

MIDDLEMOUNT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL – SHARON ANDERSON

Great Start

We have had a fantastic start to the new school year. All students have settled in well to 2016. I would like to thank parents for supporting us in this. Students are wearing the school uniform beautifully, are well prepared and learning for the year is well underway.

Communication

School information is communicated to parents in a number of ways:

- Our fortnightly newsletter is emailed to all parents and caregivers.
- Primary class teachers send out a weekly email to parents.
- Notes are sent home for specific events or when parental permission is required.
- Our new facebook page will be up and running by the end of this term.
- Our school website will be updated and current by the end of the term.

We try to be responsible about our environment footprint and energy and paper consumption. For this reason, most of our communication is electronic. We ask that parents ensure that we have your up to date contact details so that information is not missed and that parents check their emails for school communications regularly.

When we send notes home, these are given to either:

- the youngest in the family, or
- only those students involved

An example of this is the recent note about student performances. Only the youngest in the family received it.

Please note that these are the only places you will find correct and official school information. Please also remember that we are always on the end of the phone to answer your queries. Whinging on social media almost certainly will not resolve an issue, but giving us a call almost certainly will!

Early Start/NAPLAN Assessments

Over that past couple of weeks teachers have been busy collecting data on students in literacy and numeracy to assist our planning for the semester. This testing allows us to identify gaps in students' knowledge and skills and potential for extending students. Our prep students have all engaged in the Early Start assessments; these help us to track children's progress in literacy and numeracy and to plan for early intervention.

Week 3 Term 1

Dates to Remember

Tue 9 February – CH Soccer Trials

Thu 11 February – CH Union Trials

Fri 12 February – Peak Downs Netball Trials

Mon 15 February – CH Rugby League Trials

15 – 19 February – Phil Kettle Visit

Friday 19 February – Peak Downs Soccer Trials

23 – 25 February – Eric Frangenheim Visit

Mon 29 February – Peak Downs Rugby League Trials

Fri 4 March – MCS Swimming Carnival (9yrs – OPEN)

Wed 9 March – Peak Downs Touch Trials

Fri 18 March – School Photos

Fri 25 March – Good Friday

FROM THE PRINCIPAL - CONT

P&C news

The P&C Association met last week and approved our Annual Implementation Plan for 2016. The annual general meeting for 2016 will be held on Monday 21 March at 7.30pm in W block. We would welcome new and “old” parents to come along. This year is a “fete” year and we are looking for all the support parents can give!

Information about P&C Class Representatives was sent home last week. If you would like to become involved in our school this is a great opportunity. Let your class teacher know if you are interested.

Getting to School Safely

Already this year we have had a report of a student who had a narrow escape after running straight out onto the road without looking. I encourage parents to speak to children about:

- using footpaths
- use a pedestrian crossing where possible
- make sure you look both ways before crossing any road
- make sure that cars can always see you if you are about to cross a road

Mosquito Repellent

After all the rain we have had, it is likely that we will see mosquitoes in the next couple of weeks. Parents are advised to apply mosquito repellent before children come to school. Unfortunately we cannot apply repellent here at school.

Student Resource Scheme

We have had a great responses 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.

FROM THE ACTING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – SARAH QUINN

The Technology Show

On Monday 1 February, we hosted a performance by acclaimed theatre-in-education company, Squid Stamp. They presented a dynamic, high-energy, sketch production that examined how technological gadgets of the 21st century are used (and sometimes abused) in everyday life.

We joined attendees in a “Technology Anonymous” meeting which sent us on a buzzing ride through their lives as they delved into their daily technological addictions. The Technology Show also delivering important information regarding cyber safety, digital citizenship and modern technologies.

This performance was delivered to the students in Year 7 – 12 and fully funded by RREAP.

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.

Facebook Page

MCS will shortly have 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.



Student Leadership Camp

The Leadership Camp has been booked for 18 – 20 April. More information to come soon.

