



## e-Newsletter – 15/09/2016

*The Scope Newsletter is issued in weeks 3,6 and 9 of every term*

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### School Board

**School Board Chair:** Craig Lilley  
**Community Member:** Alan Wu  
**Parent Members:** Craig Lilley , Adam Miller & Louise Newey  
**Teachers Members:** Rebecca Cusick & Ranjan Parikh  
**Student Members:** Neve Foxcroft & Yarno Rohling

### IMPORTANT LINKS

**Website:** [www.mountstromlo.act.edu.au](http://www.mountstromlo.act.edu.au)  
**Schoology:** <https://mountstromlo.schoology.com>  
**MSSH Blog:** <https://stromlohs.wordpress.com>

### IMPORTANT DATES

**20 Sep** Parent Teacher Night 4-6  
**26 Sep to 7 Oct** School Holidays



### Principal's Message

The Parent Teacher Online software (PTO) makes it possible for parents to book timeslots for the Parent Teacher evening which will take place Tuesday 20 September from 4pm to 6pm in SPACE. A direct link has been placed in the mid-semester report. This booking facility can also be accessed from the menu bar in the school's web page. We look forward to strengthening our partnerships with all members of our learning community.

Next term our long-awaited replacement of the tiled roof of our main and adjoining buildings will start. This work will start with scaffolding around the main building (Building 1) and will then proceed next year, to be completed in second semester 2017. Arrangements are already in place for vacating certain spaces as the work progresses, and a site office and toilets will be made available for the contractors within the school.

The school has sought the advice of a colour design company to plan a colour palette and design layout for the school for several years to come. This work is still in progress and once we have final designs, these will be put on show in the school library. Work in this respect will commence in 2017. Enrolments for 2017 look promising, with the school planning to hire an additional teacher for 2017 due to increasing enrolments.

Michael

### Parenting Ideas

**What do you think when you hear kids swear in public?**

If you're like me, you feel decidedly uncomfortable when kids of any age turn the air blue with

profanities. Swearing shows lack of respect for others, and also a lack of awareness for their surroundings.

Teaching kids to use appropriate language is trickier now than in the past. For a start, standards have changed where many words, such as the F word, that were deemed inappropriate in the past are often heard on radio and seen in mainstream newspapers. And words that everyone agrees are inappropriate are frequently used in public forums, to the point that the boundaries of appropriateness have become blurred.

Standards may change, but the job of parents hasn't altered. That is, to teach kids to use language that doesn't offend others. Whether it's teasing or swearing it's all the same. If it's offensive then choose other words, or say nothing at all is the message to get across to the next generation.

### **Socially-smart kids alter their language**

Socially-skilled kids of all ages will adjust their language to suit the situation they are in. They may speak one way with their friends, but use a completely different vocabulary when they are with adults. They are aware that what works with their best friend just won't cut it when you are in grandma's company. This awareness shows social acuity, and a flexibility to adjust to different environments. It needs to be extended to all sorts of situations including where adults and younger children are present.

### **They didn't hear that from me!**

What do you do, when you know your children swear despite your best intentions? Don't over react. Try to work out its purpose. *Children swear for many reasons*, including to experiment with language; to attract your attention; to make themselves appear bigger or older than they are; and even as a challenge or expression of personal power.

Inappropriate language can also simply be a reflection of your children's peer groups. *"Everyone else swears so there's nothing wrong with it"* is a common attitude of many children and young people.

Teach them that language may be appropriate in one context or be accepted by one group but it is not acceptable in every situation. While not condoning swearing get across to children that they need to learn to control their use of language and adjust it to suit the situation they are in.

### **When swearing becomes a habit**

If swearing has become a habit for kids, *make up alternative words to replace the swear words*. One

family I know had replaced certain words with fruit. They had a fruit for every situation!

Alternatively, use a penalty of fine system to make kids aware of their poor language. When you hear a family member swear fine them an agree amount. At the end of the week or month give the money to a worthy cause. Of course, this strategy is easier to implement when parents join in as well.

### **Take a long, hard look at er...yourself!**

It's also helpful to *examine your own choice of language* to judge if it is an acceptable model for your children. Yep, sometimes kids will pick up their parents' language and repeat it at the worst possible time such as when relatives are over.

The job of adults is to develop a sense of social awareness in the next generation so they can easily navigate a variety of different groups and social situations. Teaching appropriate language use is at the very heart of teaching kids to be socially-skilled. That's something we all should swear by!

Things to remember when kids swear:

- Avoid over-reacting when your kids swear. Look for the reason.
- Discuss with older children the concept of matching their language with the audience.
- Nip it in the bud before it becomes habit-forming.
- Use a penalty of fine system when kids swear in front of you.
- Model the language you want kids to use.

by [Michael Grose](#)

## **Host Families Wanted**

Nara University High School Visit

Would you like to learn about Japanese culture and make new friends? Mount Stromlo High School will be hosting 10 students from Japan, Nara University High School, over 3 nights in October (26 – 29), in term 3. Hosting students is a great way to make new friends from Japan and learn about their culture. We are currently looking for 2 more families to help us out in hosting a student. If you are interested, please see Miss Clarke in the Languages Staffroom for a note! Alternatively you can email her at [Kashaerelle.clarke@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Kashaerelle.clarke@ed.act.edu.au) for more information.

