Congratulations to our award winners this week. Our SWPBS awards are all about Being Safe. Students are learning about safety in the classroom, in the yard and while moving around the school and using equipment. At home and in the community you might continue this theme. Being safe in the kitchen using appliances, in the bathroom using hot water and slippery surfaces, on the road looking out for safe places to cross are all opportunities to teach being safe.

Monday is a student free day. Teachers will be looking at the new Victorian Curriculum while education support staff will complete professional learning in areas of communication and strategies for working with students to support their learning.

On Monday night the School Council met to look at directions and the budget for the coming year. We were very happy that during 2015 we were able to build a new playground and replace the old one to provide more opportunities for students to develop their skills through play.

We are currently holding student support group meetings where parents, carers and teachers meet to discuss priority goals for student learning. The meetings are a valuable way to share ideas to better provide for your child’s educational needs.

Marg Curran
Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER
22 February—Student Free Day
14 March—Labour Day
24 March—End of Term 1

PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS
Congratulations to all award winners this fortnight.
MULTI SENSORY NEWS

How the weeks are flying!!
Students have continued their topic of “All About Me” over the past 2 weeks. Students have painted using their favourite colours, made choices of activities, which included blowing bubbles and playing in the moon sand.
This week we have started Hydrotherapy. If you received a note regarding asthma or epilepsy, please make sure it is returned as soon as possible, so your child can begin this program.
Music with Catherine is on a Tuesday afternoon, and Music with Fiona and Kitchen Garden with Warren is on Wednesday mornings.
On Friday March 18 Multisensory will be having an open morning for families to come and join in with fun activities with their child. It will run from 9:30-11:00. More information to come.

EARLY YEARS NEWS

The Early Years team would like to welcome Renee, Gabby, Stephanie B, Kylie, Tecia, Catherine D and Kate C to our section.
Many parents and carers have attended or made an upcoming appointment for Student Support Group (SSG) meetings with their child’s teachers. This is an opportunity to discuss your child's goals for 2016.
We have an Early Years ‘Welcome to Families’ afternoon on Thursday 17 March 2.00pm-2.30pm. This is an opportunity for parents and carers to visit their child’s classroom and join in with the afternoon’s special activities.
The term one theme is ‘All about Me/Family. Students in Room two have cut out pictures of themselves and traced their hands to make a family tree.

LOWER MIDDLE YEARS

Thank you to the parents/carers who are participating in the SSG meetings to discuss setting goals for students. It is important to have school and home working together. At present all students are learning about being safe in the classroom and playground.
A reminder that Monday 22 February is a pupil free day as staff will be learning about the Victorian Curriculum.
After the spell of hot weather and more on the way, students are encouraged to drink water throughout the day. Each student needs a water bottle brought daily or left at school. On days of excessive heat, students eat their lunch and play quiet games inside during playtime.
On Wednesday 16 March, the Lower Middles Section are inviting parents and carers to visit their student's room between 1:30-2:30 for afternoon activities.
Room 10 students have enjoyed being back in the kitchen garden with Mr Guild, harvesting and eating carrots, peppers and apples and cleaning garden beds.
UPPER MIDDLE YEARS

Upper Middles students have begun Wednesday electives, Tuesday afternoon choir and Karate sessions. They have enjoyed participating in these sessions so far.
Room 23 has a garden.
The first seeds we planted are pumpkin seeds and they have started to grow. We have also planted some bean seeds and they have grown faster than the pumpkin seeds. We have also planted some flower seeds.
We have also done some weeding. We put on the timer to make the sprinklers work and watered the seeds.
Written by Jim Harvey and Isaac Chapman and Mrs H from room 23.

LATER YEARS NEWS

Thank you to all the families, carers and support people who have been coming in for Student Support Group Meetings. Teachers find these crucial in getting to know their students and a great way to form a partnership for best learning opportunities. It is very exciting to see so many of our programs already running so smoothly. Jim has been in to run our Karate classes, with most students eager to participate. VAL and VCAL students have started making espresso coffee under Mr T’s tutelage for Café training. Rooms 20 and 21 have been creating delicious smells with their lunch time cooking program. We are discussing “Being Safe” as part of our Positive Behaviour program. At assembly this Tuesday, Nathan and Matty shared their pictures of remote controls. This relates to “Who is pushing your buttons” and “What buttons can you push to be happy?”. Students have been offered the chance to learn guitar during their lunch play and four students have elected to join in. Information will be coming out soon about a trip to Hattah for Rooms 18, 19 and 20 which will occur in Term Two.

