

MIDDLEMOUNT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL – SHARON ANDERSON

Wakakirri

I was so proud to be able to sit among a big crowd of Middlemount parents and supporters at the Mackay Entertainment Centre this week and watch our wonderful Wakakirri performance. Our students won awards for Best Public Speaking and Best Use of the Signature Item as well as a Participation Award. All of the hard work and dedication these students and teachers put into Wakakirri really paid off with a fantastic performance. Congratulations to all of the students and our great teachers: Megan Macfarlane; Tash Porter; Kayla Jamieson; Beth Roberts and Laura McRobert. A special thanks to the many parents who travelled to support our students!

Fete

Set aside Friday 2 September 4-9pm for our MCS Fete. The P&C and our staff and students are working towards making this a fabulous event. Taila Gouge will be performing along with our staff band. There will be rides and stall and food. Come along and help raise funds for our school. We can't make it happen without parent involvement. Please give us an hour of your time to assist on your child's class stalls or contact the school office if you would like to contribute in some way. We would love your help!

NAPLAN 2016 Results

We received some very pleasing results in NAPLAN this year. Some of our results are highlighted below. It is important to keep in mind the purpose of the NAPLAN data; it provides us with very useful information about how students are progressing and it allows us to identify and plan for student needs. What this year's data tells us is that our school's performance is comparable to the rest of the nation. Statistically, our students achieved results "similar" to the nation in 57 out of 60 indicators. We have also celebrated the fact that on a significant number of these indicators we actually achieved better scores than the nation. The tables below show our results.

Blue indicates that our students were comparable to the nation. Red indicates our students were below the nation. I have noted where our scores were actually higher than the nation and where we achieved 100% above National Minimum Standard.



Week 5 Term 3

Dates to Remember

Thu 11 August –
Moranbah Careers
Expo

15 – 19 August –
Science Week

Mon 15 August –
P & C Meeting 7:30pm
(W Block)

Fri 19 August –
Stay & Play

Fri 19 August –
Maths Day

22 – 26 August –
Book Week Parade

Tue 23 August –
Oratory Comp

Wed 24 August –
Immunisations
Year 7 & 8

Fri 26 August –
Book Week Parade

Tue 30 August –
Father's Day Stall

Fri 2 September –
MCS Fete

6 – 8 September –
CH Eisteddfod

Wed 14 September –
P – 6 Arts Showcase

Fri 16 September –
Last Day Term 3

FROM THE PRINCIPAL – CONT

Year 3

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar and Punctuation	Numeracy
Mean Scaled Score	Higher than Nation				
Number of Students in the Upper Two Bands	Higher than Nation	Higher than Nation	Higher than Nation		
Number of students above National Minimum Standard	100% Higher than Nation	Higher than Nation	100% Higher than Nation	100% Higher than Nation	Higher than Nation

Year 5

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar and Punctuation	Numeracy
Mean Scaled Score		Higher than Nation			
Number of Students in the Upper Two Bands			Below		Below
Number of students above National Minimum Standard	Higher than Nation	100% Higher than Nation	100% Higher than Nation	Higher than Nation	100% Higher than Nation

Year 7

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar and Punctuation	Numeracy
Mean Scaled Score	Higher than Nation	Below		Higher than Nation	Higher than Nation
Number of Students in the Upper Two Bands			Higher than Nation	Higher than Nation	
Number of students above National Minimum Standard	100% Higher than Nation	Higher than Nation		100% Higher than Nation	100% Higher than Nation

Year 9

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar and Punctuation	Numeracy
Mean Scaled Score		Higher than Nation		Higher than Nation	Higher than Nation
Number of Students in the Upper Two Bands				Higher than Nation	Higher than Nation
Number of students above National Minimum Standard	100% Higher than Nation	Higher than Nation		100% Higher than Nation	100% Higher than Nation

FROM THE PRINCIPAL – CONT

Prep 2017

Prep enrolments for 2017 are now open. Prep enrolment packs are available at the school office or Middlemount C&K. We ask that parents enrol their child by November 18. This helps us to organise our class structures for 2017. Parents are reminded that children may not start Prep until a birth certificate has been provided.

