

MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter No : 13

DATE: 25 August, 2022



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

31 August—Sports Day
8 September—Swan Hill Sports Day
9 September—Professional Practice Day—No students required at school
16 September—Last day of Term 3—Early departure.
3 October—1st day of Term 4.
31 October—Pupil Free Day— No students required at school.
1 November—Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday—No school
20 December—Last Day of Term 4.

TERM 3

Principal's Report



Assembly Congratulations to our award winners this past fortnight. Thank you to room 17 students for running the assembly. It was lovely to see the students showcasing how they are responsible by lining up, putting equipment away, sitting nicely when waiting to return to class after play, washing hands and cleaning tables after eating. Well done!

Congratulations to Paul Trevaskis and his drumming group who recently performed in The Beat. Fantastic work!



Building Project - Members of the design team have met on site to discuss big picture plans moving forward with our building project to replace the relocatable buildings and upgrade the Independent Living Skills building. Time has been spent reviewing the current usage of spaces. There will be more opportunities very soon for parent /carer input through various means. If you have any thoughts or ideas at any time, please let me know.

Professional Practice Day

Friday 9 September, 2022. Students do not attend on this day.



Book Week – Students are encouraged to dress up on Friday 26 August. **Please dress for the weather and ensure no weapons are part of the costume.** Some classes will be involved in buddy reading activities. There will not be a whole school parade this year.

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

Please note: The Department (which includes our school) does not have accident insurance. Items of personal property that are lost, stolen or damaged at school are not the responsibility of Mildura Specialist School or the Department. Staff and students are reminded not to bring items of value to school.



Sports Day – We are looking forward to Sports Day on 31 August. It will be a wonderful opportunity for House Captains to lead their teams during a fun day of rotating short activities followed by running and relay races. Parents and carers are welcome to come along to cheer! Following this event, students over 12 years old, who wish to attend, will be participating in the interschool sporting day at Swan Hill on Thursday 8 September.

Before and After School Arrival and Departure

Staff are on duty from 8.45am for a 9.00am start every morning. Students arriving before this time wait in the breezeway where staff can observe from the office. After school students are supervised in the office, once the parent pick up/drop off gates close at 3pm. It is an expectation that students waiting before and after school abide by the school rules and values of being respectful, responsible and safe.

Bullying Prevention and Response / Safe Conversations and Play



The good news is that MSS incident data has shown a decrease this year. Congratulations to all staff and students. I have noticed in the past months that students are actively speaking up in class and talking to staff if they feel unsafe. Our work to explicitly teach our values and the vocabulary to explain our emotions seems to be having a positive effect.

Recently it has been reported that some students are exchanging comments about family members during the day at school and sometimes on social media. Staff are working with students to talk about and resolve their concerns.

We are also actively teaching students that bullying is also making physical gestures and threats to harm staff and students. Everyone has the right to feel safe psychologically and physically – we work towards this every day with explicit teaching and restorative conversations. Sometimes students engage in a joke or play which can be misinterpreted and develop into something bigger than intended. Upper Primary teachers have been holding regular circle time discussions with students where they are involved in decision making about being safe.

The MSS Bullying Prevention Policy is available on our website and also from the front office. Please call the school to speak to your child's teacher, team leader or myself if you have any concerns.

Bully Stoppers <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/what.aspx>

Bullying can happen at school, at home or online. It is never okay and it is not a normal part of growing up.

There is a new nationally agreed definition of bullying which all Australian schools now use:

Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening.

Bullying can happen in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert). Bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example, through sharing of digital records).

Bullying of any form or for any reason can have immediate, medium and long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders. Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.



Penny Hale
Principal

Allied Health News



SSR IPADS



The covers for our SSR iPad's have arrived and are looking fantastic, a big thank you to Wings For Kids for funding these. Once they have been loaded with their apps they will be distributed to their allocated students next week!

Speech Pathology Week is here!



It is book week this week, celebrating the importance of books for our children's learning and development. Engaging the whole body in reading is a great way to engage children and facilitate understanding, the below flyer highlights some fantastic ways to do this with your children.

