A NOTE FROM SENIOR YEARS LEADERSHIP

One of the truly joyous aspects of working in a school is that you are part of a community that shares common goals and values. At MOC we believe that our students having access to people in other communities locally, nationally and globally increases their knowledge and understanding of the world in ways that a text cannot provide. We create learning opportunities through our technology to allow students to see how others live, think, behave and engage with their surroundings.

Sometimes though, we do not have to look far to access this fabulous information – it is often on our very own doorstep as many aspects of the world live in our MOC community everyday through our parents, staff and students who were born in other parts of the globe.

The Year 12 Society and Culture class has created a truly lovely project as a piece of evidence for their understanding of refugees – it is called the Humans of MOC.

“To highlight positive refugee stories in our school we became heavily inspired by the Facebook page ‘Humans of New York’ and decided to create our own stories in ‘Humans of MOC’. This week we will highlight four individual members of our community to give you an insight into their personal triumphs, tribulations and their journey to safety.”

Ethan, Laura and Chelsea (Year 12 students)

Here are the posts:

Tito, 16 years old, Student

“I can still remember, it was in the middle of the night. We packed our stuff and started walking to Tanzania. We didn’t go by train or bus; we walked from one country to another. We went straight to a refugee camp to get some help, to see if we could get away from the war. We lived in that camp for nine years before our application was successful and we were transferred to Australia. We came to Australia by plane, it was hard fitting in you know? I remember I went to the toilet and I locked myself in and I couldn’t get out. It was all new to me. I even remember the first time I heard fireworks, in Africa there were so many shootings that we thought it was a war breaking out and we were terrified.”

Elaine Rouhana, Mark Oliphant College Teacher

“It was really different. Our values and beliefs didn’t really fit with everyone else around us, so my parents were strict, especially with our tradition and culture. People thought we were weird. I see that my parents have a different perspective of the world… I feel Australian but I feel like I’m more sensitive and culturally aware, like I have a lot more tolerance, especially towards religion. I have friends that are Muslims and stuff like that. I’m Christian and growing up where I was sometimes outcast or ridiculed for being different because of my culture, I have a lot more tolerance for people who are multicultural. I think everyone in Australia is multicultural but I don’t think they realise it.”

Anna, 17 years old, Student

“When I grow up I want to be a midwife. I want to go back to my country and help others. I want to be able to give back to the community because I was lucky enough to get an education.”

Mustafa, 19 years old, Mark Oliphant College, Class of 2014 Graduate currently attending University

“I look forward to leveraging my expertise in the field of Business and Law and discover more confidence as a new learner and open more options for the future… I believe that other people look up to me and see positive things. As a student representative at University of South Australia, I think I serve as a good role model, even at home with my younger brother.”

Kathleen Hoare - Executive Leader (Years 7-12)
STUDENT NEWS: My Week At Monarto Zoo

Last week I completed one week of work experience at Monarto Zoo and if I had to describe the week in two words, I would pick, life changing!

On my first day I was consumed with nerves but also super excited! When I arrived at the Monarto Zookeepers told me I would be on a different round on each day of the week. My first day, I was on the native Australian animals round which consisted of a lot of Australian birds and animals including wallabies. My second day, I was on the giraffe round – this round included all animals with hooves like deer and zebras. There was a lot of cleaning on this round. My third day was definitely my favorite day: the carnivore round! This round included all the dangerous animals at Monarto - lions, cheetahs, hyenas and painted dogs. On my fourth day I was supposed to be with the chimps but unfortunately the enclosure was not open as a new chimp had been born Tuesday night, so instead I was in a range of different areas. My final day I was on the Rhino round, which was really smelly, but they are gorgeous animals.

Now, why was this a life changing experience for me? I went into this experience not knowing what area I wanted to pursue in animal care and I have come out of this experience knowing exactly what I want and what I need to do to get it. I have always known I would work with animals but now I know I want to work with carnivores – having the opportunity to work with these beautiful animals caused something to just click in my brain. I have not chosen an easy path but it will be challenging and rewarding and I can’t wait!

Abby Morgan

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

Safety for young people is important both online and offline. Smart technology is used everyday to chat with friends and family, take and share photos, do our homework, listen to music, play games, and shop. Just like in the offline world, the online world has risks and dangers. We need to keep ourselves and other younger people safe from the ‘creepers’ who troll through your space.

Steps to Staying Safe

Bravehearts.org.au have made a list of some easy things you can do to keep yourself safe and avoid being targeted by creepers or trolls.

1. Be as anonymous as possible. So avoid giving out your full name, your address, your telephone number, the name of your school or any other information that someone might use to find out who you are and where you are. You should also not reveal any information like this about your family or friends.

2. If you are creating your own email, avoid using your name in the address [eg. john_brown@...]

3. Don’t create nicknames or identities that may be interpreted as suggestive [eg. hot12]. These types of names will attract some people who you might put at risk.

4. Never get together with someone you meet online. This is one of the most dangerous things you can do. Even if you think you know someone because you have talked to them online, remember that people on the Internet may not be who they seem to be. It is easy to pretend to be someone you are not. If you do want to meet someone, make sure you discuss it with your parents and never meet the person alone and make sure you meet in a public place.

5. Depending on your age, the safest thing you can do is ask your parents to speak to the other person’s parents first and for both of you to bring your parents along when you meet for the first time.

6. Think about it before you post any photos. Remember, that whatever you upload to the Internet can be downloaded by someone and passed around (even from sites like Snapchat where photos you share can be taken as a screenshot). One tip is that before you post a photo, think about how you would feel about people seeing it.

7. Talk to your parents or carers about the Internet. Remember that it is most likely that your parents did not grow up with the Internet and they may still not know much about it. They might have concerns about what you do and see on the Internet and it can help you both if you sit down together and talk about how you can avoid dangerous or risky Internet situations.

For more information visit:
https://www.esafety.gov.au

Jerelle Steer - 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 Tension Woods
- Coordinator of College Well Being

CHARACTER STRENGTHS

The Character Strength focus is CURIOSITY AND INTEREST IN THE WORLD

This means that you are curious about everything. You are often asking questions and find all subjects and topics fascinating. You like exploration and discovery.