

MIDDLEMOUNT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL – SHARON ANDERSON

Congratulations year 12s

It was with many tears last week that our year 12 students were farewelled at the leaving ceremony and at the graduation. I am proud to say that all of our 2016 graduates achieved a Queensland Certificate of Education. Almost three quarters of them received results which qualified them for academic awards this year. Last week, we were very excited to hear that Ben Jackson achieved an A in the QCS Test this year – a very significant academic achievement. We wish all of them the very best!

The graduation is always a wonderful community event, which could not happen without the dedication and efforts of the year 12 parents. I would like to thank the band of parents and community members who made this year's grad such a success – Melinda and Scott Redshaw, Julie and Patrick Greene; Michael Cocking; Helen Lorroway; Sheree Tucker, Trish and Darren Wakeman; Russell Bradford; Deb Howard; Holly and Blair Southward and Matt and Angie Hite.



Student Resource Scheme for 2016

This week, all students will receive correspondence relating to the 2017 Student Resource Scheme. We ask that all forms are returned to the office by Friday 2 November, whether you wish to participate or not. Please note that payment for SRS will not be collected until the beginning of 2017. Please be aware that if you choose not to participate in the scheme, you must provide the items on the SRS list for your student yourself.

Booklists will also be sent home this week.



Week 8 Term 4

Dates to Remember

Wed 23 November –
Junior Secondary
Transition Afternoon
3:00pm

24 – 25 November –
Year 10 & 11 Exam
Block

Fri 25 November –
Year 10 & 11 Finish

Tue 29 November –
Primary Awards Morning
9:30am Year 4 -6

Wed 30 November –
P – 6 Arts Showcase

Fri 2 December –
Year 6 Graduation
Dinner/Dance
6:00 – 10:00pm

Tue 6 December –
Prep Transition Morning
8:45 – 11am

Wed 7 December –
Christmas Concert 6pm
Sausage Sizzle from
5pm

Thu 8 December –
Capella/Emerald
Fun Day - Years 6-9

Fri 9 December –
Last Day of School

Wed 18 January –
Open Day
1:30 – 3:00pm

Mon 23 January –
First Day of School

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

Primary Awards Ceremony

Parents and community members are invited to celebrate our year 4-6 students successes at the 2016 Primary Awards ceremony on Tuesday 29 November at 9.30am in our hall.

Homework club

Homework Club has finished for 2017. We will see you again in 2017.

End of year procedures

Please note the return dates for school resources below.

Task	Year 10-11	Junior Secondary	Primary
Return laptop, complete with case and charger and pay for any damage which has occurred.	Wednesday 23 November	Monday 5 December	NA
Return all library books and textbooks	Monday 21 November	Monday 5 December	Friday 2 December (Borrowing ceases on Monday 21 November)
Pay any outstanding debts to the office.	Wednesday 23 November	Monday 5 December	Monday 5 December

Friday 9 December

Please note that the tuckshop will be closed on Friday 9 December. Our daily timetable will change slightly, with one long lunch break at 11.15 – 12.30, instead of two breaks. Class parties and other organised activities will happen on this day.

Christmas Concert

Our annual Christmas concert will be held on Wednesday 7 December at 6pm. Our P&C will be holding a sausage sizzle from 5pm. All members of our school community are welcome to attend and buy a sausage! If you are able to help out with the Sausage Sizzle please let us know.

Open Day 2017

Our school will be open to parents on Wednesday 18 January from 1.30pm -3.00pm. This is an opportunity to meet your child's new teacher.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – CHERRYL PERRY

Exam Blocks

- Well done to all Year 12s who have completed their final exams. Year 10-11 exams begin Thursday 24 November and Junior Secondary exams begin in week 10. Students have been given a paper copy of the exam timetable and it is available on student notices.

Junior Secondary Transition Parent Information Session

- Wednesday 23 November 2016
- 3 pm at Mr Ellul room (Q Block)
- All parents and students welcome



2017 Year 7 - Transition Program – will be held during Week 9 and 10. Students will be touring the secondary school facilities and having any questions answered. They will take different lessons throughout the day and meet with different teachers. This program gives Year 6 students the opportunity to live the life of a 'High School' student. Students will be given a timetable and it will also be posted on MCS Facebook page.

What students need to bring to the Transition Program: Hat, water bottle, exercise book, pencil case, ruler, rubber and calculator. * Standard school shoes are required to participate in Practical Arts subjects (Man Arts, Home Ec, Art).

