

MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter No : 13

DATE: 15 August 2019



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

19-23 August—Book Week
21 August—Pie Drive Order Forms return
29 August—Pies Delivered
12 September—Swan Hill Sports Day
19 & 20 September—School Concert

Principal's Report

Awards: Congratulations to our Award winners this week.



Sports Day

Congratulations to Blue House for winning the shield. It was a lovely day with beautiful weather and lots of fun for all.



WE WANT OUR PARENTS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

Our school is conducting a survey to find out what parents think of our school. The Parent Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training that is conducted amongst a sample of randomly selected parents. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of parents' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour and student engagement. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.



Approximately 30 per cent of parents have been invited to participate in this year's survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year the Parent Opinion Survey will be conducted from **Monday 22 July to Sunday 18 August**. The date has been extended.

The survey will be conducted **online**, only takes **10-15 minutes** to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time within the fieldwork period on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. The online survey will be available in a range of languages other than English. These include: Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Chin (hakha), Hindi, Japanese, Greek, Turkish, Somali and Punjabi.

The survey results will be reported back to the school at the end of September.

Please speak to our Business Manager, Sharyn Morris, if you would like more information.



Bus: Our new bus arrived at the end of last term and is being put to good use.

School Uniforms: It is great to see so many students wearing their uniform. It is an expectation that students wear their uniform at school.

School Council News: Policies-updated policies were presented at School Council on Monday night and will be uploaded to our webpage. Policies include Anaphylaxis, Child Safe Policy, Code of Conduct, Inclusion and Diversity Policy. Policies will also be available for reading in the front office.

Penny Hale
Acting Principal

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Assistant Principal: Penny Hale
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Principal's Award

Congratulations to all Award winners this fortnight.



SWPBS—School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

Room 18 presented their thoughts of what responsible looks and feels like when they are in the workplace at Assembly. This poster was created by Kaelah and Ethan H.



Responsible

We are focusing on using kind words in a workplace.
Being responsible is "using kind words"

What does it sound like?— A calm voice, not screaming or loud, it is an inside voice. Importantly you must have a sensible use of tone when speaking.

What does it look like?—

Your facial features and posture is important.

You should smile, maybe laugh and stand up right.



What does it feel like?

You should feel happy, friendly, or joyful while speaking kindly.

Speaking in a calm manner

In a work place

- Using kind words as talking nice to others and being respectful.
- Using manners towards co-workers.
- Be respectful and kind to customers.
- Follow the workplace regulations for personal organisation

Art & Music Awards

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN FReeZA YOUTH ART PRIZE!

Mildura Rural City Council is again sponsoring the FReeZA Youth Art Prize exhibition currently on display at the Mildura Visitor Information Centre, next to Waves. This exhibition is made up of works created by the youth of Mildura and region aged between 12 and 25. This year the school has nine representatives in a showing that totals 89 entries of very high quality and original work!



Viewers are invited to cast a vote depicting their favourite entry in the exhibition. Winning entrants, including the People's Choice, will be announced at 5:30pm on Wednesday, 21 August at the Information Centre. Zac's work, The Face, (from ILS) is one of the entries from the school shown in this photo.



NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

Early Years' students have been enjoying new toys in the playground, including John Deere trucks and sand pit toys. It is creating lots of excitement amongst all the students.

Room 3 have been looking at solar power as part of their Humanities theme of 'How things move'.

Students have made a solar powered car and puppy and created a melted crayon art piece using heat from a hairdryer.



In the Darling Room, we have been focussing on NAIDOC Week activities, including discussing Indigenous dance, stories, bush tucker and music. We used stones to show symbols and pictures associated with Aboriginal culture.



NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL



Room 23 are focusing on vocabulary, writing and reading for Book Week next week. The theme is 'Reading is my Secret Power'. Lots of exciting work ahead!!

Room 25 students have been cooking with Mr Trevaskis. Pictured is Indi, practising her safe chopping skills.



For our Upper Middle Rotations we have been

researching Animals. Lachie is using a laptop for his research. It is so much fun!

Term Three has definitely not slowed down for the Lower Middle Years Team! We have been busy learning about Space and the Planets for our integrated subject topic this term. We are learning about the sun, the planets and other celestial bodies. We have also had the opportunity to look at astronauts in the International Space Station living their day to day lives. It has been interesting to see how they have to drink, eat, sleep and wash. Things that are easy here on Earth are a little more difficult in zero gravity!

We had a great day last week on Sports Day! Everyone really did their best on the day and tried really hard. All the practise paid off, and everyone gathered points for their teams. Congratulations to Abbie, Johbi and Jordan for being the age group champions! A massive hooray to the Blue team for winning the shield for this year. It is great to see so many students contributing to the win by their participation.

Last Friday some of the classes of the Lower Middle Years were able to visit the Mildura Arts Centre to see the Red Cliffs Secondary College extravaganza 'Out of this World'. It was a great mix of space, magic, ghosts and movie characters. The students enjoyed the singing, dancing and music.



