A NOTE FROM PRIMARY YEARS LEADERSHIP

In the last few weeks there have been some incidents on the school grounds arising out of racist attitudes expressed by community members. The following information about racism is from the website Racism No Way: anti-racism education for Australian schools.

An understanding of the nature of racism is essential in order to recognise and counter it successfully. Racism is a global phenomenon which is influenced by a range of historical, social, political and economic factors. It takes different forms in different contexts and as a result has been defined in many different ways. In Australia, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (1998) defines it as:

“Racism is an ideology that gives expression to myths about other racial and ethnic groups, that devalues and renders inferior those groups, that reflects and is perpetuated by deeply rooted historical, social, cultural and power inequalities in society.”

Racism has its roots in the belief that some people are superior because they belong to a particular race, ethnic or national group.

All members of the school community – staff, students and families – have the right to a safe and productive environment free from racism. Our school endeavours to create an environment of social harmony by enabling all students to achieve their best educational outcomes in learning environments free of racism.

As the adults in our school community, it is important to think carefully about what we say and how we say it. We should always demonstrate the highest standards of behaviour towards each other in order to teach our children the principles of a socially just society.

Kim Cooper
Executive Leader (Birth-Year 6)
READING WITH YOUR CHILD
At just a few months of age, an infant can look at pictures, listen to your voice and point to objects on cardboard pages. Guide your child by pointing to the pictures and say the names of the various objects. By drawing attention to pictures and associating words with both pictures and real-world objects, your child will learn the importance of language.

Children learn to love the sound of language before they even notice the existence of printed words on a page. Reading books aloud to children stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps them develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word. When the rhythm and melody of language become a part of a child’s life, learning to read will be as natural as learning to walk and talk.

Even after children learn to read by themselves, it’s still important for you to read aloud together. By reading stories that are on their interest level, but beyond their reading level, you can stretch young readers’ understanding and motivate them to improve their skills. Please continue to read out aloud to your children over the Christmas holiday break. It is vital!

http://www.rif.org/books-activities/tips-resources/reading-with-your-child/

Ashlee Button - Leader (Learning and Teaching)

REAL WORLD LEARNING
Term 4 is now well underway and the Primary Years students are really focussing on bringing their learning to life in the real world. Year 5 students enjoyed a wonderful day at the zoo last Friday where they were able to apply the understandings they have been learning in class time. Likewise our Year 4 students visited the local wetlands to further investigate environments, habitats and the creatures that dwell there. In Year 6 students have been deepening their Science understandings as they visit the Biology labs in the Middle and Senior schools.

As the end of the year approaches rapidly we are committed to maintaining rigour and purpose in all of our learning. The ‘Habits of the Mind’ which were the focus of last term’s newsletters are continuing to grow in each of our students and will also continue to feature in our newsletter in the upcoming weeks.

Chan Welfare - Senior Leader (Learning and Achievement)

SUN SMART
The start of Term 4 at MOC means that it’s time for children to have protection from the sun.

According to the Sunsmart website:
   • 2 in 3 Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer by the age of 70.
   • Around 2,000 Australians die from skin cancer each year.
   • Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world.

Yes – time for your child to hunt down that school hat! If your child has misplaced theirs, please help them look high and low or buy a replacement for $11 from the uniform shop. I have a small supply of regularly washed hats to loan temporarily.

Barry Solomon - Leader (Learning and Well Being)

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!

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

Maryjane Tenison Woods - Coordinator of College Well Being