Family visits are happening this week with students in Early Years, Lower Middles and Multi-Sensory areas sharing activities at school to show what they are doing and meeting other families and staff. Students in the secondary years are working on meeting some of their outcomes by organising events outside the school. I hope everyone has taken the opportunity to join in activities offered. Congratulations to Award winners this week for both achieving learning goals and for effort in our School Wide Positive Behaviours of Being Safe, Being Respectful and Being Responsible. We will concentrate on these three words teaching students what each word means. It helps to ask students what it sounds like, what does it look like when I am safe, responsible and respectful.

At home the same words can be used in every area of the home and in interactions with family members. Learning to be safe in the kitchen, in the yard, when crossing roads are all areas where homework works. Taking turns and waiting, sharing with others is respectful and looking after myself and learning to help with jobs is all about learning responsibility. If you would like some help in using visual schedules to help with organising tasks at home please talk with your child’s teacher. Our students, your children really benefit when you show why it’s so important to follow these three words in daily life, at home, in the community and in the school.

Alpine Bike Ride: A number of senior students will spend next week completing the Alpine Bike Ride. They will leave early on Monday morning to travel to Myrtleford and return on Thursday. We wish them all the best for the ride and mountain walk. Mr Ryan Doherty, Ms Erica Credlin and Ms Jodie Gibson will once again take the group on the trip and we certainly appreciate their time in doing this.

Our next School Council meeting is on Monday at 5:30 pm. We have a number of new members with both Fiona Harmer and Anthony Talent joining the parent group and Kathryn John representing the teaching group. Welcome to our new members and I would like to thank retiring members Warren Guild and Patrick Saunders for their contribution in the past.

Marg Curran Principal
MULTI SENSORY NEWS

I can't believe we only have 2 weeks of school this term. It has gone by so fast, but still managing to complete an amazing amount of work and programs.

Our theme of "All About Me" is wrapping up at the end of term. Students have completed many activities about themselves including; painting using their favourite colours, choosing friends to say good morning to, taking photos of their favourite objects on the iPads (with the assistance of staff). Next term students will be looking at the seasons of Autumn and Winter.

Please remember that this Friday is our open classroom. Families are invited to come in and visit and join in activities with their child from 9:30-11:00 in the Multi sensory classrooms. Looking forward to seeing you all.

Monday March 21 is Harmony Day. Students are asked to dress in orange or in national dress.

Photos below: Damon chose the drums in music. Grace chose the tambourine in music. Jakob chose the kinetic sand in sensory play.

EARLY YEARS NEWS

This week in Early Years we held our Parent Open Day from 2.00pm to 2.30pm. Parents and Carers were invited to join in activities with their child. Harmony Day is next Monday 21 March. Students are encouraged to wear orange or multicultural outfits for the day. Students have been learning about their families as part of our All About Me theme. Room 4 has been learning about Easter and completing some craft activities.

LOWER MIDDLE YEARS

We are coming to the end of another knowledge filled, action packed term. Hasn’t it gone quickly! We wish to thank all families who attended our Parents and Carers afternoon. We had lots of fun activities happening in the rooms and hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did. The Lower Middles group has been looking at the topic of Space this term, and we have learned a lot about the planets, space equipment and shuttles. We are finding out that our school and Mildura is only a little place in comparison to other places in the universe! We are going to be learning about Cultural Diversity next term, which will coincide with Harmony Day next Monday and the Olympic Games later in the year. Don’t forget to wear orange or coloured clothing next Monday to celebrate Harmony Day. As this is the last newsletter for the term, we hope everyone has a safe and happy Easter and school break! (Also Happy St Patrick’s Day!)

Cirus and Kira wearing the space helmets they made
**UPPER MIDDLE YEARS**

We look forward to seeing many families at our Family Night at Jaycee Park tonight, Thursday 17 March. We hope everyone has a safe and restful holiday.

In Room 23 we have worked out a way of staying cool, eating healthy food and enjoying ourselves at the same time! We have been making ‘ice-cream’ from frozen fruit and natural yoghurt. To make the ice cream you will need frozen fruit of your choice. We have tried raspberry, mango and banana. Mix two cups of frozen fruit with three chopped bananas and two cups of natural unsweetened yoghurt. Blend with a stick blender until smooth. Place in icy pole moulds or cups with a spoon in to act as the stick. Put into the freezer and freeze until set. YUM!! Daphne and Matilda made these on Thursday as a surprise for the horticulture students when they returned after working outside on a hot day. They were very happy with their surprise!!

**LATER YEARS NEWS**

We are near the end of Term One and are so happy with all the work that has been completed. We hope families coming to our Lawn Bowls Night have a great time. We acknowledge the amount of work students have put into organising this event. Room 21 have been enjoying their Community Access walks on a Friday. They look up rules on the VicRoads website then go for a walk to practise the skill and reinforce the knowledge learnt. VCAL and VAL students have been given the opportunity to be graded as part of their Karate lessons with Jim. They are very excited about this. We have a group on the Alpine Bike Camp next week. Rivers, Ashley, Willow, Sienna, Andrew and Ben will be completing the long ride. We hope they enjoy their time. As a result of a Bullying in School grant, the VCAL and VAL groups have the chance to go to Hattah National Park to do a Young Leaders two day team building excursion with Canoe Images in Term Two, Week Two. This is a great opportunity. Please return the notes as soon as possible.

Bradley – stop look listen and think. Sienna and Willow practising their Karate moves.