Touch and play

- See and understand**
 - Point to words and pictures as you read. This helps the child to know we say the words we read.
 - Point to words in different languages and let the child look at how words look at sound different.
- Speak and say**
 - Read the same story for a week. Children take time to understand and learn. After you have read a story few times, stop and wait at certain parts for your child to join.
- Connect and love the story**
 - Choose books that match your child's interests e.g. animals, songs, cars.
 - You don't have to read the story, but you can use words to talk about what your child is looking and pointing at.
 - Connect the story to real life, for example -if the story is about making a cake make a cake after the story.
- Hear and understand**
 - Read books and tell stories in different languages.
 - Sing the words of the story and make voices so the child is interested in the characters.
 - Read the same story for a week. Children take time to understand and learn.
 - Talk about new words and explain by showing them what it means using pictures and actions.
 - Repeat new words in everyday activities.
- Act and move**
 - Let the child be comfortable as they read. They can stand or move while you read.
 - Act out stories as you read. If the story has action words you can stop and act out the words in the story together to help the child experience and understand the story.

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DIVERSITY KIDS INNOVATIVE INCLUSION SUPPORT | TALKING TRUMPETS SPEECH THERAPY SERVICES

Proudly produced by Nisrine El-Chouefati, speech pathologist in Partnership with Diversity Kids

Speech Pathology Australia are striving to promote good communication which will have a positive effect on communities so the theme for this week is 'Good Communication, Better Communities'.

Did You Know?
There are 1.2 million Australians with a communication disability.

One in 7 Australians with communication disability needs formal assistance with communication.

People communicate in a variety of ways, including...

- sign language
- picture boards or books
- word boards or books
- electronic speech devices

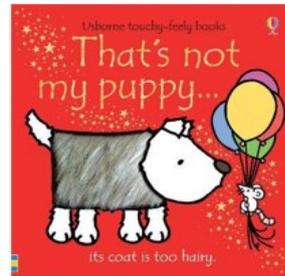
Speech Pathology Australia

Through the use of AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) we are able to facilitate better communication in our community. The forms of communication can be with the use of picture boards, electronic devices, sign language making it a versatile way to help our students to communicate effectively.

Reading with your AAC

Using an AAC device while reading a book can be a wonderful way to make the activity engaging and enjoyable, breaking it down to highlight key language in the story or facilitating the actions of reading by modelling words, such as 'open', 'look', 'turn'.

In the following video Dr. Ljora Ballin uses AAC to read 'That's not my puppy' by Fiona Watt, use the QR code or click on the link to watch.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGGg15PQ_s&t=107s

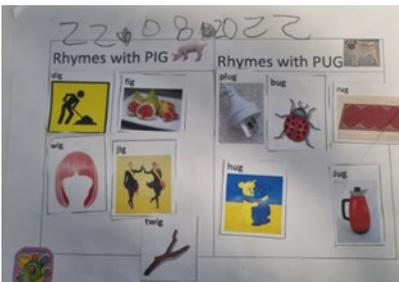
Thanks, Sophie Bell, Speech Pathology Student

EARLY YEARS' NEWS

During the last couple of weeks we have enjoyed the Didjeribone Incursion and exploring the dinosaur fossils from the Victorian museum. At the Didjeribone performance students enjoyed the music listening out for the different sounds such as kookaburra, dingoes and a howling wind. Elli from Victoria Museum was very enthusiastic about the dinosaur fossils and the students enjoyed feeling the different fossils learning about the horn of the Triceratops and jaw bone of some other different dinosaurs.



UPPER PRIMARY YEARS' NEWS



This week in the Upper Primary section we have been looking at words that rhyme. In room 6 we read the book "Pig the Pug" and then looked for words rhyming with the words pig or pug.



Room 15 students have been learning about underwater habitats in Science sessions.



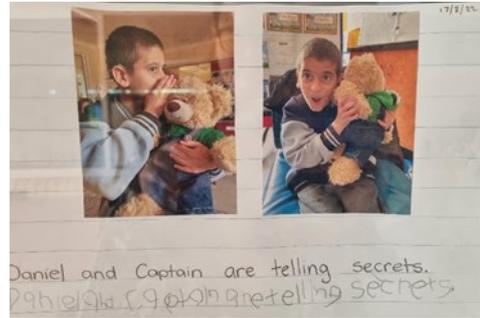
In Health sessions room 9 students have been learning about the human body



After our incursion from Tjupurru, of the Djabera Djabera people, Room 8 made didgeridoos.

Room 4 enjoyed a special guest in their room, Teddy.

