

MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter No : 3

DATE: 28 February 2019



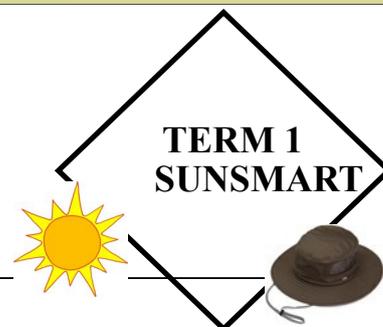
Striving for Independence

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

11 March –Labour Day School Closed
19 March –Multicultural Assembly and Night
25 March –Lake Cullulleraine activity week
5 April –Last day of Term 1



Principal's Report

Congratulations to our Award winners this week.

Student Support Group Meetings: Planning meetings have occurred over the last two weeks enabling parents/carers and teachers to discuss priority learning areas for 2019. Teachers will now prepare Individual Learning Plans. Establishing the best communication channels is important, as ongoing communication will strengthen the partnership between school and home.

Lake Cullulleraine: Day trips to Lake Cullulleraine are currently being organised. Please return your child's permission note as soon as possible for planning purposes. Students engage in outdoor recreational sports and team building activities during the day. It is a wonderful opportunity to build skills and confidence.

Alpine Bike Camp: The annual Alpine Bike Ride will occur this term. Senior students attending the ride are currently practising each week to learn road and safety skills and build endurance and strength for the ride. Participants come from all over Victoria for the ride in picturesque Myrtleford, in the north east of the state. Our students meet new friends and engage in fantastic activities with other schools.

Traffic Management - Parent Pickup and Drop Off: Unfortunately, there is limited space at the front of the school and we need to manage traffic carefully.

To ensure safety for all, it is important that drivers observe the routines of the pickup and drop off zone. On one side of the driveway, drivers must remain in cars and staff will supervise students to and from the gate. Please follow staff directions and move along the kerb, as directed so cars behind can join the queue.

- ***It is important not to pull into the kerb in front of the car at the head of the queue.***
- If you wish to come into school or get out of the car, please park on the other side of the driveway.
- At times, it is busy so if there is not an available space please continue down Deakin Ave to complete another lap rather than bank up traffic lanes or block parks at the Chiropractors.
- If your child is in the second pick up please wait for the designated time so the first group leaving, have parking space.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience at Parent Pick Up. If you have concerns or ideas, we would like to hear them.

School Council Elections: March is the time for new council formation and nominations are being called for. If you would like to be part of Council, please consider nominating yourself or someone else.

Marg Curran
Principal

P.O. Box 63CP Mildura 3501
Principal: Marg Curran
Assistant Principal: Penny Hale
Email: mildura.ss@edumail.vic.gov.au

(P) 50213311 (F) 50213314
Web Address: www.mildss.vic.edu.au

Principal's Award

Congratulations to all Award winners this fortnight.



SWPBS—School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

This week we started looking at our school value, Being Responsible. The following website provides parenting tips to teach your child responsibility. <https://www.worksheetcloud.com/blog/7-tips-to-teach-responsibility/>

- **Giving them chores appropriate to their age:** make chores a regular part of the household routine and make sure they get done. Raising your child with the expectation that they always clean up their own mess.
- **Rewarding responsible behaviour:** giving gratification when deserved, which builds a healthy self-esteem and pride in being responsible.
- **Set a routine and adhere to it:** setting rules and limits helps a child to learn basic skills through repetition.
- **Help your child** to have a check list of their responsibilities, cementing a routine and teaching accountability.
- **Allowing your child to do things themselves:** you want your child to accept ownership so you need to let go and let them “do it their way”, even if it means remaking the bed. This will encourage a feeling of pride and it also opens them to failure. Parents need to know when failure is good and when a child needs guidance or support.
- **Don't rush to bail your child out of a difficult situation:** Your child needs to learn the satisfaction of contribution and solving their own problems. **You need to be the role model:** remember your child looks to you as their role model, so you need to model responsibility and accountability. Always keep your promises and never make excuses.



Karen Gardiner



Art & Music Awards

ART AWARD BACKLOG!

Students have returned to the Art Room with enthusiasm, excitement and ready to try their best at all tasks and challenges presented to them. It is always uplifting to watch them arrive at the door, all eager to see what new discoveries and surprises await them on the other side of that threshold!

