Habit of Mind

Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known.

Carl Sagan

Welcome to the third last week of a very busy school year. Our Year 11 students have been completing final pieces of assessment as part of the Block Exam Week. Teachers are busily marking and conducting the final assessment tasks across Years 8 and 10. It is the expectation that before students leave for the Christmas vacation that all assessment items are completed and up to date. The last day for both Year 10 and 11 students is Friday 29 November. The final day of the school year is Friday, 13 December. All students are expected to attend school up until the final day as outlined above.

Working right up until the Last Day
We continue classes until the end of the school year with a focus on consolidation of knowledge and skills and in core areas, a focus on the basics for next year. This organisation sets them up well for commencing their 2014 studies, having provided a basis to secure a good grounding and skills base for their subjects.

Bulk Mail-out
Reports will be mailed home on Friday, 13 December. If you have moved recently, or if you have changed your contact details (telephone or email), please let us know, so that we are able to send you all of the information you require for a successful start to the 2014 school year. The end of year bulk mail-out will also include important information from the school regarding uniform for 2014 and first week 2014 activities.

Staffing
We have a few staffing changes for the 2014 school year. These are not all finalised yet and I will detail these in the New Year. We have three contract teachers who will finish with us this Friday. Many thanks to Mr Brooke Fraser, Mrs Karen Van Raders and Mr David Sham for all your hard work and commitment to our students.

Men’s Hostel Visit
The school is committed to supporting the OZcare Hostel in South Brisbane, with many students under the guidance of Ms Jo Smith volunteering on a Thursday evening to help with dinner service. The final occasion for the year will be this Thursday 28 November. I would like to thank all students who have volunteered throughout the year and Ms Jo Smith for her support and coordination of this wonderful program of community service.

2014 Start Dates
The 2014 school resumption date is Tuesday 28 January for all year levels. We will commence with students gathering in the School Hall at 9.00am for assembly. All year levels on the first day of Term 1, 2014 need to be in FULL FORMAL uniform.

Best wishes,
John Searle—Principal
Email: jsear13@eq.edu.au

If you would like your copy of Mitchie Moments emailed to you, have any feedback on the newsletter, or would like to contribute an article, please contact Kim Grant on 3550 1111 or by emailing admin@mitcheltonshs.eq.edu.au

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New Leadership Positions
Next year will see the introduction of positions for students in Junior Secondary (Year 8 – 9). These positions include two Junior Secondary Leaders and three Junior Sport Leaders (one for each House). All Year 8 students are welcome to apply and those interested need to attend a meeting on Friday 29 November in the second break in the library to get information, application package and to ask any questions.

End of year
We will be continuing classes until the last day of the school year focused on building on current knowledge and developing skills and knowledge which will be valuable as students transition to their next year of schooling.

Elizabeth Cameron
HOD Middle Phase, PE
Email: ecame10@eq.edu.au

> International Year 12’s

Congratulations to the Year 12 international students who have now completed their educational journey with us. Dahae from South Korea has been with us since Year 8, as has HeeJae! Our other international students have been with us for varying lengths of time but no matter how long or short the time, it’s been a privilege to have played a role in their lives.

We wish them all the best for their future and look forward to tracking their adventures around the world! Zac will return to China and Hikaru to Japan, whilst Yuxing, Dahae, Heejae and Christina will do further study in Brisbane at various universities. This is one of the great benefits of an International Program at Mitchelton SHS - it opens up the world and gives confidence to everyone that they too can learn another language and go places!!

Judy Martin
Teacher/International Student Coordinator
Email: jmart295@eq.edu.au

> Guidance Officer News

The Act of Giving
One of the key factors in teaching our children to be resilient (to bounce back in times of hardship) is through:

‘Developing responsibility, compassion and social awareness by providing opportunities where your child can contribute or give back to others.’

‘Raising Resilient Children’ by R.Brooks and S. Goldstein

We are all social beings. No matter how hard we might try to seek isolation, or how high the fences we build, our lives are shared by others – family, friends, and community. Children learn from an early age about the ‘act of giving’ through watching their parents give to them or others. Unfortunately though, our children may not learn that they also have the capability of giving to others and that life isn’t just about receiving. Such thinking creates selfishness and the idea that ‘I’ am the only important person.

