



Mark Oliphant College B-12

*"The future is now..."*

# MOC

## NEWSLETTER

TERM 1, WEEK 11

13 APRIL 2018



*"Set your goals high and don't stop till you get there."*

- Bo Jackson

Pictured: 1. Foundation Maths; 2. Early Years - Miss Rendell's Year 2 class; 3. & 4. MOC Music Night 2018.

### DIARY DATES:

#### TERM 1:

Week 11

Friday 13th April

Last day of Term 1

#### TERM 2:

Week 1

Monday 30th April

First day of Term 2

Week 3

May 15th -17th

NAPLAN

(Years 3,5, 7 and 9)

Week 7

Monday 11th June

Queen's Birthday

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Week 10

Friday 6th July

Last day of Term 2

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents and Care-providers,

Writing an article for the newsletter provides an opportunity for one to stop and reflect on what has occurred over the term and what is to come. Time appears to move at an ever increasing pace and often if we do not allow ourselves the time to stop and think. We can easily get caught up in the unrelenting pace of change and overlook the many significant achievements that as a school and as individuals we have experienced even in an eleven week period.

It has been an exciting Term 1 at Mark Oliphant College, with staff and students involved in a wide range of activities and programs: a very successful Sports Day, an outstanding music evening showcasing the many talented students that we have, Outdoor Education camps, Play Based Learning in our Early Years, our introduction to the Duke of Edinburgh Award, a student free day where many of our staff looked at transforming tasks to facilitate more effective learning, a variety of teaching and learning initiatives reflecting the progressive thinking of our teachers across the entire College. This is just a very small number of wonderful initiatives that have occurred over the previous eleven weeks. Thank you to our caring and professional staff who have worked very hard throughout Term 1 to ensure that students have been challenged and encouraged to do their best. It has been great to see students and children across the College, demonstrating their understanding of the College values and having such a positive mindset. Much of this comes from the excellent work of our staff and the Positive Education focus encouraged and valued across the school.

Our students have further demonstrated their learning and development through the high standard of work and thinking undertaken within their classrooms. I have seen many examples of this as I move around the College and feel we are definitely heading in the right direction. Communication is an important factor we are always working on at Mark Oliphant College.

I have had many discussions with students over the term and will continue to do so as the year progresses. Students provide valuable insights as to what it is like to be a learner at Mark Oliphant College and how we can further improve our environment to ensure they are fully supported. Some of the initial student sentiments include:

- No barriers to achieving regardless of background
- Every student's abilities and talents recognised and supported through flexible programs
- Outstanding teachers delivering programs that are recognised across other schools
- A school recognised for its individual student achievements
- People see MOC as an innovative, caring community
- To be acknowledged as the best school in the Northern Region, a school that parents want to send their kids to and a school that both kids and teachers want to come to
- Safe
- Greater opportunities for student leadership
- Unique Sports / Academic programs need to be developed for our talented students
- More seating around the school
- More shelter for students

This has already begun to shape our thinking in relation to where we are heading as a site.

Much work has already been achieved in setting the directions for our school for the next 12 months or more, with all staff shaping our Site Improvement Plan. Parents and students too will have the opportunity to provide input into our thinking at the beginning of Term 2 as well as an overarching Strategic Plan for the next 5 years.

Our three key focus areas are:

- Developing Expert Learners
- Developing Expert Teachers
- Strengthening Community partnerships

*(Continued over...)*

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Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (continued)

However if our directions are to be authentic they will need to be owned by all. Research highlights the fact that the sense of community and family contributes 80% to a child's education, with schools regardless of their geographical location or status, contributing a maximum of only 20%. These figures have always been something we have suspected, that the sense of connectedness that our students feel in their communities is vital to their educational and vocational outcomes. It is something we need to nurture and value as a school.

Schools are becoming agencies of their communities as opposed to agencies for their communities. Community links will be essential if we are to nurture and develop the social and intellectual capital that sustains and adds vibrancy to our community and we must not lose sight of that important function. In achieving this we need to redefine our concept of education and what it means to be truly a school for the community.

