

MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter No : 12

DATE: 13 August, 2020

We value being: **RESPECTFUL** **SAFE** & **RESPONSIBLE**

Child Safe: Mildura Specialist School is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and has a zero tolerance for child abuse.



Striving for Independence

DATES TO REMEMBER

18 September 2020—Last Day of Term 3

5 October 2020—Term 4 begins

Principal's Report



Staffing: I would like to welcome Shana Morgan to our teaching team. Shana was recently appointed to work across the school to fill a leave position until the end of term. Shana comes to us with many years of experience in special education.

Covid-19 Update New arrangements for school operations for the remainder of Term 3

The Victorian Government has made a series of significant announcements, in line with advice from the Chief Health Officer about restrictions to help slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19):

- From 6pm on Sunday 2 August, Stage 4 restrictions will be in place across metropolitan Melbourne.
- From 11:59pm on Wednesday 5 August, Stage 3 restrictions will be in place throughout regional Victoria.
- 3. Mitchell Shire will remain in Stage 3 restrictions



Temperature Checks – Guidelines

In order to support community awareness of the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) and to help identify children displaying symptoms, all schools should undertake temperature screening of students participating in the on-site supervision program while the stay at home restrictions are in place.

Temperature checks started on Monday morning for students on arrival at school. These took place in the library, courtyard, multipurpose room and secondary yard. The students managed well and are getting used to the new routine. The thermometers are non contact.

Face coverings in schools - Guidelines



- All school-based staff must wear face coverings at school, and when travelling to and from school.
- Teachers and education support staff will not be required to wear face coverings while teaching, but those who wish to do so, can. Teachers should wear face coverings in other areas of the school when not teaching (for example, in the staffroom, on yard duty and when providing first aid or taking temperatures), and when travelling to and from school.

- Students who attend primary school for on-site supervision, including students in Prep to Year 6 who attend a P-12 school, will not be required to wear a face covering. Students who are aged 12 or over by Year 6 will not be required to wear face coverings.
- Some students and staff are exempt from these requirements, this includes students who attend specialist schools, are over the age of 12 and are unable to wear a face covering due to the nature of their disability. This also includes students or staff who have a medical condition, such as problems with their breathing, a serious skin condition on the face, a disability or a mental health condition.
- Parents/carers will be required to wear face coverings whenever they leave the house, including for school drop off and pick up. If they are travelling in a car alone, or only with members of their household, they do not need to wear a mask.

P.O. Box 63CP Mildura 3501

Principal: Penny Hale

Assistant Principal: David Wright

Email: mildura.ss@education.vic.gov.au

Web Address: www.mildss.vic.edu.au

(P) 50213311 (F) 50213314

The students seem to be adjusting well to wearing masks. Thank you for supporting your son/daughter to wear a mask to school. I have some spare disposable and cloth masks in my office. These are available for use. Students are welcome to come and ask for one.

Additional Advice:

Visitors to school – Will now be required to leave their contact details and to complete a Health Assessment.

Excursions and Hydrotherapy sessions have been cancelled.

Appointments: Agencies wishing to drop off or pick up students will be required to do so by buzzing the gate. A member of the Administration Team will collect the details in the breezeway and collect or hand over the student. Usual routines apply where the office and classroom staff must be notified about this in advance.

- Last Thursday we were visited by WorkSafe as a proactive measure to ensure best practices are in place to prevent and plan for an instance of Covid-19. We received a report which affirmed our practices. The inspector checked our level of communication, signage, social distancing and access to hand sanitiser. Thank you for your support to implement the changes. Our students and staff are doing a wonderful job managing the new ways of working and are to be congratulated.



- **School Council:**

School Council met on Monday night. The Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy was approved. Please see our website.

- **College Lease:**

Please find the letter within our newsletter regarding the expenditure of College Lease funds. This is a valuable source of funds for schools in the area and much appreciated.

- **Student Led Conferences**

These will now be held virtually due to the new restrictions. I was in Room 22 on Tuesday and preparations are well underway to showcase the learning.

- **Communication:**

We are in the process of organising a new platform for communication and reporting. Details will be provided soon. In the meantime, if you would like to be added to a school family distribution list for emails, please complete the form below or email your details. It has been reassuring to know I can contact many parents at once when changes occur, often on the weekend.