When you educate children regarding giving, you teach them about caring for others, compassion, and taking responsibility for those less fortunate. You also will teach that ‘everyone’ is important and we all have a responsibility to protect others in our community and world.

Most kids can readily relate to other children who are hurting. With Christmas upon us soon and while your child is preparing their lists of ‘what I want for Christmas’, now is the time to prepare a list of ‘ways we can give to others’. Here are some ideas:

- Ask a child to choose an item of clothing or a toy that he or she no longer uses, to donate to charities for children that have few clothes and perhaps no toys at all.
- When you do your weekly grocery shopping, ask each of your children to pick out an item or two to donate to the local food charity, or Christmas charity.
- Get your child to make gifts for friends rather than expecting mum to purchase a gift – there are many ideas at this time of year.
- As children get a little older, they can begin giving a small percentage of allowance or savings to charity.
- Look for a charity started by children, and share the information with your children. If you also make ‘giving’ a priority children will learn to give cheerfully.
- Sponsor a child in a poor country.
- If you can’t give financially you and your kids can still offer your time. You may even want to start a fundraiser, and donate the proceeds to a favourite local charity. There are many fundraising opportunities and your child’s class might even want to participate.

No matter how large or small the effort, instilling a sense of charity will teach children to care about others, to be compassionate, to give willingly – isn’t that the Christmas spirit.

Peta Matthewman— Guidance Counsellor
Email: pmatt5@eq.edu.au
> From The Arts Department

“Congratulations to the winners of the Arts awards at this year’s 58th Annual Awards Night”

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our congratulations for your outstanding efforts. This year the award recipients were:

Year 11
- Certificate II Visual Arts: Samantha C
- Dance: Stephanie A
- Drama: Kimberley W
- Music: Stephanie A
- Visual Arts: Edelyn B and Holleigh S

Year 12
- Certificate II Visual arts: Michelle & Kerri-Lee M
- Dance: Tahlia C
- Drama: Jasmin G
- Music: Dahae J
- Visual Arts: Heejae K

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduating students from the Certificate II in Visual Arts and Contemporary craft. You should be very proud of your efforts over the past few years. Thanks to you and Mrs Rose our school now has a wonderful mosaic wall feature highlighting the diversity and creativity we have here at Mitchelton.

Recent graduate, Simon N is interested in pursuing a career in music production and has applied for a number of music courses for next year. Mr Dugan has organised a fantastic opportunity for Simon to work shadow one of Brisbane’s top music producers, Matt Redlich. Thank you Mr Dugan for your continued commitment.

For our current Year 10 students entering a senior pathway in The Arts we wish you the greatest of success with your studies. There are so many wonderful opportunities for employment in The Arts industry, why not ask your teachers about pathways today. Best wishes.

Shelley Bampton
A HOD English and The Arts
Email: sbamp1@eq.edu.au

> New Maps Help Plan for Future Schools

The Queensland Schools Planning Commission released its second round of maps and findings. The maps show school age population projections and will help to determine where new state and non-state schools may need to be built, or existing schools expanded, over the next two decades.

A new interactive mapping tool is also available allowing users to search an area of Queensland for current schools, projected change in school population and proposed land developments.

For further information and resources visit http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/schools-planning-commission/

> Have Your Say

Have your say: Review of senior assessment and OP processes – newsletter

The department has engaged the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) to conduct an independent review of Queensland’s senior assessment, reporting and Overall Position (OP) tertiary entrance processes. As part of the consultation process for the review, ACER has developed an online survey to capture the views of all Queenslanders on this important issue.

The survey is on the ACER website and consists of 21 simple questions on key aspects of our current senior assessment and tertiary entrance arrangements. All teachers, students and parents are encouraged to have their say and complete the survey. It is available from: http://www.acer.edu.au/queenslandreview

Australian Council for Educational Research