

MIDDLEMOUNT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

James Randell Drive, Middlemount Qld 4746

Email: admin@middlemountcs.eq.edu.au

Website: www.middlemountcs.eq.edu.au

Phone: (07) 4981 2333

Absentee Line (07) 4981 2360

Fax: (07) 4981 2300



FROM THE PRINCIPAL – SHARON ANDERSON

A Huge Challenge

During the Easter holidays, one of our students, Jhett Muller is heading for the experience of his young life and a great challenge! Jhett will walk the Kokoda track in New Guinea with his dad. We wish Jhett the very best for this trip and we can't wait to hear all about his experiences when he returns next term!

Every day counts

As we reach the end of Term 1, parents are reminded of the importance of sending children to school every day. Being at school every day counts, with one day absent each week quickly adding up to two months of missed lessons in a year. Unless your child is ill, it is expected that your child will be at school learning every day of the school year. More information on the importance of regular school attendance is available at <http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/index.html>

We know from research that a low level of school attendance is associated with poor academic achievements, early school leaving, leaving school with fewer qualifications, subsequent unemployment and a lower level of health/life expectancy. **At MCS, we aim for 95% attendance to ensure students are given the best chance of succeeding. A student who attends 95% or more has 10 or less days absent in a school year.**

These are the current attendance rates for each of our classes.

Prep A	Prep B	1A	1B	2A	2/3B	3A	4A	4B	5A	6A
90.25%	94.7%	95.1%	90.3%	87.5%	92.6%	93.4%	93.9%	92.1%	92.9%	91.1%

7A	8A	9A	10A	11A	12A
92.9%	90.5%	92.3%	90.8%	94.2%	94.1%

Uniforms

Our secondary students are doing a fantastic job at wearing their formal uniforms with pride. Each week we have over 95% of our students in full formal uniform. Next week, students will need to wear their formal uniforms twice – on Wednesday as normal and Friday 18 March for school photos.

Week 7 Term 1

Dates to Remember

Fri 11 March – CH Soccer 10-12yrs

Fri 11 March – Parade for Age Champions (Swimming)

Wed 16 March – Peak Downs Touch 10 -12 Yrs

Fri 18 March – Bullying No Way Day

Tue 22 March – Cross Country

Wed 23 March – Fun Run

25 March – Good Friday

11 – 15 April – Year 10 Work Experience

Tue 12 April – Peak Downs Cross Country 10 -12 Yrs

Tue 19 April – CH Rugby Union 10 – 12 Yrs

Wed 20 April – CH Tennis 10 – 12 Yrs

Wed 20 April – Immunisations Years 7 & 8

Mon 25 April – ANZAC Day

Thu 28 April – CH Cross Country 10 – 19 Yrs

FROM THE PRINCIPAL – CONT

Thank You

Last week a member of our school community was vigilant and reported a possible late night intruder at the school to the police. While this incident turned out to be a false alarm, we really appreciate community members who are looking out for our school!

I would also like to thank the parents who attended our annual swimming carnival last week. Parent involvement in occasions like this means everything to students and their teachers.

We have more than 90% student participation in our Student Resource Scheme this year. I would like to thank parents for their support of this scheme

FROM THE ACTING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – SARAH QUINN

Cross Country

The Year 3 to Year 12 MCS Cross Country will be held on **Tuesday 22 March**. To ensure students can be selected to compete at the Peak Downs Cross Country Trials, to be held Tuesday 12 April, this event needs to be run this term. As a result of hot weather, we have pushed this event as far back into the term as possible.

This year we will be commencing the Secondary Cross Country at 8am. Primary students will begin their course as close to 8:30am as possible. We have made the decision to commence our secondary students at 8am for two main reasons; to maximise teaching and learning time during an assessment heavy period of a short term and the temperature is still quite hot.

There is one stretch of the course that students will need to run on the road and as a result, I have requested the assistance of the local police officers to help with traffic control. This stretch of the course will also be heavily monitored by staff to ensure our children's safety. There will also be a number of water stations placed around the course to ensure students can hydrate if needed.

As with the Swimming Carnival, students turning, or have turned, 8 years old this year will not be eligible for Cross Country Age Champion. Age Champions are for students 9 years and over.

The P – 2 Fun Run will be held on Wednesday 23 March.

Parents are welcome to come down to watch and cheer.

A whole school parade will be held to announce the Cross Country results. Date to be advised.

