School Contacts:
Principal
Craig Barron

Deputy Principals
Lois Staatz
Jill Temple

Office Admin Staff
Julie Collingwood (BSM)
Sharon Conway (AO)
Dianne Pentecost (AO)

Phone
46874222
Fax
46874200
Email
admin@middridgss.eq.edu.au

Outside School
Hours Care
0452 246 230

Tuckshop Convenor
Amanda Ryan
0419 620 138

P&C Association
Meets at 7pm on the 3rd
Wednesday each month.
All parents welcome.

School Motto
'Where seeds of learning become forests of opportunity'

School Values
We value & strive for:
• Respect
• Honesty
• Learning
• Kindness
• Co-operation
• Social Justice
• Self-discipline

---

From the Principal’s Desk

Parent-Teacher Interviews for Year 1-6 families - 28 Feb & 02 March

We will be offering Parent-Teacher Interviews for parents of students in Years 1-6 a little earlier this term. Interviews will take place in Week 6 instead of the final fortnight of Term 1. All interviews will take place in our Multipurpose Hall over two afternoons/early evenings, on Tuesday 28th Feb & Thursday 2nd March. Each interview will last 10 minutes and there will be a 5 minute change over time between interviews. The purpose of these meetings is to provide you with feedback as to your child’s current progress, achievements & challenges to this point, and to begin discussing goals for your child’s continued progress for Semester 1.

A special Parent Interview information note is being sent home with every Year 1-6 child this week. Parents who would like to take advantage of this opportunity are asked to complete the tear-off section of the note and to identify three separate preferences for a meeting time. Because the number of interview times is limited, please indicate a first, then a second & third choice of time that are distinctly different. eg please do not request a 3.30pm and then 3.45pm as an alternate preference. Your booking request then needs to be returned to your child’s own class teacher ASAP - (not the office) - teachers will use your responses in the week ahead to finalise interview bookings & will advise parents of the secured meeting time by the end of next week, ie by Friday 24/2

Consistent with past practice, we will be offering face to face parent interviews in School Terms 1 & 3, whilst formal Report Cards will be issued at the end of Terms 2 & 4. Should you not be able to attend the formal interview times offered in Week 6, you will be welcome to contact your child’s teacher to arrange for a mutually convenient before/after school meeting away from these particular dates. We look forward to seeing you.

Congratulations MRSS students at the Central Zone Swimming Trials

A number of very capable student swimmers proudly represented our school on Monday at the Toowoomba Central Zone Swimming trials. Whilst a small number of our students swam exceptionally well & managed to secure positions in the next level of competition, I’d like to congratulate ALL Middle Ridge swimmers on your good efforts at the pool this week – it was pleasing to hear from Mr Galvin of your commitment & best attempts. Congratulations from us all - irrespective of the result you can be proud of your participation at this higher level of swimming competition. You can catch up on Mr Galvin’s report further into our Newsletter.

P&C Association Annual General Meeting - TONIGHT

Our P&C Association will be holding its Annual General Meeting at school this evening. Commencing at 7.00pm in the Staffroom behind the Administration block - all parents are invited to attend and will be made most welcome. We would value your company and hope you can join us for this first gathering of interested parents & carers.

Parent Info Sessions complete – your Class Teacher as first reference point

Thank you to those parents who were able to attend one or more of our recent Parent Information sessions conducted by your child’s class teacher. We see these occasions as an important opportunity for you to meet your child’s new teacher, gain an insight into the ways in which your child’s classroom will operate and to understand the expectations & aspirations we have for your child.

Should you have a concern or question regarding any aspect of your child’s academic progress, class routine, homework, behaviour, social interactions or our expectations, can I recommend that you refer your initial query to your child’s class teacher – they will usually have the closest working relationship with your child, will know more about their capabilities & friendship groups and will often be the best initial source of information to assist first concerns. Thereafter, should an issue or query continue to be unresolved, please feel free to make an appointment with either one of our Deputy Principals or me to discuss the matter further.