**Student Representative Council SRC News**

An application for a new bike rack was submitted last week. Damien and Matt M took the lead on this project with help from Nathan and Jill. They worked very hard to research information. They had a meeting with Ms Curran to gather further information and discuss what they had found out so far. They did extra sessions with Jill to write the submission and had a follow up meeting with Mrs John. Well done on the effort you have put in and ‘fingers crossed’ we get a new bike rack. If we do, we hope more students and staff will ride to school.

Rivers and Nick have been researching Child Sponsorship. They have gathered information, had a meeting with Ms Curran, written a proposal to School Council and as a group made decisions about who they believe may benefit most from support. Through World Vision we are nominating a 10 – 12 year old girl from Papua New Guinea. SRC and other supporting students have been holding a weekly raffle to raise the money required for this project. It is great that our SRC and school community are showing such generous community spirit to those less fortunate.

Other SRC members have been working very hard to create a special afternoon for Harmony Day next Monday 21 March. We hope students, staff and family guests wear traditional attire from a country or dress in orange to show support for diversity. There are colouring competitions, flag and world map puzzles, quizzes, a treasure hunt and a special assembly at 2pm.

A special good bye to Nick E who moves this week. He has held the role of School Vice Captain in 2015 and 2016 and in previous years served our school as a member of SRC. Thank you for your contribution to the school community and good luck with the new adventures you have in life. Rivers wishing Nick all the best for his move to a new town.
ART NEWS

GARDEN OF GIVERNEY GIVES FLORAL BOOST TO ART AWARD

Claude Monet painted many images of flowers during his lifetime with his Giverney garden paintings some of the most famous and well liked of all.

Dylan from Room 10 has been working along a similar path generating flowers as his subject matter for a painting based on his journey from home to school in the mornings. He was asked to include some feature he noticed along the way. A splash of colour from a garden bed was noted and remembered by Dylan as his bus made its way along the streets towards school.

Dylan was selected as the recipient of the Art Award because he applied paint to the entire surface of his paper making his flowers, the main focus of his painting, look complete in their surroundings. His flowers are very similar in their depiction of colour with sky surrounding them to paintings Monet made using Irises as the subject.

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

For the rest of this term our school will be focusing on learning about being Responsible. 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUR SWPBS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Wide Positive Behaviour Support</td>
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<td><strong>VALUES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>BE RESPONSIBLE</strong></td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do my best</td>
<td>Be honest</td>
<td>Be kind</td>
<td>Keep a tidy work area</td>
<td>Follow instructions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence is held annually on the third Friday of March. It is an opportunity for the whole school community to 'take a stand together' against bullying and violence.

The sixth National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence is being held on Friday, 18 March 2016. This annual day is Australia's key anti-bullying event for schools, and encourages all students to 'take a stand together' against bullying and violence in schools, the classroom and beyond. The Mildura Specialist School has registered in support of the day.
Oat and fruit lunch box bars
Written by Catherine Saxelby on Thursday, 28 July 2011.

- **Ready In:** 15 minutes
- **Serves:** 12

This is a quick and easy snack to make for school lunch boxes or an afternoon snack.

**Ingredients**
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 2 Weet-Bix crushed
- 1/3 cup chopped apricots
- 1/3 cup sultanas
- 1/3 cup pepitas or slivered almonds
- ¼ cup plain flour
- ¼ cup caster sugar
- 75g unsalted butter, melted
- ¼ cup milk
- 1 egg, lightly beaten

**Directions**
1. Grease a shallow 20cm square cake pan. Line the base and sides with baking paper, extending the paper 2cm above the edges of the pan.
2. Place oats, Weet-Bix, sultanas, apricots, pepitas, sugar and flour in a large bowl. Stir to combine.
3. In a small bowl, melt the butter in a microwave until just melted then whisk in the milk and egg with a whisk or fork. Add to dry ingredients and mix well until combined. Spread evenly into the prepared pan and press in firmly so it's packed and smooth.
4. Cook in a moderate oven (180C) for 30 minutes, or until golden and cooked. Stand in pan for 5 minutes. Cool on a wire rack.
5. Using a sharp knife, cut into 12 even bars. Keeps well in an airtight container for a week.

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**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.
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 paper work 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 other enquiries for uniforms please contact the school.

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 of Parent Pick Up times.

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

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

Music awards

COMMUNITY NEWS

PACS - Parents and Carers Support Group, Sunraysia

Supports Parents and Carers of Children with a diagnosed Disability. Get together in a casual and supportive environment to share experiences, have a cuppa and a chat.

The group meets regularly, for coffee, lunch or a family dinner.

For details visit our Facebook page or website.

www.facebook.com/pages/Parents-and-Carers-Support

PACS-Group-Sunraysia-Inc

For further information contact—0419 892 730 (Julie)

Come along and join us for a cuppa and a chat.
Behaviour Workshop

Parent/Carer workshops Mildura

Date: Thursday 26th May 2016

Time: 9.30am – 3.00pm

Venue: Madec Community College Mildura, 133-137 Madden Avenue Mildura

Cost: FREE for parents and carers. A light lunch is provided.

The Early Days Workshops are for parents and carers of young children (aged 0 - 6) who have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), or who are currently undergoing a diagnosis. Amaze (formerly Autism Victoria) facilitates these workshops in Victoria.

The Behaviour Workshop covers:

- Why behaviour issues develop in children with Autism
- How to identify the purpose of your child’s behaviour
- How to develop strategies that are specific to the purpose of the behaviour
- How to teach your child an appropriate replacement behaviour

REGISTRATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL – Please go to

http://www.amaze.org.au/events-home/early-days/early-days-workshop-dates/