

MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter No : 1

DATE: 10 February, 2022

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

14 March - Public Holiday - No school

17 March - Year 7 immunisations and Meningococcal

21 - 25 March - Lake Cullulleraine Day Excursions - Upper Primary—VCAL

8 April - Last Day of Term 1

26 April - 1st Day of Term 2



Principal's Report



Welcome Back: Here's to 2022 being a great year! We are looking forward to actively partnering with students and their families to continue the social and academic learning for all. A special welcome to our new preps and to students transferring in from other schools.

Although there was a sense of excitement and nervousness last Monday when everyone returned, classes settled to work straight away. Thank you for your preparations to support your son/daughter to return ready to learn with uniforms, food and adequate rest. Many students are proudly wearing our new secondary uniform and some Early Years' students are wearing the school dress. By Friday there were several tired staff and students ready for the weekend.

Thank you to all the staff for supporting students to get back into routine again. It has been particularly pleasing to see how well the new students have settled in, as well as the students moving between areas of the school.



Staff returned on 31 January and started the day with a three hour virtual professional learning session with Michael Licenblat called Pressure Proof. We learnt about how to manage ourselves and thrive in times of disruption, change and pressure. Two, one hour follow up sessions continue the learning.

After lunch, rooms were prepared and plans were made for a smooth start to the term. If you have any questions please contact your class teacher. A focus this year will be

on the use of the Xuno app however diaries are available to use as well.

Team Leaders:

Early Years and Upper Primary: Kate Tyson

Personal and Applied Learning: Matthew Leslie

PreCAL and VCAL: Heidi Milner

Student Wellbeing

Darren Jones – Darren returns to school on Monday after two weeks' leave.

New staff: Jonathan Prince has joined our teaching staff. Jonathan is working in the PreCAL section. Jonathan has recently worked in the Northern Territory and Cairns. Welcome Jonathan.



Congratulations to our Award winners this week. Great work!

Placements: We have welcomed five students from Monash University this week. The students are working in different areas across the school. We wish them all the best during their time in our setting and are sure they will enjoy exploring the local district.

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

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.

Policies: These are located on our website, <https://www.mildss.vic.edu.au>

Please click on this link for the Schools' Privacy Policy - [Schools' privacy policy \(education.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.mildss.vic.edu.au/schools-privacy-policy)

Two other policies are included in this newsletter, the Mobile Phone Policy and Respect for Staff.

Covid 19

Thank you very much for your timely communications about student absences related to Covid 19 - being positive or a close contact and for letters regarding the wearing of masks.

We have put in place a range of COVID Safe measures

- We have implemented a range of measures to keep students as safe as possible.
- We will make sure that staff and students wear masks, stay home when unwell, and physical distance when appropriate.
- We have installed air purifiers to improve ventilation in the school
- We will provide free, regular COVID rapid antigen testing for students – these are voluntary and for home use.
- If there is a positive COVID-19 case at the school, we will let you know and give you information about what you need to do.

We are providing extra support for students

We understand that the reasons for not attending school can be complex. Our school has access to a range of specialist staff and programs that can provide additional support for your child, depending on their needs. This includes:

- Tutors – we have a tutor at school to work with small groups of students to help them catch up on their learning
- School Breakfast Club – our school breakfast club will be up and running in Term 1, and we've taken measures to make sure it can be delivered safely on site
- Staff with expertise in mental health who can provide direct support to students or refer them relevant external services for additional support
- Your child will have an Individual Education Plan which can help everyone involved to understand and implement the goals and strategies to help them with their learning
- Where intensive support is needed to improve your child's attendance, we can put in place a Student Support Group to assist with understanding their needs and developing a comprehensive support plan.
- We can connect with the department's Student Support Services who can respond to a range of student health and wellbeing needs
- We can also help connect you to a range of services outside of school that can assist you and your child.

Penny Hale
Principal



RESPECT FOR SCHOOL STAFF POLICY

PURPOSE

To ensure that members of our community understand Mildura Specialist School's expectations for appropriate interactions with school staff.

