Cullulleraine Camp Activity Days have been a great success so far this week with students participating in outdoor adventures with Wildside Outdoors. Archery and canoeing have proved most popular and the wild weather seems to have added an extra challenge. Students have returned excited and positive about their experience. Staff praised students for their enthusiasm and participation. Today I am very lucky to be joining Lower Middle groups on their excursion. Congratulations to all award winners who continue to do their best to improve their learning. It is always a pleasure to hear examples of student achievements and to celebrate these at assembly.

It was reported in the media our school will miss out on recommended Gonski funding. This is disappointing and will have an effect on programs and support we can provide in the future. It is always an aspect of proposed government budgets and we can only hope state education is recognised. It also highlights the necessity for fundraising and the wonderful support we receive from the community.

Teachers continue to look at improving teaching and learning and have been visiting other classes to observe lessons, reflect and share what makes a good lesson, how we engage students in their learning and how we use assessment to plan for improvement.

School Council met on Monday night. Two members of the council attended a workshop recently to learn about the school financial system and Donna Milne, from our school council and representative on the finance group talked to our members about the value of the workshop. The School Council parent group members for 2016 are Connie Aldamiz, Tracey Sibun, Michael Osborne, Fiona Harmer, Marietta May and Tony Talent. If you would like to talk with a school council member please let the office know and a member will contact you.

EXPO: The Expo held last week at school was attended by a number of families who were able to talk with service providers and find information and programs to link into. As students grow there are always new opportunities for them to participate in and supports available to parents and carers and it is worthwhile knowing what services can be accessed. We appreciated the many providers who came along on the day.

EDUCATION WEEK: Please come along next week to join your child in activities at school. An invitation will be coming home to advise the day and time for your child’s activity. It is an opportunity to see learning in action and experience activities with your child.
We are still focusing on learning about being safe. Each classroom will have a number of lessons they will be teaching. During assemblies some students will receive certificates and wrist bands. If your child has a wrist band he/she is encouraged to wear it 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.
ART NEWS

Later Years students from the PAL program are busy preparing for their mini concert to be held on 8 June by making posters during their Art sessions on Wednesdays. For these posters they are blending oil pastels to produce vibrant bright colour blends depicting the 'Mega Maracas' they have made last term which will feature in this concert. Nick from Room 21 has demonstrated his ability to blend these oil pastels in a very thorough and diligent way producing a blend that incorporates a range of similar colours. In fact his work stands comparably beside that master of the oil pastel, Edgar Degas, who produced subtle blends of colours to depict a field or an interior at a ballet school. For this fine effort Nick received the Art Award last week.

This week's Art Award was presented to Ali Sue from the ILS Room. Ali Sue always puts her unique mark on any Art project she attempts, producing pieces enthusiastically, full of energy and action and always with a sense of fun. To add to this Ali Sue increasingly demonstrates how safely she works in the Art Room by remaining seated at her work station and being responsible by putting all the equipment away when her project is finished. Ali Sue collaged and painted her own flag which ended up looking similar to the work of Ian Fairweather, a reclusive North Queensland artist who produced numerous paintings full of lines, gestures and blends of colours.

MUSIC AWARDS

All students at Mildura Specialist School have opportunities to access the school music and movement program. Classroom programs are provided for Early Years, PAL, ILS, Multisensory and Lower Middles. Lower Middles also participate in drumming and choirs. Upper Middles and Later Years can access instrumental teaching, choir and music/dance electives. Students are encouraged to perform at school functions, the annual school concert and outside the school. Music Awards are given weekly for students who demonstrate continued effort and achievement in the music program.
MULTI SENSORY NEWS

We hope all our beautiful mums and nans had a very special day on Sunday. Your child worked so hard to make a special present and card for you, we hoped you liked it. This is our last week on our Autumn theme. Over the last five weeks we have: been on community walks, played in the fallen leaves, painted using Autumn colours, listened to Vivaldi’s 4 Seasons (Autumn), and listened to stories about the seasons. Next week we will begin to look at the season of Winter. Last week we were spoilt with beautiful, warm afternoons, which we made the most of. Students basked in the Autumn sun, some students bounced on the trampoline, lay on the grass, rode their bikes and swung on the wheelchair swing. We know the weather won’t last too much longer, as we have seen this week, so we will make the most of it while we can.

