Last week we held our first ‘Focus on Learning’ Assembly for the term. The purpose of these assemblies is for the students to share a major aspect of their learning from a chosen field or subject with the rest of the Middle Years cohort. These assemblies are always a joy to watch and be a part of. Last year we had students vying for the limited presentation spots at each of these assemblies. The spotlight at the assembly was on Science – energy transfer, English – the 100 word challenge, Art – ‘About Me’ project and PE – the ‘2km Challenge’. The importance of the students sharing their work with their peers and taking pride in their learning can never be over-estimated. The more young learners talk about what they are learning and why they are learning it, the deeper the learning becomes.

I thought I would share some of the students’ own words with you:

**Art**

“This term in Art we have been learning about the elements of art and to show our understanding we had to use line, tone and pattern to create a drawing about ourselves. The subject matter had to include our favourite music, hobbies, values and beliefs. To go along with our drawings we had to write an artist’s statement that highlighted the elements of art we used in our drawings.”

Claudetta and Brook

**PE**

“This year as part our Physical Education program, the Middle Years have started the 2km challenge, a circuit around the school, which is done at the beginning of each PE lesson. The main aim of the exercise is for all students to be moving and active. There are three award levels for the best times in completing the challenge. Bronze level is for between 12 and 15 minutes, Silver is for between 9 and 12 minutes and Gold is for anyone who can run the 2km in under 9 minutes. There have been some spectacular times for the challenge and every student has improved their personal best over the term.”

Amber and Leek

I look forward to watching the growth of learning as the year continues.

Kathleen Hoare
Executive Leader (Years 7-12)

English – “Across the Year 9 cohort in home room each week we have been completing the 100 word challenge ... a creative writing task for children under 16 years of age. Each week a prompt is given, which can be a picture or a series of words and we are required to use up to 100 words to write a creative piece. Every Friday we hand up our 100 words for marking, then they are added to the class blog which is linked to the 100 Word Challenge official blog, where it is then seen by people and schools all over the world. One of the special things about the 100WC is that those who are entering are encouraged to visit other blogs and leave a constructive comment. Peer ‘talking’ to peer is very powerful and we have seen a real improvement in some writing that has come from suggestions.”

Brook

The following is an example of a 100WC entry – the prompt was an old couch surrounded by bushes

“‘There are only 3 real steps in life, birth, marriage and death. I remember the day I was born, at the factory when they finished putting all my pieces together and I was able to breathe for the first time. It was the happiest day of my life. Then the following day my best friend, well ex-best friend, Rob bought me. Life couldn’t get any better. As the years went by, I started getting older. Rob and I started having fights. He said he didn’t feel comfortable sitting on me anymore. That’s when he threw me out. Now I am just garbage waiting to be picked up. Oh, how I miss the good old days.”

Claudetta

I look forward to watching the growth of learning as the year continues.

Kathleen Hoare
Executive Leader (Years 7-12)
MEET THE STAFF

Kirsty Williams

“My name is Kirsty Williams. This is my first year in Middle Years at Mark Oliphant College teaching Year 9 English and History. Interests and hobbies of mine include netball, water sports and spending time with family. I am looking forward to the learning and education experience with students and coworkers at MOC.

Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts.”

MIDDLE YEARS LEADERSHIP

Kathleen Hoare
Executive Leader (Years 7-12)
E: Kathleen.Hoare@moc.sa.edu.au

Kate Eadsforth
Senior Leader

Kylie Christians
Leader (Learning and Well Being)

Janna Lewis
Leader (Learning and Year 9)

Nathan Elliott
Leader (Learning and Year 8)

ATTENDANCE

In a previous newsletter article, I wrote about the Attendance Rate Target set by the Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) for South Australian schools. This attendance rate target is 93%. In Middle Years for Weeks 1-6 of this term our attendance rate was 88%. Home class teachers are required to make contact with the parents or caregivers for any student who is absent. Your student’s home class teacher will contact you on the day your student is absent. On occasion, teachers have not been able to make contact due to incorrect and noncurrent contact details. If you have changed any of your contact details in recent months, please contact our Front Office staff for a form to update. If you know your student will be away, please contact MOC on 8209 1600 or write a note in your student’s diary.