- **Road Works:**

We have been advised by the Mildura Rural City Council that works will be undertaken to construct pedestrian access points in Deakin Avenue at three locations. Works will commence on Monday 17 August until approximately 18 September. We will be affected by works occurring between Aldinga Drive and Kalimna Drive. Vehicle access will be available for all traffic.

Congratulations to our Award winners. The learning continues. Teachers and Education Support staff worked last Tuesday to prepare work packs for students working off site and continued to plan for the rest of the term. I would like to acknowledge the work of all our staff to respond to the demands placed on them by these unusual and unprecedented circumstances. Everyone is working hard to support students through all the changes and to maintain the focus on student learning. I have been very pleased to see how well our students have adapted to the new systems in place. They are to be congratulated also. What a wonderful school!



Parent/carer details for the family email distribution list. There are two areas for addresses in case you would like emails to go to more than one family member. Emails addresses will not be shared with any other parties. The list will only be used by office staff and myself.

Name of student:

Email address:

Email address:

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Penny hale

Principal

NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

This newsletter article is on encouraging children to have positive and lasting effects. The messages that we send them do stay in their minds and influence the way they think about themselves and how they behave. Through the use of constant encouragement we can promote self-confidence in the children as learners and as people.

- Give children realistic responsibility. Through our actions we are giving them the message: 'I know that you can do this.'
 - Point out children's strengths and achievements. When correcting a child or pointing out an error try focusing on a strength first.
 - Recognise improvement they have made or effort they are putting in at school or at home. You can't always praise their performance but you can usually make positive comments about their improvement, effort or attitude.
 - Express your confidence and faith in their abilities. 'I know you can do it.'
 - Promote positive self-talk. When children do something, ask them how they feel about their efforts. Encourage them to make positive comments about themselves and discourage them from putting themselves down.
 - Consciously develop the habit of offering a positive remark when they leave for school in the morning and when you say goodnight.
- Darren Jones Student Wellbeing



THE MILDURA SCHOOLS LANDS TRUST
a Vision for the Future
OUR LEGACY, OUR CHILDREN

August 2020

**An open letter to all parents and guardians of
Mildura Specialist School**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This letter is about the Mildura Schools Lands Trust (often called College Lease) and how it works for our school and your children.

Each year our school receives money from this trust.

In 2019 we received \$38,138.63

Your School Council used this money to:

- Upkeep of pool & employment of a gardener

Trust money is additional to funding we get from both the State and Federal Governments, and our fees.

Every Victorian primary and secondary school in Sunraysia, and therefore every student, benefits from the money raised by this trust. How much each school receives is based on how many students attend that school.

SOME INFORMATION & HISTORY

Our trust was formed in 1916 and it is the most unique, community education trust in Australia.

Mildura Schools Lands is a trust that owns 183 parcels of land spread throughout Mildura city and the original irrigation area. Each land title is leased for fifty years. Leases can be bought and sold, and developed by the lessee, with approval from council. Commercial rental from each lease raises the money for schools. The Chaffey brothers first allocated these lands and it was then legislated for in 1916. In Jan 2011 it became a part of the Education act.

A representative beneficiaries' committee works to protect and improve the trust.

This committee works with the trusts manager (Sandhurst Trustees), the community and the Department of Education and Training to ensure that the trust is secure for the benefit of all Sunraysia students.

If you would like further information please ask your principal.

The trust was established in 1916 by the Chaffey Brothers for local education

Principal Awards

- Room 2 - Indi: for completing 'ai and 'oo' worksheets and pointing these sounds out in books being read.
- Room 2 - Ashlyn: for following instructions to complete work, finding the letters in family members names and saying each letter as she writes them.
- Room 5 - Lacey: for showing pride in her work by independently telling the teacher what she had done.
- Room 5 - Annabel: for initiating a conversation using her AAC device to say what she would like to eat at morning tea.
- Room 6 - Kane: for always starting his work quickly and quietly.
- Room 16 - Koray: for placing the days of the week cards in the correct order and attempting to say them out loud.
- Room 21 - Theo-Ioannis: for settling into a new setting and making friends. Welcome Theo-Ioannis.
- Room 22 - Mathew: for staying focussed and getting all of his learning tasks completed with a positive attitude.
- Room 24 - Enzo: for completing his money Maths worksheet with minimal assistance.
- Room 25 - Clare: for continually showing good manners and following instructions to complete tasks.
- Room 25 - Nash: for recalling important information regarding a shared story.
- Room 25 - Sam: for assisting his friend with creating and designing a PowerPoint for Technology session.

