

MIDDLEMOUNT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL – SHARON ANDERSON

Student Council Activities

Our student council has been active already this year. At their first meeting, they decided to work on two projects in 2017: a chilled drinking tap and outdoor furniture for the 5/6 area. They are currently planning a Disco for Friday 24 March to raise funds for the student council projects and a Funky Hair Day on 17 March to raise funds for Leukaemia.

Swimming Carnival

Our swimming carnival was a great success last week, thanks to our dedicated sports committee. Our focus at the swimming carnival is participation and it was particularly good to see our seniors lead by example. Thank you to all the wonderful parents who attended and supported our staff and students. The results and age champions will be announced on a special parade on Wednesday 8 March at 2pm in the hall. This parade will replace both the normal primary and secondary parades for week 7.

Support for Parents

Parenting children and teenagers can be challenging. The Kids Helpline site offers resources and support not just to teenagers and children but to parents.
<https://kidshelpline.com.au>

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.

Sleep and Teenagers: How much is your Teenager getting?

Sleep research suggests that a teenager needs between nine and ten hours of sleep every night. This is more than the amount a child or an adult needs. Yet most adolescents only get about seven or eight hours. Some get less. Regularly not getting enough sleep leads to chronic sleep deprivation. This can have dramatic effects on a teenager's life, including reduced academic performance at school. If your teenager is not getting enough sleep, the following websites may be of some interest to you:

<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/teenagers-and-sleep>

<https://sleepfoundation.org/sleep-topics/teens-and-sleep>



Week Term 1

Dates to Remember

27 Feb – 3 Mar –
Year 5 /6 Camp

Wed 8 March
Swimming Carnival
Parade 2pm

Thu 9 March –
Cross Country 9 – 18 Yrs
8.45am

Thu 9 March –
Year 7 Immunisations
1:15pm

Fri 10 March –
School Photos

Fri 10 March –
CH Soccer 10-12yrs

Fri 17 March –
Bullying No Way Day

Fri 17 March –
Free Dress Day
'Craziest Hairstyle'

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 –
Easter Bonnet Parade

Fri 31 March –
Last Day Term 1

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – CHERRYL PERRY

It takes the MCS Village to raise a child.

It would be incredible if every parent went through 13 years of schooling without a concern regarding their loved one or a difference of opinion about a school policy.

But what can you do about it?

Parents and community members play an important role in education and a strong partnership between parents and schools enriches the learning experience for students.

Research shows that children do better in school when parents communicate regularly with teachers and become involved in the education of their children (primary and high school). There are a number of ways that parents can contact classroom teachers and be more involved with the school community.

Middlemount Community School welcomes any parent to discuss his/her concerns, after all if we don't know about it, how can we help?



Parent-teacher Interview Evenings

Parent-teacher nights are a formal opportunity to discuss issues or concerns with each of your child's teachers, and to ask how children are performing and progressing at school. Middlemount Community School hosts several parent-teacher evenings throughout the year, generally in Term 2 and 3, usually during the second week – after report cards have been emailed home

Direct contact with classroom Teachers

Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teachers to discuss any issues and concerns, to check on assessment and progress or to simply 'check in'. Please telephone or email the classroom teacher to make direct contact. Give the teacher adequate time to solve the issue

Still Concerned?

If you are still have concerns – please contact the teacher again and discuss actionable outcomes. A great tip is to write down your concerns and tick them off as you explain your concerns; this ensures that you have clearly communicated your issue.

DP Open Door Policy: After communicating with the classroom teacher and you still have concerns, please make an appointment to meet with Deputy Principal Cheryl Perry or if you are unable to attend a face to face meeting, please send a detailed email. Email contact is cperr86@eq.edu.au .

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – CONT

Tips

- **MCS Newsletter** is designed to inform parents, caregivers and the community about school activities, developments and initiatives. The MCS newsletter is emailed out in Week 2,4,6,8 &10.
- **MCS P&C Association – needs members – Be involved in MCS decision making**
- **MCS Facebook page** : like our MCS Facebook page to receive up to date notices/changes
- **Primary School Classroom Teachers** : Regular class notices emailed home with updates
- **MCS Website** : has links to a variety of school documents and data
<https://middlemountcs.eq.edu.au>
- **Facebook** – MCS staff are unable to comment on Facebook posts. I strongly encourage anyone with a concern to please contact the classroom teacher and/or Administration.