Responsible

Being responsible in the community or work place means following workplace policies

What does it look like?

Following workplace policies looks like people all working together as a group trying to solve a problem!



What does it sound like?

It sounds like everyone is voting to an agreed statement and discussing activities and issues.



What does it feel like?

It feels fair when everyone is achieving their goals



by Haymib and Adrian

At our assembly, Room 18 presented their topic, Being Responsible in the Workplace. Students explained what being responsible looks and feels like when they are working at Ritchie's IGA in Red Cliffs. It has been a busy week in Later Years with NAIDOC activities, an excursion to the Art Centre to watch Red Cliffs Secondary College concert - 'Out of this World' and our school Sports Day.

SCHOOL SPORTS DAY

On Wednesday 7 August, we held our annual school Sports Day. Students practised events as part of PE and during class time. Students participated in a rotation of activities during the morning followed by running events. The Irymple Lions Club cooked a wonderful barbeque lunch for everyone to enjoy at the conclusion of events. Results were presented at an assembly in the afternoon.

Congratulations to the following students on being awarded champions within their sections:

Early Years – Corey, Lakota.

Lower Middles – Abbie, Johbi, Jordan.

Upper Middles – Stephen, Star.

Later Years – Haider, Jessie-Dean, Ethan H, Lucy.

Congratulations to the following students that received Encouragement Medallions:

Early Years - Deejay, Conner, David, Tyrell W.

Lower Middles – Thomas M, Byron, Tobias HM, Lacie, John, Tyrell K.

Upper Middles – Thomas Mc, Jackson, Chloe, Sam.

Later Years – Claire, Christian, Ashlyn B, Ashley T.

Congratulations to Blue House Captains Lucy and Daphne and all of Blue House on being crowned the overall 2019 winner. Thank you to Jodie, Ben and the Sports Day Committee for all of your organisation.



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



Raising children is a full time job that comes with many difficulties. Raising Children (raisingchildren.net.au) is an Australian parenting website that cover many areas for raising healthy happy and safe children. Some of the issues discussed are listed below.

- Behaviour and effective communication
- Peer relationships and bullying
- Technology and entertainment advice and safety procedures
- Child development and education
- Physical and mental health

So if you are after some extra advice and guidance visit www.raisingchildren.net.au

SPEECH

Universal Core Vocabulary



At MSS, we have been doing something exciting!

Teachers and Education Support Staff who support students that use communication devices, spent last semester attending a number of training sessions to further develop their aided language modelling skills. Aided language modelling is a process where language is modelled on students' communication supports, in everyday situations. When modelling, the communication partner talks to the student while also pointing to keywords on the communication support. This strategy helps students develop their understanding of words and symbols. It also enhances their expressive language skills by showing them options of different things they could say in everyday situations.

Since completing the training modules, we introduced the Universal Core Vocabulary across our classrooms. Below is an example of the words that we will be focusing on. These are highly occurring words that have multiple meanings in interactions. They can also be combined to communicate a variety of needs and wants.

If you would like more information about this or how you could use visual supports at home, please contact one of the speech pathologists, by calling the front office.

Stephanie and Zorica

I	like	make	open	up	good	BE SAFE	hello/hi
you	want	look	more	on	all	BE RESPONSIBLE	goodbye bye
he	go	do	can	in	same	BE RESPECTFUL	thank you
she	help	put	stop	here	some	wait	please
it	get	turn	not	that	different	toilet	yes
who	what	why	when	where	finished	next	no

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M.S.S SCHOOL CONCERT

Theme: Jungle

Where: Mildura Arts Centre

When: Friday 20 September

Time: 10.30am

Price: Gold Coin Donation



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, figs, watermelon pineapple 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.

FUNDRAISING

Reminder to return your Pie Drive order forms to school by 21 August 2019.

Delivery will be on 29 August 2019.

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.



MyTime 'Mildura' Monday Group

MyTime groups are for parents and carers of a child with a disability, developmental delay or chronic medical condition.

A **FREE** service where you can socialise and share ideas with others who understand caring for a child with additional needs.

It's your time to catch up with other parents/carers in a relaxed setting. Play helpers are there to keep your children busy and active. Activities this term include sensory play, play dough, rice tray, painting. Siblings under 6 are welcome.

What will you get out of MyTime?

Assistance

Community

Shared Experiences

Friendship

Connections

Come along at 10am and see for yourself the benefit of being part of a group like this!

Facilitator – Rennae / Play helper - Donna

LOCATION

MFC Total
Learning Centre
(TLC)
Twelfth Street
Mildura
10am

MONDAY TERM 3 DATES

22nd July 2019
29th July 2019
5th August 2019
12th August 2019
19th August 2019
26th August 2019
2nd September 2019
9th September 2019

CONTACT

Rennae Cope
Group Facilitator / Early
Years Inclusion
Coordinator
0455025455

Or
Rhonda Smith

Team Leader Early Years
Learning and Literacy
0400818751