Student Representative Council SRC News

Our SRC made up of School Captains – Ashley and Rivers, School Vice Captains - Jamie Lee and Nick E, nominated Later Years class members Room 18 – Damien, Room 20 – Nathan, Room 21 – Carlo and nominated Upper Middle members – Jye and Matt M are meeting on Wednesday afternoons. This year’s group has made lots of suggestions about how they can be great leaders, support students in our school and have nominated community groups that they would like to recognise. SRC members have been buddied up with classes across the school to ensure all students have a voice in what is happening.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Room Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rivers</td>
<td>1, 2 and 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamie Lee</td>
<td>4, 5 and 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley</td>
<td>7, 8 and 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick E</td>
<td>10, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damien</td>
<td>13 and Darling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan</td>
<td>14 and 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlo</td>
<td>16 and 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jye</td>
<td>ILS and Room 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt</td>
<td>24 and 25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ART NEWS

IT'S THAT COLLAGE TIME OF THE YEAR!

The Art Room is a hive of activity with students beginning this year creating a variety of collage projects. Using glue sticks, PVA, coloured paper magazine pictures and a range of worksheets, students have cut with scissors and torn with fingers a vast array of shapes to arrange and overlap on sheets of paper. These explorations include borders and edges around their sheets of paper, drawing and mark making on the paper with pencils, crayons and pastels over which the coloured papers are then added, modifying images of bunyips by making them look even more strangely patch-worked and altering maps depicting Mildura to create a more personal version of the place the students live and/or work in. Tahlia and … show some of their efforts of independent work that has earned them the Art Awards this fortnight. These students are representative of the various, dedicated and whimsical aspects of imagination and hard effort that are being revealed in all classes undertaking Art this year.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR—SAFE

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

Welcome to the new school year. For the start of this term our school will be focusing on learning about being safe. Each classroom will have a number of lessons they will be teaching with rewards for students following our school values. During assemblies some students will receive certificates and wrist bands. If your child has a wrist band they are encouraged to wear them to school as there is a competition running for students spotted wearing the bands. Attached is a reward chart that many teachers are using in their classroom which may be suitable for home. It also shows the language students are hearing at school.
# OUR SWPBS VALUES

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

## BE SAFE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use equipment safely</th>
<th>Follow instructions</th>
<th>Have personal space</th>
<th>Move in a quiet and calm manner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

*Images and icons are used to illustrate the concepts.*
Be Healthy Be Active

Another healthy school lunch box recipe to tryout.

Apple and Apricot Pikelets

Ingredients

- 1/3 cup diced dried apricots
- 1 tbs honey
- 2 tbs hot water
- 1 cup buttermilk*
- 1 large egg*
- 1 cup self-raising flour
- 1/4 cup minute oats*
- 1 small apple (140g), peeled and grated
- Olive oil cooking spray*
- Margarine spread or extra light spreadable cream cheese, to serve

* Suitable products include those with the Heart Foundation Tick.

Method

1. Combine apricots, honey and water in a small bowl. Cool slightly.
2. Whisk buttermilk and egg together in a jug.
3. Sift flour into a bowl. Make a well in the centre. Add apricot mixture and buttermilk. Stir to form a thick batter.
4. Heat a large non-stick frying pan and grease with cooking spray. Drop tablespoons of batter into hot pan, allowing room for spreading. Cook over a medium heat for about 2 minutes until bubbles start to appear on surface of batter.
5. Turn pikelets and cook other side for a further 2 minutes or until golden. Remove from pan. Repeat with remaining batter, re-greasing pan with cooking spray as required. Serve plain or lightly spread with margarine spread or extra light spreadable cream cheese.

PRIVATE CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE

If you transport your child to and from school by private car and reside over 4.8km from the school, you are entitled to apply for Conveyance Allowance. Applications for the first instalment close on 4 March 2016.

Please call into the office to fill out a form.

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSION FUNDS (CSEF)

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) commenced in 2015 for four years and will provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. $125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students, with $225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. A special consideration eligibility category also exists. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student.

CSEF applications are open for 2016. If you are eligible for the CSEF please call into the office to complete a form as soon as possible.
**SCHOOL REMINDERS**

**PAYMENTS**
School fees, camps, excursion and cooking costs etc. can be paid to our Bank Account, details are:
Commonwealth Bank
BSB: 063 557
Account No: 10080861
Please enter the name of student and activity you are paying for.
Thankyou

**EXCURSIONS**
All excursions can be paid by instalments, either at the school office or online through the school account. See above for details for the school bank account.
Please ensure all relevant forms are signed and returned with payment before the due date.