We are looking forward to the upcoming dress up day for Book Week this Friday.



SECONDARY PreCAL NEWS

Room 21 students have been involved in a Badminton workshop for the past two Monday mornings. They practised a variety of skills needed to play the sport. The lady explained how to hold the racquet using basic grip and thumb grip. Below are Gabe and Logan demonstrating. They practised with balloons first, then with shuttlecocks. Students have really enjoyed these sessions. PreCAL students have also been busy organising for Student Led Conferences. It will be fantastic having families in to share the fantastic learning we have been doing.



SECONDARY—VCAL NEWS

Our VCAL section has been busy over the past two weeks here are just a few highlights. Room 18 and 19 had another challenging work out at The Weight Buffet.

We enjoyed the Didjeribone incursion last week. Stephen is pictured rapping with the performer. VicMuseum visited our school on Thursday. Our students enjoyed the history and display of dinosaur bones and fossils.

Last week, VCAL students also investigated healthy smoothie recipes and used the Smoothie bike, to mix the ingredients.



Our local Community Police Rachael and Gavin visited to speak about Drugs and Laws last Monday.

10000 Steps Challenge 2022

Our VCAL staff team, Walking to the Beat went for a long walk last weekend, to clock up our steps for the ten thousand step challenge.



ART

CULTURAL VISITORS TO OUR SCHOOL...

MSS was fortunate to be visited by three different types of learning opportunities, two as performances and one as display. These were the Australian Ballet, School Performance Tours and VIC Museums. Students were informed, educated and entertained by members of the AB who generously provided workshops for Secondary students in movement and exercise then put on a performance in the afternoon depicting the story of two frogs, Pomingalarma and Gobbagumbalin, for the whole school. This was followed two days later with a most engaging performance by Tjupurru and his Didjeribone, which he played and encouraged students to participate in his stories and music style. Finally in this past week Melbourne Museum presented a most eagerly awaited hands-on info-fest about dinosaurs and what is on display for the next visit you make to Melbourne! Students were curious, focused and appreciative to all aspects of these visits.



For primary aged students
(Kinder to Grade 5).

Contact 50231201

Tuesday 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm

ADVENTURE CLUB

The fun continues on a Tuesday with our Adventure Kids Program - Adventure Club. Adventure Club is an action packed after school program that runs from 5:00 to 7:00 every Tuesday night during the school term.

Come along to enjoy fun games, crafts, songs, memory verses, interactive bible teachings and dinner.

Cost is \$5 per kid or \$10 per family

AUGUST 2022

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 School Council	9 Lunch orders due in.	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Lunch orders due in.	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Lunch orders due in.	24 THE BEAT	25	26	27
28	29	30 Lunch orders due in.	31 Sports Day			

september 2022

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 LABOR DAY	6 Lunch orders due in.	7	8 Swan Hill Sports Day	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 End of Term 3. Early departure. Footy Day	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
.....SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.....						
25	26	27	28	29	30	
.....SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.....						

SCHOOL REMINDERS

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.

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

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.

MEDICAL

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





Early Help for Families

Supporting you and your children

- Do you have a child aged between 0 and 12 years of age?
- Do you have some worries about your child or your family?
- Do you want to be the best parent that you can be?
- Are you looking for connections in your community?
- Do you want to feel better about yourself and your relationships?
- Are you struggling to meet your family's needs?

We're here to help you find ways to make things better for you and your family.

Contact Early Help for Families:

Mallee Family Care
EHFSContakt@malleefamilycare.com.au
5023 5966

Murray Valley Aboriginal Corporation
Calvin.henry@mvac.org.au
5026 3353

mfc
malleefamilycare



ourplace
education is the key to the door



BREAD TAGS FOR WHEELCHAIRS



Please save your bread tags – they will be recycled to fund wheelchairs, mainly in South Africa.



We collect bread tags Australia-wide, and recycle these in Robe, SA. All funds raised through recycling are used to supply wheelchairs.



Re-made in Robe!



What can I do?

It's easy save your bread tags for a while and then drop them off at one of our collection points. Ask your family, friends, school and local café to help.



Visit our website for signage, to find your nearest collection point, or to host a collection point.

 aussiebreadtags@gmail.com



ozbreadtagsforwheelchairs.org.au

 [@aussiebreadtags](https://www.facebook.com/aussiebreadtags)

Local Contact: PAL Section