Welcome to Middle Primary for 2015!

It has been great to see all the smiling faces settling back into school life for the year and making new friends. We are especially excited to see lots of new students to MECS this year as well.

Core Studies Units for 2015

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Our Core Studies unit, for this term is ‘Food’. We will be looking at the food we put in our bodies and the effect that food has on us. As part of this unit we will also be exploring a range of food experiences. These experiences include cooking for those in need, designing the Ultimate Lunchbox and even planning a delicious and healthy lunch on our excursion to Queen Victoria Markets.

Overarching all of these topics we will be celebrating God’s creation of food, looking at ways we can make our diets as healthy as we can and seeking to share food with those who have little.

Important Dates this Term

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<th>Wednesdays Feb 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11</th>
<th>MP Swimming (letter previously sent)</th>
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<td>Wednesday Feb 18</td>
<td>Middle Primary Community BBQ (details below)</td>
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<td>Thursday Mar 5</td>
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<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>Term 2 Commences</td>
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Middle Primary Community BBQ

As part of this term’s Core Studies unit on Food, we are looking at our responsibility to share what food we have together as a community, as Jesus did during his ministry. So as a welcome to Middle Primary and a time of sharing, we want to invite all parents and students of Middle Primary this year to a BBQ dinner at MECS. Ideally, we would love this evening to just be parents and their MP child – not siblings. However, if this is going to be a significant problem for your family please chat to your child’s teacher.
Details:

- **Date & time:** 5pm Wednesday 18 February, meeting initially in your child’s classroom.
- **Dietary requirements:** vegie burgers and gluten free bread will be available.

The first part of our program will give you as parents, a chance to experience an example lesson in our class. Afterwards, we will come together and share in a good ol’ fashioned Aussie BBQ, where our students will serve you.

Finally, as an introduction to the year ahead, we will then meet with just the parents in the PUMP room, opposite the classrooms, while the students spend some time together in their classroom, doing activities with staff. This will conclude at 7pm.

At the bottom of this newsletter will be a reply slip where we would like you to indicate who and how many will be able to attend. We would love to see as many from our wonderful community as it is a rare and valuable time to come together.

Other Important Class Information

**Homework**

In Middle Primary, weekly homework is set which reinforces a variety of literacy and numeracy skills we have been learning in class. Homework is handed out each Monday and unless other arrangements are made, is expected to be **returned each Thursday**. One grace per term is extended. After this, there will be the opportunity to catch up at lunchtime.

Reading to an adult is still important in Middle Primary and we ask that you spend 10-15 minutes on this, as many evenings as you can, as this will improve your child’s fluency and comprehension skills.

Weekly homework is designed to help your child improve their organisational skills as well as continue their learning at home. Homework **should not be arduous** and should not take up inordinate amounts of time. Tasks should take only **10-15 minutes of time** on as many evenings as you can.

It has been emphasised that homework is NOT to become a problem for you at home, (for example speed tests do not have to be timed if this causes stress for your child). If you are finding homework a problem for any reason, please don’t hesitate to either speak, write to or email the class teacher. It is possible for tasks to be modified for the student if needed.

**Stationery List Items**

If your child still has some stationery items at home or unpurchased, please send these to school as soon as possible as most of these items are now being used.

**Library bags**

Library bags are available for purchase from the office if required. We request that a library bag is used when taking books home. It improves longevity of the books, saving both money and trees!

**Tissues**

Please send along a box of tissues to enable a more hygienic response to the snuffles.

**Absences**

Please make sure you call the MECS Absentee line (9513 1561) to advise if your child will be away from school. Children are required to **bring a note upon their return** if they have been absent for a day or more. Please ensure the note specifies the date of absence.
Swimming
All MP students will attend weekly swimming lessons at Croydon Indoor Pool, on Wednesdays for 5 weeks. Lessons will take place with qualified instructors, and will run for 40 minutes. Students will be grouped according to ability, with a maximum group size of 10 students.

Dates: Feb 11, 18, 25 and March 4, 11
Lesson times vary according to class: MPA - 12:35pm, MPW - 1:15pm, MPC - 1:55pm

This program is a compulsory component of the Sport and Physical Education curriculum and it serves as a wonderful way to develop swimming skills and improve technique. Students will depart from the kiss and drop via a MECS school bus 25 minutes prior to their lesson time and staff members will accompany them to and from the pool.

Please make sure your child has appropriate swim wear, (no bikinis without a rash vest) a towel and a plastic bag for wet items. Parents are welcome to observe the lessons but will need to provide their own transport to the venue. If you have any questions or issues about the swimming program, please contact your child’s class teacher or Jason Brown, Primary School Physical Education and Sports Co-ordinator.

PE/Sport
PE is on Tuesday for MPW and Friday for MPA and MPC. Please ensure that your child comes dressed in the MECS PE uniform, (green MECS polo, black shorts/track suit pants and appropriate footwear and hat). This is compulsory PE attire.

Tribal Sport activities will take place on Wednesday afternoon. Students will need to come dressed in their tribal T-shirts for this activity.

We are excited about the year ahead with your child in Middle Primary - it is truly a blessing to have the opportunity to teach them. We look forward to our partnership with you in their journey this year.

Warmest regards

Ali Coffey, Derek Warren and Justine Brookes
Middle Primary class teachers

MP Community BBQ RSVP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child’s Name:</th>
<th>Class:</th>
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My child can attend the Middle Primary Community BBQ on Wednesday February 18: Yes/no

Number of adults attending: .................................................................

Please return this slip to the class teacher by Wednesday February 11