Bringing Your Own Device (BYOX) information is available via the MCS website. Please contact the school for further information.

School opens up a whole new world!!!

Talk to your kids about their day at school. Try to find time to help them practise the things they are not good at. Ask them to read to their little brother or sister or while you are preparing dinner.

By going to school, kids learn about fitting in with others. They begin to build friendships with other kids. They start to find that other kids are different from themselves.

Kids begin to learn how to resolve conflict, how to play games and be a good sport regardless whether he/she wins or loses the 'game'.

If your child is being bullied at school, talk to your child's teacher about it. Encourage your child to say when the bullying is taking place. Ask the teacher to help find a solution to the situation.

Need more Information? Free and Confidential

- Qld Parent Line : 1300 301 300
- Life Line: 13 11 14
- Kids Helpline : 1800 55 1800



FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – CONT

LOST PROPERTY

If you have lost any articles of clothing please check at the Lost Property box outside the office.

Any items/clothing/lunch boxes etc. not collected by end of term will be donated.

P&C Christmas Hamper Raffle Fundraiser: Next P&C Meeting will be Monday 28 November 2016 7:30pm.

The P & C are looking for donations of **non-perishable food items** to be included in a Christmas Hamper.

The hamper will be raffled off towards the end of the term. Please leave items at the office



Year 10 & Junior Secondary

Students will be choosing their electives this week. Year 10 & Junior Secondary Handbooks are available on the MCS Webpage. Please contact the office for a hard copy.

FROM THE SECONDARY DEPARTMENT – CHRIS SAVAGE

Dear Families,

Although our Year 10s and 11s complete their 2016 school year at this end of this week, it is of great importance that our Junior Secondary students maintain their positive attitudes and work ethic for the final two weeks. Final levels of achievement are often impacted (both positively and negatively) by performance on final assessment tasks. Remember to drink lots of water, eat healthy, sleep well and study hard! You can relax once it's all over in a couple of weeks.

School is the 'Workplace' of Young People

Speaking of the Year 10s and 11s finishing, I thought I'd share an anecdote about a conversation I had with some Year 7 students last week. The four students were curious about long service leave, as they had asked me why I will not be at school for the final two weeks of Term 4. The four students initially thought that it was unfair that teachers get long service leave, whereas students do not.

However, I explained to the students that most jobs require you to work for 10 years before you can access long service leave and that, in Year 10, students receive an additional two weeks of school holidays; in Year 11 they receive another additional two weeks. Upon receiving this explanation, the four Year 7 students had a better understanding of school being like a workplace. Young people are required to attend school until they are 16 years of age and then either 'learn or earn'. That is because school is a place where young people go to develop life-long skills that prepare them to be effective members of society and efficient members of the workforce.

On that note, as we approach the end of Term 4, it is vital to remember the importance of attendance. This time of year holds many temptations to take an 'early holiday' for families with Junior Secondary students but that practice does not instil a good work ethic in the minds of young people. Just as you would not be able to leave your job early unless you have applied for leave that is owed to you, you would not expect that school students would stop attending school (their 'job') early.

Junior Secondary Exam Block

With that said, Year 7-9 students will complete their exam block on Monday 5 and Tuesday 6 December. They have already been issued with an exam-block schedule and additional copies are available at the office. Junior Secondary students are expected to attend school and complete all exams on those days. Non-attendance will have a negative impact on a student's results for the year.

If there are extenuating circumstances that prevent a student from attending school on those dates, it is imperative that they see Mrs Small, who will be the acting Head of Department for the final two weeks, prior to Wednesday 30 November (Week 9).

FROM THE SECONDARY DEPARTMENT – CONT

Fantastic Result in the 2016 QCS Test

We were very excited to receive news this week that Year 12 graduate Benjamin Jackson received an 'A' in the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test earlier this year.

The QCS Test consists of four sub-tests (A Writing Task, 2x Multiple Choice Tests and a Short-response Test) and assesses students' application of core curriculum skills. Preparation for the test was delivered by Miss Josefski, Mrs Gaiter and Mr Savage. Thank you to those teachers for their efforts and great job, Ben!

End of Year Trip

Students in Years 6, 7, 8 and 9 will have the opportunity to attend an end of year 'reward' trip that presents some fun and relaxation after exam block. Remember that the trip is on Thursday 8 December and permission slips need to be returned to the office.

