

MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter No : 8

DATE: 23 May 2019

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

10 June –Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
18 June –Rainbow Day
26 & 27 June –Debutante Ball
28 June –Footy Day
28 June –Last Day of Term 2

15 July –Student Free Day – Staff Professional Learning
16 July –Students return Term 3.
22 July –Student Led Conferences Early Years and Lower Middle Years.
26 July –Student Led Conferences Upper Middle Years and Later Years.

Principal's Report



Awards: Congratulations to our Award winners this week. Keep up the great work!

Fun Run: Congratulations to the Student Representative Council, Judi L'Huillier and Jodie Gibson on another successful Fun Run. It looked as if the students were having a wonderful time participating and cheering each other on. The students looked impressive in their House colours. Thank you to all the parents and carers who came along to watch and cheer.



National Simultaneous Storytime: Another highlight today was our involvement in the Australia wide reading of 'Alpacas with Maracas'. Students gathered in the multipurpose room or participated in their classrooms. This was an initiative from the Australian Library and Information Association. Resources were also provided for use in the classroom. In 2018 there were over one million participants in 8000 locations.



School Council News: School Council met last Monday and approved the dates for Student Led Conferences in Term 3. This is a day where students attend for their appointment time and share their learning with parents and carers. Please save the date. Teachers will send information home in the coming weeks.



Early Years and Lower Middles - Monday 22 July 2019

Upper Middles and Later Years – Friday 26 July 2019

Room 15 students will attend as usual.

Autism

School Community Learning: Yarra Me School has kindly shared a resource which has been made available to them through their online training partner Online Training UK (OLT): Autism for Parents. The training course for parents and carers has been developed by OLT to assist families in their knowledge and understanding of Autism. It's a high quality production that delivers the educational training in numerous formats i.e. animations, forums, videos, etc. The developers talked with parents of children who've been identified as falling on the autism spectrum, to identify the issues that concern them the most. OLT then interviewed a number of parents about those issues, and you can hear about their experiences in the videos throughout this short course. There is no cost for parents to access the training. **Please contact the office for a booklet to be sent home with the registration details.**

Yarra Me School hopes that families and schools find this short course helpful.



Conference: David Wright and I attended the Principals' Association of Specialist Schools (PASS) Conference from 15-17 May. The theme was Me, Myself and The World. Apart from the keynote speakers which involved information about Ticket to Work, Anxiety and Depression and Self Determination I attended three workshops on student voice and communication. There were many evidence based ideas to share with our setting.

School Uniforms: With the cooler weather please make sure your child wears a school uniform jacket and top. Many students have not been in uniform lately. It is an expectation that school uniform is worn.

Penny Hale Acting Principal

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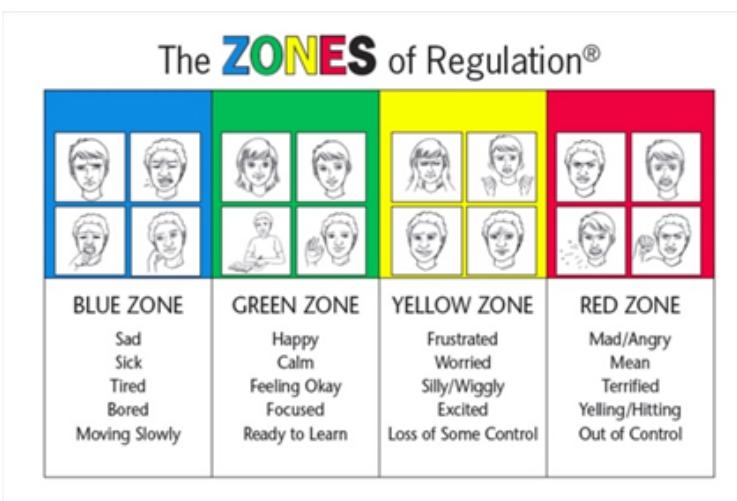
Principal's Award

Congratulations to all Award winners this fortnight.



SWPBS—School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

In the Upper Middles room 25 we have been learning about the Zones of Regulation and how we can use this learning to help us stay safe. The Zones of Regulation is a program that teaches us how to control our emotions and select calming strategies when we feel upset, angry, anxious, confused or worried.



Art & Music Awards

Making Art requires being resourceful and doing colourful items from whatever is around.

Aiden from Room 10 has used a range of materials to make layers of marks that end up in a collage of mixed materials and media.



NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

Lower Middle Years' students have a lot to report on this Newsletter, as well as our usual learning, we have been participating in a number of extra-curricular activities.

On Monday, students began an AFL Football clinic coached by Trevor Ryan. Students will be sharpening up their football skills for an hour each week until the end of term.

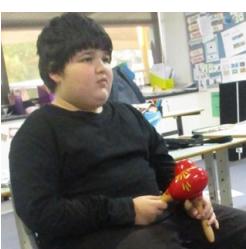


Students in Room 15 have been working on expressing opinions about things they like and do not like, using their AAC and Core Vocab.

On Wednesday, students enthusiastically participated in the School Fun Run, many competed individually while some chose to run with older students. Jim from Later Years eagerly teamed up with Patrick to complete the one and a half laps of the oval. Congratulations to all students for having a go.

