



Mark Oliphant College B-12

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MOC

NEWSLETTER

TERM 3, WEEK 9
21 SEPTEMBER 2018

*"An investment
in knowledge pays
the best interest."*

- Benjamin Franklin



Pictured (from left): Exhibition of Learning; Early Years disco; Primary Years Adelaide Zoo excursion; Battle of the Bands; Maths Olympics

DIARY DATES:

Friday 28 September

Last day of Term,
2pm dismissal

Reports given to students

Monday 15 October

Term 4 starts

Monday 22nd – Wednesday

24th October

External Review

Friday 2 November

EY/PY Sports Day

Monday 5 November

Children's University

Graduation

Wednesday 7 November

Year 12 exams begin

Monday 19 November

Year 12 Graduation

Friday 14 December

Last day of Term 4

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Attendance

We all want our students to receive an excellent education, and the foundation for an excellent education begins with students coming to school each and every day. If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in later years of school. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind and can affect their educational outcomes. Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

It has been disappointing of late to notice an increase in the number of days individual students are absent from their learning. This is particularly true for our secondary students who ultimately are putting their SACE attainment at risk. I commend the Primary students who have demonstrated a significant improvement in their attendance patterns over the Term – well done to all of you.

Let's look at some interesting statistics:

If a student misses...

1 day per fortnight
1 day each week
2 days each week
3 days each week

That equals...

20 days (4 weeks) per year
40 days (8 weeks) per year
80 days (16 weeks) per year
120 days (24 weeks) per year

And over 5 years that equates to...

100 days or more than ½ a year of learning experience
200 days or 1 year of learning experience
400 days or 2 years of learning experience
600 days or 3 years of learning experience

These statistics are far worse obviously if a student's poor attendance patterns are beginning in early primary school. The effects on their learning is significant if not catastrophic. It is a legal requirement that students attend school up until they attain 17 years of age. I would ask both parents and students to consider the implications of non-attendance at school, your future depends on it.

External Review

As part of our continuous school improvement we will be involved in an external school review with a review panel. The purpose of school reviews is to support schools to raise achievement, sustain high performance and provide quality assurance to build public confidence in government schools.

All government schools are externally reviewed every four years.

The focus of this review is to evaluate school performance. The review panel consists of a review officer and trained review principals. Our review will occur on Monday 22nd October - Wednesday 24th October (Week 2, Term 4).

We will find out the aspects of the school's improvement that have been verified through the review processes as well as the improvements we need to make in the future.

During the review, some students, parents, Governing Council members and staff will be asked to provide information to the review panel in a number of ways. These include:

- Individual interviews
- Group discussions (with students, staff or parents)
- Meetings
- Visits into classrooms

If you do not wish your child to be involved in our review through group discussions or individually can you please contact the school by no later than Tuesday, 16th October (Week 1).

(Continued over...)



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

Ph. (08) 8209 1600

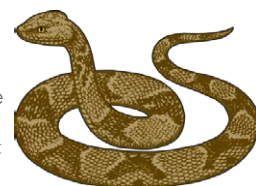
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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (continued)

A reminder that snake season is upon us

Although it is only early spring there have already been snake sightings around Craigmore. Given the number of snake sightings at our site early this year, the chances of coming across them in the yard could be considered high, given much of their habitat has been disturbed as a result of new housing being built in close proximity. Could I ask parents to reinforce that if your child sees a snake do not go near it and tell a teacher immediately. If your child believes they have been bitten, remain calm and do not move and get one of their friends or anyone in close proximity to move quickly to tell a staff member on duty. Staff will be continuously reminding students as to what to do throughout the coming months.



In the event that a child is bitten or if it is suspected, appropriate first aid will be applied at school and an ambulance called immediately.

Bullying Audit

As you are no doubt aware the school recently undertook a bullying audit. We are currently collating all the data and will publish the overall results once all the information has been compiled. Some initial findings however are as follows:

- Approximately 600 students responded to the survey in Years 4 – 12
- 70% of students had not been bullied in the past Term
- Of the 30% of students who have said they experienced bullying or have witnessed it, 86% of this is occurring in Years 4-6
- The highest bullying behaviour was "name calling" followed by "teasing"
- The majority of the bullying is occurring in the yard or in the classroom
- 20% of the bullying behaviour is occurring online

This information will be used to improve our current practices around this important issue. We will of course be talking to both the students and parents of students who have been identified through the survey over the coming weeks.

It is our intention to conduct this audit at least twice per year to monitor our progress in making our College a safer place to be.

Kym Grant, Principal

CHILDREN'S CENTRE

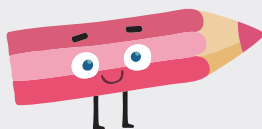
Powerful Learners

We have a strong focus on dispositions for learning through our Centre programs. You may have noticed your child has particular strengths in different areas which support them to learn, such as curiosity, persistence, confidence, cooperation, enthusiasm, imagination and commitment. These skills are what we refer to as **learning dispositions**.

We seek to build upon **each child's** learning dispositions, to enable all children to be powerful learners!

