuesday 20	Central Highlands Touch Trials (13 – 18 years)

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – CONT

March

Tuesday 6	Planet Rhythm
Friday 9	School Photos
Tuesday 13	MCS Cross Country (Year 3 – Year 12)
Monday 19	Peak Downs Cross Country and Touch Trials Central Highlands Hockey Trials (10 – 12 years)
Thursday 22	Elevate Program (Year 7 – 12)
Monday 26	Peak Downs Soccer and Union Trials
Friday 30	Good Friday

FROM THE SECONDARY DEPARTMENT – LISA SMALL

Welcome to 2018!

I would like to say that we have had a fantastic start to the year. This year we have the pleasure of welcoming two new teachers, Miss Laura Bowen who is joining us from Blackwater and Ryan Van Vuuren coming all the way from South Africa.

Miss Bowen will also be our Junior Secondary Coordinator this year, while Miss Luana Davidson is our Senior Secondary Coordinator. Both have already sent the welcoming email last week so ensure you are checking these emails for important updates and homework.

Homework

This year in the secondary department we are trialling a new procedure for homework. You should already have received a copy of the homework set for this week. Homework will continue to be set and marked as per normal classroom practice, however, so that parents/carers are aware a copy has also been emailed to you. Students need only complete the homework for the subjects they are taking, they are not to complete homework for any other subject. If there are any questions regarding this please feel free to email lsmal22@eq.edu.au.

7-10 Magnetic Island Camp

Final camp notes and medical forms have been sent home for this camp, ensure you have received these and return to the office ASAP. If the deposit was paid at the end of last year and your student wishes **not** to attend, please let me know via email. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide a refund.

A parent/student information session will be held on Monday 5 February at 4:00pm in Q1. All parents and students are invited to attend.

FROM THE SECONDARY DEPARTMENT – CONT

Assessment Calendars and Semester Overviews

Semester Overviews will be sent home to parents by the end of this week, along with the assessment calendars. Students will receive a paper copy of the assessment calendar and an electronic copy of the semester overview will be made available to them.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at the school or via my email lsmal22@eq.edu.au.

Have a great week!

FROM THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT – JEREMY CALLAGHAN

Mathletics

Mathletics is a targeted, rewarding and highly captivating online learning resource designed to power maths learning at home and in the classroom. At MCS, Mathletics is primarily used to form the numeracy component for homework for students from year 1 to junior secondary, Prep start using this program from term 3. As part of our Student Resource Scheme, a years' subscription to Mathletics is included within the fee. If you have already paid, then your child will be registered and ready to start using Mathletics on Monday of week three. If not, the fee for the Student Resource Fee is payable at the school office. There are many advantages for students using Mathletics as a supplement to their numeracy program at school. For more information visit <http://au.mathletics.com/home> or contact your child's classroom teacher.

Homework Club and Booster Club

Homework Club and Booster Club will commence in week 3. These non-compulsory sessions provide great opportunities for students to have additional access to resources to supplement their homework, or provide extra learning support to boost students' literacy skills. An email from your child's teacher will provide further information and attached permission forms for both clubs if interested.

Curriculum

Over the past 4 years our school has been focusing on improving our students writing skills. Our teachers have worked tirelessly to ensure that we have embedded consistent practice across all classrooms in writing. Our students will continue to develop their writing skills throughout the year, however this year our improvement priority is improving students spelling and vocabulary.

This year we are introducing a new spelling programme, "Words their Way" which is a developmental spelling and phonics programme to provide a consistent approach to spelling from Year 1 -10. It is a word study programme that involves students examining, manipulating, comparing and categorising words, offering students the opportunity to make their own discoveries about how words work.