SWPBS Awards

- Room 5 - Deshawn: for using equipment safely by wearing a mask at school.
- Room 5 - Kera-Lee: for moving around the school in a quiet manner.
- Room 6 - Corey: for sharing and using the tennis equipment safely in the yard.
- Room 10 - Fida: for safely moving his chair to prepare for Circle Time.
- Room 16 - Keoni: for independently walking to Parent Pick-Up at the end of the day.
- Room 21 - Jasper: for recognising an unsafe situation and moving to a safe place.
- Room 21 - Brooke: for using sports equipment safely in the yard.
- Room 22 - Jordan: for being sensible when playing tennis in a busy area.
- Room 24 - Graham: for moving off the spinner so another student could use it safely.
- Room 24 - Patrick: for wearing a mask most of the school day.
- Room 24 - Tahlia: for wearing a mask most of the school day.
- Room 24 - Ali-Sue: for wearing a mask most of the school day.
- Room 24 - Enzo: for wearing a mask most of the school day.
- Room 25 - Nash: for ignoring others and making safe choices in the senior yard.
- Room 25 - Mia: for coming to school with a positive attitude, listening to staff and being safe.
- Room 25 - Zac: for identifying his need for a change of scenery, participating in a mindful activity and returning to a working mindset safely.

← → August 2020

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Pies Collected	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

← → September 2020

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 School Council	15	16	17	18	19 Term 3 Holidays	20
21 Term 3 Holidays	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Term 3 Holidays	29	30	1	2	3	4

Early Years' News

The Early Years' students have been working on the topic of 'Me and My Family'. Students have talked about things they like to do at school and home. Students have also explored different emotions and have discussed strategies to help change the way they feel. This week, we are talking about what makes a good friend.



Primary Years' News

The Primary Rooms have been very busy in the last fortnight. Room six has been learning about Natural Disasters affecting Australia like floods, bushfires and drought. Room seven has been learning about China and its people, festivals, animals (like the Giant Panda) and its tourist attractions (The Great Wall of China, and the Terracotta Soldiers). Room eight has been using clocks to make different times during Maths. In Science sessions, the students have conducted experiments to make rain clouds from shaving cream, food dye and water. Room 15 has been experimenting with oil, food dye and water to make Lava Lamps, which look very effective. Room nine has been learning about the skeletal, respiratory and circulatory systems in human bodies. Room 10 has been learning about animals that have fur, feathers and fins related to the Humanities topic.



Antony, Bailey and Izzy completing their rain cloud experiments.

Secondary Personal Applied Learning News

On Mondays Room 24 are participating in SPOT (Speech and Occupational Therapy) sessions. Room 24 students are working towards everyone having a shoulder strap attached for their AAC devices, so these devices can be used outside of the classroom safely.

In the photo below we have Brenton from ILS modelling wearing of his mask in our community.

Shenae and the ILS students displayed their many talents on the weekly assembly video.

Students in Room 25 have been engaged in taking a virtual tour around the world, checking out specific landmarks and describing what they see. Last week students read about who invented the Fidget Spinner and why. Students have recorded data, using the fidget spinner and have trialled different angles and hand manoeuvres. The picture shows Brandon having the time of his spin recorded during a maths session.

Students in the Recycling elective on a Wednesday afternoon collect and sort different plastics. They also manage the collection of green waste from classrooms. Below Brodie is emptying the soft plastics into re-usable bags, ready to be taken to the supermarket for recycling.

Staff are impressed with how all the PAL students have persevered with the wearing of masks. We thank

all families for encouraging their children to mask up and be safe. Students experienced the new safety protocol and had their temperature checked with the new digital thermometers on arrival to school.



SECONDARY—VCAL News



Senior students are ‘kicking goals’ to hit their VCAL outcomes this year by developing and running a project titled, Mildura Specialist School Small Business Venture. Starting Week 5, students will be selling handcrafted products, to the school community including families, friends and other community members, through order forms for each family.