Date Claimers :

- Cross Country date has been changed to Thursday 9 March at 8:45am. Parents welcome.
- Immunisation date has been changed to Thursday 9 March 2017. Please remember to return forms to the office ASAP
- RE instruction begins Week 7 – Tuesday. Please return permission forms and money for booklet.
- MSP Photography – 10 March 2017

FROM THE SECONDARY DEPARTMENT – LISA SMALL

We have reached the half way point of Term 1, this means an increase in the amounts of assessments due for all Secondary year levels in the coming weeks. As the numbers of assessment increase, students should be considering their time management. Effective time management enables students to meet key deadlines such as draft and final due dates, as well as, ensures students adequate time to revise for exams. A great way to monitor the assessment due dates is by utilising and referring to the assessment calendar sent out at the beginning of the term.

Swimming Carnival

A huge thank you needs to go to all secondary students who participated in the swimming carnival on Friday. It was great to see students full of house spirit, cheering and swimming in multiple events. Great Job! Thank you to all the parents/guardians who also joined us on the day.

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

FROM THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT – TAMARA STOLBERG

We have completed half of term one and I am pleased to see each and every class working hard to achieve improvements in all subject areas. Our Annual Improvement goal continues to be writing. While writing is a large focus at MCS we still continue to strive to improve in all subject areas. Please encourage your child to work towards achieving their own personal goals. These goals might include learning their rainbow facts, times tables, sight words, reading fluency, spelling and handwriting. Achieving a goal provides you with the motivation to keep learning so set yourself a goal or goals today.

Easter Bonnet Parade

The annual MCS Easter Bonnet Parade will be held on Friday 31 March 2017. Looking forward to seeing your creative Easter bonnets.

Year 5/6 Camp

As you read this newsletter the year five and six students will be experiencing the last days of their Kinchant Outdoor Education Camp. So why take students on camp? Well, apart from being a lot of fun a camp offers students a variety of learning opportunities that they cannot experience in the classroom. The camp that we are undertaking focuses on resilience and team work. Taking students out of their comfort zones and placing them in challenging situations provides students with the ability to build resilience and to come together as a team to complete a common goal. Throughout these challenging activities leaders emerge as well as solid team members who support and encourage their team mates. I'm looking forward to spending the week with an amazing group of students who will inspire me with their energy, positive attitude and have a go nature.

Here are 8 reasons why camp is great for kids.

1. Develop independence
2. Boost self esteem
3. Make new friends
4. Build team work and leadership
5. Build resilience
6. Experience nature
7. Physically active
8. Create life long memories

FROM THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT – CONT

Mathletics

Does your child has access to Mathletics? If you've paid your Student Resource Scheme your child has access. Each week your child's teacher sets tasks that need to be completed for homework.

The weekly Mathletics trophy is then awarded on parade to the class that has the highest rate of student participation. If you do not have access to a computer at home you can sign your child up to Homework Club and they can complete their Mathletics during this time. See the office for a permission form.



Week 4 & 5 Participation Rates Term 1, 2017

Class	Week 4	Week 5
1B	71%	57%
1/2C	75%	63%
2A	76%	72%
2/3B	62%	76%
3/4A	83%	54%
3/4C	83%	71%
5/6A	48%	48%
5/6B	46%	50%

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS



Student council are raising funds for the Leukaemia foundation on Friday March 17, come in free dress with your craziest hair style.

All gold coin funds go to the Leukaemia foundation.

CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT

When things add up!- Year 2/3B

After a busy start to the term, this week, Year 2/3B have been practising their addition! During Maths, students have been using our unique dice to develop addition sums and add strings of numbers. Students worked collaboratively in groups of four to develop and answer their own sums. Working together students were aiming for whole group success!

With our unique dice, students were able to create sums from single-digit numbers, double-digit numbers and hundreds!

In the year 2/3B classroom students have been learning a range of different addition strategies to solve problems. Students have loved using hands on activities to explore their own learning and can't wait to see what the next 5 weeks bring!



Playing it Safe in Prep A!

In Prep A we have been looking about how and where to play safely at school and at home. We were invited to go and have a lesson with the lollypop ladies about road safety and we learnt what the different whistles and hand signals meant so we can safely cross the road.



Ready to Read!

