Welcome to Middle Primary for 2017!

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 some new students to MECS this year.

Core Studies Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Term 2</th>
<th>Term 3</th>
<th>Term 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rock On</td>
<td>Sustainability</td>
<td>Celebrate our Community</td>
<td>Fantastic Forces</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our Core Studies unit for this term is ‘Rock On.’ This has a science focus where we will be looking at what makes up the layers of the Earth and how the landscape of its surface is shaped by different things. The students will also be exploring how to be scientists who pose deep questions: digging through the layers of their thinking, past their first ideas, until they find a deeper thought beneath.

Overarching all of these topics we will be seeing how God shapes his wonderful creation through nature and people.

Important Dates this Term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday February 17, 10am</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly (Parents are welcome to have a cuppa in the staffroom after drop off.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday March 1</td>
<td>Middle Primary Community BBQ (details below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday March 9</td>
<td>Grandparents and Special Friend’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday March 13</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday (School Closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday March 17</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday March 27, Thursday March 30</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday March 31</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday April 19</td>
<td>Term 2 Commences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Middle Primary Community BBQ

We value the community we have in MECS, particularly in Middle Primary. So as a welcome and a time of sharing, we would like 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 Middle Primary child – not siblings. However, if this is going to be a significant problem for your family, please chat to your child’s teacher in this regard.
Details of the Community BBQ:

- **Date:** Wednesday March 1
- **Time:** 5pm – 7pm
- **Venue:** To meet initially in your child’s classroom.
- **Dietary Requirements:** veggie burgers and gluten free bread will be available.

The first part of our program will give you as parents, a chance to share in the exploration of learning how you learn best. 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. The evening 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*

We request that a library bag is used when taking books home. It improves longevity of the books, saving both money and trees!
Food and Snacks
Just a reminder that a brain food snack of fruit or vegetables has a significant benefit for your child during school, if it can be provided. At 10am, when students get to eat their brain food, it gives them a healthy and natural boost of energy to help improve their focus and motivation during their studies.

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. If your child is late or has to depart from school early, please ensure that you sign the iPad in the office to indicate this.

PE/Sport
PE is on Wednesday for MPG (Mrs Campbell's class), Thursday for MPB (Mr Coffey’s class) and Friday for MPR (Mrs Russ’s class). Please ensure that your child comes dressed in the MECS PE uniform, (green MECS sports top, black shorts/track pants and appropriate footwear and hat).
This is compulsory PE attire.

Tribal Sport activities will take place on Thursday afternoon. Students will need to come dressed in their tribal T-shirts for this activity. As MPB students have both PE an Tribal sports on this day, they can wear either top to school.

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 working in partnership with you in their journey this year.

Warmest regards

Carly Russ, Alistair Coffey and Naomi Campbell
Middle Primary Class Teachers

MP Community BBQ RSVP

Please complete and return this slip to the class teacher by Wednesday February 15

Child’s Name:___________________________________________Class:______________________________

My child can attend the Middle Primary Community BBQ on Wednesday March 1: (Please circle)

Yes / No

Number of adults attending:____________________________