This will be an ongoing challenge for us given we encompass birth to Year 12, and how we draw upon our local community networks to support children and their families. Education is different to what we experienced; we need to get over this. Our intent however is clear, that is, to become one of the best schools in our region, recognised for its innovative teaching practices and support programs that support all students regardless of their background, one that reflects the values and expectations of our community.

### An emerging concern...

Lately we have noticed a number of students arriving late to school. It is extremely important that students come to school regularly and on time.

Being half an hour late to school each day from Year 7 on equals five days absence per term. This means missing over a half a year of

schooling by the end of Year 12. Students who are late miss the getting organised part of the day and tend to spend the rest of the day trying to catch up. Furthermore, often there is unnecessary pressure placed on the teacher in order to try and catch the student up. This can take time away from the remainder of the class. Students arriving late to school must have a note from their parents/carers outlining the reason for the lateness. I ask that parents support the school by ensuring their son / daughter arrives at school on time and prepared for lessons. We will be monitoring and following up patterns of regular lateness to determine the reasons and to establish processes to support the students in order to maximise their learning.

Similarly, with attendance. A secondary student, for example, who misses school on average 1 day per fortnight, will begin their Year 12 studies having missed the equivalent of a half a year of schooling. This statistic would be worse if we take into account their primary years of schooling where it could quite conceivably be the equivalent of a year of their schooling.

This will also be a focus for our school in Term 2 to ensure students are supported and are not significantly disadvantaged through patterns of absenteeism.

Enjoy the break and I look forward to working with all in our community, building upon the significant work that has already been achieved.

Regards,

*Kym Grant, Principal*



## FINANCE NEWS

### Material and Services fees and School Card Applications are now due.

If you are applying for School Card and would like to apply online, the College has made available a computer at Reception, for your use. Please speak to Reception staff who can help you to 'Apply Online'.

If you are paying for your Material and Services charge, please pay at Reception.

*Thank you for your support.*

**Finance Department**



## CHILDREN'S CENTRE

### Our Wonderful Occasional Care Program

*"Even the youngest of children make active choices and decisions... They rely on parents and caregivers to attend to, support, and build on their actions, choices and way of communicating."* Shannon Lockhart

A unique feature of our Children's Centre is the way in which we integrate our Occasional Care and Preschool children. Each week when we program for the days and week ahead, we consider how our learning environment - indoor and outdoor - meets the needs of all children at our Centre. We love watching the way in which the children support, care for and learn from each other. Recently the Department for Education have recognised us as a lead site with regards to our Occasional Care program, and have come to our Centre to talk with staff and document our practice. We are proud to be a site that constantly provides the best possible learning opportunities for all children.

*Linda Rich, Head of Children's Centre*



## FOUNDATION

It has been a very busy but fantastic first term in Miss Stacey's Foundation Class. This term we have been focusing on building relationships, learning school and classroom routines, alphabet and number. During Literacy, the children are placed into small groups to undertake our Jolly Phonics program while the other children are engaged in play supporting their oral language, social skills and cognitive development. This is followed by bookmaking where the children are introduced to concepts of print and creating their own books. We undertake weekly visits to the school library where the children borrow books and develop a love of reading and picture books. During Maths, the children are learning about numbers. They are experimenting with how to read, record and count numbers from zero to twenty. They engage in hands on learning and once a week we develop our problem-solving skills through a transforming task.

*Stacey Biar, Foundation Teacher*



### EARLY YEARS

As part of History, Miss Rendell's Year 2 class have been looking at how communication, transport and toys have changed over time. Students have been particularly interested in looking at the similarities and differences between toys from the past and the present. We discovered that we still have some of the same toys like dominoes and matchbox cars. We have also improved on many toys from the past with technology, for example we still have yoyos but now you can get yoyos that have flashing lights. We also discussed the impact of technology on the range of present day toys and came to the conclusion that the majority of our favourite toys are based on technology. For Project Based Learning each student designed, drafted and refined a 'go fish' card that we turned into a game for in the classroom. Students are really enjoying playing a game from the past with our own twist on it.



Casey Rendell,  
Early Years  
Teacher

### PRIMARY YEARS

We are finishing Term 1 2018 with temperatures even higher than we had on the first day of term back on Monday 29th January: 27 degrees then and a surprising temperature of around 36 degrees on Wednesday 11th April! The weather, just like life for children and adults in and out of school can be both predictable and unpredictable.