'Pop Culture Rewind' was a great success for the students! Close to 8 months of hard work and frequent frustrations, the performance was a bright, colourful and exciting display of our students' commitment and enthusiasm for dance. The costumes worked very well and the Disco pants, sweated over by a small team of students for weeks in their own time, looked fantastic and received many compliments from students and teachers from other schools. It was great to hear some of the 'older' (relatively speaking) popular hits from decades past and to see audience members appreciate what they represented at the time to them. The students represented Mount Stromlo High School with pride and it was a wonderful feeling to see them experience their success. Well done dancers!!

In the coming weeks, students will be awarding a Peer Recognition Award to the Dance Festival Team Leader they felt demonstrated the school values consistently throughout the rehearsal and performance process. A couple of students will also receive recognition for their efforts behind the scenes.

Special thanks and appreciation to Ms Parikh for her assistance with creating costumes and to Ms Jones for keeping me sane on the day.

If you were unable to see the performance, the students will be performing again early next term in StromFest 2016 at the Canberra College Performing Arts Centre. There will be a range of performances from the Arts as well as an excellent visual display of artworks, photography and ceramics to view. Stay tuned to Schoology and through your students for further information and ticket sales in the coming weeks.



**Careers Information**

**Work Experience (WEX)**

Many of our Year 10 students have completed their WEX placements this term at various places such as Canberra Theatre, Fernwood Fitness Gym, local primary schools and architecture firms just to name a few. They have had valuable experiences and explored career options.

Year 9 students are now also able to complete a WEX placement. There are quite a few students who have already done so. Students should see me if interested in organising a placement. Career conversations with Year 9 are now almost complete with nearly every student having discussed their career aspirations, pathways to achieve these and their plans for completing WEX. These conversations are an important part of our career program at MSHS and I encourage the students to discuss these conversations with parents and carers.

**Flexible Learning Options**

There have been many interesting FLO's (flexible learning options) developed by the 'Directorate of Education' partners eg CIT in the areas such as construction, fitness, hairdressing, beauty and community services. These are advertised on the year 9 and 10 schoology pages. These courses offer all students an insight into particular careers and the opportunity to gain training based competencies that are able to be used in future training programs or to demonstrate work skills to future employers. There will be more FLO's offered in Term 4 and then again next year.

**Canberra College Arts Faculty Visit to MSHS**

The Canberra College Arts teachers are visiting our 9/10 students next Thursday from 1.30 -2.00pm venue TBA. They will discuss the Arts Program at the Canberra College and allow 9/10's to ask any questions about yr 11 or 12 course selection.

**Lake Tuggeranong College Automotive Early Access Training Course for 2017 Year 10's.**

The Lake Tuggeranong College offers a course for students who wish to pursue a career in automotive careers. An information night is being held at the Lake Tuggeranong College 24 November 5:30pm. Please contact David Moss (Automotive Vocational teacher) for more information on 02 61423707 or email [david.moss@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:david.moss@ed.act.edu.au)

### Apprenticeship Information

**SRA Jobs** (an apprenticeship training company) have sent through their current list of vacancies for apprenticeships. Click on the links to find out what opportunities are available: <http://srajobs.sarinarusso.com/Vacancies/Index>

**Australian Training Company** have available 2 x Information Technology School Based Apprenticeship (ASBA) positions, hosted to a Government Department and commencing in February 2017. The positions are for either Certificate II or Certificate III level IT traineeship. The successful applicants will need to undertake Security Clearance which is quite a lengthy process. Interested students should send a Covering Letter and a copy of their Resume to [tharrison@austrg.com.au](mailto:tharrison@austrg.com.au) by Friday 23 September 2016.

### Master Builders Association (MBA)

The MBA Group Training are now recruiting full time apprentices for 2017! This year, they are looking for those who are interested in the following trades:

- Carpentry
- Plumbing
- Civil Construction

MBA ask that each applicant submits a completed application form, attached to a current copy of their resume, a covering letter and any supporting documentation. They are more than happy to come and speak with any students that are interested in applying. Please note that applications close 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016. For more information, please see our website: Or like our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/MasterBuildersACT](http://www.facebook.com/MasterBuildersACT).

### Latest Information

Visit the Year 9 and 10 schoology pages for the latest information and I am available for students to access information every break 2 in the library.

Jennie Sheppard  
MSHS Career Practitioner

## Yearbook

Would you like a copy of the Yearbook to remember the year at Mount Stromlo? This year you can order your own copy of the Yearbook.

If this is you please complete the attached order form and return it to the Finance Office by the 31st October.

The order form is also available from your Team teacher and the school Website (under the Excursions Tab).

Microsoft Word Document [Yearbook order form.docx38 KBVIEW](#)



For more info please see [www.csot.com.au](http://www.csot.com.au)