Key Dates for Prep 2017

August	Friday 19 August	Stay and Play Session 11am
September	Friday 9 September	Stay and Play Session 11am
October	Friday 14 October	Stay and Play Session 11am
	Friday 28 October	Stay and Play Session 11am
November	Thursday 10 November	11am OR 6pm Prep 2017 Information Session
	Monday 14 November	Enrolment Interviews
	Tuesday 15 November	Enrolment Interviews
	Friday 18 November	Stay and Play Session 11am Enrolment Forms due to the School Office
	Thursday 24 November	Enrolment Interviews
	Friday 25 November	Enrolment Interviews
	Wednesday 30 November	Enrolment Interviews
December	Tuesday 6 December	Transition Morning 8.45am-11am

P&C Fundraiser

Our P&C are running a fundraiser this term, collecting 5c coins. Each class has a jar to fill with coins and the class with the most coins will win a class party with food supplied from the tuckshop. If you have some spare coins at the bottom of your wallet please send them along to fill up your class jar.

Our next P&C meeting will be held on Monday 15 August at 7.30pm in W block. We would love to see you there!

2017 Intentions

If you are intending to leave Middlemount before 2017 please let us know. This helps us for our planning for next year and ensures a smooth transition to 2017 classes for our students. Call the office on 49812333 – we would greatly appreciate it.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – SARAH QUINN

Semester 1 Achievement Ceremony

On Monday 1 August we recognised achievements of students in Year 4 – 12 at our annual Achievement Ceremony. There were five awards; Academic Excellence, Outstanding Attendance, Exceptional Conduct, Outstanding Effort, and Most Outstanding Student (Primary, Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary).

Congratulations to all of the students who received awards. You are really living our school motto “pride, effort, achievement”. A special congratulations to:

Most Outstanding Student – Primary: Annalyse Gaiter

Most Outstanding Student – Junior Secondary: Angela Jackson

Most Outstanding Student – Senior Secondary: Amy Greene and Jamie Wakeman

A special mention to the following students who achieved 100% attendance for Semester 1:

- Matthew Darwen
- Adam Keough
- Calum Philips
- Noah Symes

- Alex Druery
- Angela Jackson
- Lachlan Rasmussen

- William Hite
- Ben Jackson
- Madison Symes

Education Interactive – Forensic Science Workshop

Education Interactive, a Sydney based company, deliver workshops that engage students in the world of science. It promotes enquiry based learning, investigation and scientific method through an interactive Crime Scene investigation developed by real Forensic Scientists. Though based on Forensics, the workshop is a valuable experience for any student.

Education Interactive were recently running a competition through Facebook where a school could win a free Forensic Science Workshop. I am very excited to announce that Jane White was the winner of this competition and, lucky for us, has chosen MCS to be granted the prize – Thank you Jane! A sincere thank you to all other parents, students and community members who liked the page on Facebook and increased our chances of winning.

We are looking forward to our students participating in this wonderful, enriching experience in 2017.

Visiting Tours

The last two weeks have been busy at MCS. Mon Wednesday 3 August, we had School Performance Tours deliver ‘Dinosaur Science’. Students found this performance to be entertaining and educational. They particularly enjoyed Miss Stolberg being the ‘slave’ during the performance.

On Monday 8 – Wednesday 10 August, ‘Fun with Maths’ worked with students from Prep to Year 8 on problem solving in Mathematics. Students were really engaged with the activities provided and developed their confidence in Mathematics when they were able to apply their skills and knowledge to challenging tasks.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – CONT

Semester 1 Report Cards

The Semester 1 Report Cards were issued on Friday 22 July. The report and email was generated through OneSchool (not at the school level) and therefore may be found in your 'junk box' or similar, so please check all folders. If you have not received your student/s report, please contact the school office.

ICAS Test Dates

If you have nominated your child to participate in the ICAS tests, please note the following dates for the last test for 2016:

Test	Sitting Date
Mathematics	Tuesday 16 August

FROM THE SECONDARY DEPARTMENT – CHRIS SAVAGE

Dear Families,

As we enter the middle of the term, secondary students are busy learning new concepts and skills and consolidating their understandings, as well as revising and preparing for mid-term assessment. The need to stay focussed on school work is paramount; as is the need to avoid absence from school. Every day counts!