Reporting – Term 1 Interim Reports

This term we are going to be trialling the distribution of reports through email. To ensure you receive your student/s report in a timely manner, please check that your email address is correct with your student/s teacher/s before the end of this term. The report and email is generated through OneSchool and does not generate at the school level and therefore may be found in your 'junk box' or similar, so please check all folders once reports have been issued.

If you are unable to receive your student's report electronically, please contact the school office and we will organise a printed copy for you.

FROM THE ACTING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - CONT

School Photos

Our school photos will be taken on Friday 18 March by MSP Photography. Please ensure that your child is in correct school uniform on that day. Secondary students must wear full formal uniform, including all black shoes.

Ordering

Students have been issued with a personalised order envelope from the photographers. Please take time to read it carefully and follow the instructions. You may order by using the envelope or by accessing the online ordering system. You must use the shootkey provided on your child's envelope.

Additional Orders

Additional order envelopes are available from the school office for separated or blended families and grandparents. These should be collected before photo day and given to the photographer on photo day.

Sibling Photos

To order a sibling photo, please collect a sibling order form from the office before photo day and place your order online at least 24 hours in advance. Sibling photos will be taken at either first or second break. Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children know to report to the photographer at one of the break times. School staff will not have lists of sibling photos and will not be able to chase students up for these photos. *Please note: Sibling photos are for siblings within the school only.*

Special groups

If your child is a member of one of the following groups you may order a group photo. The order forms for these photos will be available after photo day. Parents will be advised via the school newsletter when these forms are available. Groups: School Leaders (including school captains, student council representatives, house and sports captains, primary and junior secondary leaders) and School Captains.

Enquiries

School staff are unable to assist parents with enquiries or payments. Please direct your questions to MSP Photography on 49213355.

Facebook Page



MCS has a Facebook page. This will not replace the various forms of communication that are already established within 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.

FROM THE ACTING 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 which is Year 3 – 12). In 2016 the following tests will be held:

ICAS Subject	ICAS Sitting Date	Price (incl.GST)
Digital Technologies	Tues 17 May	\$8.80
Science	Tues 31 May	\$8.80
Writing	Mon 13 – Fri 17 June	\$18.70
Spelling	Wed 15 June	\$12.10
English	Tues 2 August	\$8.80
Mathematics	Tues 16 August	\$8.80

If you would like your student/s to participate in one or more of the 2016 ICAS tests, please bring payment to the office by **March 24 2016**.

Religious Instruction

During 2016, we will be offering Religious Instruction for students in years 1-6. The program will be offered by Pastor Glenda Morrison from the Fellowship (AOG) Community Church in Middlemount.

Students will participate in 30 minute lessons on Tuesdays, using a curriculum resource called "Connect" ("Beginning with God" for year one students). Each child requires an activity book for the program. The costs for the books are shown below. This covers the costs for the whole year.

Year 1 - \$5.00

Year 2 - 6 – \$3.00

If you would like your child to attend these lessons please complete the form sent home and return it to the school office by **Friday 18 March**. If you require another form please see one of the office staff.

FROM THE SECONDARY DEPARTMENT – CHRIS SAVAGE

Dear Families,

As we near the end of Term 1, it is imperative that students stay focussed on taking the advantage that each day of learning at school brings. Students need to continue to attend school regularly – Middlemount Community School's target is 'Strive for 95' (or 95% attendance). That is because even the greatest teaching in the world cannot have any effect on a student who is not at school to experience it.

FROM THE SECONDARY DEPARTMENT – CONT

Year 7 Assessment News

Assessment in the Secondary school does take a different mould to assessment in the Primary school – so, at this time of Term 1, it is usual for our new Year 7 students to feel a little overwhelmed by having to complete a different assessment task for each of their many subjects. To assist our Year 7 students and their parents with ‘managing the load’, Mr Ellul and I will be contacting the parents of all Year 7 students this week to see if there is anything that we can do to assist. While the responsibility of completing assessment tasks falls to students, teachers are here to provide extra learning opportunities if necessary. We are also more than happy to provide students and their parents with practical advice for managing the additional workload that students take on as they enter the Secondary department.

The Purpose of Drafts

As per the *MCS Assessment Policy*, the submission of a draft response to assessment tasks is compulsory on the due date. It is each student’s responsibility to ensure that they have completed a draft response by the due date. However, students in Years 7-10 have the opportunity to submit more than one draft, should they wish to gain additional feedback from their teachers.