Schoolwide Expectations – School Pride & Engagement with Learning

As a professional school staff we remain absolutely committed to creating & sustaining the very best learning opportunities possible for our students. We are continually striving to build and achieve academic success and social and emotional confidence for all children entrusted to our care. In doing so, however, we recognise that in order to be truly successful, we need the ongoing interest, support & a real partnership with our parents and families.
This said, we invite and welcome the continued involvement of parents in upholding our schools rules, values & expectations for students. Whilst attending many of the recent Parent Information evenings, I was impressed by the summary notes provided to a number of parents from our teachers in this regard. I believe that the range of items shared with mums & dads at these meetings have helped to get the year off to a flying start, establishing the broad but clear expectations for our students. Parents, I would like to share with you today some of the common points raised through a number of the information sessions & would be pleased to see your continued support & encouragement of the following:

**Remember our School Values, Standards & Expectations:**
- Wear our correct school uniform with pride – this applies to Shirts, Skirts/Dresses, Shorts & Shoes
- Broad-brimmed hats are to be worn every day by every student
- Make-up, jewelry, ear-rings (sleepers acceptable) wrist bands &/or make-up are not acceptable wear
- Hair should be neat and tidy and kept out of eyes
- Appropriate, respectful behaviour is always expected - making good choices is always encouraged
- Be a LEARNER – be here, be ready & organised, on time (by no later than 8.50am), focused & engaged every day

My best wishes to all students & our families for a continuance of the beaut start already made in 2017!

**Mobile Phones Policy - Students**
We actively discourage the bringing of mobile phones and personal digital devices to school. Unfortunately heartache can often follow the inevitable loss, damage or possibly theft of these valuable items and we do not want to see this occur for any child. Parents are reminded that **should it be necessary** for your child to bring a mobile phone to school for personal safety/security purposes, **ALL** such mobile devices are to be brought to the office for safe keeping. These devices must be signed in by the student before 8.50am & will not be released until 3.00pm when the student returns to the office to sign them out. Students found to have a mobile phone in their possession during a school day are likely to have these confiscated until day’s end. Parental assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

**Payments & Monies - always to the School Office please**
Just a reminder that ALL payments and monetary collections by students/families are to be made through the school office ONLY. Unless it’s a special Schoolwide/Student Council fundraiser for a specific cause, all monies are to be paid/banked through the school office as soon as the child/parent arrives at school. Many thanks.

**Michael Grose Parenting Ideas Article**
We have subscribed to the Michael Grose ‘Parenting Ideas’ website, providing our school with free on-line access to a multitude of great articles, resources and ideas to support parents in your efforts to continue raising healthy, happy children. This week’s feature item, ‘Developing Independence in Primary School’ provides practical ideas for parents to encourage real independence in children. I hope you find this article worthwhile reading.

As a school subscriber to the Michael Grose resources, we are also able to offer all MRSS parents a FREE link to a worthwhile monthly ‘Parenting Ideas’ magazine. [http://www.parentingideas.com.au/Parent_Magazine.html](http://www.parentingideas.com.au/Parent_Magazine.html)

**Student Classwork on display - this week Prep-B**
Each week at school one of our classes will take a turn to create their own display wall outside my office where some great student work can be showcased for all visitors to see. Our congratulations this week to Mrs Blair & the children of Prep-B for their display of student work which is now on show.

All visitors are welcome to drop by to see the work samples that our students are proud to display publicly each week at the office.

Well done Prep-B students.

Regards,
Craig Barron
PRINCIPAL
MRSS TERM OVERVIEW / DATE CLAIMERS

TERM 1 - 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 17 February</td>
<td>2.05pm: Yr 1-3 Assembly in Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ARL Auskick first training session – 17th February (3.10pm-4.10pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 23 February</td>
<td>Numeracy Workshops – 1.00-2.00pm Yr 1-3; 2.00pm-3.00pm Yr 4-6 (Venue to be advised)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 24 February</td>
<td>2.05pm: Yr 4-6 Assembly in Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 03 March</td>
<td>2.05pm: Yr 1-3 Assembly in Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the Deputy Principals

Students from 6H class proudly modelled examples of the school value of LEARNING at Senior Parade last Friday. Well done, 6H!

Last week’s COOL Awards were presented to the following students and teacher:

Back Row: Brianna H, Laura F, Mrs Stahlhut, Marshall S, Zakya I, Bailey S

Front Row: Aimee L, Frankie L, Xuan W, William K, Skye P

Congratulations to Paige H who received a Gold Coin Award last week

Senior Classroom Awards (Week 3)

Senior Classroom Awards – Week 3

AFL AUSKICK AFTER-SCHOOL PROMOTION

AFL Auskick Toowoomba Representative, Troy Webb (right), spoke to students in the Senior School about after school training sessions to be held on the MRSS oval. The program will be conducted for seven weeks, commencing this Friday, 17th February.
Adopt-a-Cop School Programs

Adopt-a-Cop, Constable Rachael delivered important messages about personal safety and provided Junior school students with strategies to help them keep safe. This forms part of the wider school program that Constable Rachael delivers to students across the school to equip them with the necessary skills to keep themselves safe in a variety of situations outside the school setting. Thank you Constable Rachael for taking up your valuable time to spend with the students in promoting this invaluable school program.