An easy way to expand your child's vocabulary at home is through multiple exposure. Typically, a child needs to hear a new word used in context 8 to 12 times before it is added their vocabulary. When you introduce your child to a new word, try to keep a mental note of it and work to use it again in your conversations with your child. It is also important to use the word in a variety of different contexts, wherever it applies. Don't be afraid to throw in a word that you had focused on previously as well. Repeated exposure is one of the best ways to master new vocabulary words.

SUPPORT SERVICES – JUDITH FORREST

Homework Club – commences Week 3 – from 5 February 2018

Need some help with homework? Don't have access to the internet at home?

Homework Club is on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:30 – 3:30pm in H Block.

It is completely voluntary and is open to all students – it is staffed by our teacher aides, so subject-specific questions (eg. secondary science) might need to be answered by a teacher.

Some benefits of Homework Club include:

- a place to complete homework/assignments AT SCHOOL, without the distractions which might exist at home
- access to a staff member for questions and/or encouragement
- access to the internet

A note is being emailed home to parents this week – if you want to come to Homework Club, complete the permission form and return it to the office – this will last for the whole year – you can come and go as you need.

Booster Sessions – commence Week 3 – from 5 February 2018 – PREP TO YEAR 6

Need some help with fine and gross motor skills, sight words or reading?

Booster sessions for Prep focus on fine and gross motor skills. Sight words and reading are the focus areas for Years 1-6.

These are completely voluntary sessions and your child doesn't have to come every day – indicate on the slip which days you anticipate that your child will attend.

What happens in Booster sessions?

- Students do activities which build skills
- Students learn with other students (sharing, taking turns, encouraging others, etc.)
- Staff co-ordinate with the teachers so that focus areas are consistent with what's happening in the classroom

Come along and get a boost in these areas.

A note is being emailed home to parents this week – if you want to come along, complete the permission form and return it to the office.

Updating Health Plans

This week, a blank action plan will be sent home to all students who are currently listed as having a medical condition – asthma, anaphylaxis, allergy.

It is highly recommended that your child's action plan be updated by your GP and returned to the school ASAP.

SPORTS NEWS

Welcome back to 2018. Term 1 is a very busy time for CH sporting trials. Please remind your child to check the daily student notices, listen to announcements on parade and check the sports notice board, located outside of V block, for information regarding upcoming sporting trials. It is a very quick turnaround from when nominations for trials become available and closing dates, so please act swiftly for signing up for trial nominations.

Once students have expressed interest by signing up to their chosen sporting trial, they will then need to collect nomination forms, permission slips and transport forms. These will then need to be returned to the MCS office before the closing date to ensure they don't miss out.

The Central Highlands School Sport has a Facebook page that also lists upcoming trial dates and trial information.

If you have any questions regarding CH sporting trials, please feel free to contact Jeremy Callaghan on 4981 2333 or jbcald0@eq.edu.au

STARS OF THE WEEK

Levi Fielding (Prep A) – For trying your very best in all classroom activities and being a kind and helpful classmate. You're a super-STAR Levi!

Kelly Ward (Prep/1B) – For starting the year with a 'can-do' attitude and putting your best effort into writing your holiday postcard! Keep up the fantastic work Kelly!

Ruby Smith (1/2A) - For starting the year off by putting your best effort into all classroom tasks. Keep up the STAR effort Ruby!

Jaxon Downing (2/3B) – For your effort and imagination when writing a creative story in writing workshop. Keep up the STAR work Jaxon!

Charlotte Donald (3A) – For having a positive attitude towards all classroom tasks and showing perseverance when working with analogue and digital time in Maths! Keep up the fantastic work Charlotte!

Sienna Patch (4A) – For ordering four-digit numbers effectively and leading by example with your effort and perseverance. Keep it up Sienna, you're a STAR!

Georgia Dibdin (5A) – For coming back to school with a hard-working, positive attitude and being a star at working out factors of numbers in maths! Keep it up this year Georgia!

Dakoda Scales (5/6B) – For writing a very interesting and descriptive short story that kept your readers wanting more. Keep up the STAR effort Dakoda!