Chaplaincy at Mount Nebo State School

Chaplaincy Services provide spiritual, ethical, and personal support to school communities. SU Qld Chaplains provide positive adult role models for students. Chaplains are present in schools at the invitation of the Principal, in consultation with the local community, and with the support of the P&C Association.

**What does a School Chaplain do?**
A School Chaplain is a safe person for young people to connect with at school and provides a listening ear, caring presence, and a message of hope. Chaplains run positive, fun activities for students and assist in fostering supportive, caring school communities.

Working with other members of the school’s support team, the Chaplain cares for students struggling with issues such as difficult relationships with other children or family members, poor self-esteem, family breakdown, and depression.

The partnership between the school and the Chaplaincy Service, supported by local churches, businesses and community organisations, provides a network of local support and assistance. These positive relationships help young people to face difficult issues, and provide hope, connection, meaning, and purpose.

The Chaplaincy Service is available to everyone in the school community regardless of their religious beliefs.

**Who is the Mt. Nebo State School Chaplain?**
Michelle (Miss Ting) is the Mt. Nebo State School Chaplain, and started at the school in Term 4, 2012. Michelle has a background in psychology, and has worked with children aged 1-18 in various settings over the last 8 years (after school care, Lifeline vacation care, teacher aide, child care, youth group, Sunday school, and Kid’s Holiday Club). While born in Brisbane, Michelle’s parents are from Singapore, and she has lived in Singapore, Venezuela, and Australia. Michelle has a deep love for music, and has sung in St. Peter’s Chorale and performed musicals with Directions Musical Theatre Company (Kenmore Baptist Church) and Savoyards. Her favourite subjects in school have always been Maths and Art.

**What will Chaplaincy look like at Mt. Nebo State School?**
I will assist in the classrooms, help with art lessons, work with the Feel Good Team, organise the Acts of Kindness Awards, deliver the You Can Do It Program that helps develop social skills and life skills. I will also be helping with sporting and cultural programs, attending school camps, spending time getting to know the students, and finding ways that we can help support the wider community, especially those in need of help. Students may request to see me on an individual basis for support in personal matters (parental consent will be needed for this).

**Will my child be involved?**
Involvement with the Chaplain is entirely voluntary and students choose whether or not they want to be a part of the activities that are offered. Parents will be consulted if their child wishes to be involved in ongoing one-to-one meetings with the Chaplain or in any programme or group involving spiritual or ethical content. Parents have the right to refuse permission for their child to be involved in any Chaplaincy activity or event.

**How can I contact the Chaplain?**
Michelle will be at Mt. Nebo State School on Mondays, Tuesdays and every other Friday (Assembly week). You can contact her on michelle.ting@chappy.org.au or mting12@eq.edu.au.