This term all classes have commenced with painting and Art Awards have been presented this week at Assembly for initiative, willingness to try something new and just plain old self-direction. Tahlia from the Darling Room has shown great independent application of paint, Jorja from Room 25 has stuck with the challenge of doing something a little different and Benjamin from Room 6 has just had fun applying paint and staying at the task for the entire session. Well done to you and to all students for such a positive start to the year!



NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

This week Room One and Room 16 shared an art activity. The students used fine motor skills to spray paint onto a sheet to create water colour art. Clayton and Indy enjoyed the book 'The Clown'. Paige and Antony have been learning about Australian animals and have created a book with the class. Students in Room One have been collecting data for a data display on what flavour ice cream is people's favourite. Nate's favourite ice-cream is chocolate!



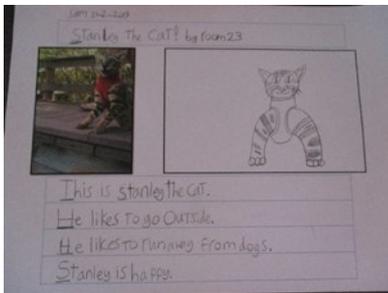
Lower Middle Years' students have begun our two week swimming lesson intensive. We are all very excited and motivated to show our swimming skills and get into the pool every afternoon. We are encouraging all students to bring pyjamas or a track suit on the Thursday lesson of both weeks to experience survival swimming skills, where the students will go into the pool wearing their clothes over their bathers. This will allow the students to feel the weight of the clothes in water and explore how to remove the clothes if they are presented with a similar situation on the water.



NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

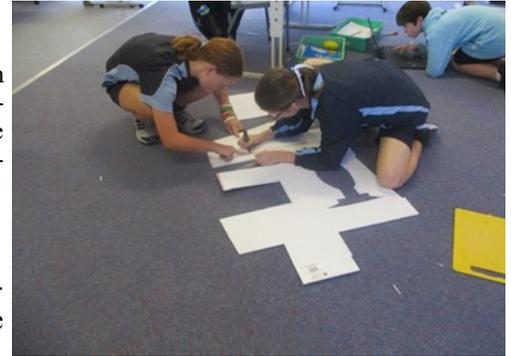
Upper Middle Years' students have completed two weeks of subject rotations on a Friday morning. Sarah teaches Health and PE, James teaches Science / Design and Technology and Frances teaches Digital Technologies. All students are being exposed to all subject areas.

Room 23 have worked hard on guided writing. Last week we wrote a story about a funny cat named Stanley.



Pictured is Sam's story about Stanley.

Pictured are Rebecca and Jorja from Room 25 measuring shapes for their Solar Car design. Students are enjoying the process and are making some really innovative designs.



In Room 22 for Literacy we have begun writing recounts. The topic for this week was the rapid decline of insects. Students were shocked to find out just how many insect species are in decline.

The students are applying paragraph and sentence construction skills taught in previous lessons to their recount.

Year 10 VCAL students have started attending Ritchie's IGA Red Cliffs on Fridays, to practise the skills they have learned in class.

This week Personal and Applied Learning (PAL) classes have been focusing on Clean up Australia and learning about recycling papers, cardboard, plastics and aluminium. We visited Integrated recycling on Wednesday, to see what becomes of these items and how they are broken down.

Some staff from Mildura Specialist School are participating in 'Relay for Life' on Saturday 23 March. We have entered two teams, *Deb's Team* and *KJ's Clan*, to walk and raise money for cancer research.



National Day of Action – Bullying No Way!



The **National Day of Action (NDA)** against Bullying and Violence is an important day in the school calendar to join with other schools across Australia to say **'Bullying. No Way!'** Mildura Specialist School is joining the nationwide movement and standing together against bullying with schools across Australia on **Friday 15 March 2019**. The theme for the NDA 2019 is: **Bullying. No Way! Take action every day.** The school plans to have classroom discussion and other activities providing students with the opportunity to learn and develop skills on bullying. If you'd like further information regarding the day visit: <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au> or contact Darren Jones – Student Wellbeing Coordinator.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Sleep and the Beginning of the School Year

Children are usually tired after school, especially at the beginning of the school year. They need about 10 to 11 hours of sleep each night from around 7:30 pm. Getting a good night's sleep helps your child to be ready for school the next day and keeps them healthy by strengthening their immune system.