ABC 'Heywire' Workshop

Last week, we were visited by Amy McCosker, a journalist from ABC Capricornia local radio, who ran a workshop for our Year 9 English and Years 11/12 Film and Media students. Amy assisted students to make their documentary ideas and concepts more interesting and engaging for audiences. Students asked lots of insightful questions and got a lot out of the afternoon. Additionally, all students who participated in the workshop conducted themselves well and Amy noted that our school was a pleasure to visit – well done to those students who were involved!

Townsville and Moranbah Career Expos

This week, some students in Years 9-12 have been attending the *Townsville Careers Expo*, which has provided them with the opportunity to gain insight into pathways into different careers. Included in the trip was a tour of the Army Barracks in Townsville, which was of particular interest to students who may be considering careers in the military. I'm sure there will be plenty of photos to publish in the next edition of the MCS newsletter, but for now I would like to thank Mrs Lisa Small for her effort in organising the trip.

Students in Years 10-12, who were unable to go on that trip, are able to attend the *Moranbah Careers Expo* this Thursday. There will be a variety of representatives from local industry and representatives from TAFE and Universities across Queensland, as well as private training colleges that students may be interested in. I look forward to hearing about the insight students gain from that trip also.

FROM THE SECONDARY DEPARTMENT- CONT

QCS Test Preparation

All OP-eligible Year 12s, and those who are planning on sitting the *Queensland Core Skills Test* in Week 8 of this term, are reminded that practice sessions take place each **Wednesday afternoon** in either Q1 or Q3. Congratulations to those who have been turning up and making a concerted effort to prepare themselves for the test.

Assessment Calendars

It is important that secondary students continually refer to their assessment calendars to ensure that they are aware of when assessment is taking place and can prioritise their workload. Assessment calendars are distributed to students on a pink sheet of paper and are also made available electronically to parents via the weekly emails. If you would like an additional copy of the assessment calendars, please contact the Head of Department by emailing csava35@eq.edu.au

FROM THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT – TAMARA STOLBERG

Have you heard of STEM? STEM is the teaching of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Over the last two weeks our students from MCS have had various opportunities to engage in some of these areas. Our high school students have participated in a robotics competition at Central Queensland University and a bridge making design competition. Our primary students were treated to a science performance last week and this week students from primary and secondary are using their mathematical problem solving skills.

Dinosaur Science

“Let’s unearth the palaeontologist in us all,” was the message that Jared from ‘Dinosaur Science’ enthusiastically spread last Wednesday. Students were treated to a humorous and educational performance that engulfed our students from prep to year seven into the ancient world of dinosaurs. With the help of numerous enthusiastic student volunteers Jared and the students set about to create a huge scale skeletal model of a two metre high, five metre long, Plesiosaurus. During the assembly of the Plesiosaurus students were told how dinosaur bones are found and that casts of them are made for palaeontologists to study as well as other facts about dinosaurs. Jared posed various problems for our students to solve throughout the duration of the show. From the laughter and the eager hands to participate it was clear that all of our P-6 students enjoyed learning about dinosaurs.



FROM THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT - CONT

Fun with Maths

Can you solve it? That was the question posed to our primary and secondary students this week who participated in the visiting 'Fun with Maths' hands on presentation. Students were given the opportunity to work through various challenges. Each challenge had a real life context and students were encouraged to complete the hands on practical tasks while working in a co-operative team. Students used their problem solving, critical thinking, creativity and social skills to complete the challenges. It was fabulous to see our MCS students engaged in mathematics.

Mathletics

Mathletics is your child's numeracy homework. Please ensure that your child completes all assigned tasks for the week. If your child does not have any assigned tasks please speak to your child's teacher.

Premier's Reading Challenge

Keep reading to complete the Premier's Reading Challenge by the 26th August. Please return all completed challenge forms to your classroom teacher.

Science Week

In week 6 students will have an opportunity to engage in a number of lunchtime science activities to celebrate science week.

Book Week Parade

Our annual Book Week Parade will be held on Friday 26 August. Students are encouraged to dress up as their favourite book character. This year's theme is: *Australia! Story Country*. So get your creative thinking caps on and come up with a truly Australian book character costume.