Traditionally our society has placed great value on academic learning; skills such as counting, identifying colours, shapes and alphabet letters. We now recognise that this type of learning occurs within the context of **intellectual learning**. Intellectual learning involves **critical and creative thinking**, where children pose questions, engage in research and come to conclusions.

Linda Rich, Head of Children's Centre



UNIFORM SHOP NOTICE

Summer Uniform Change Over

Please note the following
change of opening times

8/10: 1pm - 5pm
10/10 : 8:30am - 12:30pm

New regular trading hours will
commence the first week of Term 4.

New hours as of the 15/10:

Monday 2:00pm - 5:00pm
Wednesday 8:30am - 11:00am

EARLY YEARS

Community Announcement

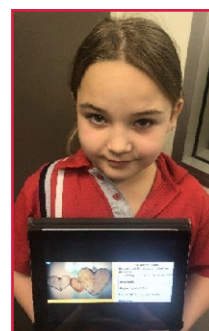
A reminder to our community to please contact the College immediately if a child believed to be in the Early or Primary Years is sighted out of MOC grounds.

Exhibition of Learning

Thank you to all our families for supporting the Exhibition of Learning on Wednesday night. It was fantastic to see so many families braving the cold weather and returning after hours to celebrate our children's learning. It was lovely to see children proudly sharing in their learning and the projects that have been part of this year.

For the first time all subs-schools were open allowing families to share in the celebrations throughout the College.

Candice Horton, Head of Early Years



STUDENT WELLBEING IN THE EARLY YEARS

We approach the end of another Term that has been full of wonderful events. In Week 8 students in the Early Years attended their annual disco. The joy and excitement was extremely evident on their faces. Student wellbeing is a major focus across the College and events like these help promote and maintain wellbeing. It was a major effort by students, teachers and SSOs to organise and coordinate, so thank you to all who helped and attended.

Attendance has been fantastic with attendance rates for each year level being 96% or above. It is wonderful to see the children engaged in their learning and have a passion for their education.

Next Term will again be busy with Sports Day, school photos and only 9 weeks. I hope everyone has a wonderful break and returns to Term 4 rested and energised!!

Mel Demasi, Early Years' Student Wellbeing Leader



PRIMARY YEARS

This Term, the Year 3 classes have researched a rainforest animal and visiting the Adelaide Zoo was a unique learning opportunity to view and discuss the rainforest animals and the habitats they live in.

Year 3 Teachers: Karen McCall, Lisa Smith, Laura Constable



The Adelaide Zoo

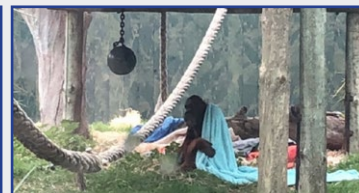
The Adelaide Zoo was a great experience for myself, Riely and the rest of the Year 4 class. I would recommend it to everyone. It was fun seeing all the animals and my favourite animal was the otters swimming in their little pool.

The Adelaide Zoo was an amazing place to have fun looking and feeding all the interesting animals. The truth is it was amazing to see all the animals very healthy. My favourite animal was the tree snake in the reptile house.

My favourite part at the zoo was seeing all the siamangs and the noisy but cute otters swimming. The orangutan sleeping with his blankets.

The panda show was a big thrill and it was very interesting. Their names are Wang Wang and Fu Ni. Wang Wang is 13 and Fu Ni is 12.

By Keeley and Riely

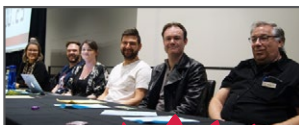


MATHS OLYMPICS

On Thursday the 6th of September, Mark Oliphant College hosted Maths Olympics for the first time. The event took place at the Playford Civic Centre from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. The night involved teams from several Northern schools competing in multiple rounds comprised of mathematical and general knowledge questions. The teams ranged from Year 6 through to Year 12, with a total of 34 teams participating from across NASSSA sites. Mark Oliphant was represented by students in the Primary and Junior categories. The night was a great success, with Mark Oliphant College winning Silver in the Primary category.

A big thank you to all staff involved in the planning and hosting of the event. The feedback received from other schools, students and parents was fantastic.

Steph Wotton, Year 7-12 STEM Coordinator



NASSSA BATTLE OF THE BANDS 2018

On Friday night of Week 8, rock musicians from secondary schools in the Northern suburbs descended on Northern Sound System, in Elizabeth, to deliver their three best songs and convince a panel of guest judges that their band deserved to be awarded the trophy as winner of the NASSSA Battle of the Bands competition.

The crowd quickly filled the performance space as the anticipation grew. Five bands were to have their time on stage but only one could be go home victorious. Salisbury East H.S. and Craigmores H.S. were the first two bands to have an attempt at rocking out on a professional stage complete with laser lighting and five cameras sending every moment of their efforts live to the internet.

Next to come was the MOC entry and last year's third place finishers, 'Shades of Grey'.

The group were decked out in a black and red mix of Punk Rock attire and filled the room with their enthusiasm, energy, and unmistakable MOC attitude.