FROM THE ACTING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - CONT

Upcoming Dates

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

February

Tuesday 9 –	Central Highlands Soccer Trials
Thursday 11 –	Central Highlands Union Trials
Friday 12 –	Peak Downs Netball Trials
Monday 15 –	Central Highlands Rugby League Trials
Monday 15 – Friday 19 –	Phil Kettle visit
Friday 19 –	Peak Downs Soccer Trials
Tuesday 23 – Thursday 25 -	Eric Frangenheim visit
Monday 29 –	Peak Downs Rugby League Trials

March

Friday 4 –	MCS Swimming Carnival (9yrs – Open)
Wednesday 9 –	Peak Downs Touch Trials
Friday 18 –	School Photos
Friday 25 –	Good Friday

FROM THE SECONDARY DEPARTMENT – CHRIS SAVAGE

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the start of a new year in the Secondary Department at MCS!

I would like to congratulate all Secondary students on a fantastic start to the year. It's been wonderful to observe students embracing the start of the year with positivity both in and out of the classroom – well done!

FROM THE SECONDARY DEPARTMENT - CONT

2016 Secondary Department Goals

We have a strong track-record with outcomes for our school-leavers in Secondary at MCS – for the past three years in a row, 100% of our school leavers have attained a *Queensland Certificate of Education* (QCE). This is because our teachers care greatly for our students and are dedicated to ensuring that they succeed.

To build on this success, in 2016 we are going to apply ourselves persistently to:

- Ensure that each and every student doesn't just succeed, but meets their potential – we will do this through a relentless focus on the teaching of Higher-order Thinking skills to improve the number of As and Bs awarded.
- Ensure that student writing continues to improve in all curriculum areas – we will do this through explicitly teaching to students, and using, an evidence-based framework for planning, drafting, revising and editing writing in every subject.
- Ensure that literacy and numeracy is monitored, and intervention provided, for every Junior Secondary student – we will do this through implementing a comprehensive tracking system that is based on content from the Australian Curriculum.

Senior Curriculum News

It was with great pleasure that we officially launched teaching and learning in five new Year 11 and 12 subjects at the beginning of this year. Those subjects are:

- *Visual Art* (Authority Subject)
- *Drama* (Authority Subject)
- *Drama in Practice* (Authority-registered Subject)
- *Science in Practice* (Authority-registered Subject)
- *Certificate II in Business* (VET Accredited Course)

Also introduced last year was *Film, Television and New Media* (Authority Subject). This increases our senior curriculum offerings by six subjects; all of which have proven to be very popular options for our senior students.

As has occurred in previous years, we have a number of students studying one or two subjects via distance education – another option which continues to be attractive to our senior students. Some of the subjects that are being taken this year through the Brisbane School of Distance Education include:

- Mathematics B
- Physics
- Accounting
- Graphics

What an exciting time to be a senior-phase student at MCS!

Semester Overviews

All Secondary students (Years 7-12) will also receive a booklet this week that contains Semester Overviews for all subjects offered in their year level. The booklet will have a **blue** cover. The Semester Overviews give students and parents a picture of what should be learned each week of both Terms 1 and 2. I recommend that these are also kept handy and referred to regularly.

FROM THE SECONDARY DEPT - CONT

Assessment Calendars

This Tuesday, all Secondary students (Years 7-12) will receive an Assessment Calendar for Term 1. It is printed on **pink** paper. They will also be distributed electronically to parents this week. Please ensure that you keep a copy handy at home to refer to. Students are also encouraged to keep a copy in their diary. If students or parents would like to attain additional copies of the Assessment Calendars, they can do so by seeing the Head of Department, Mr Savage, for a hard copy, or by emailing him at csava35@eq.edu.au

Secondary Staff List for 2016

For your convenience, here is a list of our 2015 Secondary teaching staff and their email address, should you wish to contact them:

Mr Chris Savage	Head of Department Senior English, Senior Film, TV & New Media and Media Studies	csava35@eq.edu.au
Ms Judith Forrest	Head of Special Education Services	jforr3@eq.edu.au
Mrs Lisa Small	Senior Secondary Coordinator Home Economics	lsmal22@eq.edu.au
Mr Tristan Ellul	Junior Secondary Coordinator Junior Secondary English and History	tellu12@eq.edu.au
Mrs Pam McKeivitt	Learning Support Teacher (P-12)	pmcke50@eq.edu.au
Mr Russell Bradford	Industrial Design & Technology, Furnishing Skills, Cert I in Engineering, Cert II in Workplace Practices	rbrad104@eq.edu.au
Miss Luana Davidson	Visual Art, History	irdav1@eq.edu.au
Mrs Andrea Fox	Japanese	afox52@eq.edu.au
Mrs Dannyelle Gaiter	Science, Biology, Science 21	dgait0@eq.edu.au
Mr Ben Jack	Mathematics, Digital Technologies, BCT, Cert II in Business	bajac1@eq.edu.au
Miss Kayla Jamieson	Drama, Junior Secondary English	kmjam0@eq.edu.au
Miss Emma Marlow	Health and Physical Education, Junior Secondary Science	emarl10@eq.edu.au
Miss Alycia Shannon	English, English Communication	ashan36@eq.edu.au