5RY class are proudly showing off their colourful masks at the conclusion of a LOTE lesson as part of celebrations to mark Chinese New Year.

LIBRARY NEWS – Susan Callaghan (Teacher-Librarian)

Incentive borrowing program for students in Years 3 – 6

This term, an incentive borrowing program is operating for students in Years 3 – 6. Students must borrow at least one book each week for 6 weeks, to be eligible to borrow 4 books for the holiday period, or 3 books and a DVD, or 3 books and an audiobook from the Library collection. Participation is voluntary and those students who are taking part will have a special bookmark which they must present, and have stamped, each week.

Year 3 – 6 students whose Library day is Thursday started the program last week and will borrow their extra resources in Week 9. This is because the final Thursday of term is a public holiday.

All other Year 3 – 6 students will access the program from this week, and borrow their extra resources in Week 10.

Year 5s and ‘Red Dot’ books

From the beginning of Week 5 (next week), Year 5 students will be allowed to borrow from the Senior Fiction section of the Library. The books in this section are commonly known as ‘red dot’ books because each has a red dot on the spine and near the school barcode. The books in this section of the Library are not necessarily more difficult to read that those in the Fiction section, but they do ask a higher level of maturity of the reader. If you have any questions or concerns, please see me in the Library, phone me (46874241) or email me (scall1@eq.edu.au)
CENTRAL ZONE SWIMMING TRIALS

Congratulations to the 33 students who attended the Central Zone Swimming Trials on Monday. The trials gave students the opportunity to participate against students from the surrounding 11 schools in our Zone. We had 13 students win their races and many, many 2nd and 3rd placings also. 9 students will represent Central Zone at the Darling Downs Trials in Gatton on Wednesday March 1st. Congratulations to: Regan G, Veronica K, Halle S, Tahli W, Juert E, Zakya I, Frankie L, Jaxon R and Darby R. Good luck at this carnival.

Thanks to all the parents and family members who attended the carnival to support the swimmers. It sure lifted the kids in the pool to strive for their best.

TOOWOOMBA ZONE TRIALS

Students turning 11 or 12 this year are invited to attend Toowoomba Zone trials in a variety of team sports throughout the year. 10 year old students with exceptional skills can also attend these trials although it must be clearly understood that they are participating against the older students. Students must be nominated by Mr Galvin only.

The trials are not an activity for students who have not played the sport before, do not possess a high quality set of skills for that game or do not know the rules / positions of the sport. Should your child wish to attend a Zone Trial, they must see Mr Galvin when it is advertised. Zone trials are publicised over the loud speaker at breaks, on Senior Assembly and in this Newsletter. A medical form must also be returned to Mr Galvin before a nomination can be sent.

Nominations for the following sports are now being called:

- Boys Rugby League 10Yrs, 11Yrs and 12Yrs – Date: Sunday March 5. Noms Due: Wednesday February 22.
- Girls Netball 11&12 Yr Olds – Date: Tuesday 28th February (Final 2nd March). Noms Due: Thursday February 23.

MUSIC Notes - Mrs Laird, Ms Warfield & Mr Stockwell

THANK YOU to our music captains, Koko and Hamish, who have had a wonderful start to the year supporting students in our ensembles and giving messages at Senior Assembly. I am sure that both Koko and Hamish will be responsible representatives if students should have concerns or something they need help with when Mrs Laird, Ms Warfield or Mr Stockwell are away.

MUSIC BOOK AND RECORDER: By now students in years 4 - 6 should have these items supplied, clearly marked with name. Please see Mrs Laird if you are having trouble supplying these items as there are some second-hand recorders and books that can be loaned to students if they are needed.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES: We are very excited to share that we have received an invitation for our String Ensemble, Symphonic Band and Concert Band to join with three other schools in an Instrumental Music Event to be held on Thursday 9th March - from 3:30 pm through to early evening short performance. Another performance to occur this term, is the Symphonic Band will perform on the Senior Assembly on Friday 10th March in Week 7.

BEGINNER BAND: This week on Friday 17th February, our Beginner Band will have their first rehearsals for the year. Students are to arrive at 7:40 am and flute, clarinet and trumpet players are requested to bring their music stands each week.

