Off to a Flying Start with Year 7 and 8 2015 Orientation Days

I immensely enjoyed meeting with you and your daughter at our very successful Orientation Day sessions that were held recently in the Sophia Centre at the College.

As I shared with a number of parents on the day, I feel very humbled to be part of this landmark change in Education in Queensland and was very excited as we finally embarked on Orientation Day after being in touch since November last year.

The range of terrific feedback that I have received from parents through many emails and phone messages about the value of the day and joy experienced by your daughters is greatly appreciated.

The involvement of current students from the College from both Year 8 and Year 12 was undoubtedly a key highlight and aptly showcased the attributes of a Mt St Michael’s College student in action.

I thought it was worthwhile sharing some of the wise counsel offered by our current Year 8 students who addressed your daughters in the student session I facilitated as part of her social development and interaction with other 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
Wise counsel from our youngest students about getting off to a solid start in 2015

There are a range of Community Action Network (CAN) groups you can join. These include: Interact, Environment club, Social Justice Council and the Missions of St Vincent. Joining one of the CAN groups can help you to make friends, and this is helpful if not many girls are coming to MSM with you from your old school, or if you are excited about making new friends.

Caitlin Reilly

The CAN group I really love being a part of is the Missions of St Vincent. One of the experiences I particularly enjoyed was visiting Ronald McDonald House. This is a site where a group of MSM girls visit and see the sick young children that live there. This work is great because you get to put a smile on someone else’s face and it really makes you appreciate how lucky you are and to think twice before complaining about the little things.

Eliza Williams

There are a lot of different sports and activities to get involved in at the College and have a go at. Whilst we encourage you to get in and have a go, we strongly advise against you taking on too much at once. There is no need to overwhelm yourself and not enjoy what you're doing. This way you can fully commit to one or two activities and really love them.

Gemma Readman and Erin Healy

Just 12 months ago I was sitting in the same position as you. I was a nervous wreck, I didn’t know what to expect but was so excited to start my MSM journey. I have been here for almost 3 terms now and have loved every minute of it! I am very excited to spend the next four years in the Mt St Michael’s community. Participating in the wonderful different cultural co-curricular activities available has helped me get to know the different students from all the different year levels, make new friends and have a laugh while doing it!

Holly Adams

I am apart of Interact. Interact held a text book drive this term and earlier in the year we made washer bunnies, filled with Easter eggs for charity. Being part of a CAN group fills you with the warmth of helping people and you always have a fun time doing it with friends of all different grades.

Maggie Dale

At MSM there are three sports carnivals a year - Athletics, Cross Country and Swimming. Now there may be some of you in this room who don’t love sport, but I promise you if you are just sitting in the grandstands at an MSM carnival you will feel left out! Everyone here is encouraged to have a go and it really doesn’t matter how good you are. I promise that if you give it a go you will have lots of fun.

Jacqui Hagarty

Remember, don’t be afraid to ask for help. Personally, I don’t think I would have gotten past the first term if it hadn’t been for all of the great people around me, my peers, teachers and all of my new friends. I look forward to seeing you all next year and I know that at first it may feel a bit different to what you are used to but, trust me, it soon becomes your way of life.

Meg Thomas
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.

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
• Completion of activity focussing on thinking skills

Year 7 Tablet
Handover/Parent Information Afternoon
Tuesday 27th January 2015, Sophia Centre

• Year 7 - 3.30pm
• Students and parents attend
• Presentation on key information for the start of the school year
• Tablet handover

Year 8 Tablet Handover/
Parent Information Afternoon
Wednesday 28th January 2015, Sophia Centre

• Year 8 - 3.45pm for 4.00pm start.
• Students and parents attend
• Presentation on key information for the start of the school year
• Tablet handover

School start dates for 2015
• Wednesday 28 January
Years 8, 10 and 12 commence.
• Thursday 29 January
Year 7, 9 and 11 commence.
Our current Year 8 students are encouraged from the first day, to maintain a diary entry for all home study required to be completed that afternoon. They are also encouraged to plan their home study time for the whole week (at the start of each week) to ascertain the time available for assignment work and study (self-driven review of work covered in class that day/week). Our 2015 students will be explicitly shown how to carry out this process in their first week at Mt St Michael’s College.

In order to prepare for this regular home study practice next year, it is recommended that your daughter begin spending ½ hour every day (now) reviewing material covered in class that day, or spend this time reading/researching a particular topic they may be currently covering. It is the practice of utilising a regular daily study time that is essential to the development of independent learning and resilience. I look forward to working with your daughters again on the 20th of October.

Mt St Michael’s College Year 7 & 8 E-News

Sissi Lilley
Middle School Co-ordinator
I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with you and getting to know your daughters during the breakout session times during Year 7 and Year 8 Orientation Day. The girls displayed enthusiasm and creativity within their sessions and were keen to introduce themselves to others. I look forward to working with you and your daughter next year as the Year 8 Co-ordinator.