Prep A have been loving learning to read! Each day we practise reading to ourselves by reading the pictures in the book. Slowly as we build up our knowledge of letters and sounds, we are starting to read the words. This week we were lucky enough to have some students from 2/3B to come down and read to us.

CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT - CONT



STAR OF THE WEEK

Milana Logunov (Prep A) – For being very helpful, considerate, caring and patient with all of your friends in Prep A. You are a super STAR!

Olivia Taylor (Prep A) – For always putting in your best effort with all school of your school work, especially your writing! You are a superstar!

Harlan Shaw (P/1B) – For giving a great reason for liking our story this week and for always using your imagination. Keep up the STAR effort Harlan!

Seth Greenaway (P/1B) – For always being respectful to your fellow class mates by using your lovely manners. You're a super- STAR Seth!

Ryan Corkin (1/2C) – For never giving up on your classwork and being a helpful friend to others. You're a STAR Ryan! Keep it up.

Logan Rodier (2A) – For giving clear and well thought out responses during our discussion on fractured fairy tales. Keep up the STAR effort Logan.

Ta'zaiah Heyward (2A) – For always participating and being a proactive learner in all areas of the classroom. Keep up the amazing STAR effort Ta'zaiah!

Emmett Rodier (2/3B) - For working well and independently to set up complete your part-part-whole operations. Keep up the STAR effort Emmett!

Hayden Nowell (2/3B) – For being proactive when lining up outside class and making responsible and safe choices in and outside the classroom. Great STAR behaviour Hayden!

Billy Cox (3/4A) – For completing all class tasks to the best of your ability and being a great peer tutor. Keep up the STAR effort Billy!

Cheyenne Gavin (3/4A) – For 100% participation in all classroom tasks and completing everything to the best of your ability. Keep up the STAR effort Cheyenne!

Nicola Wilson (3/4C) – For putting a STAR effort into all of your classwork and bookwork. Keep up the great work Nicola!

Ella Davison (3/4C) – For persisting with all your classroom tasks and achieving success. Keep up the STAR effort Ella!

Will Jones (5/6A) – For being a perimeter perfectionist. Keep up the STAR effort Will!

Gracie Grant (5/6B) – For using precise language choices to inform a reader during our writing workshop. Keep it up Gracie, you're a STAR!

Secondary Stars

Shona Barber (7A) - For being an active participant in class and demonstrating enthusiasm towards your studies.

Jhett Muller (9A) - For being focused in class and demonstrating a consistent effort to complete class work.

Charlotte Briese (11A) - For demonstrating exemplary effort and a mature attitude towards your studies.

Noah Tremble (11A) - For having a focused approach to class work and demonstrating an exemplary effort towards your studies.

SUCCESSFUL START TO PREP – THE GERMAN WAY (Jana Schroder)

In early February, this year's Preppies had the chance to experience a little bit of German excitement about starting school. Together with their families and friends, the young students came together at the local Playgroup facilities to celebrate their very own "start-of-school party 2017".

Proudly sponsored by Isaac Regional Council and Middlemount's Mulligrubs Playgroup, everyone enjoyed a fun afternoon with a pair of jumping castles, exciting craft activities and a very special ceremony.

This exciting tradition of roughly 200 years, which marks the first year of school, includes the presentation of a big cardboard cone to the new students, the "Schultüte" (school cone), which is usually nicely decorated and heavily filled with school supplies, special treats and other surprises.

This year's start-of-school party saw 17 Middlemount Prep pupils excitedly waiting their turn, while Councillor Jane Pickels and Middlemount Community School Principal Sharon Anderson welcomed each one of them to school. Every student received a certificate to mark the occasion, along with their very own "Schultüte".

Every one of these school cones was an individual masterpiece, having been hand-crafted and thoughtfully decorated by parents to match their child's individual likings. They all looked wonderful and revealed some great crafty talent amongst all involved parents.

The organisers would like to thank everyone, who joined the festivities and/or helped during the preparation of them. A big thank you to Isaac Regional Council, Councillor Pickels, Mulligrubs Playgroup and MCS Principal Anderson for supporting the event in the way they did.

It was a great afternoon that saw a cherished tradition from the other side of the globe come to life here in Middlemount.

We wish our Preppies a fantastic first year at school, and many more to come thereafter!



Photo: Danielle Delaney