The crowd were treated to high-quality renditions of tracks from Green Day, Wheatus, and Blink 182 delivered by a range of talented Year 10-12 MOC musicians that had been working in the depths of building 17 for many weeks conjuring up the best possible performance they could imagine.

Powerful vocals, shredding guitars, thumping bass, and an unstoppable drummer raised the bar for the remaining two bands that were later seen scrambling to find ways to equal, let alone top, the unprecedented display of passion and musicianship.

As the moment of truth arrived the bands were on the edge of their seats eager to find out who had fronted the most impressive attempt to win the judges' votes.

With only one point between the top four placing bands the competition was fierce.

'Shades of Grey' were given runner up to Craigmores H.S. rock band 'Smiths' Chips' that had a secret weapon in their music. They wrote an original song especially for the competition!

Not to be put off by the results our students have already begun planning their own original ideas for 2019.

Great work by all members of 'Shades of Grey'. Looking forward to next year's display of unbeatable skill.

Gareth Budd, Music Teacher



ATTENDANCE IN THE MIDDLE YEARS

Everyone would be well aware by now that our big focus in the Middle Years for 2018 is to improve our attendance. Engagement in learning is critical during the Middle Years because it provides a strong platform for success in Years 10, 11 and 12. Teachers have a huge array of strategies and learning styles to help every individual student find success, but unless the students are in the classroom these strategies are worth nothing.

If a student has a just 1 day a week away from school they will miss 120 days, 60% of a full year, across their Middle School Journey. Breaking this down into learning time missed, with our current timetable results in 12,000 minutes of Maths missed, 12,000 minutes of English missed and 12,000 minutes of other subjects missed.

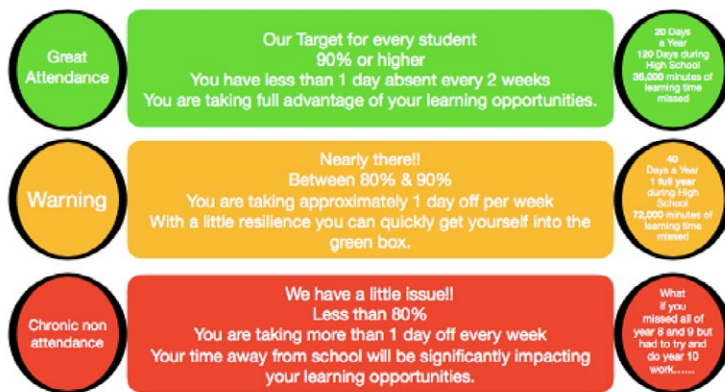
It doesn't matter how amazing the teachers are, there is no way of catching up the learning time missed, which makes the new learning at Year 10, 11 and 12 far more difficult.

Attendance is everyone's business. The students themselves need to take ownership of their commitment to coming to school every day. But as adult mentors, caregivers and teachers need to work together to help them stay motivated and resilient. Constant reminders about their attendance goals are an important part of the process. It enables students to understand how much school they are missing. Every fortnight in class students are shown their attendance percentage for the previous fortnight. Make sure you remember to ask them what colour their square was. Our aim is to get all of the students into green squares (90%).

Enjoy the holidays and come back ready to turn up in Term 4.

Nathan Elliott, Middle Years Head of School

What is your journey looking like?



Ask your home group teacher what colour your squares are, and let us all help you feel more comfortable at school

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL HISTORY COMPETITION 2018

Last May, 21 of our students from Years 8-10 participated in the Australian National History Competition. The Competition involves answering 50 multiple choice questions in 45 minutes. The questions are based on the Australian Curriculum for the Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS).

The following results were achieved by our students:

Distinction: Anyang Ateny

Merit: Charlotte Slapp-Paterson, Ella Frampton, Thomas Jebb, Orson Manning, Brayden James, Taleah Marr, Yuri Icarro

Participation: Jessica Turner, Jordan Pearson, Quentin Kolin, Alice Olenjin, Jemma Sanderson, Ella Williamson, Felipe Valdivia, Harry Worden, Isabella Whittaker, Madison Grungo, Matthew Gill, Sam Rapas, Tyson Daniells

All students deserve our special congratulations. For many it was the first time they took part in such a competition and they courageously took up the challenge! Well done to all those involved and particular thanks to those teachers who supported their students by nominating and encouraging them to participate.

Ms Carol Fine-Clementi, HASS Teacher

CONGRATULATIONS!

PEDAL PRIX NEWS

The Atom and Manhattan pedal prix bikes are looking quite different for the upcoming Pedal Prix Race. Scotch College payed it forward to Mark Oliphant College and donated a newly painted and refurbished bike. They did this to promote females in sports and to further the team's achievement. It comes as a great surprise being told that Scotch College have been watching the way the girls team conducted themselves and how they have improved in such a short time. This was kept a surprise till last weekend when we went to Victoria Park, and the bike was officially handed over to us. The upgrade in bike resulted in almost 2 minutes being cut from our lap times so the team is very excited for what is in store in the upcoming race.

Special thanks go to the Gibbons family and Ms Williams for her endless time in the pits. Without your help we couldn't have been where we are.

Up and Atom,

Luke Ames

