A NOTE FROM EARLY YEARS LEADERSHIP

As 2015 draws to a close, we start thinking about class placements for 2016. As many of you know, we follow a ‘nesting’ approach to class placement in the Junior Primary part of the school. This means that wherever practicable, children stay with their class and teacher from Reception to Year 2. Since we began ‘nesting’ we have observed that school is more settled for children from Day 1. They are familiar with the routines of their teacher and classroom, they quickly settle into their social patterns with new and old friends and academic learning can begin. In previous newsletters I have talked about automaticity and how learning that has become automatic allows children to direct their attention to new learning. In the same way, the familiar classroom routines and relationships allow children to direct their attention to their learning. Sometimes, though, this is not possible – teachers leave the school, new teachers come in to the school, teaching and learning styles may occasionally need to be taken in to account to provide the ‘best fit’ for children and it is important to keep class numbers equitable. We also take in to account parent requests. If you have a request for your child’s placement next year, please send an email to kim.cooper@moc.sa.edu.au or put it in writing. Please describe for us the needs of your child and the qualities you believe a teacher should have to best support your child. These requests are taken seriously and every attempt is made to meet them.

On another note, I would like to ask parents to remind children to be safe after school. Please revisit your pick-up arrangements with your children, remind them where you or their siblings will meet them and to go straight home from school if they walk unaccompanied. Please encourage them not to play at building sites or unsupervised at Stretton Centre Playground.

Kim Cooper - Executive Leader (Birth-Year 6)
EARLY YEARS LEADERSHIP

Kim Cooper  
Executive Leader (Birth-Year 6)  
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Linda Rich  
Senior Leader  
(Learning and Early Childhood)

Candice Horton  
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Jodie Molitor  
Leader (Learning and Well Being)

Sallyanne Lowe  
Leader  
(Learning and Teaching Mathematics)

Patricia Silvestrino  
"Awe-inspiring!  
This sums up my time at MOC.  
I have been a part of the Early Years team for 3 years.  
I love project based learning and dressing up as a fairy.  
My interests outside of school include baking, yoga and chasing butterflies."

WELL BEING AT MOC

The Character Strength focus for Week 7 is GRATITUDE.  
This means that you are aware of the good things which happen to you.  
This also means that you do not take the good things which happen to you for granted.  
In addition, you usually take the time and effort to say thank you.  
To improve the strength of gratitude there are several things we can do:

- Reflect on things you are grateful for regularly
- Write down things you are grateful for
- Say “thank you” more often
- Practice mindfulness and gratitude meditation
- Express gratitude to others

Maryjane Tenison Woods  
Coordinator of College Well Being

PRESCHOOL DANCE PROGRAM

This year the Preschool has offered dance lessons to foster the children’s love for music and movement.  
We offered Zumba in Term 2, Ballet in Term 3 and Hip Hop in Term 4.  
The children have enjoyed developing their gross motor skills as they have participated in our dance lessons.  
The children have also explored a variety of numeracy concepts through dance including location, shapes, number and sequencing.  
The children have developed their ability to self-regulate through learning choreography.  
Some children love dance so much they used their sense of agency to organise their own dance concerts.

Rhianna Woodbury

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

The Premier’s Reading Challenge is an annual statewide initiative for all primary children.  
Every year Mark Oliphant College participates in the challenge.  
This year every student in the Early Years successfully participated.  
A very special congratulations to the following children who will receive their gold medal this year.

Riley Baltussen  
Byron Liley  
Atong Madut  
Aimee O’Reilly  
Connor Draper  
Bella Guidotto  
Ryan Nelson  
Callia Guppy  
Dylan McKay  
Sophie Gibson  
Lexi Pratt  
Zoe-Marie Walden

VOLCANO KIDS

This term we have launched a group called ‘Volcano Kids’.  
Every Monday a select group of Year 2 children meet to discuss and explore feelings of anger.  
We all feel angry from time to time and that’s ok… But it’s what we do with our anger that’s important.  
More specifically we aim to help children:

- to be aware of when they become angry in the early stages so that they have some choices about what they do with the feeling
- to find whether they really need to be angry
- to learn how to take Time Out and keep safe
- to learn alternatives to physical and verbal violence and express themselves positively and assertively
- to identify recycled or dirty anger and personal triggers
- to discover the ways they have learned to express anger and to choose new ones
- to develop their self esteem
- to learn how to deal with authority

If you would like to find out more information about “Volcano Kids” or if you believe your child may benefit from being a part of this group, please feel free to come and see me or speak to your child’s classroom teacher.

Jodie Molitor - Leader (Learning and Well Being)

MEET THE STAFF

Patricia Silvestrino  
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www.facebook.com/pages/MOC-Preschool  
www.facebook.com/pages/MOC-EY