A NOTE FROM PRIMARY YEARS LEADERSHIP

This week the Year 3s and Year 5s have been involved in the NAPLAN tests. The implementation of the tests has run smoothly and teachers have been impressed with the students’ calm and productive approach to the tests. You should get your child’s results in about September this year.

As part of our Positive Education Program this term, teachers 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. This week, a class kindness challenge is being 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.

Kim Cooper - Executive Leader
(Birth-Year 6)

“Education breeds confidence. Confidence breeds hope. Hope breeds peace.”
- Confucius

KEY DATES...

Monday 18 May
Dental Program Building 2 Room 2:11

Tuesday 19 May
Dental Program Building 2 Room 2:11
Family Week Celebration – Pre-school @ 9am

Wednesday 20 May
Dental Program Building 2 Room 2:11

Thursday 21 May
Dental program Building 2 Room 2:11
Family Week Celebration – Pre-School @ 9am

Friday 22 May
Excursion – Pre School
Children’s Festival @ Festival Centre

Tuesday 26 May
Excursion – Pre School
Children’s Festival @ Festival Centre

Wednesday 27 May
National Simultaneous Storytelling @ 11am

Thursday 28 May
Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea
Resource Centre 10.30-11.30am

Governing Council Meeting @ 6pm

YEAR 4 EXCURSION

I am sure you have seen our posts on Facebook regarding our excursion on Friday. We had a fabulous time visiting the museum, state library and Adelaide University for Compass. Our students were amazing and asked excellent questions. What I really wanted to share with you was while we were having lunch out the front of the museum I began talking to a teacher from a College who had her students there. She asked where we were from and stated that she noticed in the museum our kids were so enthusiastic and some of the conversations she overhead were amazing. She also said that our students were extremely helpful to hers who were doing research and often needed to get to see information that our kids were looking at. Well done year 4s, we are so proud of you.
NAPLAN & TESTING
This week the students in Years 3 and 5 at Mark Oliphant College and across the country have been sitting NAPLAN tests. These standardised tests assess students' skills and knowledge in Literacy and Numeracy. Students have had an opportunity to demonstrate their writing ability in a persuasive task as well as their knowledge through the answering of multiple choice questions. Tests such as NAPLAN are an important component of education as a whole as they provide information about achievement on a variety of levels including year level, school, state and nation. Data collected from NAPLAN helps to inform curriculum development, catering specifically for the students of our College, as we are able identify trends through topics and subjects.

At times testing can seem daunting for students, however, the Year 3 and 5 students should be commended for their efforts this week. They have approached the testing courageously, determined to show their capabilities and try their best. Those students involved in the testing should feel very proud themselves as I know, their teachers do. It has also been great to see the students in Years 4 and 6 supporting these efforts by sharing classrooms and being mindful of creating the best environment for success. Courage, collaboration and consideration have all played a vital part this week - thank you to all involved.

Chan Welfare - Senior Leader (Learning and Achievement)

REWARDS FOR PERFECT ATTENDANCE
This week the PY sub-school have begun the challenge to achieve perfect attendance. Each day that a class has 100% attendance they will display in class the next of 17 letters to eventually spell out "Perfect Attendance".

When all 17 letters are displayed all children in the class will be able to enjoy a free Subway lunch as a reward for their efforts.

By attending school regularly your child will have opportunities to develop:
• Essential academic skills.
• Self-discipline and organisational habits
• Social skills and positive relationships

Please inform the school or your child’s teacher ASAP by phone or note if your child has to be absent due to sickness (or for appointments that cannot be arranged out of school hours). In the case of more than two consecutive days of illness please supply a medical certificate when your child returns to school.

If your child is reluctant to attend school please contact their teacher or myself ASAP.

Barry Solomon - Leader (Learning and Well Being)

YEAR 6 HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
This term Year 6 students are learning about citizenship and democracy in HASS (Humanities and Social Sciences). In Week 1 we looked at different ways of governing. From democracy to theocracy, from federation to totalitarianism and the difference between constitutional and absolute monarchy - students created a short skit to show their learning. Some of the skits were recorded on video and can be found at our Sensational Sixes Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/SensationalSixes) where we’ll post and ask you ‘Which form of government is this?’ We’d love to see your responses and likes for our students’ work.

Barry Solomon - Leader (Learning and Well Being)

WIN PRIZES!
PY LITERACY PRO CHALLENGE
We are running a Literacy Pro Challenge in Primary Years. All students can enter the running to win some FANTASTIC prizes from Scholastic. All our students need to do is read more words! Students can read a book and sit a quiz through the Literacy Pro system to increase their ‘words read.’ Winners will be announced at the Week 8 Primary Years Assembly.

Ashlee Button - Leader (Learning and Teaching)

POSITIVE EDUCATION AT MOC
CHARACTER STRENGTHS - GRATITUDE
This means being aware of the good things which happen to you and not taking things for granted. This also means taking the time to express your thanks.

‘GROW UP SMILING’ AT MOC
The program is continuing this term. ‘Grow Up Smiling,’ organise the appointments and let families know when the appointments are. They 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 are in 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

REWARDING BELIEF - EXCELLENCE
Excellence is the goal which we all strive for and the pursuit of this goal is what drives our students to achieve their best. We are celebrating excellence in all its forms at MOC this week.

Ryan Parsons - Year 6

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