A NOTE FROM PRIMARY YEARS LEADERSHIP

I occasionally meet with parents who are concerned about bullying at MOC. The school responds to all complaints of bullying with processes involving the classroom teacher, counsellors, families and leadership. There are several intervention strategies that are used by teachers and leadership to respond to bullying. The approach called ‘Positive Behaviour for Learning’ underlies the classroom teaching of appropriate behaviour at MOC. This involves explicit teaching of acceptable behaviour, positive reinforcement of that behaviour and negative consequences for unacceptable behaviour.

The negative consequences, sometimes called direct sanctions, are used to prevent future bullying. These may include verbal reprimands; meetings with parents; removal from class; withdrawal of privileges (such as working in the Learning Common); school community service (such as cleaning up rubbish); and suspensions. Meetings with parents range from a meeting to alert parents to an issue as it arises, to more serious conversations about repeat issues.

A restorative approach may involve getting the children who are involved to reflect upon their behaviour, experience a sense of remorse and to act to restore a damaged relationship with the victim of the bullying and the school community. Parents are sometimes invited to meet with their children with leadership or community police in attendance in order to mediate.

We often work not only with a child who may be bullying, but also with the victim, putting programs in place to build and strengthen social relationships. In many cases we find that both children are involved in provoking each other and that they benefit from working together on improving social skills. At all times, the school seeks to find a solution that is best for all involved.

We are continuing to add to our repertoire of specialised prosocial skills programs and individual supports while we develop our whole of college Collaborative Wellbeing Framework.

Kim Cooper
Executive Leader (Birth-Year 6)
PERFECT ATTENDANCE

On Tuesday this week the Primary Years sub-school was able to achieve perfect attendance for 5 out of 13 classes! This is a great result to build on for the rest of the year. Thank you for your ongoing support to ensure your child attends school regularly and also communicating any unavoidable absences to the school ASAP. Class teachers and I will continue to follow-up absences and offer any support we can.

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 so we can deal with any issues. Thank you for your continued support.

Barry Solomon
Leader (Learning and Well Being)