A NOTE FROM EARLY YEARS LEADERSHIP

As part of our Positive Education Program this term, we are implementing a Kindness Curriculum. Children, as they expand their understanding of the world around them and their sense of right vs. wrong, naturally and often unconsciously follow examples set by others, so it’s critical to their development to have strong, positive role models during their most influential years. Aside from parents who contribute significantly to building character strengths, teachers and schools play a vital part in establishing solid foundations for happy, positive and kind children. Success in the classroom has been closely linked to emotional well being, so we take seriously our responsibility to provide opportunities for children to practice the skills of being kind.

In Week 2, teachers have introduced the concept of kindness in a process we have called “kindness bombing”. Every opportunity has been taken to share examples and definitions of kindness. Next week, a class kindness challenge will be implemented. A particular kindness skill or action will be introduced each day, with opportunities for practice. Children will be encouraged to implement this skill during the day at school and then share with the class. Later in the term, we will introduce an individual kindness challenge.

One of the key concepts we will introduce is that of the “upstander”. Research indicates that onlookers can help without necessarily “standing up” to bullies. In one survey, victims of peer cruelty said that other students who became their allies — spending time with them, listening to them, giving them advice, helping them get away from the bullies and tell an adult — were actually a bigger help to them than peers who directly confronted the bullies. Bullying victims who get this kind of peer support, studies show, are less likely to become anxious and depressed.

We look forward to helping our children change our world with kindness!

Kim Cooper
Executive Leader (Birth-Year 6)
ATTENDANCE

What a fabulously smooth start back we have had in the Early Years. The attendance has been great, with two classes completing their ‘Perfect Attendance’ letters and receiving their reward of Subway lunch. Lots of other classes are very close to completing their perfect attendance letters now too!

Change the World with Kindness:
This term there will be a big focus on Kindness. Children will be learning about what kindness is and the different ways we can show kindness to one another. Starting in week 3, children will begin participating in a classroom kindness challenges. Please encourage your child to share with you the acts of kindness they have achieved each day.

Jodie Molitor
Leader (Learning and Well Being)

NURTURING NATURE IN THE PRESCHOOL

This term the Preschool children have been busy engaging in our outdoor environment. We have continued to water our vegetable seedlings that have appeared over the holidays. We also made some snow pea teepee’s with the children, which will eventually be beautiful natural cubbies for the children to play in. The children have displayed such a big interest in gardening that we have created our own ‘MOC Garden Nursery’ on the outdoor stage where children can pot, plant, water and sell plant clippings. Staff and children have also been working together to create a sensory garden featuring plants with various textures, smells and colours. The children have really enjoyed connecting with nature and have thrived on the opportunities to contribute to their own play spaces. It has been wonderful to see the children become more socially responsible as they nurture their natural environment.

Rhianna Woodbury - Preschool Teacher

EARLY YEARS LEADERSHIP

Kim Cooper
Executive Leader (Birth-Year 6)
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Linda Rich
Senior Leader (Learning and Early Childhood)

Candice Horton
Senior Leader

Jodie Molitor
Leader (Learning and Well Being)

Sallyanne Lowe
Leader (Learning and Teaching Mathematics)

MEET THE STAFF

Jamie Byrne
“In 2009 I was fortunate to obtain a teaching position at Smithfield Plains Junior Primary School and have been at Mark Oliphant College since it’s beginning. I thoroughly enjoy teaching in the Early Years and look forward to supporting my students to achieve their best!”

SWIMMING

Early Years Swimming begins Monday the 11th of May (Week 3) at the Elizabeth Aquadome. All students will participate in a week long swimming course teaching children important life skills and promotes water safety. Please remember to send your child with bathers, a towel and spare underwear and medical form (if needed). Participating in this program is part of the Early Years curriculum. All children have a fabulous week regardless of their ability and all progress in their water awareness. If you still have not yet handed payment and consent to your child’s class teacher, please do so ASAP.

Candice Horton - Senior Leader

CLASSROOM CONTRIBUTION

Welcome back! The children have been telling us lots of wonderful stories about their holidays and everyone has come back ready to go.

The Reception classes are investigating ‘Fairy tales’ this term for Project Based Learning and are very excited about designing, critiquing and creating our own Puppet Box. We will be looking at different tales and how to read and write narratives during literacy, as well as incorporating the theme into our Maths and specialist lessons.

Stephanie Price Austin

Engaging Adolescents

What we cover:
• Understanding adolescence; A time of reconstructions, redeveloping social landscapes, brain snaps and body make-overs
• Understand your job as a parent of a teenager – observer, advisor, negotiator, director
• Asking the question – Is it serious? What’s worth reacting to and what’s not…
• How to hold the difficult conversations more successfully

Where:
Bagster Road Community Centre, 17 Bagster Rd, Salisbury Nth

Time: 10am to 12.30
Cost: Free
Duration: (all dates to be attended)
Week 1 Thursday 28th May, 2015
Week 2 Thursday 4th June, 2015
Week 3 Thursday 11th June, 2015

Bookings for the course are essential. Please contact Centacare on (08) 8250 3694.
Engaging Adolescents - ©Parentshop
www.centacare.org.au

SCHOOL BANKING IS HERE TO STAY!

School Banking is up and running at MOC.

There has never been a better time to help your child learn to save. 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.

SCHOOL BANKING IS HERE TO STAY!

www.facebook.com/pages/MOC-Preschool
www.facebook.com/pages/MOC-EY