A significant aspect of teacher planning in the Middle Year’s curriculum is based around the feedback we receive from students about what works best for them and how easily they are finding it to engage with the curriculum. We use these conversations to ‘measure’ learning. Parents often talk to staff about the difficulties they face in engaging their student in conversations about school that go beyond one word answers.

There is no ‘one size fits all’ approach to engage in learning conversations with teenagers and the way you engage with your student’s education will depend on the boundaries you and your child set together. The involvement you have with a teenager will be different from the involvement with younger children, when the focus is on establishing the foundations and good study habits.

Experts recommend taking a few minutes to reconnect as a family before addressing school and household issues. Let your kids know you’re glad to see them and wait a while to ask about grades. Keep in mind that kids may be tired or preoccupied when they first come home, or they may want some quiet time after a busy day.

You can learn a lot about your child’s school experience in a variety of ways. Read the school newsletter, email the teacher, and talk to other parents on the phone, keep a copy of their timetable so you know what classes they have each day. When you know about your child’s daily routine, you can ask more specific questions to get them talking.

A few easy and clear questions that I use with students to talk about their learning include;

What are you working on right now?
How is it going?
Do you know what you need to do next?
How can you make it better?
Do you know where to go for more information or help?

Students are usually able to answer one or more of these questions and are generally then willing to have a longer conversation about one aspect of what they are doing. This is especially true when they have been successful in an aspect of their learning. The more often we have conversations that are explicit about what actually happened in classrooms the more open our students will become in talking about their learning.

When your child comes home today instead of asking ‘what did you do today?’ and receiving ‘nothing’ as a reply, why not try a series of targeted questions while they are doing homework or over dinner.


Kathleen Hoare
Executive Leader (Years 7-12)
Every Day Attendance matters every day!

Attendance continues to be a major focus for the Middle Years at Mark Oliphant College. Our attendance rates in the Middle Years for Weeks 1-5 of this term were: Year 7 - 88%, Year 8 - 76% and Year 9 - 76%. These rates are far below the target set by DECD of 93% throughout South Australia. As we head into the latter half of the term and the cold and wintry weather is upon us, the temptation for our students to not come to school increases. Consistent attendance at school not only ensures your students progress with their learning but also ensures they are creating opportunities for their future, connecting with their peers and connecting with their teachers. Please contact your student’s home class teacher if your student will be absent or late on that day. If you are having difficulty in getting your student to school, please contact me on 8209 1600 to arrange a Student Attendance Support Plan.

Kylie Christians - Leader (Learning and Well Being)

SCIENCE

In Week 4, Year 9 Science students started working on a unique cross-curricular project "Could, Should, Would," which will involve debating - "Should South Australia adopt nuclear power?" This project will enable students to combine their concept knowledge and understandings from Science with their skills developed in English.

As part of their Chemistry unit in Science, students have been developing knowledge of nuclear power from a wide range of primary and secondary sources and engaging in research to gain an insight into the basis for different opinions relating to utilising nuclear energy from an environmental, financial and community perspective. This will then be incorporated into a speech prepared as part of their English lessons. Students are expected to record their speech and create a poster for which a QR code will be created so that people can listen to their speech. The aim is to complete this project by Week 8 so that students have enough time to organise speech performances as part of the Exhibition of Learning in Week 10.

Rajwinder Sarowa

ENGLISH

Over the past 8 weeks, Mrs. Dudek’s and Mr. Szilassy’s Year 7 English classes have been reading the wonderful book, “Wonder,” written by R.J Palacio. The book is about the very inspirational character called August Pullman who lives an extraordinary life. The students have just started their essays that ask them to identify the 3 character strengths of August demonstrated throughout his journey in the book “Wonder”. Stay tuned for the final essays - they are sensational already!

Melissa Dudek

HISTORY

This term, students in Year 7 have been learning about the interesting Ancient Egyptians. We have covered a lot of topics such as mummification, pharaohs, the Gods, the way their society was structured and the geography of the land. Most recently we looked at the Papyrus reed and the method they used to make and invent paper that we use today. During a practical lesson, students excitedly made their own Papyrus paper and then had the option to draw a King Tutankhamen’s tomb or write a letter from him in hieroglyphics. The finished products are hanging from the ceiling in Building 19 - come and have a look!

Melissa Dudek

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.

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

Nathan Elliott
Senior Leader

Kate Eadsforth
Senior Leader (Learning and iMOC)

Kylie Christians
Leader (Learning and Well Being)

Janna Lewis
Leader (Learning and Year 9)

www.facebook.com/MOCMiddleYears

“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 local to other people's envelopes - you can pay for students in more than one family at a time.
- Don't lose your paper - envelopes are available at the school office upon request.
- Don't forget this is a one-off payment in full.
- Once payment is received, your child's photo will be captured and stored.
- Money can only be added online.

Please feel free to visit our web site
www.msp.com.au

For photo enquiries Phone: (08) 9152 1616 or Email: enquiries@msp.com.au

MEET THE STAFF

Thomas McDonough
“My name is Tom McDonough, and I’m a History/English and Music teacher here at MOC. I’m 23 years old and I’m a new member of the MY staff. During my spare time I like to jam with friends, watch footy and see bands perform. I’m a huge fan of alternative rock and metal and I’ve played in rock bands since I was 14 years old. It has been great working in the Middle Years and I’m looking forward to the remainder of the term.”

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