PRIMARY SPORTS NEWS

Central Highlands Cricket

Congratulation to Kobi Donald for being selected into the Peak Downs team and represent at the **Central Highlands Cricket trials** on Friday 5 August at Moranbah.

Central Highlands Track and Field

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent Central Highlands Track and Field event at Capricornia Track and Field on Monday 22nd August and Tuesday 23rd August, 2016 at EMMAUS COLLEGE ROCKHAMPTON.

Peyton Jaszczyszyn	for	100m, Long Jump, Shot Put
Abigail Jorgensen	for	Discus
Tyler Clark	for	High Jump
Zoe Keough	for	200m, 800m

Sporting Trials for 10-12 Year Olds Coming Up

Under 10 Rugby League Josh Hannay Challenge 19 August, Capella

Jump Rope for Heart Foundation

Congratulation and thank you to all those who participated and attended. It was a fit and fun afternoon.

<http://heartfoundation.org.au/jump-rope-for-heart>



SECONDARY SPORT NEWS – CONT

Central Highlands School Sport – Secondary CH Athletics

On Thursday 28 and Friday 29 July, we had several students head off to Emerald Marist College to represent our school at the CH athletics trials; Corbin Barber, Zoe Keogh, Jordan Heke, Noah Symes, Connor Jorgensen, Beckham Dowie, Haylea Lonergan, Regan Clark, Addison Kotz, Matthew Darwen. These students competed in athletic events against other students from the region in their respective age groups. All students demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and effort throughout the day. The following students placed in their event on the day and will be competing in the following events at the next level.

Zoe Keogh (Yr7) - 200m, 800m

Beckham Dowie (Yr 8) – 1500m, 800m

Haylea Lonergan (Yr 9) – Long Jump, Triple Jump, 100m, 200m

Regan Clark (Yr 9) – High Jump, Triple Jump

Matthew Darwen (Yr 11) - Javelin

Huge congratulations to these students for their achievements. These students have the opportunity to attend the Capricornia Trials in Rockhampton on the 22 and 23 of August. Also, a big thank you to the parents who assisted in transporting these students to Emerald for the day.



Secondary School Sport - GOLF

A huge congratulations goes to Charlotte Briese for her efforts in the Queensland School Sport 13-19 years Golf State Championships. Charlotte travelled to Yeppoon and played at the Capricorn Resort Golf course from the 17 – 19 of July. Charlotte played exceptionally well and made the school proud with her positive sportsmanship and effort. Over the three day (18 holes per day) championship, Charlotte was awarded second place getter for her nett score of 217 shots for her age division. Well done Charlotte!

THE WRITING CORNER

Over the last 2 weeks our Primary students have been working on their **Sizzling Starts** during Writing Workshop sessions. In writing, a Sizzling Start is vital to 'hooking' your reader in and making them want to read more. How many times have *you* chosen (or not) a book by just reading the first few lines/paragraph? If you want to avoid having a 'fizzling start', you could try these – start with **action** (be there in the moment); start with **sound and action** (onomatopoeia); start with a **description** (character or setting); or start with **dialogue**. Here are some fantastic examples:

I open my eyes suddenly. I hear footsteps coming, they stop outside my bedroom. The moonlight is the only light in the room. Then I see the toes under my door, nails breaking off and dry skin. The ticking of the clock is getting louder and louder.

Bryce Bolton 4A

As the thing that was going to get him got closer and closer, Sam saw the entire night flash before his eyes. The lights going out, the game, he even flashed back to this very moment. You want to know how it all happened, well let me take you back.

Chase Brilley 4A

I was quivering in fear as the clock struck midnight. Why am I so nervous? Let me take you back to the beginning of this horrific event. I had been awake for hours and the screeching on the windows was like nails down a chalkboard. SCREEECH! I really wanted to climb out of bed and snuggle with Mum and Dad, but no matter how hard I tried I felt paralysed.

Annalyse Gaiter 4A

My palms are sweating with fear. I hate it when my twin brother and sister tell me creepy ghost stories. They are normally about kids in a dark closet under a blanket with a bright torch and there's always a creepy man or ghost with massive feet heading towards them. I always have the worst nightmares about them and I am certain that tonight's story is going to be the scariest one yet.