CORRECTED TYME DATE: Please note that the correct date for TYME (Today's Youth in Music Education) is Thursday 14th September.
“The artist must forget the audience, forget the critics, forget the technique, forget everything but love for the music. Then the music speaks through the performance, and the performer and the listener will walk together with the soul of the composer, and with God.” ~ Mstislav Rostropovich

**BIBLE CLUB NEWS – John & Frances Clewett**

Middle Ridge Bible Club – Meeting Dates - Term 1 Canopy (Special Education Unit)

- 23 February
- 9 March
- 23 March

We meet at the Canopy (Special Education Unit), after school until 4:30pm.

Bible Club is overseen by St John’s Presbyterian Church, and is for any student who wants to know more about Christianity and the Bible. All Middle Ridge students are welcome to attend, with parental permission, and parents/carers are also welcome. Afternoon tea is provided. For more information please contact David & Janette Hunt (4635 7762) or John & Frances Clewett (0402 886 389)

Many thanks,
John & Frances Clewett

**Parents and Citizens Association News**

**A message from the P&C President**

Hello

Just a friendly reminder about our first P&C meeting for 2017 which will be our Annual General Meeting TONIGHT (Wednesday 15th February) at 7.00pm in the staffroom behind the administration building. This will be followed by a brief General Meeting to get P&C activities for the year underway for the year. I invite members of the Middle Ridge School community to come along and be part of our great P&C and perhaps consider becoming a member, taking on a role as an office bearer or maybe joining one of our committees. We would love to see you there.

All Office Bearers positions will become available on the night, with a number of our long time executive and committee members stepping aside this year after serving many years on the P&C.

Graeme McBryde

**TUCKSHOP**

Just a couple of continuing reminders for this term:

1) Prep classes do not order this term but will start Tuckshop from Term 2).
2) The current menu is the Summer Menu
3) Flexible school orders only for Fridays. NO PAPER BAGS.
4) If you are wishing to volunteer in our ever growing Tuckshop we would love to see you. Please come and introduce yourself and join the fun.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should there be any Issues or queries.

Regards
Amanda Ryan 0419620138

**UNIFORM SHOP**

Thank you for your continued support of the School Uniform Store. Our opening hours have now returned to normal.

Please Note - we are currently out of supply of Large Hats.

Regards,
Veronica McKeon

**Opportunity to receive School Newsletter via Email link**

Parents & Community members who wish to receive a direct email link to the school’s regular Newsletter are invited to register by completing & returning the following proforma:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent Name</th>
<th>Name of youngest child enrolled at MRSS</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Your preferred email address:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Complete & return to the school office at your earliest opportunity. Registrations received by a Tuesday 1st lunch break (11.30am) will be included in the direct email link for the Wednesday Newsletter that week.
COMMUNITY NEWS

Speech and Drama, Public Speaking Tuition
Eisteddfod and Exam Preparation
Qualified Experienced Teacher
Phone: Roslyn McIvor 0409 272 597
Email: roslyn.mcivor@bigpond.com
Centenary Heights Area

Opportunity to receive School Newsletter via Email link

Parents & Community members who wish to receive a direct email link to the school’s regular Newsletter are invited to register by completing & returning the following proforma:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent Name</th>
<th>Name of youngest child enrolled at MRSS</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Your preferred email address:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complete & return to the school office at your earliest opportunity. Registrations received by a Tuesday 1st lunch break (11.30am) will be included in the direct email link for the Wednesday Newsletter that week.
Dear Parents & Carers,

As part of our commitment at Middle Ridge State School to engaging with our school & parent community and to develop stronger foundations in Literacy & Numeracy skills amongst our students, we will be offering a number of information and development workshops specifically designed for parents throughout Term 1.

All volunteer / parent helpers (assisting in the classroom and with home reading) and any other interested parents are encouraged to participate in the first workshop, ‘How to Help Children with Learning to Read’ - an information session on our School Reading Program. Two sessions will be offered - the first focusing on Learning to Read in Year 1-3 and the second focused on Reading to Learn in Years 4-6. These sessions will assist parents to understand and begin using a consistent language both within and outside the classroom when supporting children in their Reading development. The use of consistent language, strategies and procedures for guided reading will prove invaluable across the school.

Our second series of workshops, entitled ‘A Headstart at Home’, will focus on ways to help your child with Literacy and Numeracy at home and tips for coping with and supporting student homework. These workshops will be offered later in the term, once again for parents of students in Years 1-3 and Years 4-6.

Because the assistance that you subsequently provide in the classroom and through home is highly valued, we would welcome your attendance & participation in these Parent friendly workshops. Further details and a response slip are provided for your information below. Hope to see you here - we would welcome your return of the response slips to the office at your earliest opportunity. You’re welcome to attend as many workshops as you like!

