KEY DATES...

Monday 8 June
QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY

Friday 12 June
Maths Concept Development for Early Years 1-2.30pm
(Building 2 Room 2.10)

Wednesday 17 June
School Photo Day

Thursday 18 June
Governing Council @ 6pm

A NOTE FROM EARLY YEARS LEADERSHIP

Learning to Read

Learning to read requires learning a complex set of skills. These range from hearing sounds, understanding the relationship between letters and sounds, knowing the names and sounds of 26 letters of the alphabet and recognising them in both upper and lower case. Reading also involves hearing syllables in words, blending letters in to words, automating a huge bank of sight words and putting all of this together to make meaning as you read. But why do some children learn to read easily and others find it challenging?

A recently published study by Fumiko Hoeft “took into account all of the explanatory factors that had been linked to reading difficulty in the past—genetic risk, environmental factors, pre-literate language ability, and overall cognitive capacity—… found that only one thing consistently predicted how well a child would learn to read. That was the growth of white matter in one specific area of the brain, the left temporoparietal region. The amount of white matter that a child arrived with in kindergarten didn’t make a difference. But the change in volume between kindergarten and third grade did.” (Maria Konnikova in The New Yorker, February 11 2015)

The temporoparietal region is the part of the brain that does the work of linking letter-sound relationships. This affirms what teachers have long believed about the importance of teaching phonics and phonemic awareness in the early years of school. However, Hoeft also found that “in the earliest stages, we need to pay attention to executive function … We need to start not just giving flashcards, letters, and sounds the way we now do, but, especially if we know someone might be a problem reader, look at these other skills, at cognitive control and self-regulation.” Being a better reader, in other words, involves learning the skills to plan, organize, remember things, prioritise, pay attention and get started on tasks.

Kim Cooper
Executive Leader (Birth-Year 6)

COME OUT FESTIVAL

On Friday the 22nd of May and Tuesday the 26th of May, the Preschool had an exciting excursion into the city to attend the Come Out Festival. After some initial anxieties from some children, all enjoyed the bus ride into the city, as we observed lots of interesting things such as sheep, trucks, trains and train tracks. Once we arrived in to the city, the children enjoyed looking up at the huge buildings. Session One saw the performance “Look” which involved colours, imagination and discovery. The group also spent some time playing in the cardboard cubby house. In Session Two children enjoyed creating colourful collages and creating cardboard flowers. This group also listened to a story told by a robot. The experience was exhilarating and new for the preschoolers and a was wonderful opportunity to extend vocabulary, venture outside of the Children’s Centre and participate in the Come Out Children’s Festival.

Michaela Jones
Pre-School Teacher

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”
- William Butler Yeats
SCHOOL BANKING

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.

RECONCILIATION WEEK

National Sorry Day is held on the 26th of May and Reconciliation Week is held between the 27th of May and the 3rd of June this year. Reconciliation weeks provides the opportunity for all Australians to reflect on the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians. On Tuesday the 2nd of June the Early Years students participated in culturally enriched activities to further develop their understanding of these significant events in Australian history. All children watched a video of the former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, in which he apologised for the pain and suffering that was experienced by the stolen generations, their descendants and for their families left behind. Classes in the Early and Primary Years joined together to make Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flags using colourful streamers.

MINDFULNESS

“Evidence shows that primary-aged children who practice mindfulness meditation are more focused and resilient”. As little as 5 minutes of meditation first thing in the morning, or after lunch, helps settle them down and improves concentration. Many classes practice mindfulness everyday after recess or lunch. Both teachers and students have noticed the positive effect this has had on a child’s ability to calm their bodies down and make better decisions.

Below are some examples of ways parents can embody mindfulness with their kids:

• Give them your full attention when speaking with them
• Give them a mindful hug
• Take them outside, get them to close their eyes, place different objects in their hands and ask them to describe and name the object using only touch
• Move slowly and ask them to mirror your movements, then change roles.

Jodie Molitor - Leader (Learning and Well Being)

EARLY YEARS LEADERSHIP

Kim Cooper
Executive Leader (Birth-Year 6)
E: kim.cooper@moc.sa.edu.au

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

Sarah Robertson
“My name is Sarah Robertson. This year I am teaching Year 2 students in 6:11. I have been a MOC staff member since 2012. Prior to coming to MOC, I was teaching in Whyalla. I have taught the same cohort of children since they were in Reception and have enjoyed watching them learn and grow. I support the Adelaide Crows and have a love for all animals, especially dogs.”

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

“Say Cheese”

MSP Photography
are on their way!!!

School Photo Day is:
Wednesday...17th June 2015...

Have your child’s school memories captured forever.

Please take time to read the relevant information on the MSP payment envelopes & remember these helpful points:

• Don’t label envelopes inside each other – You can get all siblings in one envelope like this each one will need to have their own envelope on photo day.
• Family Envelopes are available at the school office upon request
• Photos and the correct money or his change is given – only cash or cheques and money orders only. Credit card payments can only be made online.

Please feel free to visit our website
www.msp.com.au
For photo enquiries Phone: (08) 8331 3355 or Email: saycheese@msp.com.au