Miah Shackleton 3A

Midnight struck! I was in the eerie jungle. Nobody was near. Dogs howled to the night. Bones were everywhere, scattered all around me. All I could see were dark, droopy trees and... bones. "How am I going to get home?" I wondered to myself. Suddenly, a shadow appeared in front of me. I froze in fright.

Riley Wilkins 3A

"Where am I?" I whispered. I heard footsteps creeping towards me. "Hello, is there anyone there?" I looked around and BANG! I was forced to the ground. What was that?

"Peyton where are you honey... where are you?" called Mum.

"Over here" I said. Mum walked further into the jungle. BANG! There was that noise again.

Peyton Hoover 3A

I wandered through the thick, dark forest. "What's this?" I thought, while I stared down at what looked like a never-ending hole. Suddenly, I slipped on a leaf and fell deep down into it.

Alexandra Logunov 2/3B

The chilly wind blew and the spooky trees made weird noises, as if they were having a conversation with each other. I knew something was about to go wrong.

Vanessa Plath 2/3B

Also this week, please find attached the *Highly Commended* entries from Jorja Hussey and Leandri De Jager in the 2016 **Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival Short Story Competition**.

THE BOY I ONCE KNEW

By Leandri De Jager

Highly Commended Year 7-8

He dragged me in with his deep blue eyes. He wasn't who I remembered; he wasn't that little stable boy I once knew. He was now a terrifying creature. Our wooden play swords turned to steel, our ketchup turned to real blood, our innocence turned to guilt. Now we are face to face, metal to metal, anger to determination. This once young and enthusiastic boy from my childhood was now facing me in the Great Battle of Erdas.

All I could focus on was the crimson blood dripping down his charcoal hair and down onto his tanned, sunburnt skin. I could hear his heart heavily pounding like the sound of drums all playing out of beat. And with every pound I could feel my heart sinking into my chest, pushing all my hopes and dreams out of my back.

Suddenly, the crowded land fell still. Gerathon, the serpent, one of the great beasts, one of the biggest and most powerful creatures in the world. She's is taller than a skyscraper and wide enough to fit ten armies of a thousand men. She came slithering across the dusty battle field, with her usual grim face. As she stared at Gaihviar, her smile widened from ear to ear. Then finally heading back into her snake hole.

I look back at Gaihviar. His once beautiful ocean eyes now filled with a dangerous yellow like the burning of the sun. "Gaihviar, Gaihviar!" I yell to him with fear in my voice. "Listen to me old friend, she's controlling you, Gerathon's controlling you, listen to me!" His eyes started to flicker. He's fighting back. "Keep fighting her Gaihviar, come on!" He can't give up on me now. "Gaihviar, no!"...

His body dropped to the ground causing dust to explode underneath him. I should have known, I should have known that fighting the curse would end his life. "I'll see you in another life my old friend" I didn't know how I managed to whisper those words in his ear with the cracking in my voice and the swelling water in my eyes. With the last breath of air he mumbled "Goodbye". After I saw the light leave his eyes I regret every word, I regret every word that came out of my mouth to encourage him to fight. I just murdered my only friend. I just killed my chance to start over with him again. I was always worried that Gaihviar would destroy everything; turns out I was the destruction. I was the ticking time bomb waiting to explode, and I did. I destroyed everything. "I'm sorry Gaihviar, I'm sorry..."

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## THE MANNEQUINS

By Jorja Hussey

*Highly Commended Year 5-6*

I was dazed by its beauty, so elegant and unique, the most beautiful dress I'd ever seen. Inside the boutique I found more magnificent dresses and a stunning crystal chandelier that brought the room to life. Against my better judgment I decided to hide and spend the night trying on the mannequin's clothes. I waited. The lights went out and all was quiet.

I stood up and soon heard clicking footsteps. I hid again and watched in amazement as the gowned mannequins stepped out of the display window, gathering under the chandelier. Then, from the steps, came the most beautiful of them all. She was wearing a navy blue gown, covered in sky blue diamonds that glistened under the light of the chandelier.

