An update on the Year 7 and 8 2015 Transition Program

We continue to make outstanding progress in the planning and preparation for the smooth transition of Years 7 and 8 students to Mt St Michael’s College in 2015. It has been a delight to meet you and your daughter at some of the significant events that have taken place this year that form part of the Transition Program being implemented by the College.

It was terrific to receive a range of wonderful feedback from parents about the value of the information sessions held in Term 1. Many of you took the time to share how much you appreciated the chance to experience first-hand the warm and caring culture that has been created at MSM and have your questions addressed.

The comprehensive information package with key tips for parents was also very well received.

The College Open Day on Sunday 18 May provided a further opportunity for Years 7 and 8 2015 parents and their daughters to become involved in the school community. There was a terrific take up of the guided tours provided of our state of the art facilities. Our student leaders played an inspiring leadership role showcasing the attributes of a Mt St Michael’s College girl.
Upcoming Events

We continue the process of ensuring the successful transition to high school for your daughter with her participation in a number of compulsory upcoming events. The details of these events which were communicated through previous editions of the E-News and also at the information sessions held in Term 1 are summarised below.

**Orientation Day Years 7 and 8**
Thursday 14 August 2014, Sophia Centre

- Students and Parents attend
- Year 7 – 9am-11am
- Year 8 – 1pm-3pm
- Presentation on the significant components of a student’s transition to the College
- Parent/Guardian induction into life at Mt St Michael’s College
- Commence student’s social development and interaction with existing students

**Assessment for Learning and Teaching Years 7 and 8**
Monday 20 October 2014, Sophia Centre

- Students only attend
- Year 7 – 9am-11am
- Year 8 – 1pm-3pm
- Continued social development and interaction with existing students

Please don’t hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. My direct contact information is 3858 4939 or by email on dlonsdalewalker@msm.qld.edu.au.

Deb Lonsdale-Walker

Year 8 Co-ordinator 2014
Year 7 Co-ordinator 2015
Mt St Michael’s College is implementing the Australian Curriculum for all subjects in 2015 in the Middle School. Our focus, to develop successful learners, builds the students’ capacity to learn and play an active role in their own learning. We develop essential skills in literacy and numeracy via a subject called Learning to Learn. This is based on the ‘Theory of Knowledge’ to ensure students are able to think deeply and logically and be creative, innovative and resourceful when solving problems. Further to this, students learn to be creative and productive users of technology in the Computer Studies subject which ensures use of these skills across all subjects. Our Middle Schooling Practices ensure we develop successful learners who are confident and creative individuals and are active and informed citizens.

Delivery of the curriculum is grounded in understanding and applying excellent teaching and learning practices. Research based teaching using evidence to seek continuous improvement is implicit.

Pedagogical practices incorporate multiple strategies including the categories as described in the Revised Blooms Taxonomy to the Common Curriculum Elements. Explicit instruction is a key teaching method.

Core subjects include, English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities (History and Geography) and HPE. We also include Religious Education as a core subject. The following subjects will be offered as electives for Years 7 and 8 – Drama, Dance, Music, Art, Digital Technology, Design Technology, French and Japanese. Students will be able to select 4 different electives over the course of two years.

I look forward to meeting with you at the Orientation Day on the 14 August where I will provide more information regarding our Middle Schooling Curriculum program.

Ros Collier
Deputy Principal - Curriculum
We are looking forward to welcoming your daughters to our warm and inviting school library environment in 2015. We believe it is important for them to become independent users of information, but for this to occur, it is vital that they are given the skills to learn how to find this information, how to select what is relevant, and how to use it in the best way for their own particular needs, and take responsibility for their own learning.

School libraries like ours, also help teachers to use a broader range of teaching strategies. Assignment work, individual study, group research and reading, amongst other things, all take place within the Mt St Michael’s library. By providing this flexible place for learning, teachers themselves are encouraged to widen and enrich their own teaching strategies.

Research has shown three factors determine the extent of the school library’s impact on achievement:

• Good resources
• A skilled library staff led by a qualified teacher-librarian
• Collaboration with all teaching departments
So what makes the MSM library so great?

The library is a contemporary place of learning which is located on the top floor of the Miryam Centre. Opening hours are from 7:30 – 4:30 Monday to Thursday, and from 7:30 – 3:30 on Friday; however, 24/7 access to information is available through the Library site on the College Intranet.

- It provides a dynamic collection of carefully selected, curriculum-based resources, literature and recreational materials in a variety of formats, including access to ebooks through Overdrive.
- It is run by qualified and experienced staff who work with teachers to provide learning resources that support the curriculum.
- The library is a fun and exciting place to be, with lots of things happening; including Book Week, Library Lovers Day, Library & Information Services Week and MSM Reads – a reading initiative whereby the whole school stops to read once a term.
- It equips students with the research and inquiry process skills needed to participate in an increasingly digital world.
- It promotes a reading culture and provides opportunities for users to engage in literature activities.
- Students also use the library for completing homework and research tasks before and after school and there is high demand for our quality printing, photocopying and scanning facilities.
- Many classes are booked into the Library throughout the year when undertaking assignment work particularly in the areas of Religious Education, Humanities, English and Health & Physical Education.

Other Library services and facilities are listed on our College Website http://www.msm.qld.edu.au/curriculum/library/

It was lovely to meet so many of you on Open Day and if you have any further queries or questions you are most welcome to make contact via our email address library@msm.qld.edu.au

All Years 7 and 8 students will participate in Library Orientation lessons to familiarize themselves with our Library during Term 1 of 2015.

Mrs Sandra Mannion

Library & Information Services Manager