Kylie Christians
Leader (Learning and Well Being)

YEAR 8 HOME ECONOMICS

Within Year 8 Home Economics students have had the opportunity to engage in a presentation by nutritionists from Playford Council. Students learnt about the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating, the benefits of nutritional foods and explored healthy eating campaigns.

Nathan Elliott - Leader (Learning and Year 8)

CLASS CONTRIBUTION

YEAR 9 2KM CHALLENGE

Next Friday is the inaugural 2km Challenge Run. Each year level will participate at varying times, to compete for a variety of awards. With the amazing support of AMART Sports at Munno Para Shopping Centre, we are able to give prizes to students in excess of $250. These awards will be for fastest times for each year level, fastest time overall and achievement awards for students who have tried really hard this term.

We want to thank AMART Sports very much for their donation and wish a huge good luck to those students who wish to participate.

Miss Daniel

“Personally I have rather enjoyed this activity. I have seen many more students getting involved in a subject that they would normally not even have a go at. My times have improved quickly which allows me to take more pride in my Physical Education. I do believe that this activity has had a dramatic impact on student’s physical well-being and grades in this subject. Probably the most enjoyable part of this activity that myself and others seem to enjoy is racing teachers such as Miss Daniel and Mr. Ames around the course.”

- Sarsha Carroll (Year 9 student)

21 MARCH

Thank you

Harmony Day

This Saturday is Harmony Day where we acknowledge the different cultures that make up Australia. In Catalyst students are exploring the story of a refugee and reflecting on what they are grateful for in their lives. Some Year 9 students completed this a few weeks ago and these are a few of their reflections;

“I am more grateful and appreciative for what I have in my life and how lucky I am”

“It made me realise what I take for granted”

“I was shocked at what people chose to take with them if they were a refugee, a phone is not a priority in that situation”

This week the rest of the Middle School classes will be completing this activity and we will be creating a display in our buildings to keep as a reminder of what we are grateful for in our lives.

Janna Lewis - Leader (Learning and Year 9)

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

NEWSLETTER

Governing Council would like feedback on the distribution of newsletters to the Middle Years. In the interest of reducing costs and paper usage, would the publishing of the newsletter to the MOC website, MOC facebook page and for emailing be preferred to receiving a printed copy?

Can you please email info@moc.sa.edu.au with your thoughts.

‘GROW UP SMILING’ AT MOC

The program will now begin in WEEK 9 with recall appointments from 2014, followed by new patients in Term 2.

GROW UP SMILING will organise the appointments and let families know when the appointments are. They will then fax through the list of appointments to the school so that we are able to let class teachers know.

Please note too, that the consultations will NOT be in Building 5, and have been relocated to the room labelled “STAFF” next to the Pilates studio (2.10) which is opposite Building 5. Please enter via the Front Office and turn right past the Canteen.

Maryjane Tenison Woods - (Coordinator of College Well Being)
maryjane.tenisonwoods@moc.sa.edu.au or 82091600 (ask for Maryjane)

LEARNING FOCUS

All students in the Middle Years have the right to learn in an environment that is structured, focused and catered to the learning needs of the students.

Students of the Middle Years learn best in an environment that is learning focused. Classrooms are a reflection of the work and effort that has been undertaken by the students.

Self-efficacy is quite possibly the most important factor affecting engagement. Even if students feel good, are interested in what is occurring, and believe it to be important, they will probably not fully engage if they believe the task is impossible. Please help us to encourage the students of the Middle Years to achieve to their full potential.

Kate Eadsforth - Senior Leader

Kate Eadsforth - Senior Leader

WEEK 9

WITH BE AWARE

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