Following the Fun Run, students joined the Australia wide National Simultaneous Storytime, it is held annually by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA). Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator, is read simultaneously in libraries, schools, pre-schools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops and many other places around the country. The book read was Alpacas with Maracas. Following the reading, students participated in a number of related activities, here Room 10 students are creating rhythm with maracas.

You can You Tube the reading <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mn36sa4nN1U> to re-share with your child.



On Thursday, we are gathering into the multipurpose room to watch the live performance of 'The Circle of Life'.

NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

Students in Room 25 have been working with money during Mathematics. They have been using money to make small and large amounts, add amounts together and give change to the nearest 5 cents, after a transaction.



This term, Room 22 students have been using the school paper waste to make paper bricks, which can be used for burning in an indoor fireplace. Paper is soaked to make pulp and then compressed to make a brick. Our goal is to make 10 boxes of paper bricks, which can be sold to generate income for a class reward, at the end of the term. There has been lots of learning through this project such as irreversible changes, changes in mass, volume, capacity and recycling and reuse. The students have encountered many challenges along the way, especially with the volume of paper required to make a single brick, but they have had lots of fun!



Later Years Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) students are participating in an eight-week program delivered by Amanda Smith of the Northern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network (NMLLEN). The program 'Nail That Job' is designed to meet VCAL outcomes and expand students' knowledge of: Workplace Expectations, Personal Presentation, Resume writing, Interview Skills, and Structured Workplace Learning. The program will also include a trip to Kmart, where students will choose and purchase clothing for a job interview, while sticking to a budget.



Pictured: Students discussing workplace expectations during a recent visit to the NMLLEN offices in Ninth Street.

Last Wednesday the 8 May, we had a House activity get together. The House captains and some senior students ran activities such as Cat and Mouse, Chain Relay, Octopus, and Tunnel Ball. The senior students had fun teaching the younger students how to play the activities.

Report by Tulisha W and Jake D



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



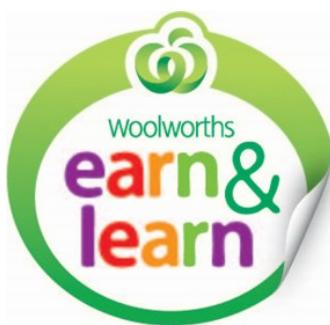
Healthy Kids – Bike riding

Cycling is the use of bicycles for transport, recreation or sport. It is physically challenging, builds fitness and endurance and gets you out and about enjoying the outdoors.

It's a great form of active transport and one of the ten most popular sports and physical activities for adults in NSW.

There are many different types of cycling: road and track cycling, mountain biking for the adventurous types and BMX for those who like to extend their technical skills. Memberships and licences are available to help you get involved in the different competition and participation events. From: Healthykids.nsw.gov.au

EARN & LEARN



From May 1 to June 25, earn and learn stickers are available from Woolworth's supermarkets. Please remember to collect your stickers and drop them into the front office or in the boxes at Woolworth's Langtree Avenue or Mildura Central.

Thank you!

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 Darrian 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

Art Programs for Kids

Scribbles and Giggles with Kate Cotching

Scribbles and Giggles is a 6 week program for pre-preschoolers and their grown ups. Children learn through watching and interacting with their parents and caregivers. In this program we will explore ways in which you can connect with your own inner artist while enjoying making art with your child.

These sessions will be run in Merbein at Sunraysia Arts and Learning studio at 198 Third St Merbein..

Friday 17th May till Friday 28th June at 9.30-10.15 am.
Cost \$165 for the six weeks.

Art Club – Kids Communicating through Art.

In this art club for kids aged 5-10 will use art as a way of communicating and connecting with others with artist and facilitator Kate Cotching. Sessions will start with a warm up art game, followed by a short activity to promote communication. The second half of the session will allow kids to explore their own amazing ideas or expand on the short activity. At the end of the session grown ups will be invited in for a special viewing and a discussion of the art the kids have made that day.

Sessions start Friday May 10th and run for 8 Fridays through to Friday 28th June from 4-5pm at our beautiful Merbein studio at 198 Third St Merbein.

Cost is \$220 for 8 sessions

Music Together Enrolments are Open for Term 2 2019

Come and join our wonderful community of musicmakers for kids 0-8 years – enroll now for Term 2 2019 on www.sunraysiaartsandlearning.com.au/enrolments/registration/ or ring 0420939229

Sunraysia Arts and Learning offers four great programs to suit everyone!

Music Together Family Classes for 0-5 years – quality music learning for little ones and their grown ups. Sing, dance and play with our three experienced and passionate teachers on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings in Red Cliffs and Merbein! Talk to us about using your NDIS or HCWA funding here ☺

Generations Music Together for 0-5 years – our popular intergenerational music class is now at running at Chaffey Aged Care (Fridays) and Jacaranda Village (Wednesdays). Come and make joyful music with our experienced teachers in the company of a caring group of grand friends. Enroll now, or talk to us about our fully funded enrolments for families with Health Care Cards, or with other access needs.

Music Together Rhythm Kids Level 1 for 4-5 year olds – quality and fun music learning for children at four year old kinder and prep. Take your music learning a step further with great music, skilled teacher Catherine and lots of fun and engaging ways to build on your music skills. Classes are Wednesdays 3.55-4.40pm at our Merbein studio.

Music Together Big Kids for 6-8 year olds – continue your music learning in this fun group setting, building on music skills in our fun and challenging group. Classes are Wednesdays 4.45-5.30pm at our Merbein Studio.