

MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter No : 20

DATE: 6 December 2018



Striving for Independence

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

12 December –District Transition Day

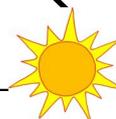
18 December –Summer Fun Day

21 December—Last day of School –Early Departure. **School Finishes at 1 pm.**

Early Departure & Taxis—Commencing 12.40pm

Term 1 2019 Commences Thursday 31 January.

**TERM 4
SUNSMART**



Principal's Report

Graduation: Last week we celebrated with a graduation dinner for all our students who have turned 18 and as young adults are leaving school and moving to education or work options. We watched a slide show documenting individual highlights of their time with us and listened as students made a speech about their future plans. It was a wonderful evening.

On Tuesday the Graduation Assembly was held and again these students were recognised by the school community.

Students graduating from the Lower Middles also received certificates to recognize their move to the Upper Middles area.

Today was also a highlight with the annual senior Christmas Lunch. This was truly a feast with roasted meats and an array of healthy salads followed by amazing desserts. Paul Trevaskis and the VCAL Hospitality group prepared the food while other students assisted in preparation of the venue and the clean up. The skills displayed by students were evidence of the learning that has taken place. Food preparation and menu planning, table setting and social skill development together with team cooperation skills were outstanding. I was very privileged to attend.

Reports will be sent home this week so please take time to commend your child on their learning this year and celebrate with them.

SWPBS: We were very lucky to have two regional coaches conduct an audit of our School Wide Positive Behavior Support Framework today . We requested this to evaluate how we are going and identify our next steps. A random selection of both students and staff were interviewed and we were very pleased with the results. We will continue this work in the new year.

Next week we will have our final transition trial with students from District schools joining us to experience class groups for 2019. Information will be sent home in the last week.

Marg Curran
Principal

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Principal's Award

Congratulations to all Award winners this fortnight.



SWPBS—School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

The Darling Room (Upper Middle Years) students presented their SWPBS Assembly item utilising their AAC devices. Harley began by reading our Be Responsible values. The remaining students then used their devices to tell the school what they believed that meant in the classroom environment.



Art & Music Awards

CREDIT GOES TO HARD WORK MADE TO LOOK EASY!

Harley (Darling Room) and May (ILS) are the recipients of the Art Awards this fortnight. These two students have impressively demonstrated, both during this period and consistently over the whole year, how to work responsibly and diligently on every project and activity they were involved with. Throughout the year, they have been focused on and willing to try their very best at all tasks, quietly and thoughtfully going about their own business resolving their own creative experiments. They have been excellent role models for their classmates by not investing into other people's problems and remaining cheerful to all challenges. By keeping their workplace centred on their own issues Harley and May have demonstrated how uncomplicated and simple working at their own pace can be. Practising thus shows how much they have achieved!

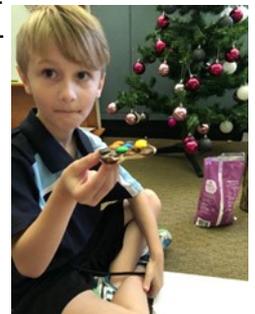


NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

All Early Years classes have begun the countdown to Christmas. Trees have been decorated in the classrooms and Christmas crafts are being made. Last week Room 5 students had a special treat. They decorated Christmas biscuits to eat for an afternoon snack. Students worked hard to make their biscuits look amazing.

Next Thursday 13 December, Early Years classes are having a Christmas party and disco. Classes are making special Christmas food in their classrooms to share with everyone. This is being organised by the Room 2 students.

Vivien with a Christmas hat standing in front of the classroom Advent Calendar.



Bailey with his decorated Christmas biscuit.

Students from Room 9 have been getting into the Christmas spirit – following instructions to decorate a stocking and sew the felt together. Although an example was provided, students were encouraged to create their own design and colour scheme. Students were asked to justify their choices and reflect on the creative process.



NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

Room 10 students have been integrating phonics with learning how to use their communication devices. Students have been identifying items in a text that begin with each letter sound in the first stage of the Jolly Phonics program. Below you can see Kai using his device to express what is on the screen, an apple. Kaleb and Annabel have been working on the short i sound. Below they are finding the letter i on their device.



As we count down to holidays, UMY students are participating in various activities with the theme of Summer and Christmas. The Summer Fun Day is scheduled for Tuesday, 18 December.

