



Mark Oliphant
College

Primary Years

NEWSLETTER

TERM 1, WEEK 9

1 APRIL 2016



“Learning is the only thing the mind never exhausts, never fears, and never regrets.”
- Leonardo da Vinci

KEY DATES...

Wednesday 6 April
Exhibition of Learning EY/PY
4-6pm

Monday 11 April
Year 6 Traffic Monitor Training

Thursday 14 April
Last Day Term 2
- 3pm Dismissal

Friday 15 April
Pupil Free Day
- OHSC bookings available

Monday 2 May
First Day Term 2



A NOTE FROM PRIMARY YEARS LEADERSHIP

You are warmly invited to our

Exhibition of Learning

next **Wednesday April 6**
from 4 to 6pm.



The Exhibition of Learning is the culmination of a term’s learning and work for your child – it is the end of the term’s project based learning program.

Exhibition is a fundamental part of the program, providing an opportunity for students to describe, display and explain their learning to the people most important to them – their families. *“When students know that the work they are creating in a project will be displayed publicly, this changes the nature of the project from the moment they start working – because they know they will need to literally ‘stand by’ their work, under scrutiny and questioning from family, friends and total strangers. This inspires a level of ambition and commitment much greater than is fuelled by the incentive of ‘getting good marks’.”* (Work that Matters, Patten and Robin, 2012)

In addition, students’ families get to look at everybody’s work, ask questions about the product and process and provide constructive feedback to children. This is a very important part of exhibition. Families are there to celebrate and encourage their child’s success.

The teacher is not the focus – it is important for the students to talk about their learning and to be able to describe their skills and knowledge – but it is also a great opportunity to have informal chats with your child’s teacher.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Kim Cooper
Executive Leader B-6

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Government
of South Australia
Department for Education
and Child Development

THE UNIFORM SHOP

OPENING HOURS

Monday 2.30 - 4.30pm
 Wednesday 8.30 - 10am
 Thursday 8.30 - 10am

MEET THE STAFF

Lisa Smith
 - Year 5



"Hi, my name is Lisa Smith and this is my first year at Mark Oliphant College. I have been teaching for 14 years across a range of year levels and schools. I have a special interest in the Arts and enjoy sharing this with my students. I currently teach a wonderful Year 5 class and am really enjoying becoming part of the positive culture at Mark Oliphant College."

PRIMARY YEARS TEAM

Kim Cooper
 Executive Leader B-6
 E: kim.cooper@moc.sa.edu.au

Ella Ailmore
 Senior Leader - Head of Primary Years

Barry Solomon
 Leader - Learning and Wellbeing

Jacki Magin
 Leader - Learning and Explicit Teaching

Sally Lowe
 Leader - Learning and Mathematics

 www.facebook.com/MOCPY

HARMONY DAY

Well done to everyone for making Harmony Day such a success! A special 'thank you' to the staff who played significant roles in the organisation of the day and to parents/caregivers who kindly supplied a plate of food for the shared lunch! Students truly enjoyed the event! I am hopeful that our shared lunch this year marks the beginning of a tradition when celebrating Harmony Day each year.

Harmony Day is held every year to coincide with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The message of Harmony Day is that everybody belongs. It is a day to celebrate Australia's diversity - a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home. The week leading up to Harmony Day saw us celebrating harmony through discussions, activities and by showing kindness to one another. You can find more information at <http://www.harmony.gov.au>.

Ella Ailmore, Senior Leader - Head of Primary Years



THE POWER OF YET

If there's one thing I want all students in my class to have learnt and practiced by the time they leave Primary Years, it's "the power of **yet**", also known as developing a "growth mindset". So we've spent a lot of time talking about and trying to develop this growth mindset already this year.

A growth mindset does not believe in fixed abilities that are set in stone for a lifetime. Rather than say "I'm not good at Maths/PE/Science/Writing/etc" we can add the word "**yet**" to the sentence - eg. "I'm not good at riding my bike, **yet**".

This little word (yet) gives our brain permission to try something new, persevere, or make mistakes and learn from them, rather than just give up when unsuccessful, and is incredibly powerful. If we tell ourselves "I can change", or "If I set my mind to it, I can do anything" our brains will usually follow.

I see many opportunities for my Year 6s to practice this way of thinking at school. For example, learning to play the recorder or program Sphero with Mrs. Churchett, taking part in Children's University activities, or the MOC Choir. All involve a willingness to have a go, try something new or difficult, make mistakes, and strive for improvement.

The experts of neuroscience and positive psychology tell us that students who can develop this mindset are more likely to be successful and happy at school, and in life more generally.

The chart above gives some helpful ways of turning fixed mindset thinking into a growth mindset.

A great place to learn more about this with your children is <http://www.classdojo.com/bigideas/>

Mr. Page, Year 6 Teacher

What Can I Say To Myself?

Instead of:	Try thinking:
I'm not that good at this.	What am I missing?
I'm awesome at this.	I'm on the right track.
I give up.	I'll use some of the strategies we've learned.
This is too hard.	This may take some time and effort.
I can't make this any better.	I can always improve, so I'll keep on trying.
I just can't do maths.	I'm going to train my brain in maths.
I made a mistake.	Mistakes help me learn better.
She's so smart. I'll never be that smart.	I'm going to figure out how she does it so I can try it.
Plan A didn't work.	Good thing the alphabet has 25 more letters.
It's good enough.	Is it really my best work?

SCHOOLYARD SAFARI

This term the Year 3 classes are exploring living things and how living things are grouped together based on observable features. Students went on a schoolyard safari to find and record through annotated diagrams, living things from the animal and plant kingdom. Students had fun identifying similarities and differences from the living things they found and used two-way microscopes to assist in their identifying and categorising. This exploration also enabled students to engage with the environment and how living things interact and rely on each other for survival.

Nigel Herbert



NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS DAY (Pictures on front page)

Six of our Year 6 students recently attended this event as part of the audience of over 1000 Primary Years students at the Adelaide Convention Centre. The program consisted of talks, videos and interactive activities, which explored what it means to lead yourself and others well in today's world. A variety of speakers shared their story and what they have learned about leadership from personal experience. Through their active participation on the day, I believe our students gained a deeper understanding about leadership and the role that they could play in our school community. It also raised their awareness that anything is possible given effort and determination to succeed. Here are some of their thoughts:

"It inspired and encouraged us to grow up and become future leaders." (Britney & Dafroza)
 "We liked the idea that when something is challenging: to think of it as not difficult...just different" (Ivan & Kaiden).
 "We learnt that Little things make a big difference" (Teegan and Justyn)

Barry Solomon, Leader - Learning and Wellbeing