POLICY

Staff at Mildura Specialist School, including teachers, education support staff, office staff, the assistant principal/s and principal are committed to providing a supportive learning environment for all our students. Our staff take their work very seriously and feel privileged to be able to play an important role in each child's education.

All staff at Mildura Specialist School have a right to a safe and supportive work environment.

Mildura Specialist School expects that all parents/carers and visitors to our school behave in an appropriate and respectful manner to school staff at all times.

There will be a zero tolerance approach to any aggression, intimidation, threats or harassment of school staff, by any means (e.g. in person, by phone, by email, on social media etc). These behaviours may lead to exclusion from school grounds and school activities.

The principal may report aggressive, intimidating, threatening or otherwise inappropriate conduct to Victoria Police. The Department of Education and Training may also take legal or other appropriate action against community members or parents/carers who pose a threat to the safety and wellbeing of school staff.

Mildura Specialist School expects all members of our community to act consistently with our *Statement of Values*. We are committed to ensuring that staff, parents/carers and students are able to work together in an appropriate and respectful way.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on 19 November 2019 and is scheduled for review in November 2022.



Mildura Specialist School

Mobile Phone – Student Use Policy

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Mildura Specialist School policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones during school hours

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Mildura Specialist School and,
2. Students' personal mobile phones brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

DEFINITIONS

A **mobile phone** is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network and any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watches.

POLICY

At Mildura Specialist School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see below for further information)
- When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office.

Personal mobile phone use

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Mildura Specialist School during school hours, including lunchtime and recess, unless an exception has been granted.

Where a student has been granted an exception, the student must use their mobile phone for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.

Secure storage

Mobile phones owned by students at Mildura Specialist School are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Students are encouraged not to bring a mobile phone to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that Mildura Specialist School does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft. Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items. Refer to the Mildura Specialist School Personal Property Policy.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Mildura Specialist School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Mildura Specialist School students are required to store their phones in one of the three designated secure storage lockers.

Enforcement

Teaching Staff will contact School Leadership via Team Leaders when students use their mobile phone (without granted permission) or refuse to hand over their phone after being instructed by either Teaching or ES staff to hand it over to the provided storage system.

The Leadership team will endeavour to work with students and their parents/caregivers if required to reach resolution, in accordance with the Department's Mobile Phone Policy issued by the Minister For Education.

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy:

- may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically,
 - Health and wellbeing-related exceptions; and
 - Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite.
- can be granted by the principal, or by the teacher for that class, in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#).

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#) are:

1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)	Unit of work, learning sequence
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	Individual Learning Plan, Individual Education Plan

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan
Students who are Young Carers	A localised student record

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students on excursions and camps	Risk assessment planning documentation
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students with a dual enrolment or who need to undertake inter-campus travel	Risk assessment planning documentation

only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Mildura Specialist School Personal Property Policy

[Ban, Search and Seize Harmful Items](#)

[Personal Goods – Department policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on January 2020 and is scheduled for review on January 2022

TRANSPORT OR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR STUDENTS

It is a school requirement for all parents/carers to contact the school office to update student travel/transport arrangements for 2022. All previous arrangements are now archived, therefore new student travel arrangements need to be updated.

This includes bus travel, Parent Pickup, independent travel and Support Services that your child/children may be involved with.

Principal Awards

Room 8 - Deejay: for working very hard in class this year and showing kindness to his friends.

Room 10 - Annabel: for smoothly adjusting to her new classroom routine.

Room 20 - Lachlan: for having an outstanding start to the school year by showing maturity and tenacity to complete all set tasks.

SWPBS Awards

Room 8 - Colbie: for consistently showing our school values of Safety, Responsibility and Respect both in the class and in the yard.

Room 10 - Kye: for following classroom rules and teacher instructions.

Room 20 - Riley: for playing safely and following the rules during Physical Education team games.

Primary SRC

It is with great pride we announce the Primary Student Representative Council (SRC) members for this year.