A lot has happened in the past 52 school days that have passed. A small number of our new Year 3s started day one with tears, tantrums and reluctance. Since then, they have grown to successfully cope with the challenges of changing buildings, teachers and learning routines. Students have got to know their new teachers and new children in their class. Staff new to MOC have also handled the challenges of teaching in a new environment with new routines and colleagues. Teachers and parents have also begun to work together in partnership towards the common goal of better long-term learning outcomes.

So, we have the foundation for the year ahead as we look towards the remainder of 2018. Some activities and events in Primary Years to come in Term 2 include:

- School Dental Program during Weeks 1 to 4
- NAPLAN tests for our Year 3 and 5 students in Week 3
- The Year 6 Camp to Arbury Park also in Week 3
- Swimming lessons at the Aquadome during Weeks 5 & 6
- End of Semester Reports



On behalf of our 19 class/specialist teachers and 6 SSOs in Primary Years as well as myself, we hope you and your family have a great holiday break.

Barry Solomon, Senior Leader Primary Years

### MEET THE TEACHER

Hi my name is **Emma Dawson** and I'm really enjoying my second year of teaching. This term it has been great getting to know my lovely Year 6 class. One of my favourite hobbies is dancing so I'm loving teaching my dance group for Children's University. Something I'm really excited for this year is going on camp with the Year 6s as it looks like so much fun! I'm looking forward to being a part of the Primary Years community in 2018.



# Woodhouse 2018

YEAR 7

Woodhouse this year was awesome we went on a bus in the hills to get there. When we got there we had recess on a grassy hill. After we had our food we hiked up to the obstacles and a man was there to tell us what we could do. After that we got into groups and started running around and having fun we were climbing, jumping, running. The last obstacle we did was at a river and we had to swing across ropes to get to the other side most students fell in, it was funny. Even Mr Szilassy tried doing the rope swing but he barely made it across. After we finished the course we went to another grassy oval and had lunch then it was time to get on the bus and go back to school.

### MOC MUSIC NIGHT 2018

On Wednesday night the 4th of April, we held our annual Music Night at the Shedley Theatre in Elizabeth. Students from our middle and senior school elective music program performed a range of songs in front of family and friends, staff and invited guests. The night included performances from class bands, solo performances, choir and auditioned items. Students rehearsed tirelessly all term in preparation for the night and did an amazing job. A select group of students also did a large amount of the organising and setting up for the event. All students performed brilliantly and conducted themselves in such a professional manner. The students had a wonderful time performing and were very proud of their achievements. We received lots of lovely comments and positive feedback from our audience members and many said it was the best one yet! Well done to all of the students.

Ms Walker



## 2018 SACE ART SHOW

The SACE Art Show is an annual event that showcases selected art and design works created by Year 12 Visual Arts students. More than 100 pieces including paintings and drawings, sculptures, jewelry, costumes and multimedia are chosen by SACE moderators from the 800 schools in SA... one of which was by our very own Aisha Rowse (a 1st for MOC!!!). She created a series of detailed Lino prints reflecting her heritage and culture as well as the notion of transition in one's life. Guest speakers on opening night included those from various universities as well as some acclaimed art society

peers impressed by the quality of work. Aisha's and all other works will be displayed from until 24 April (so there is still time to go and take a peek!). This year's Year 12 art class attended the exhibition on Monday... each student is now more motivated and determined than ever to have their work on display next year in this prestigious event!!



Congratulations to Aisha on this wonderful achievement!  
Miss Kelly, Arts Coordinator

## 23<sup>RD</sup> NATIONAL SCHOOLS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Year 12 students Gloria Ndayikengurukiye and Claudetta Niyera's participated in the 23rd National Schools Constitutional Convention earlier this term. Gloria and Claudetta were among 120 students from around Australia who travelled to Canberra from 20 - 22 March 2018 to participate in the Convention.

At the Convention, Emeritus Professor John Warhurst AO led a two-day programme in which students explored 'Is Section 44 of the Constitution relevant in modern Australia?' After hearing from a panel of experts and considering the issues in working groups Gloria, Claudetta and other delegates voted in a mock referendum.

