A NOTE FROM EARLY YEARS LEADERSHIP

Term 4 is a term of celebrations – MOC on the Green (November 25), class excursions, end of year parties, end of year assembly, achievement of year level learning targets and classes achieving Perfect Attendance lunches. For teachers it is a particularly busy term; the last term to academically prepare their students for the following year of learning, collection of data, critical analysis of that data and report writing. It is a time of reflection on a year well done and the year to come. At transition points, it is a time of farewell to current students and welcome to new students. Across the EY subschool, it is a term of beginnings and endings. As children move from home to preschool, from preschool to school and from Year 2 to Year 3 they experience a mixture of anticipation and excitement as well as some worries about what the new school year will bring. At MOC, we support these moves with an extensive transition program. The preschool transition process begins with parent meetings once the enrolment process is finalised. The children currently in preschool have been visiting the school regularly, during class time, playtime and getting to know routines at the canteen and in the library. That process will intensify over the rest of this term during a formal process on Fridays. The Year 2 students have already begun an informal transition process with Mt Solomon visiting their classes to answer questions and talk about concerns. On several Fridays, the Year 2 students will visit Year 3 classrooms as part of their transition process. More details will follow for parents of the children involved. Change is a challenge for all of us, from preschool students to adults. Please let us know if your child is experiencing any difficulties, has questions you aren’t able to answer or worries you think we need to address. Often, a child is worried about the small things: ‘Where will I put my lunch? Where will I play when I’m in Year 3? Will I get to see my old teacher next year? These small worries are easily resolved, so encourage your child to ask!

Kim Cooper - Executive Leader (Birth-Year 6)

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SCHOOL TRANSITION VISITS

As part of our dedication towards continuity of learning, the preschool has been working in partnership with the early years staff to support children transitioning to school. We have been doing weekly activities such as visiting MOC cinema, Early Years classrooms and playing in the school during recess and lunch times. This has enabled our children to build safe and secure relationships with Early Years staff as well as with other school children. We have seen an enormous change in the children’s confidence as they continue to develop their identity and sense of belonging to Mark Oliphant College.

Michaela and Rhianna
Preschool

“Self-knowledge is the only basis of true knowledge.”
- John Taylor Gatto
MEET THE STAFF

Karen McCall
Hi, my name is Karen McCall, I am an Early Years specialist teacher in Aboriginal Culture Studies. I have a wide range of experience teaching from Reception to the Primary Years. My love lies in the Early Years where I’ve been for 6 years. Currently, I am teaching the students about ‘Bush Tucker’ foods. This topic has been a popular request each year. The students are tasting foods like wattle seed ice cream, bush tomato chips and damper. I enjoy exercising and watching movies. I also love spending time with my family.”

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Linda Rich
Senior Leader (Learning and Early Childhood)

Candice Horton
Senior Leader

Jodie Molitor
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www.facebook.com/pages/MOC-Preschool

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POSITIVE EDUCATION

This term in positive education students will complete an eight-week unit that focuses on Positive Health-Resilience. This will be a focus because we know that “students with optimal levels of wellbeing and resilience are more likely to have higher academic achievement and complete their schooling, have better mental and physical health, be more resistant to stress and engage in a more socially responsible lifestyle.” (Bounce Back, 2011)

Resilience can be defined as the ability to cope and ‘bounce back’ after encountering negative events, difficult situations or adversity and to return to almost the same level of emotional wellbeing. The concept of being able to ‘bounce back’ is very concrete for young people and is easily learnt.

The Bounce Back acronym forms the basis of this unit.

- Bad times don’t last. Things always get better. Stay optimistic.
- Other people can help if you talk to them. Get a reality check.
- Unhelpful thinking makes you feel more upset. Think again.
- Nobody is perfect - not you and not others.
- Concentrate on the positives (no matter how small) and use laughter.
- Everybody experiences sadness, hurt, failure, rejection and setbacks sometimes, not just you. They are a normal part of life. Try not to personalise them.
- Blame fairly. How much of what happened was due to you, to others and to bad luck or circumstances?
- Accept what can’t be changed (but try to change what you can first).
- Catastrophising exaggerates your worries. Don’t believe the worst possible picture.
- Keep things in perspective. It’s only part of your life.

HATS ON

Our Hat Policy takes affect this term as the weather begins to warm up. All EY and PY children are expected to have a school hat that they will wear outside during P.E. and break times. If a child does not have a hat or loses their hat they will need to pick an inside play activity during the break.

To ensure your child is able to participate in P.E. and play during break times please label your child’s hat clearly with their name and class. New hats can be purchased from the Uniform Shop for $11.00.

Candice Horton - Senior Leader

CLASSROOM CONTRIBUTION – Sallyanne Lowe

The awesome students from 8.6 have had a busy start to Term 4. Our PBL topic this term is “Celebrations”. We look forward to sharing this learning on Facebook and through discussions. In Math we will be learning key vocabulary associated with location and position such as under, over, inside and outside. To assist the students with this vocabulary we will be reading “We’re Going on a Bear Hunt”, “A Walk in the Jungle”, “Rosie’s Walk” and “Where’s the Green Sheep”. In literacy we will continue to work on adding nouns, adjectives and verbs to create “scintillating” sentences.

WELL BEING AT MOC

These initiatives are for the benefit of our students. If their physical health is improved – so too will their opportunities for better learning!

Eyes - OneSight will be at MOC Friday October 30th (Week 3) Term 4 to provide the free vision screening.

The Opticians will be working out of Room 2.10. There will be a roster drawn up when numbers are finalised, and your child will know the approximate time by the end of Tuesday October 27th. (There will be ushers to help the Early Years students find their way.)

As the charity foundation of the Luxottica Group (OPSM, Sunglass Hut, Laubman and Pank), OneSight provides free eye care and glasses to low socioeconomic and remote communities, and have been doing so in Australia for 25 years. OneSight’s eye care program is free and there is no obligation.

Teeth - The Dentists are here in the school this week as well working out of the Building 2 Staff Office area. Parents should have received appointment times already.

The Character Strength focus for Week 3 is CREATIVITY, ORIGINALITY and INGENUITY. This means that you often think of new ways to do things. This also means that you are prepared to try to think of better ways of doing things.

Maryjane Tenison Woods - Coordinator of College Well Being