FROM THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT – TAMARA STOLBERG

At MCS we work as a team to continuously monitor and develop our pedagogy, curriculum and assessment to improve student achievement. One of our core goals this year is to model consistent and effective teaching and learning practices within all our classes. To achieve this goal every P-6 class will complete a literacy block in session 1 and 2 and a numeracy block in session 3 or 4 every day. These blocks follow a set structure to ensure consistency across all classes.

What is included in a literacy and numeracy block?

At MCS our literacy block includes reading, writing, handwriting, spelling, phonological awareness and a rapid recall routine. We use the Daily 5 resource to teach reading strategies and comprehension skills. Teachers also deliver explicit instruction lessons on targeted reading and comprehension skills and strategies. Our writing workshops encourage students to write and include mini lessons on grammar, punctuation, revising and editing. Rapid recall routines are short 10 minute lessons that focus on moving content knowledge (spelling rules, vocabulary) from a student's short term memory into their long term memory. Our MCS numeracy block includes cumulative practice of basic skills (counting, facts), a rapid recall routine that focuses on number development and a maths lesson.

SPORT NEWS

Congratulations to Justin Anderson for your selection in the CH volleyball team. On the 2 February, Justin competed in the Central Highlands U15's volleyball trials and was successful at selection for the next competition level. Justin will compete at the Capricornia trials in Rockhampton on the 25 February. Well done and good luck Justin!

MIDDLEMOUNT YOUTH SUPPORT NEWS

The Middlemount Youth Support Annual General meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd of March at 4:30pm in the Youth Centre on Rickertt Crescent. If you would like to participate all parents are welcome to attend.

The Youth Centre we operate strives to be a positive place for our teenage youth to attend every Friday night during the school term from 7-10pm. If your child is in years 8-12 they are welcome to attend. Registration for the year is \$80 which includes dinner each night. Parents are also encouraged to volunteer once in a while so that our youth are adequately supervised. If you would like a tour of the building I'm more than happy to show you around on Friday nights!

Ivan Edeling

Chaplain/Youth Worker

STARS OF THE WEEK

Jarvis Hosking (Prep A) – For your amazing start to the year in Prep A. You have worked very hard to be a great listener and worker. You're a STAR Jarvis.

Jarvis Collins (Prep B) – For having an awesome start to school in Prep B. You are always trying your best and showing your beautiful manners. Well done!

Jayce Cox (1A) – For being a responsible classmate and working hard to achieve your best. Keep up the STAR effort, Jayce!

Layla Manley (1B) - For being respectful in the classroom and working well with others. You have had a fantastic start to the year. Keep up the STAR effort, Layla!

Cooper Downing (2A) - For always taking responsibility for your learning and working hard in class. Keep up the STAR effort, Cooper!

Jayden Russell (2/3B) - For having a fantastic start to the school year by showing respect, responsibility and having a go. Keep up the STAR effort, Jayden!

Shona Pember (4A) - For being a brilliant writer this week. You have started the school year as a STAR student and are putting lots of effort into all of your work. Keep it up Shona!

Henry Druery (4B) - For having a wonderful start to the school year. You have participated and given your best effort in all areas. Well done, keep up the good work.

Emily Dowson (6A) - For always striving to do her best in Mathematics. Keep it going Emily and the results will follow!

Secondary

Beckham Dowie (8A) – For showing a great start to the year and commitment to his studies. Keep up the awesome work.

Faith Curran (8A) – For showing dedication to her studies and participating effectively in class.

Hamish Grant (11A) – Showing commitment to studies by actively participating and diligently completing class tasks.

Michael Dyson (12A) – Showing commitment and being a positive role model for your fellow students.