**MEDICAL**
At Mildura Specialist School we have children who have an anaphylactic reaction to **nuts, eggs, seafood and kiwi fruit** in the school. Please be mindful of this fact when preparing your child’s lunch or snacks.

**MEDICATION**
In the interests of safe practice, medication must be brought to the office in its original packaging by an adult and paperwork completed to authorise school personnel to administer it.

**Please note:** Students are not to transport medication to school.

**HEADLICE**
As a school community, we share the responsibility to control and manage head lice infections. Head lice have been around for many thousands of years and cannot be eradicated. Supporting each other to minimize their spread is vital.

It is important to check your child’s head regularly with conditioner and comb even when you don’t think your child has head lice.

**CANTEEN NEWS**
The canteen will operate each Friday; orders must be completed and returned to school no later than Tuesday morning of that week.
Order forms are available to download and print from the MSS website.
**All lunch orders must be in on Tuesday mornings.**
**Students process these orders: Tally money, give change, and place orders independently to meet their VCAL outcomes.**
**We are unable to process late orders.**
**Thanks for your co-operation**
Paul Trevaskis

**UNIFORMS**
Our school uniforms are now supplied by LASER SIGN & PRINT and are available from 3 Andriske Crt Mildura. Contact person is Darran Seaman, phone: 03 5021 1129 mob: 0429 437 858
For all orders and enquiries for uniforms please see the new flyer included in the newsletter.

**PARENT/GUARDIAN/CARER CONCERNS**
If you have a concern with any aspect of your child’s education, please contact the Office (5021 3311). They will:
1. Put you in touch with the appropriate person
2. Help organise a meeting with the appropriate person.
It is important that your concerns are addressed as quickly as possible.
We now have a suggestion box in the front office if you wish to make use of this. All ideas are welcome.
SCHOOL REMINDERS

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Parents/Carers please take note that there are now new Parent Pick Up times.

Early Years and Lower Middle Years: 2:45 – 3:00 pm
Upper Middle Years and Later Years: 3:00

This is to help ease congestion on Deakin Ave and for safety of cars and students.

STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is absent from school could you please notify by one of the following means:

- Phone: 5021 3311
- Medical certificate
- Appointment notification
- A signed and dated note with student full name

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works, and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- $125 for primary school students
- $205 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
COMMUNITY NEWS

Enrolments now open for Music Together Term 1 2016 - Enrol Now or Come to our Free Trial Class

Music Together® is a research based, high quality developmental music program for 0-5 year olds and their grown ups. Join experienced teacher Catherine Threlfall to share the joy and powerful benefits of making music with your child in our fun-filled classes. Support your child’s musical development by joining them in singing, dancing, musical exploration, instrumental play and good old fashioned fun.

Term 1 Classes start Thursday 28th and Saturday 30th January at the Sunraysia Arts and Learning Studio at 198 Third St Merbein.

Class times are

Thursday 9.30 – 10.15am – 9 week term
Thursday 10.30 – 11.15am – 9 week term
Thursday 4.30 – 5.15pm – 9 week term
Saturday 9.30 – 10.15 am – 8 week term (no class Labour day weekend)

To come and see why our program is growing fast register now for a free trial class on Saturday 30th January at 9.30am at the Sunraysia Arts and Learning Studio in Merbein.

Enrol now for Term 1 or register for our free trial class visit our website www.sunraysiaartsandlearning.com.au. Find us on Facebook or call Catherine for further information 0420939229.

Access for All Lawn Bowls

Mallee Sports Assembly and Mildura Workers Bowls Club are proud to announce that we will be commencing Lawn Bowls program again for people with disabilities.

Why join us:

☐ You will learn the basic skills of Lawn Bowls
☐ All equipment will be supplied

When: 2nd February—22nd March

Time: 6—7pm
Cost: FREE
Must: Wear flat sole shoes and have a hat
Contact: Tanya Wild, Mallee Sports Assembly
Phone: 5021 3464
Mobile: 0417 925 539
Email: tanya@malleesportsassembly.org.au
COMMUNITY NEWS

LEGO CLUB

Lego Club is starting up again this year and begins this Saturday from 10:30am to 11:30am at Life Skills on Pine, 110 Pine Ave Mildura.

All Welcome

Regards,
Committee
Sunraysia Autism Spectrum Support Group
sunraysia.autism@gmail.com