It should be noted that, while drafts do provide students with an opportunity to gain feedback on their response to an assessment task, there is a limit to how much ‘help’ teachers can and should give. In fact, the main purpose of a draft is to verify that a student’s work is authentic.

I want to outline a few things that teachers will and will not do in regards to a draft response:

Teachers will:

- Use editing codes to provide students with tips on how to improve their writing.
- Provide written feedback on a student’s draft response to an assessment task.
- Provide verbal feedback on a student’s draft response to an assessment task.
- Provide students with advice on avoiding plagiarism.
- Use a draft response to verify that a student’s final response is, in fact, their own work.

Teachers will NOT:

- Re-write sections of a student’s draft response.
- Make recommendations about large changes to content or structure.
- Use the ‘Track-changes’ function of Microsoft Word to provide advice to students about their draft response to an assessment task.
- If the student is in Year 12, provide written feedback on more than one draft response.
- Assign an A-E grade on a draft response.

EOI – Chief Community Representatives for the QCS Test

If you or somebody you know are interested in becoming a community representative for the *Queensland Core Skills Test* that is administered to Year 12 students at the end of August, please contact the Secondary Head of Department, Chris Savage.

This is a paid position and the successful applicant is required to be available on the test administration days – 30 and 31 August, 2016. They are also required to make themselves available on two occasions prior to the test, for the delivery of the test materials. The role of the CCR is to ensure that the test is administered according to the standards and conditions set by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority, and to report to them on the test administration.

FROM THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT – TAMARA STOLBERG

Mathletics

Is your child completing their assigned Mathletics tasks each week?

In week 5, 3A and 4A had 100% participation. Awesome job! Please encourage your child to complete their Mathletics tasks each week. 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 5	Class Participation	Week 6	Class Participation
1A	91%	1A	74%
1B	67%	1B	78%
2A	86%	2A	91%
2/3B	88%	2/3B	88%
3A	100%	3A	65%
4A	100%	4A	90%
4B	91%	4B	55%
5A	91%	5A	77%
6A	63%	6A	54%

Upcoming P-6 Events

P-2 Fun Run

The Prep to Year 2 Fun Run will be held on Wednesday 23 March week 9 commencing at 8:30am. The students will have their rolls marked and then they will assemble in the undercover area on the oval. Parents are encouraged to come along and provide support.

Arts Showcase

Our dance, drama, music and visual art students will be performing and displaying what they have created this term at our first ever P-6 Arts Showcase. The Arts Showcase will be on Wednesday 23 March in the hall after school.

Dance – Year 1 and Year 5

Drama – Year 2 and Year 4

Music – Prep and Year 6

Visual Arts – Year 2, 2/3 and Year 3

More information will be sent home about the showcase in the coming week.

Easter Bonnet Parade

The annual MCS Easter Bonnet Parade will be held on Thursday 24 March week 9 starting at 8:30am in the hall. All students in years 1-6 are invited to make their Easter bonnet at home and bring their amazing creation to school on the day. The prep students will be making their Easter bonnet as part of their technology assessment. Parents and younger siblings are encouraged to make an Easter bonnet and join in the celebrations.

SPORT NEWS

Peak Downs Rugby League 10-12 Year Olds

Congratulations to Tyler Clark who has been selected for the Peak Downs Rugby League (Football) team he will be going to Central Highlands trials in March. All the best!

MCS Year 3 to Year 12 Swim Carnival

Well done all students who attended and competed at the MCS Swim Carnival on Friday 4 March. The weather of a slightly over cast day gave some relief to the hotter and more humid day Middlemount has been experiencing. Thank you to parents, staff and students who helped to make the day fun, relaxing and good sporting atmosphere. Please come to our special Swim Carnival parade this Friday morning the 11 March at 8:30 am in the school hall. Age Champions, House Points and the overall winning team will be announced.

Cross Country Year 3 to Year 12

MCS Cross Country will be on **Tuesday morning 22 March 2016**. Rolls will be marked and students will compete soon after.

8-10 Year olds complete a 2 km run

11-12 Year Olds complete a 3 km run

Fun Run Prep to Year 2

MCS Annual Fun Run is to be held **Wednesday morning the 23 March with an 8:45 am** start. It will begin with Year 2 running first, then year 1 and finished with prep students. Boys and girls are run separately.