Room 1 Xavier , Room 2 Shanelle, Room 4 Hannah, Room 5 Noah (will be their buddy), Room 6 Moses, Room 8 Waylan, Room 9 Lakota, Room 15 Damon, Room 16 Cosi (will be their buddy) and Room 17 Xavier .

We had our first meeting today students got their badges and all offered ideas and suggestions during discussions. Our SRC goal is making our school better. Todays meeting had Waylan, Cosi, Noah, Moses Xavier, Shanelle and Hannah.



EARLY YEARS' NEWS

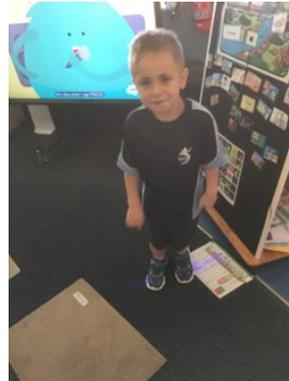
Early Years staff would like to welcome all students to school. It is great to see students back ready to learn and remembering their hats and water bottles. We welcome Jo into our staff team in Room One and Braxton and Liambart as new students in rooms one and two. We look forward to seeing the growth and change in our new prep students Alivia, Jaxson and Harrison during this year. Our topic for Term One is Me and My Community. Students have already begun thinking about their favourite things.



Creating a jigsaw for myself.



Painting with my favourite colour.



Choosing my favourite song.

UPPER PRIMARY YEARS' NEWS

The staff of Upper Primary would like to welcome all families, both new and returning, to the beginning of the 2022 school year. Students have been settling into their classrooms and learning about each other by engaging in getting to know you activities.

Our Upper Primary Student Representative Council have been elected:

Hannah - Room 4

Moses - Room 6

Waylan - Room 8

Cosi - representing Room 16

Lakota - Room 9

Noah - representing Room 5

Damon - Room 15

Congratulations and good luck with your new role.



Pictured above: Alexys and Ellara exploring their new room, Isaac and Keoni drawing self-portraits as part of an All About Me activity.

SECONDARY PreCAL NEWS

All four classes joined together for Physical Education games in the Multipurpose Room last Friday. This activity was so successful, we have all added it to our timetables for the whole term. It was great to see all students playing.

We are very happy to have Joey [Joseph] join us in PreCal. He is from Monash University, in his 3rd year of a teaching degree.

We are really looking forward to learning some fun games with him on Friday morning.



Room 21 started off the term learning how to make a ball from scraps of felt



SECONDARY—PAL NEWS

Welcome back to all students. It has been reassuring to see everyone enthusiastically take on the New Year. This year, the PAL section consists of seven classes, we will be working together to support the differing interests and needs of all students. Developing independence including community access is a major focus of our programs, please keep an eye out for notes and information.

Last week began with a full program. Classes enjoyed art with their classes' specialist teacher and drumming with Catherine Threlfall.



Patrick was voting for his favourite fruit, using his communication device with modelling and then pasting picture of his favourite fruit on the graph.



Milan making the letters of her name using playdough



Lacie choosing a book from the rewards box and showing her rewards book.



Tahlia and Robert practising their independent living skills.



Graham is sorting the bread tags that we are collecting to raise money for equipment. Please remember to support us by sending in the tags.



Deshawn and Fida enjoying the drumming session.

SECONDARY—VCAL AND VAL NEWS

Welcome back to school for a brand new year. This year, VCAL welcome returning students, as well as some new Year 10s and 11s who are eager to learn the ropes and be job ready! Last week it was all about introductions to VCAL and getting to know one another. Students from Rooms 18 and 19 participated in a range of team building games to test and demonstrate communication, leadership and team work.



February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Lunch orders due in.	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Lunch orders due in.	23	24	25	26
27	28					

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March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Lunch orders due in.	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Lunch orders due in.	9	10	11	12
13	14 Public Holiday. No school	15 Lunch orders due in.	16	17 Yr 7 immunisations and meningococcal.	18 School Photos	19
20	21	22 Lunch orders due in.	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Lunch orders due in.	30	31		

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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** 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.