What parents can do

A bedtime routine is very important. It helps kids wind down at the end of the day and settles them before going to sleep. Things to try:

- o Put them to bed and get them up at the same time each day. Predictability helps children feel secure.
- o Help your child to wind down about an hour before bedtime. Turn off the television and electronic devices, and encourage quiet activities. Reading to or with them can really help.
- o Quietly chatting about what happened during their day at school will also help your child to express any events or worries they may have before going to sleep.
- o If they are not sleeping well, ask yourself if they are getting enough exercise. If not, do what you can to tire them out!

PRIVATE CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE

If you transport your child to and from school by private car and reside over 4.8km from the school, you are entitled to apply for Conveyance Allowance. Applications for the first instalment close on 8 March 2019.

Please call into the office to fill out a form.

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.

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Would you like to be part of our Hook in2 Hockey? Come to our Come and Try sessions to see if hockey is for you. They are Saturday 16th February at 9am-10am or Wednesday 20 February at 6pm-7pm.

Sunraysia Hockey Association is running two Hook in2 Hockey Programs - one on Saturdays 9-10am and one on Wednesdays 6-7pm. Both programs run for 8 weeks with week one including a Come and Try session. The program is held at Sunraysia Hockey grounds at the Old Aerodrome Ovals on Eleventh Street, Gate C

This experience will introduce new players to a game that provides fun, friendship, and teamwork.

It is an action-packed and fun-filled one-hour session that will show players how exciting hockey can be.

For more information please contact Sunraysia Hockey through sunraysiahockey@gmail.com or Renee Drelaud on 0448936566.



Tennis for All Program



Mildura Lawn Tennis club has a Social Tennis Program for People with Disabilities. The program will run from February and early April 2019

Day: Wednesday's

Date: 6th February to 3rd April 2019

Time: 6—7pm

Location: Mildura Lawn Tennis Club, Hugh King Drive, Mildura.

Cost: \$6 per non-club member

What to bring: Water, Hat and Sunscreen.

Tennis equipment will be supplied but participants are welcome to bring their own racquet if they have one.

Contact Tanya Wild at Mallee Sports Assembly for further information, or to register your interest.

101-101A Ninth Street

Phone: (03) 5021 3464

Fax: (03) 5021 3509

PO Box 2316 Mildura, 3502

E-mail: tanya@malleesportsassembly.org.au

Walk Wentworth Sing 2019

Walk Wentworth Sing Singing and Instrumental Workshops with James Rigby

James Rigby is a highly respected singing facilitator, sought-after Australia-wide for his warm, inviting style and exceptional skills in getting a group of people singing, laughing, and making gorgeous harmony in minutes.

He has a huge repertoire of songs to share, and specialises in arranging contemporary Australian songs of depth and meaning, for choirs.

Come and join James this year in Wentworth to gather with other singers and instrumentalists and learn a bunch of songs, including some we will prepare to perform as a massed-choir and ensemble at the 6th Annual Walk Wentworth Sing concert on Sunday 19th May 2019 at the Wentworth Town Hall. You don't need to be a member of a choir or band in order to come and sing and play with us – and you can come just for the workshops, if you want ... no experience needed!

Workshops 16th – 17th March 2019

There will be singing workshops on

Sunday 17th March – 2.30-4.30pm at Museum of Innocence

and an instrumental workshop on

Sunday 17th March – 11.30-1.30pm at Museum of Innocence

Come and join us – all welcome!

Expect to have a great sing and play, and go home feeling uplifted, with warmth in your soul and a smile in your heart!

Register on enquiries@sunraysiaartsandlearning.com.au or 0420939229



Want to try Hockey?

The 2019 hockey season is quickly approaching and the Mildura Wanderers Hockey Club is looking for new members. The club has a strong family focus with teams for all ages and gender.

Come and try day - Thursday 14th March

8-14 boys & 11-15 girls – 5pm

15+ boys & 16+ Girls & all adults – 6pm

Old Aerodrome Sporting Complex, 11th Street Mildura

Contact Wendy Kelly 0488 041 965 or mildurawanderershc@hotmail.com