Sporting Trials for 10-12 Year Olds Coming Up

Peak Downs Touch Trials - Wednesday 9 March meet at the school for roll marking at 8 am then travel to Tieri.

Peak Downs Cross Country - Tuesday 12 April, Capella

Peak Downs Trial TBA and then CH Tennis - Wednesday 20 April

Secondary Sport

Over the past couple of weeks, students of MCS have had continued success at CH and Capricornia trials. The results are as follows:-

Justin Anderson (Yr 9) competed in the Capricornia Trials for Volleyball and it is pleasing to announce, he was successful in making the Capricornia Team. Justin will travel to Brisbane for these trials and we wish him all the best. Well done Justin!

On Tuesday 8 March, we had 9 students, Beckham Dowie, Zach Moffatt, Haylea Lonergan, Calum Philips, Macey Finlay, Addison Kotz, Jake Barber, Aidan Oram and Sheniya Bell travel to Emerald to compete in the Touch Football CH trials. These students competed against other students from the region for selection in the CH team. It is pleasing to report that the following students were successful – Jake Barber (U15's), Macey Finlay (U15's) and Sheniya Bell (Opens). These students will now go on and compete at the Capricornia trials on the 19th April at Rockhampton. Congratulations and best of luck!

FROM THE WRITING CORNER – LYNN MATTINGLEY

This year at MCS, we have introduced the Writing Process into all our classrooms to help teachers teach writing and to support students learning about writing. Writing is a complex combination of skills which is best taught by breaking down the process to guide students from the beginning of writing to creating a finished piece. The five-stage writing process (**pre-writing/brainstorming**, **drafting**, **revising**, **editing**, and **publishing/sharing**) mirrors what proficient writers do and provides students with a structure that is sequential and consistent for all types of writing.

Teachers use a combination of explicit instruction, modelling, and conferencing to teach and support the writing process. Clear and specific feedback is provided to students by their teacher and peers during various stages of the process. In using the writing process, students are able to break writing into manageable chunks and focus on producing quality material. The final stage, publishing, ensures that students have an audience – an important aspect of any writing task. Copies of the Writing Process with definitions and tips for the writer are attached.



STARS OF THE WEEK

Kobi Pieters (Prep A) – For working very hard in class and always remembering to put your hand up to answer questions. You are a STAR learner Kobi, keep up the great work!!

Lincoln Proffitt (1A) – For trying hard to be a fantastic listener and helper in 1A. Keep up the STAR effort, Lincoln!

Madeleine Gaiter (2/3B) – For being a fantastic role model in 2/3B and showing great responsibility by helping your peers. You are truly a STAR student, Madeleine.

Mackenzie Wilson (3A) – For putting in a STAR effort in our writing workshops and being kind to our new class member. Keep up the great work Mackenzie!

Alexandra Grant (4A) – For excelling in your maths work this week. You are a STAR achiever Alexandra, keep up the fantastic effort!

Peyton Jaszczyszyn (4B) – For using excellent descriptive language in writing and always contributing to class discussions. Keep up the great work, Peyton.

Abby Jorgensen (5A) – For demonstrating excellent participation skills when sharing in group discussions. Keep up the fantastic work, Abby!

Laura Curran (6A) – For producing a superb sizzling start in her writing activities this week. Keep up the fantastic work, Laura!

MIDDLEMOUNT POLICE PRESENT THE 'ICE' COMMUNITY AWARENESS PACKAGE.

MCS - Media Room at 7.00pm on Wednesday 16 March 2016.

Topics include: overview of Ice, Ice in Queensland, effects and risks, understanding drug use, responding to someone affected by Ice, help and support and policing issues in response to Ice.

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Easter Egg Hunt

Come and enjoy a family morning out

Easter Egg hunt and morning tea
on the 20th of March 2016
at Camm Park (beside the servo)
Time: arrive at 9am for a 9.15am start

\$3 per child for the Easter egg hunt
Gold coin donation for morning tea

For Further information contact Melissa on 49857929

 Queensland Government

with funding from the department of communities 

The poster features a blue sky background with white clouds. In the foreground, there are three large Easter eggs: a grey one on the left, a gold one in the center, and a blue one on the right. The eggs are decorated with various patterns and are surrounded by green grass and white flowers. The text is centered and provides details about the event, including the date, time, location, and cost.