EARLY YEARS NEWS

Students are continuing their theme of Toys and Games past and present and some classes are making kites. Next week is Education Week and Early Years parents/carers have the opportunity to participate in old fashioned games on Friday 20 May between 1.30pm and 2.30pm. Notes with more information will be sent out. With the colder weather please remember to send a warm top.

LOWER MIDDLE YEARS

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UPPER MIDDLE YEARS

Upper Middle Years students are enjoying a day of learning and fun outside by participating in activities such as canoeing, archery and team building games at Lake Cullulleraine this week.

Education Week for Upper Middle Years will take place at school on the 18 May between 1.30-2.30pm. Looking forward to seeing as many parents and carers as possible as it will be an afternoon full of fun and engaging learning activities.

Thank you to all who supported our Mother's Day stall fund raising event, as it was a huge success. We hope you had a fantastic Mother's Day weekend.

LATER YEARS NEWS

Students in the Later Years have recently spent an activity day out at Lake Cullulleraine. Despite the gale force winds, students worked on teamwork building skills such as guiding a blindfolded person through a 'Spider's Web' and using carpet tiles to get a team of students across 'Acid River' without touching the ground.

All students were commended for an excellent effort with all activities. There were some standout performances from Damien Timms, Belinda D'Orazio and Mathew Janman.

Student Representative Council SRC News

Mildura Specialist School SRC would like to introduce our sponsorship child - Sreynatt Mai. She is 10 years old and lives in Cambodia.

Sreynatt Mai lives in a mountainous rural area of North West Cambodia. The climate is hot and humid and about 30,000 people live there. Most people are farmers, but without modern tools and skills they struggle to grow enough to feed their families. Poor sanitation and hygiene lead to the spread of illnesses. Many children don’t finish school because there aren’t enough facilities or trained teachers in the area.

Next Wednesday our School Captains and Vice Captains will be attending Mildura Rural City Council Youth Leadership Summit. They will be meeting up with other school leaders and participating in activities such as teamwork, communication, decision making, project planning and implementation. A question and answer session will be part of a youth survey launch.

Other upcoming events for SRC:
*Cross Country Thursday 26 May – Dress up as your favourite hero— superheroes, actors – movie and TV, singers. Money raised will go towards the food bank healthy breakfast program.
*Footy Day Thursday 16 June – Wear teams colours, special lunch, skill development and a parade.
**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 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.
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

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.

Be Healthy Be Active

- Small tin of baked beans (salt reduced)
- An apple
- Corn thins
- Grapes
- A tub of low fat yoghurt
- Water

Small tin of baked beans (salt reduced)
- An orange (cut up)
- Plain milk (reduced fat)
- A small amount of dried fruit
- Corn thins
- Low fat dip (e.g. tzatziki, hommus, beetroot) and water
COMMUNITY NEWS

LAW WEEK 16-22 MAY 2016

Presentation in Mildura and Swan Hill
Intervention Orders-IVOs

Information Session For Community Members and Service Providers

MILDURA SESSION
Tuesday 17 May 2016 5pm-6pm
Mildura Magistrates Court
56 Deakin Ave Mildura
Brought to you and presented by local services in your community

PARENTS AND CARERS

Are you concerned about sexting and what the law is?

The Murray Mallee Community Legal Service delivers a presentation to parents and carers to help navigate the world of social media and discuss what teens may get up to online. The Presentation includes information around general social media use, bullying and cyberbullying, managing your child’s “digital footprint” and the laws around sexting. Sessions are free and can be conducted after hours if required.

For more information or to make a booking please contact:
Allie Collyer, Community Legal Education Worker
Murray Mallee Community Legal Service.
Ph: 03 5023 5966 or 1800 243 002

LEGO CLUB

Hello All,

Lego Club is on again this Saturday, 10:30am to 11:30am, 110 Pine Ave Mildura.

All Welcome
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-workshop-dates/

My Child and Autism
Parent/Carer workshop Mildura
Date: Wednesday 25th 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 Introductory Workshop covers:

- Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- What ASD looks like for your child and your family
- How you can make a difference
- Navigating and funding Early Intervention

REGISTRATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL — Please go to: http://www.amaze.org.au/events-home/early-days/early-days-workshop-dates/