A NOTE FROM PRIMARY YEARS LEADERSHIP

Engagement is one of the 4 pillars of MOC. In education, student engagement refers to the degree of attention, curiosity, interest, optimism, and passion that students show when they are learning or being taught, which extends to the level of motivation they have to learn and progress in their education. Generally speaking, the concept of “student engagement” is based on the belief that learning improves when students are inquisitive, interested, or inspired. Our Project Based Learning program (which culminates in our Exhibition of Learning on Wednesday, April 1) builds student engagement through a well-structured opportunity to create a hands-on project for a real world audience.

In order to participate, to become passionate and interested in their learning, students need to be at school on time every day and stay for the full day. Our Front Office staff have reported large numbers of primary students being picked up early from school. While there are times this cannot be avoided, children who leave early are missing out on learning opportunities, end of day reflection and routines, as well as the simple moments of friendship created by leaving together at the end of a successful day. These informal social moments build a sense of belonging that is vitally important to the engagement of children in the Primary Years.

Kim Cooper
Executive Leader (Birth-Year 6)

CLASS CONTRIBUTION: MRS GLANVILLE YEAR 4

This term the Year 4’s are working hard on their project based learning. Each Tuesday we meet in the library to discuss and learn about our topic, bush fires. We look at this from different perspectives using the six thinking hats. In addition to our work together on Tuesday, we also work on developing works of art that will be ready for our Exhibition of Learning. Each Friday afternoon every Year 4 student completes a bushfire picture that is then critiqued by other students. We are keen to get helpful feedback from each other so we can create art works that people will be happy to spend money on. The money we raise from our artworks will be given to the Dalkeith CFS. The photos show students leaving feedback for other students to help improve their artworks.

KEY DATES...

Thursday 19 March
Governing Council 6pm

Friday 20 March
Breakfast Club 8.30-8.50am
PY Assembly 11.15-12 noon
Harmony Day

Monday 23 - Friday 27 March
Dental Program

Thursday 26 March
EY & PY Sports Day

Friday 27 March
Breakfast Club 8.30-8.50am

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THE POWER OF EATING

One of the biggest factors leading to learning success for children is vocabulary. The number of different words children can use and understand affects not only their success as readers and writers but their overall success as learners. Research, over time, has shown that one way to improve, strengthen and broaden vocabulary is to read to and surround children with words, letters, captions and phrases. Recently, however, research has shown us another way. Harvard Graduate School and the University of Illinois have been studying families and their habits. Through this they have discovered that one of the biggest factors influencing vocabulary development, personal development and learning success is eating dinner together as a family. Eating together sparks conversation and involvement with each other. It involves listening as well as speaking, meaning that children hear and attempt a number of words they may not use just by themselves. In addition to a growing vocabulary students were found to have better social skills and manners as they understood waiting, taking it in turns and sharing . Children who ate with families felt more connected and were less likely to show signs and symptoms of depression and anxiety . Together these things helped children to achieve higher scores on test, improved grades and greater satisfaction with their accomplishments. Whilst life is busy and it can be difficult to have everyone in the same place at the same time it seems the effort will be worth it for our children. This will also be a great opportunity for our MOC families to hear about what is being learned and prepared for the upcoming Exhibitions of Learning.

Chan Welfare - Senior Leader (Learning and Achievement)

THE IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP FOR SUCCESS

Getting enough sleep is equally important for your child’s long-term development as good nutrition and exercise. If children arrive at school well rested after a good night’s sleep, they are far more likely to be able to concentrate better, learn effectively and cope with a variety of challenges throughout the day. They should also be able to interact more positively and enjoy improved relationships with others.

Of course, individuals vary in the amount of sleep they need. As a guide, most experts recommend that children aged between 5 and 12 need about 10 to 12 hours sleep per night. As parents, even if we create the best conditions at bedtime, establishing and keeping to a routine can be difficult. Below are some sources of information and advice to help:

http://kidshealth.org/kid/stay_healthy/body/not_tired.html#
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/sleep_matters/

Please make an appointment with your child’s teacher or myself if you would like to discuss any particular issues around your child’s development and wellbeing.

Barry Solomon - Leader (Learning and Well Being)

LITERACY PRO

This year, students who reach a Running Record level (RR) of 30 will be sitting a Literacy Pro test that tests reading and comprehension abilities. It has been absolutely brilliant to see student improvement and growth in this area. Keep it up MOC PY! If you would like more information, please visit this website www.scholastic.com.au

Ashlee Button  
Leader (Learning and Teaching)

SCHOOL BANKING

As from the week beginning the 16th of March we will now have regular weekly pickups of BANKSA Littlesavers school banking. School bank books will need to be taken to school on Wednesday Mornings and they will be returned to students on Fridays.

Please note - BankSA will also be holding a registration day at Mark Oliphant towards the end of Term 1 to allow parents the opportunity to open an account for those children that don’t already have one. More details will follow.

WELL BEING

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST: Sadly (for us) Kerry Jones-Kuys is leaving to take up private practice – we wish her well. The service will be continuing but as yet we do not know who or when. At the moment, new clients will not be seen until the new psychologist is in place. I am anticipating that there will be a hand over time.

DENTAL PROGRAM: This begins in Week 9 and will be run from 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