Suddenly, the mannequin twirled her porcelain hands and a swirl of silver and gold sparkles spread magically over the room. As it began to fall, all the mannequins raised their arms into the air. I watched with disbelief as their lifeless porcelain forms were transformed before my eyes! They were no longer mannequins but humans!

I began to back away; my heart was pounding and my head was spinning. What was going on? As I crept toward the exit, I stumbled on a foot stool. A loud *thump* filled the silent room. All of the now human mannequins stopped and turned their perfect faces to look at me. Cautiously, the most beautiful one began to edge towards me.

"P-p-p-please don't-t-t hurt m-m-m-me." I chattered. She just looked at me blankly.

"Why would I hurt you?"

*She can speak!* I thought. It took me a while to gather my senses. "I thought that you would hurt me because I saw you move." She stared kindly and shook her head.

"No harm will come to you as long as you keep our secret safe." That's when I saw Priscilla standing in the corner; wide mouthed and pale as a ghost. She saw the whole thing too.

She began to run out the door. I knew that she would tell everyone at school. I had to stop her. I sprinted after her and forcefully dragged her back to the boutique. The mannequin explained that her people had been captured and cursed centuries ago and that to expose their secret meant we would share their fate. We instantly pledged our loyalty. She then added that being admired truthfully in her human form was the only way to break the enchantment. I quickly declared how much I adored her stunning gown and everyone else's. Suddenly, the swirl of sparkles appeared once again. Everyone began to twirl and the ground rumbled. The curse had been broken!

As we stepped from the boutique into the cool night air, I wondered where the mannequins would go from here. I watched them gracefully walk away, their luxurious dresses glistening in the moonlight. I started giggling at the sight and turning to Priscilla I said, "What is the poor boutique owner going to think tomorrow?"

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STAR OF THE WEEK

Jackson Todd (Prep A) – For working hard to sound out words when you are reading. Keep up the great effort.

Ryan Corkin (Prep B) – For having a positive attitude towards all class activities this week and trying your very best. Keep up the STAR effort Ryan!

Kale Marion (2A) – For always participating and trying your best in class. You've been working really hard, keep up the great work Kale. You're a STAR!

Felicity Berzinski (2/3B) – For always showing a positive attitude towards learning. Keep up the STAR effort, Felicity!

Crystal Kellow (3A) – For always participating and trying your best in class. You have been working really hard to put in a STAR effort! Keep up the great work Crystal.

Tobias Edwards (4A) – For being an excellent mentor to peers and supporting others in all class and playground activities. Keep up the STAR effort Tobias!

Kai Anderson (4B) – For putting in 100% effort in all of your maths tasks and showing huge improvements. Keep up the STAR effort Kai!

Tegan Evitt-Challenor (6A) – For always using imagination and originality whilst writing. Keep it up Tegan, you're a STAR!

Music

Logan Muller (5A) – For always trying your best and being a positive group member who encourages others. Well done Logan!

Secondary Stars

Tanika Williams (7A) - for applying a great effort to your school work this term.

Samantha Ford (8A) - For your active involvement in subjects and demonstrating fantastic behaviour.

Samantha Spark (8A) - For showing dedication to your studies and demonstrating excellent behaviour.

Aidan Oram (11A) - For demonstrating perseverance and showing respect to others.

Jack McCarthy (11A) - For your active participation and contribution in class activities. You have made a great start to the term!

Kimberley Oates (11A) - for applying a consistently high effort across a range of subjects.

CRAZY CAMEL FUNDRAISER

The orders for the Year 12 Fundraiser from Crazy Camel has been extended to Monday 15 August. Crazy Camel offers many ways for your student's artwork/hand printing to be transformed into several unique products. To view the products available please visit: www.crazycamel.com.au. If you require a new order form, please see the office staff.

YOUR CHILD'S IMPORTANT HEALTH HISTORY – ONLINE, SECURE AND EASY TO USE.

Nine out of 10 residents in north Queensland now have a My Health Record - a secure, online digital health record. Parents will be able to keep track of their children's immunisations, developmental milestones, healthcare provider or hospital visits, and other important medical information. Doctors, specialists and hospital staff will be able to access it when they need to, like in the case of an accident or emergency. As a parent, you can apply to access and manage your child's My Health Record online. For more information visit myhealthrecord.gov.au or call 1800 723 471.