The majority of people and majority of states agreed on proposed new section (i).

*Any person who at the commencement of their term in Parliament is under any active acknowledgment of allegiance, obedience, or adherence to a foreign power, or is an active subject or a citizen or has sought the rights or privileges of a subject or a citizen of a*

*foreign power shall be incapable of sitting as a senator or a member of the House of Representatives.*

The key proposed amendments to this section (i) were the inclusion of the word 'active' in relation to active knowledge and as an active subject, and the wording 'at the commencement of their term in Parliament'.

This outcome was included in the Communiqué which will be presented to the Senate for inclusion in Hansard.

Other highlights of the Canberra trip included a reception at Government House, the Prime Minister's welcome reception at Parliament House and a Convention dinner at the High Court.



## PEDAL PRIX

The Mark Oliphant College Pedal Prix team would like to welcome our first major sponsor of 2018. Murray Mallee Training (MMT) is a company that offers programs to students that are wanting to partake in VET courses, in addition to their schooling. As you may or may not know MOC is running two teams in the Australian International Pedal Prix series, competing in three events. This is a major undertaking

for our students, and it is great to gain the help of MMT to aid our progress. We as a team also owe Jonny Cousins a special thank you, as none of this would be possible without his tireless support of MMT.

**Luke Ames**  
(On behalf of the Pedal Prix Team)



## HPE NEWS



### Sports Day

This term was another big term for HPE at Mark Oliphant College. We started with our first 'traditional' sports day at the Munno Para Athletics Club in Week 6. This year Peachey were the overall winners with Newton winning their first piece of silverware in the form of the inaugural participation shield. This was also the first year we have kept records and had individual year level winners. A list of these was published on our Sport at Mark Oliphant Facebook page. This is another tradition we look forward to building on in the future as sports day gets bigger and bigger. On a personal note, it was truly great to see all the students in their colours, enjoying themselves and representing the school so proudly. We received excellent feedback from the athletics club about our students' behavior and manners and we are looking forward to returning again in 2019.

### School Sport

School sport has enjoyed a more relaxed pace in Term 1 with the College participating in 4 carnivals including, Beach Volleyball, European Handball, Cricket and the Northern

Zone Athletics Carnival. We had some good results during the term finishing second at the volleyball and third in the cricket, but undoubtedly our proudest achievement was our overall fourth place in the athletics competition. We had 30 firsts, 25 seconds and 21 thirds throughout the day, our Year 10 boys managed to win their division and we won the most improved school award which is a terrific effort. We are looking forward to improving on this result next year as our students gain increasing exposure to athletics and the skills involved.

Next term the school will compete in state knockout events in the senior years which include, netball, soccer and basketball. Mark Oliphant will also continue its involvement in northern zone sport competing in AFL, 5-a-side soccer and netball across Years 8-12. Finally, we are sending a team of approximately 50 students to the Winter SAPSASA Carnival for Year 6 and 7 students. We wish our teams every success for these events.

### Outdoor Ed

Outdoor Education this term provided many exciting opportunities for students in the senior school. The Year 12 classes travelled to Robe for a four-day surf camp where both instructors and members of the public commented on the positive and courteous nature of our students. Many of these students did extremely well in

their practical and demonstrated excellent energies in the surf. The Year 11 classes took to the Onkaparinga River at Port Noarlunga for two days of kayaking practical, where they demonstrated great skill development and had a great time exploring the river. The Year 10 class recently travelled to Para Wirra Conservation Park and expertly completed an orienteering course, and while showing grit to complete a challenging walk in warm conditions.

### Ice Factor

In Week 10, the Mark Oliphant Mavericks took part in their first Ice Factor tournament of the year. This was their first real test to see how much they've learnt as they took on teams from Christies Beach, Wirreanda, Findon and Pasadena High Schools. Unfortunately, they didn't get a win, but they gained a lot of experience which will be crucial in the future.

Special congratulations to Riley Hawthorn, who received an encouragement award and A.J. David for receiving a leadership award on the day. These awards were presented by Corey Wingard- Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing and Rosanna Mangiarelli from Today Tonight. Rosanna was there on behalf of Ice Factor major sponsor, Channel 7.

Luke Smoker, HPE Coordinator