Farewell (for now!) from Mr Savage

It is with some regret that I say 'farewell', at least for now, to Middlemount Community School after 2 and a half years as the Head of Secondary Department. As of Week 9, I will be on Long Service Leave. I will also be taking leave for Semester 1 of 2017, and this week I accepted the opportunity to perform a similar role at a school in Brisbane, in a temporary capacity. As such, it is possible that my leave may be extended beyond Semester 1.

During my absence, Mrs Lisa Small will be the acting Head of Department for Secondary, beginning in Week 9 of this term. As I have worked with and become familiar with Lisa for the past two years, I know that she will perform both efficiently and effectively in my absence. We are very fortunate that Lisa is already a high-performing member of the Middlemount Community School staff team. As such, she holds great familiarity with, and consistently makes a positive impact on, our Secondary students. I wish Lisa and her team of concerned and caring secondary teachers the very best for what I know will be a successful 2017!

I also wish all secondary students the very best for 2017. Remember to use your time at school to become a citizen who is safe, takes responsibility and strives for achievement and personal improvement – all valuable skills to a future employer!

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

All Uniform Order must be paid by EFT

FROM THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT – TAMARA STOLBERG

Writer's Notebook

A writer's notebook is a safe place to experiment with writing and collect inspiring information. For many students writing is a challenge because they struggle to come up with interesting ideas to write about. A writer's notebook is a blank book that students fill with ideas, thoughts, feelings, dreams and interesting facts. It is not a diary! It is an informal tool that helps generate ideas when students are in the pre-writing stage. Students add to their writer's notebook daily so that when they need that creative spark they can draw their ideas from their notebook.

Next year students in years one to six will create a personal writer's notebook.

So what goes into a writer's notebook?

- Daily thoughts and quotes
- Sizzling Starts
- Collection of 'wow' words
- I wonder questions
- Lists of things that are unusual, surprising, funny, scary
- Lists of favourite movies, books, food
- Pictures of favourite things, places, people
- Ticket stubs – movies, theme parks, events
- Post cards
- Brochures
- Sketches

So what can your child do over the holidays?

The school holidays are a great opportunity to begin to collect mementoes that can be placed in their writer's notebook next year. Christmas cards, postcards, photographs, cuttings from brochures, magazine, newspapers, movie stubs, quotes from favourite books/movies. The options are limitless.

Mathletics

Congratulations to 2/3B on their 100% participation rate in Mathletics last week.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Jaxon Downing (Prep A) – For your enthusiasm when you are working on the computers, you are a technology STAR!! Keep up the great work.

Ruby Smith (Prep A) – For your persistent hard work in class and your interesting questions for your story book character. Well done Ruby!

Ryan Corkin (Prep B) – For having a positive attitude all week and trying your best with every activity. Keep up the rock-STAR effort Ryan!

Dakota Dennis (Prep B) – For trying extra hard with your writing this week and writing a WHOLE story! You're a super-STAR Dakota!

Emmett Rodier (2A) – For working hard at producing neat and quality writing. Keep up the STAR effort Emmett!

McKenzie Parfitt (2A) – For working extra hard to stay on task and complete your work. Keep up the STAR effort McKenzie!

Elliott Simon (2/3B) – For using impressive vocabulary when writing your character description in English. Keep up the STAR work, Elliott!

Vanessa Plath (2/3B) – For using fantastic persuasive words and devices in your persuasive text. Keep up the STAR work, Vanessa!

Michael Johns (3A) – for putting in a STAR effort in all of your learning this week. Keep up the great work Michael!

Tanisha Mason (4A) – For putting 100% effort into all of your English tasks. You are producing some great written tasks. Keep up the STAR effort Tanisha.

Hayden Peatey (4B) – For writing a clever and descriptive character description. Keep up the STAR effort Hayden!

Charlie Adams (5A) – For working hard to complete writing tasks in English lessons. Keep up the STAR effort, Charlie!

Kobi Donald (6A) – For always putting your best effort into all of your Maths tasks. Keep it up Kobi, you're a STAR!

Secondary Stars

Leandri De Jager (8A) -For showing diligence towards your studies and a great work ethic.

Haylea Lonergan (9A) - For adopting a mature and responsible approach to your studies and striving for achievement.

Hannah Ford (10A) - For applying yourself and working extremely hard in your subjects.

Rachel (12A) - For showing an improved attitude towards your completion of class activities and studies.