MOGS Makes a Century

We are celebrating at school as we have started the year with over 100 students for the first time in over 30 years.

This is a significant milestone for our community and one which makes us very proud of all the hard work by everyone here in promoting ours as a great school.

We have also grown to 5 classes (another first for many years).

Just like Dave Warner (Australian cricketer), who celebrates each time he makes a century, we will have our own century celebration on February 29, Census Day.

So Welcome to 2016! For many of us we return to all that is familiar and well loved. Last Monday we welcomed into our school 30 new students and one very enthusiastic new teacher, Thomas Punzalan who commences his teaching career here at MOGS by joining the JLC team. We wish Thomas all the best and look forward to getting to know him very well in the weeks ahead.

I would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and prayers on the death of my mum over the Christmas period. She was a wonderful woman who loved coming up to school every Monday morning for Sr Gerry’s craft group. Friendships were very important to her and it kept her young. It has been another reminder for me of what an amazing community we are here at MOGS.

We are all looking forward to a very exciting year ahead.

A reminder that Prep children do not have school on Wednesdays for the month of February.
OUR SCHOOL TEAM

Junior Learning Community JLC (Years Prep & 1)
JLC C  Carmela Pappalardo  cpappalardo@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au
JLC T  Thomas Punzalan  tpunzalan@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au
Kerry Young  kyoung@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au

Middle Learning Community MLC (Years 2 - 4)
MLC J  Jenna Howley  jhowley@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au
MLC L  Lisa Pisani  lpisani@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au
Meagan Brown  mbrown@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au

Senior Learning Community SLC (Years 5 & 6)
SLC  Vanessa Axiak (Mon – Wed)  vaxiak@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au
Kiah Miles (Thurs & Fri)  kmiles@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au
Norlene Georgiou  ngeorgiou@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au

Literacy Support  Gwen Hammett  gmahhett@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au
Maths Intervention  Carolyn Stormonth  cstormonth@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au

Performing Arts  Matthew Shawcross  mshawcross@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au
Visual Arts  Gerard Broadfoot  gbroodfoot@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au
Phys Ed  Kiah Miles  kmiles@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au
Kitchen Garden  Carol Henderson
Community Partnerships  Greg Woolford  gwoolford@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au

Admin  Lourdes Galea  galeal@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au

Leadership Team
Deputy Principal  Matthew Shawcross  mshawcross@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au
Learning & Teaching Leader  Michelle Buckley  mbuckley@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au
Principal  Gerard Broadfoot  gbroodfoot@mogardeer.catholic.edu.au

HOME VISITS
Our Home Visit program is a significant part of our commitment to meet up with all families early in the school year. We know that the conversations we have together at home with you are different to those if we meet you at school. At school they are more likely to be school focused, when we visit you at home the conversation is more about family. A letter that invites you to partake in the Home Visit program has come home with your child today, please read it carefully. We hope you accept our invitation to meet you at home. You will understand that it is a difficult program to organise and, where possible, we have taken into account locations and parents’ working hours.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES
Our assemblies are held every second Friday from 2.30pm -3.10 in the multipurpose room. It’s a great way to see some of the amazing things that the children are doing in their classrooms. You are all very welcome to join us whenever you can.
To all our families who celebrate the New Year this weekend, we wish you a very happy and prosperous 2016.

**MOGS PLAYGROUP**

Our Playgroup has started. Come and join us! Every Friday morning between 9.30 – 11am we come together in the Family Room for lots of fun and creativity for the kids. It’s also a terrific way for parents to meet each other. So if you have young ones (doesn’t matter how young) drop by and be a part of it. You are also welcome to stay on after you have dropped your child in class, have a cuppa and read the paper while you wait for playgroup.

**CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSION FUND**

The Camp, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) is provided by the State Government in assist eligible families with costs of school camp, sports and excursion programs. To be eligible, families must have a current Centrelink Health Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) or be a temporary foster parent. Eligible families will have an amount of $125 paid directly to school and credited against individual accounts. 
You must complete the attached application form and return it to school before February 29. The information sheet and application form are attached to this newsletter for your convenience.

**PARKING AFTER SCHOOL**

We would ask everyone to be mindful of everyone’s safety after school as there is an increased amount of traffic on Blanche St at the end of the day. Council bylaws allow for parking on the school-side of Blanche St only. If you park on the far side of Blanche St at the end of the day you risk a significant fine as well as putting the children at risk. Families are asked not to park across the school driveway to pick up your children as it is unsafe and unfair to other drivers.

**BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

We share a Before and After School Care program with Ardeer Primary school. The program is situated at Ardeer PS and is available to all our families on both an ongoing and occasional basis. Please see Lourdes in the Office for further information.

**INTERSCHOOL SPORTS**

All children from Year 3 -6 take part in the Interschool Sports program on Friday mornings. We play both at MOGS (home) and away. You are very welcome to come along and support the kids if you have time. While we always try to win the emphasis is on involvement and being good sports.

**MOTHER OF GOD SCHOOL ARDEER OFFICIAL FACEBOOK**

Our school Facebook page is a closed group for family and friends of MOGS. It is a great way to share the many great occasions as well as the everyday events of school. If you wish to join the group please search for us and send a 'request to join'.

**MOGS SKOOLBAG APP**

A new version of the Skoolbag App is now available there is also dedicated iPad version in the iPad App Store! If you have an earlier version of Skoolbag installed on your devices, you will see this new version as an app update, and should install it as an update. You may already have automatic updates switched on, in which case the app will update itself. It is important that your users install the latest update. Please note also that this Android update requires at least version 4 OS software on Android devices to run.
Is that Steve Smith or Mr Gerard celebrating the MOGs century????

A Shawcross-Cameron-Smith production