Regards,
Karen Tiernan
Acting Head of Curriculum
Craig Barron
Principal

Parent Workshops - Reading, Literacy & Numeracy
(All Workshops held in the Orange Room in the Library)

- Parent Name: _______________________________________________________
- I have a Child/Children in Year ___ / ___ / ___ / ___
- I would like to join you and other parents at the following Information Workshops: (please tick)

‘How to Help Children with Learning to Read’ - Thursday 9 February
- Yr 1-3 1-2pm - with Head of Curriculum, Karen Tiernan
- Yr 4-6 2-3pm - with Karen Tiernan

A Headstart at Home: ‘Understanding & providing Numeracy support’ - Thursday 23 February
- Yr 1-3 1-2pm - with Deputy Principal, Lois Staatz
- Yr 4-6 2-3pm - with Lois Staatz

A Headstart at Home: ‘Reading, Writing, Spelling & how to support your child at home’ - Thursday 09 March
- Yr 1-3 1-2pm - with Master Teacher, Fiona Millar
- Yr 4-6 2-3pm - Fiona Millar
Developing independence in primary school

By Michael Grose

Practical ideas for parents to encourage real independence in children.

Your goal as a parent should be for your child to be completely self-managing by the end of primary school. That is, he can get himself and others up each morning; make his own breakfast; prepare his own schoolbag; collect his own school uniform; put any notes under your nose to be signed and returned to school; and so it goes on. Now, that doesn’t mean that kids will do all this all the time, because other factors come into play such as busy schedules and early starts; children will need some assistance at times. However, it’s good to keep in mind that children, when left to their own devices, generally do remarkably well at organising their daily tasks. Sometimes they just need the opportunity.

Here are four practical ways to develop real independence in primary school-aged children:

1. **Involve them in mealtimes**
   Mealtimes are the fulcrum around which healthy families operate. A shared meal is more than food. It’s a ritual that binds people together; it’s a vehicle for parents to influence their children; and it’s an expression of love and care. It is also fundamental to children’s wellbeing because there is a strong correlation between good mental health in young people and those who regularly share a family meal. Mealtimes also offer plenty of opportunities for children to help including running errands, preparing the meal, setting the table, clearing the table, packing the dishwasher and other jobs. There’s something for everyone!

2. **Use pocket money to develop independence**
   A regular allowance is a fabulous way to promote real independence in children. Start in lower primary school and gradually increase their allowance as they become. Importantly, you need to increase the areas that their allowance covers. For instance, in lower primary school a child’s pocket money might go towards the purchase of some sweets and one or two other items each week. However, in middle primary school it might increase to cover the cost of one or two lunch orders each week, their bus money and some treats.
Developing independence in primary school

In later primary school it could even cover some of their clothing purchases as well. The important thing is not to cover for kids if, for instance, they don’t budget appropriately and run out of money for school-canteen lunches. They can either make their own lunches at home or perhaps borrow from a sibling and repay out of their next allowance. Pocket money used well is a fantastic way to develop independence in kids.

3. Look after pets
It’s a quirk of life that most children want a pet, but they just don’t want to look after it in the long term. Many kids discover that following the initial flush of enthusiasm looking after a pet can be a grind – walking the family pooch, cleaning out the guinea-pig cage, or feeding the family feline. But pet care offers priceless lessons in the development of grit, responsibility and nurturance – all necessary attributes for independent success.

4. Walk, ride or take public transport to school
The opportunity to go to school on your own devices was a luxury that previous generations enjoyed. While it may have seemed at the time like something to be endured rather than enjoyed, most people I discuss this matter with look back with fondness and nostalgia.

For most people it meant freedom, friendship and fun. For a short time each day kids experienced a delicious type of freedom away from both teachers and parents – a time to muck around, dawdle and mess around with mates. It also gave kids some familiarity with their neighbourhood.

It’s well established that currently more children are driven to school than ride or walk, which denies children the same opportunity for friendship, fun and freedom. Busy schedules, less child-friendly neighbourhood layouts and working parents are just some of the reasons that prevent kids walking to school. If possible, look for ways to allow your child to get to school on their own. It’s fantastic for their independence and wellbeing. If children are too young, walk or ride with them some of the way until they are old enough and skilled enough to make the trip without you.

The age of opportunity
Children in this stage have an outward orientation and are exploring their place in the world. This is an age and stage for greater neighbourhood exploration, for taking on real responsibility and for developing personal confidence and efficacy before adolescence starts.

Visit our website for more ideas and information to help you raise confident and resilient young people.

---

Special note: I’m thrilled to announce that my latest book Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children is out. It’s available at parentingideas.com.au