

MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter No : 1

DATE: 8 February, 2024

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

Monday 11 March—Public Holiday. NO SCHOOL.

Thursday 28 March—Last Day of Term 1—early departure—1.40pm.



TERM 1



Principal's Report



Welcome Back:

It was wonderful to see everyone returning to school eager to see friends and staff again. Students are settling into their new routines and are getting down to the business of learning. Thank you for your preparations with uniforms, hats, drink bottles, notes and lunch boxes. Please make sure all items are labelled.

Communication: Xuno is our main form of communication at Mildura Specialist School. Please contact the office or your child's teacher if you need support or a new login. Using the platform will hopefully increase two way communication between home and school and reduce the amount of paper we use. Teachers use Xuno to send updates and photos regularly. You are also able to advise about student absences on Xuno.



Congratulations to our Award winners this week. Great work! This year we will be holding a monthly whole school assembly. On the other weeks the Primary side of the school will conduct an assembly on Tuesdays with the secondary one being held on Wednesdays.

Parent pick up/drop off

Thank you for your patience at Parent Pick Up / Drop Off. Please don't block the parking area outside the chiropractors or the motel entrance. Parking is also available on the other side of the school driveway, if you wish to park and walk down.

School Council

School Council Elections are now in process. Please see the link below for information regarding school council. There are five parent nominations this year with the last of the current committee meeting on 19 February. Positions are for two years and members are able to re-nominate. I encourage you to consider nominating for council and assisting in the governance of the school. The council meets twice per term on a Monday at 5:30 pm. Nomination forms can be found within this newsletter.

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/school-council-powers-and-functions/policy>

Penny Hale

Principal

Principal Awards

Room Music - Jai: for completing a 200 word spelling test in one day.

Room Music - Nathaniel: for being ready to learn and completing work even when others had finished.

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.

Form 3: self-nomination form for parent member category

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent member on the school council.

| |
|-------------|
| Name |
| |

| |
|-----------------------------|
| Residential Address: |
| |

| |
|--|
| Contact phone (mobile or landline): |
| |

| |
|---------------|
| Email: |
| |

| |
|--|
| I am the parent/guardian of |
| |
| who is/are currently enrolled at this school. |

| Statement | Yes <i>(Mark with an x)</i> | No <i>(Mark with an x)</i> |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| I am an employee of the Department of Education | | |
| I am an employee of the school council | | |
| I am engaged in work at and for the school. | | |

I am prepared to serve as a parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that:

- I am not and have not been insolvent under administration within the last three years
- I am of sound mind
- I have not been found guilty of an offence that is, or would if committed in Victoria be, an indictable offence
- I am not a registrable offender within the meaning of the *Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004*.
- I am not suffering from any medical condition that would affect my ability to perform the role of member of a school council.

| |
|-------------------------------|
| Signature of Candidate |
| |

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Date: | |
|--------------|--|

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

The personal information provided in this form is collected as part of the school council election nomination process. The information may be used to determine your eligibility as a candidate. Your personal information may be disclosed as a result of inspection prior to the commencement of voting or at any time up to one year from the declaration of the poll.

Your name will be included in a list of school council candidates and nominators (where applicable) posted in a prominent position at the school and for candidates, on a ballot paper (where applicable). Further, the name, membership category, gender (optional), term of office, office held (if any) of school council members and notification whether the member is an employee of the department will be forwarded to the Department of Education by the principal by 30 April each year as a record of council membership and may be used for statistical purposes.

| |
|---|
| You can access your personal information by contacting the principal on: |
| |

If you choose not to give some or all of the information requested your nomination may not be accepted.

If you have any queries about the school council nomination process, please contact the principal.

EARLY YEARS' NEWS

Early Years' staff would like to welcome all students back to school. It is great to see students ready to learn and remembering their hats and water bottles. We welcome Amanda, Tracey, Carmel and Tamara into our staff team. We look forward to seeing the growth and change in our new prep students during this year and having you get to know them through our newsletters. Our topic for Term One is Me and My Family. Students have already begun looking at different ways they might see their names. You may find the teachers will be asking for some family photos and information as the term moves on.



Raine is working on some writing.



Levi is finding objects in the rice.



Nate using the spinner at play

Phoenix is ordering numbers to ten.



Colton is joining in circle time activities.



UPPER PRIMARY YEARS' NEWS

Upper Primary students have had a wonderful start to 2024. The students have been settling and getting to know their new classmates. Here are some pictures of the students enjoying their new classrooms.



Room 3 have been using peg boards for fine motor activities.



Hayley and Bunya doing some epic reading on the iPads.



Dean chooses an object to write about.



Keoni having fun on the swing.

SECONDARY NEWS

The Secondary team would like to welcome new and returning staff and students to MSS. Students have enjoyed doing some, Getting to Know You, activities using the Book Creator app on the iPads and other paper-based activities. These have been used to decorate classrooms.

Skills in telling and matching analogue and digital time, as well as, adding and converting money have been shared through some fun maths games, giving staff a great indication of where we are headed on our 2024 learning journey.

The Social Skills focus this fortnight has revolved around building positive relationships and getting along with others.



February

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 Lunch orders due in. | Lake Cullulleraine Notes go home. | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 19 School Council | 20 Lunch orders due in. | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 Lunch orders due in. | Lake Cullulleraine Notes due back. | 28 | 29 | | |

March

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|--------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 Lunch orders due in. | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Public Holiday. No school | 12 Lunch orders due in. | 13 | 14 | School Photos Lake Cullulleraine | 16 | 17 |
| School Council | 18 Lunch orders due in. | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Lake Cullulleraine | Lake Cullulleraine | Lake Cullulleraine | Lake Cullulleraine | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | Last Day of Term 1. | 28 | 29 | 30 |
|WOMBAT ALPINE CAMP..... | | | | | | |

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.

VOLUNTARY SCHOOL FEES OF \$160 PER STUDENT ARE NOW DUE.

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 Hip Pocket Workwear and are available from 13-15 Tenth Street, Mildura. Contact person is Anthony Mercieca. Phone number is (03) 50214506. 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 VPC. 2.50—3.00PM

This is to help ease congestion on Deakin Ave and for safety of cars and students.

