Teenagers and Reading

Many parents I talk to often lament the fact that their children suddenly appear to become disinterested in reading when they start high school. Perhaps the teenagers in your family were once avid readers but now hardly ever open a book, or perhaps they never liked reading in the first place.

As adults, we know that reading is important and we want to make sure that the teenagers in our community are equipped with all the skills they need to succeed beyond school. Reading is most definitely one of these skills.

How can we encourage our young people to read more and develop their own passion for reading that comes with an understanding of how important and useful being an avid reader can be?

Before we look at ways to encourage reading that work, here are a few tactics that don’t work:

- Pressuring, nagging, or bribing - Encourage your teenager to read, but don’t hound them.
- Criticising what teenagers read - Explain what troubles you about certain types of reading materials after reading them yourself, and whenever you can, accept differences of opinion as just that.
- Lavishing too much praise - If you catch your teenagers reading, show interest, but don’t make a big deal out of it.

Here are a few ways that may help encourage the teenagers in your home to read more …

1. Set an example – don’t be afraid to be seen reading for pleasure
2. Leave books, magazines, and newspapers lying around – make it easily available.
3. Let them choose their own books - browse in a bookstore or library together or go your separate ways and make your own selections then meet up and compare.
4. Value anything they read, reading anything will build skills including reading comics or joke books!
5. Make reading aloud a natural part of what happens every day - share an article you clipped from the paper, a poem, a letter, or a random piece of non-fiction you have found interesting.
6. When a new movie is about to come out check out the book and read it first!

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What they say is true: the more you read, the better you read. The wider you read the more you will know. If you would like more information here are some useful websites to look at, http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationopinion/10035473/The-importance-of-instilling-a-need-to-read.html

Kathleen Hoare
Executive Leader (Years 7-12)

A NOTE FROM MIDDLE YEARS LEADERSHIP

KEY DATES…
Monday 22 June
Presentation for Year 9 & 10’s
Tuesday 23 June
MSP Photo Mop Up Day
Thursday 25 June
MSP Photo Mop Up Day
Year 9 Real World Trigonometry Investigation
Friday 26 June
Year 9 Real World Trigonometry Investigation
Wednesday 1 July
MY / SY Exhibition of Learning
3.30-6.30pm
Thursday 2 July
MY Assembly 11.15-11.45 am
Friday 3 July
PUPIL FREE DAY

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A NOTE FROM MIDDLE YEARS LEADERSHIP

Week 9 is Judgement and Critical Thinking

This means - thinking things through & examining them from all angles. It also means relying on solid evidence to make decisions. In addition, you have an open mind and are to change your mind.

Word of the week – neurobics – activities or mental tasks designed to stimulate the brain

Maryjane Tenison Woods - Coordinator of College Well Being

YEAR 8 ART

The Year 8 art classes have been learning about Modern Art with a particular focus on Picasso. Their major practical work was to create a Picasso inspired portrait. The students created their own newspaper canvas just like Picasso did growing up in a poor middle class family and used a variety of mediums such as oil pastels, water color and charcoal to create their final piece.

Modern art was a “new way of seeing” things and so Picasso’s portraits are asymmetrical with bold, simple lines and bright colors.

Ten works were selected to be displayed on the hospital walls at the Mary Potter Hospice in North Adelaide. After being exhibited for eight weeks, these students get to keep their professionally framed artworks. Many of the terminally ill patients loved the portraits and we have had two inquiries from patients wanting to buy the artworks. This will be an ongoing project with the Mary Potter Hospice throughout the year and so many more opportunities for students of MOC to display their creativity and do a little good for humanity!

Ashleigh Kelly

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MEET THE STAFF
SAMARA CHURCHETT

“Hi, I’m Samara Churchett, Middle Years Music Teacher, new to MOC in 2015. This term I’ve been teaching Year 7 and Year 9 elective music and recently began conducting the MOC Festival Choir for Years 5, 6 and 7. I’m grateful that every school day begins and ends with music and I enjoy providing students the opportunity to explore and learn the music that matters to them most.”

MIDDLE YEARS LEADERSHIP

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

BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

This term’s focus at MOC is on Positive Relationships. During Catalyst, students explore positive and negative relationships and the rights and responsibilities in a relationship.

Support during stressful and difficult times helps to develop Positive Relationships and build resilience in an individual. However, recent research has also discovered that support during positive times can also have a significant impact on relationships and an individual’s wellbeing. One of the ways a positive relationship can be developed is through the use of Active Constructive Responding (ACR). There are 4 different ways we can respond to information from another person. However, only one of these styles is positive and can lead to developing a stronger relationship. An active and constructive way of listening and responding to another’s good news is called the use of Active Constructive Responding. This has 4 different ways of listening:

- Keep Calm and No Fighting

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Conflict between people is a very common and normal part of life. Whilst it can be difficult to resolve conflict, there are a number of strategies students can use to avoid becoming physical.

Strategies to consider:
- If you feel angry, create space between yourself and the situation.
- Walk away and find an adult.
- Allow yourself time away from the person involved to calm your thoughts and think about the problem.
- Once all people involved are calm, discuss your thoughts and concerns. Ask the adult to be involved in the conversation.
- Allow each person to speak without interruption.
- Focus the conversation specifically on the problem rather than the people involved… I feel this rather than you did this…
- Accept and respect that other people will have different opinions to yours and everyone has a right to hold that opinion.
- Finally show your appreciation to the other person for showing you respect and listening to your concerns.

Remember there is never a need to become physical during a conflict, there are always teachers available to help and talking through a problem will always be more effective for everyone involved.

For more ideas and information on Conflict Resolution head to the "Kids Matter" website www.kidsmatter.edu.au.

Nathan Elliott - Senior Leader

SCIENCE/MATHS

This term Year 7 students have been studying Chemistry. They have analysed the characteristics of solids, liquids and gases and learnt about the process of diffusion. Students have also learnt about mixtures and solutions. Practical sessions have been a highlight of the term where students determine their own hypothesis and write reports based on their findings.

The photos below are of Mr. Szilassy’s class completing their practical sessions in the laboratory.

Well done Year 7s!

Emily Grandison & David Szilassy

BAKING CLUB

Ms Hilliard and Ms Wotton, along with the Year 9 Baking Club, would like to share some photos from last week’s practical with the Middle Years cohort. We have been really successful in the kitchen and are having a lot of fun creating different recipes and looking forward to our last three practicals for the term.

Caitlin Hilliard

ENGLISH & HISTORY

In Year 8 History this term, we learnt about the Black Death. We have had an opportunity to demonstrate our understanding in a variety of ways such as: reading guides, a close activity, poster tasks, PowerPoint presentation and newspaper articles.

In Year 8 English, we studied two fantasy texts and created a visual essay presentation comparing their fantasy features. We completed a number of formative tasks to develop our understanding of the genre.

Preeti Sharma

SCHOOL BANKING IS HERE TO STAY!

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.

‘Out of this World’ School Holiday Fun!

The Winter School Holidays are fast approaching, and bookings for our exciting Holiday Club program are now open. These holidays we have an “Out of this World” theme with lots of activities and incursions planned. We also have two excursions to look forward to: one to the movies to see The Minions and the other is to Bounce Inc. to see how high we can fly!

Bookings are essential and can be done online via www.campaustralia.com.au/holidayclubs or by calling our customer service team on 1300 105 343.

Megan, Felicity, Charmaine and all of the OSHC team would like to wish everyone a fun and safe winter break, it is hard to believe we are halfway through the year already!

www.campaustralia.com.au