We will be participating in the last of our Cricket Clinics on Friday. Thanks to Tasha for running the Clinics and Mrs Patterson for organising it for us.

The last of our transition activity sessions will be Wednesday, 12 December. Students may be working in different rooms with different staff. Please talk to your child about this.

Room 22 have been completing their Design Craft Technology activities- planning and creating. Well done!



We would like to congratulate Katelyn Jacobson who recently completed 1 week Structured Workplace Learning at DeGaris Kindergarten, Mildura.

During her placement, Katelyn gained valuable insight into early childhood education.

Katelyn assisted Kindergarten staff to setup and run activities. She also helped prepare food for snacks and read stories to small groups of students.



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Butterfly snack bags

What you need:

- Snaplock bags
- Snacks e.g. grapes, crackers or cheese cubes
- Pegs
- Pipe cleaners
- Googly eyes



Helpful Hints for Christmas, from Occupational Therapy

Here are some tips for families to consider, as we approach the holiday season.

- Christmas brings lots of changes to routines for our children. Try, where possible, to provide lots of preparation and warning of changes to established routines.
- Keep in mind that Christmas events, parties and concerts can involve huge amounts of sensory input. Consider smaller events or provide some opportunity to have a break in a quieter area. It may be also useful to bring along their sensory calming tools to these events.
- Consider the use of a count-down calendar or Advent calendar to help your child to prepare for the changes in routine that comes with Christmas, such as putting up the Christmas tree, events, and visitors.
- Consider taking photos of all gifts before wrapping, and provide these photos before un-wrapping – many of our children don't like surprises.
- Remember to warn relatives that certain items may cause sensory issues.
- Plan and prepare for your child's social greetings with relatives – such as a 'hi', hand-shake or kiss.
- Discuss the timetable for Christmas day, in advance. Use visual tools to support this, if required.
- List or show pictures of all people your child will be seeing on Christmas day.
- Use a portable timer or clock when visiting other people's houses, and make sure you leave at the time you have pre-agreed with your child, to avoid a melt-down.
- Make sure there is food your child enjoys eating, on Christmas day –he/she may not enjoy traditional Christmas foods, but should be offered the choice to taste

Megan and Cathie from Occupational Therapy Department, wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year!

SCHOOL REMINDER

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.

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

MEDICAL

At Mildura Specialist School we have children who are at risk of an anaphylactic reaction to **nuts, eggs, seafood and kiwi fruit** 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.

Order forms are available to download and print 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.

SCHOOL REMINDERS

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

Early Years and Lower Middle Years: 2:40—2.50 PM

Upper Middle Years and Later Years. 2.50—3.00PM

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

STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is sick or absent, you are required to notify the school as soon as possible **on the day of absence**. Notifying the school of your child's absence either prior to, or on the day that they will be away, helps ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and will fulfil your legal responsibility.

If your child is absent on a particular day and you have not contacted the school to explain why, the absence will be marked as unexplained.

Please notify the school by one of the following means:

- Phone: 03 5021 3311
 - Medical Certificate
 - Appointment notification
 - A signed and dated note with student's full name
-

SAME DAY NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT ABSENCES

New Education Department Attendance Guidelines

Schools need to know when and why a child is absent and you need to know if your child isn't at school.

From the end of Term 2 2018, all Victorian government schools are required to contact parents/carers as soon as practicable on the same day of an unexplained student absence. If your child is absent on a particular day and you have not contacted the school to explain why, the absence will be marked as unexplained.

This system also promotes daily school attendance. Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education, they learn new things every day – missing school puts them behind.

What is your responsibility?

You are legally required to ensure your child attends school every day or you must provide an explanation for their absence. You should let the school know in advance of any upcoming absences or let them know in the morning if your child won't be at school. In order for schools to implement the same day notification requirement, it's essential that you provide the school with your most up-to-date contact details.

Generally one notification will be sent per family. Should there be circumstances that require both parents and carers to be notified, please contact the school to make the necessary arrangements.

What is the school's responsibility?

The school must notify you of an unexplained absence in relation to your child as soon as practicable on the same day.

We will let you know by phone. If you can't be reached because the school does not have your correct contact details (i.e. changed phone number, SMS/email failure notification received etc.), the school will attempt to make contact with any emergency contact/s nominated on your child's file held by the school. Where possible, this contact will be made on the same day of the unexplained absence.