Products for sale include....

Handmade Natural Body Scrubs. Fragrances of Vanilla/Coconut, Strawberry and Peppermint, in 120ml jars.

Handmade and originally designed calico bags with drawstrings (30 cm x 28 cm in size).

Shoelaces (long). Colours available are Black with gold tips or White with gold tips, Black with gold flecks or White with gold flecks.

Homemade Tomato Relish.

Pickled baby cucumbers.

Postcard sized artworks.

Friendship Rocks - individually designed.

See Large Poster on following pages, for more details.



Kira and Shania receiving their awards.

VCAL Small Business Venture

Senior students are kicking goals to hit their VCAL outcomes this year by developing and running a project titled Mildura Specialist School Small Business Venture. They have created an online stall selling handcrafted products to the school community including families and extended family members. Students have investigated, resourced, and made calculations around the viability of producing and selling goods in this business venture. Their goal is to beautify the school grounds with one to two large Wall Arts (graffiti wall). The artwork will be the students' design and their labour. Before we can start, the group will need to raise money to pay for materials to be used in creating the Wall Art, hence the development of this School Stall.

What is for sale?

Handmade Natural Body Scrubs. Fragrances are: Vanilla coconut, Strawberry and Peppermint in 120ml jar.

Price \$5.00 each or special deal \$8.00 for two jars any fragrance.



Handmade and original designed calico bags with drawstrings.

Size 30 cm x 28 cm. Price \$5.00 each.

Shoelaces (long). Colours available are: Black or White with gold tips, Black with gold flecks or White with gold flecks. Price \$5.00 a pair.



Homemade Tomato Relish Price \$5.00



Pickled baby cucumbers Price \$8.00

Unique Postcard Art Price \$2.00 each

Friendship Rocks individually designed \$5.00 large and \$4.00 small

How do you make a purchase?

Order forms will be available for customers to view and make selections of products. Return your order form with payment to Room 18 and 19 or one of our VCAL students you know. Orders will be processed and purchases delivered using COVID safe steps.

SCHOOL REMINDERS Cont.....

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.

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSION FUNDS (CSEF)

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) commenced in 2015.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card (Centrelink Card/

Health Care Card) or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply for CSEF. \$125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students, and \$225 per year is paid for eligible secondary school students. A special consideration eligibility category also exists. Payments are made directly to the school.

CSEF applications forms are available at the front office.

MEDICAL

At Mildura Specialist School we have children who are at risk of an anaphylactic reaction to **nuts** in the school. Please be mindful of this when preparing your child's lunch or snacks.



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.

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.

CANTEEN NEWS The canteen will operate each Friday; orders must be completed and returned to school no later than Tuesday morning of that week.

For your convenience an order form is attached with this newsletter.

Order forms are also available from the school office or can be downloaded and printed from the MSS website.

All lunch orders must be in on Tuesday mornings.



UNIFORMS

Our school uniforms are 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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Parents/Carers please take note of Parent Pick Up times.

Early Years and Upper Primary Years: 2:40—2.50 PM

Secondary Years and VCAL. 2.50—3.00PM

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



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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Regional Sport Victoria along with its nine Regional Sporting Assemblies, including Mallee Sports Assembly are currently working on an Access All Abilities Needs Analysis and Mapping Project.

The project aims to provide a statewide approach to collecting participation Data to highlight the needs and trends of people with a disability. This data will then be used to inform the development of future participation opportunities and initiatives for people with a disability.

Mallee Sports Assembly is seeking data to find out:

- What sport and active recreation activities people with disabilities would like to do
- How people with a disability would like to participate eg. Playing and/or volunteering
- Reasons why people with a disability participate in sport
- What might stop people with a disability from participating
- What would help people with a disability to participate

This is where we need your help! If you are a person with a disability **who is not currently engaged in any type of sport** or a parent/guardian/caregiver of a person with a disability **who is not currently engaged in any type of sport** You can take this short online survey to have your voice heard!

Survey for individuals with a disability:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZH26HJ2>

Survey for Parents/Guardians/caregivers of an individual with a disability:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z37V7QP>

If you need any assistance filling out the surveys, Mallee Sports Assembly can talk you through the questions over the phone. Just email info@malleesportsassembly.org.au and we can book in a time to go through the survey together.