ATTENDING TO ATTENDANCE

‘The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.’ B.B. King

Common sense tells us that students can’t learn if they are not at school. Research confirms that school attendance affects student achievement, especially absences not due to illness. Sadly, too many students skip classes, especially in secondary school. When students miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work, they miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do as a parent/caregiver to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day – and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it is true.

The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well established. The more time students spend at school, the more likely it is that they will experience success. Research shows the following links to school attendance;

• Frequent absences make it difficult for teachers who have to continually re-teach information and skills.
• Being half an hour late to school each day from reception to year 10 equals missing one year and one-and-a-half terms of schooling.
• Being absent five days a term from reception to year 10 adds up to more than one year of missed schooling.
• Students who are frequently absent from school are over-represented in the juvenile justice system.
• Girls are absent more often than boys.
• Poor attendance makes it difficult for students to form positive relationships with their peers.
• Students who are often absent from school are likely to earn less than their peers as adults.

In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our children at a direct disadvantage. That’s not a reason to be away!
As you know, our school has been participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. The program has now finished for this year, so a big thanks to everyone who supported our school.

We’re now at the important stage of the program where the Sticker Sheets are collected and lodged as our Earn & Learn claim. We will then be able to get new educational equipment for our school. The more we collect, the more we can redeem. So this week, please send in your Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheets and any loose Earn & Learn sticker you may have. Remember to check your handbag, the car glove box or they may be stuck on the fridge. Every little bit helps. Thanks again for all your support!

MEET THE STAFF

Tony Wilson
“...as a Youth Worker. I have worked in schools and community across Adelaide for the past 14 years in various roles including Case Management/Youth Work and as Aboriginal Community Education Officer. I have a background in Visual Arts and Fitness/Nutrition (P.T.I) I enjoy most sports, the outdoors, cooking, photography and illustration. When I have enough spare time I’m usually off on a backpacking adventure trekking the globe.”

YR 8 COORDINATOR – Matt Ames

Last week a small group of Year 8 students visited the Coorong as part of their Geography curriculum. It was fantastic to hear the positive reviews from the students and the teachers who attended the day, the photos show a lot of fun was experienced. It’s pleasing to hear that behaviour was terrific and the students represented the school well.

Assessment period for Term 3 is coming to an end. Year 8s need to ensure that all outstanding work is completed before the end of the week. I talked about changing our negative attitudes earlier this term and it would be great to see a large majority of work being completed for assessment this term and a large number of students receiving awards at the next assembly.

The Amazing Race will return in pastoral care in Term 4. The Amazing Race is a series of activities that encourage teamwork and participation. Mr Elliott started The Amazing Race earlier this year, and I’m looking forward to reviving it again this term. The activities will be timed and the winning home group will receive a prize at the end.

I really look forward to celebrating the success of this term at the next assembly and handing out many academic awards.

YR 9 COORDINATOR – Janna Lewis

Year 9 Excursion to State Library

On the 3rd September students who achieved an A or a B in History were invited to attend a special excursion to the South Australian State Library. We had a great day exploring the beautiful library including the Marliup Chamber, modern library and a special tour of the basement where some precious South Australian artefacts are stored. One of the artefacts was a diary of a South Australian soldier who was fighting in the trenches in WW1. We had a great day and we thank the South Australian State Library for providing a bus and a beautiful lunch for us. (See images in front page banner)

SUBJECT CONTRIBUTION

Angela Saxby and Jessica Williams

A Year 8 class went on an excursion last week to the Murray Mouth and Granite Island, for science and geography. Some students have written a summary of the day to go in the newsletter.

“We got to school at 8:20 so we could get to the Coorong for the day. Our first stop was the Murray mouth, we walked along the beach and a student ate a cockle and some other students tasted the water to see if it was salt water or fresh water, we found out that this water was saltier then the ocean. We also looked at the landforms and lifeforms of the area. We then hopped back on the bus to go to Knights Beach at Port Elliot, there we looked at how granite rocks weather while we climbed them. Our last stop was Granite Island, we walked around the island and checked how the weather was different on the sea side and land side of the island. We got back to school at 4:00pm. “

Ashlee Patman and Shauna Carr

PBL – Tom Mcdonough

This term students have been writing reports in relation to the biomes they are studying in Geography. They have been working diligently on investigating the different components of a report including the use of formal and informal language, using statistics, as well as ensuring they are writing in a professional manner. Their PBL assignment this term has had students engaging and actively involved in their learning and this has been fantastic to see across Year 9.

GEOGRAPHY – Kirsty Williams

Throughout Year 9 Geography, students have been designing and creating websites about a specific biome. This also linked in with our Project Based Learning, as students included a variety of information further collaborated from Science and English. Students have thoroughly enjoyed this assignment and we have seen a high standard of work.

“The biome project was engaging as it allowed me to demonstrate my skills through a variety of ways” - Chloe Ellis

MIDDLE YEARS LEADERSHIP

Colette Bos
Acting Executive Leader (Years 7-12)
E: Colette.Bos@moc.sa.edu.au

Nathan Elliott
Senior Leader

MOC team this year as a Youth Worker. I have worked in schools and community across Adelaide for the past 14 years in various roles including Case Management/Youth Work and as Aboriginal Community Education Officer. I have a background in Visual Arts and Fitness/Nutrition (P.T.I) I enjoy most sports, the outdoors, cooking, photography and illustration. When I have enough spare time I’m usually off on a backpacking adventure trekking the globe.”

Kate Eadsforth
Senior Leader (Learning and iMOC)

Kylie Christians
Leader (Learning and Well Being)

Janna Lewis
Leader (Learning and Year 9)

Matt Ames
Leader (Learning and Year 8)

www.facebook.com/MOCMiddleYears

SENIOR LEADER – Nathan Elliott

Working together to make a difference.

As we move into the end of the term students often become anxious and concerned about their final grades and the response they will receive from both teachers and parents. Often in our ambition for our students to be successful we can forget that everyone is aiming to achieve the same goal. Whilst it is important to find solutions to problems, it is critical that we avoid placing blame. The key to making improvements is ensuring that we all work together to find the best approach for individual students.

So this term when reports are received and viewed, keep in mind that no one in the team wants your child to be unsuccessful. We are all trying to achieve the same goal and want the best possible outcomes for everyone. When talking through the report card with your child look for the strengths to build from and avoid placing emphasis on the negative aspects. Communicate with teachers in a positive way to develop plans for moving forward using those strengths to develop the current weaknesses.

PRACTICAL – Rebecca Ramm

Here are a few photos from the last couple of weeks of Year 7 Home Economics: Dairy free muffins and creamy pumpkin and bacon pasta.

CHARACTER STRENGTHS

Week 8 is BRAVERY AND VALOUR

This means that you are a courageous person who does not shrink from challenge, difficulty or pain. You speak up for what is right and will act on your convictions.

Maryjane Tenison Woods
Coordinator of College Well Being

“Promote me you’ll always remember that you’re braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.”

Christopher Robin to Winnie the Pooh

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