

MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter No : 13

DATE: 16 August 2018

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

20 September—School Concert

21 September—End of Term 3

Principal's Report

Sports Day: Congratulations to all the students and staff for such a wonderful day of sportsmanship and physical activity last Wednesday. Well done to the Red House for winning the shield once again. Thanks must go to the Sports Committee led by Ben Stevenson and Jodie Gibson and to the Lions Club for cooking such a delicious lunch.

We are looking forward to Swan Hill Sports Day on 13 September.

Naidoc Week: Upper Middle and Later Years' students celebrated Naidoc Week on Tuesday with activities presented by local groups organised by Orion Hunt and Judi L'Huillier.

Fundraising: Towards the end of the newsletter you will see a flyer about Pick my Project. We have applied for funds to develop the Later Years Yard. Please see the details provided in the box to vote for this project. We would appreciate it if you could share this with your friends and family. The more votes the better.

Education Support Staff Week: This week we acknowledged the work of all our Education Support Staff across the school. Each team held an afternoon tea for their staff on Tuesday afternoon. Thank you very much to all our Education Support Staff for your dedication and work to support our students to be the best that they can be.

Book Week: Next week is **Book Week** and the theme is **Find Your Treasure**. While it is a lot of fun for students to dress up, please don't send your child with any items that represent weapons.

Awards: Congratulations to our Award winners this week, particularly Rebecca for being a Freeza Youth Art Exhibition Award Winner.

Reminder: Those who have received the Parent Opinion Survey letter, please complete these by 26 August, thank you.

Penny Hale
Acting Principal

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Principal's Award

Congratulations to all Award winners this fortnight.



SWPBS—School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

Students in room 16 are learning about being responsible. They are gaining more independence following their visual schedules and staff instruction when they complete a number of tasks during the school day. These tasks include walking to the classroom and play ground with greater independence, using the bathroom and washing hands before eating, keeping their work area tidy when working at their tables and sitting as a group for circle time, story time and interactive television.



Art & Music Awards

ANIMAL MASKS AND FReeZA YOUTH ART EXHIBITION AWARD WINNER

Art Awards were handed to students in Lower Middle Years, Aiden from Room 11 and Cody from Room 7. Both students, and their classmates have made cardboard animal masks with opening jaws and painted features depicting spots, stripes or patches to show whiskers, hair, teeth and other parts usually associated with creatures. These students went the extra distance by working on and resolving how their creatures would look and how to make those ideas appear with paint and cardboard while working with minimum support and guidance from staff.



Meanwhile, at FReeZA which is still on display in the Mildura Information Centre until 22 August, Rebecca from Room 24, who received an Art Award some weeks back for her "Island Face" also had this piece selected for an award at this youth exhibition. Rebecca received a framed certificate for her work and \$100 prize money. Well done to these students for their excellent work and all students for continuing doing their best on each project!

NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

Congratulations to all students for their participation in the Sports Day. Students tried their best and had lots of fun. Thanks to all the parents, carers, grandparents and family friends that came to visit and support their child.



Ezekiel and his mum Tafe dressed up to support Green House.



Kera-Lee jumping the hurdles.

This week is ESS recognition week. Early Years' teachers would like to recognise and thank the Educational Support Staff (ESS) in their classrooms and throughout the school.



Tecia, Kylie, Fiona, Julie, Kelly, Nikki, Sue, Jas, Vicki, Toba (not pictured) and Paula (not pictured).

Our topic this term in the Lower Middles section is Different Habitats, flora and fauna on Earth. On Monday we were fortunate to have an incursion from Museum Victoria who showed us many different animals that live in the sea. This was valuable for the students because they were able to touch and experience different animals, shells and sea life. After an introduction about the subject, Crystal, the Museum Victoria Education representative, allowed the students to look at various pictures of sea life, feel preserved animals and fish, and touch shells and sea stars.



NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

Congratulations to our UMY medalists for Sport Day: Amy Mitchell (Girls Champion), Brandon Berry (Boys Champion) and Robert Harvey (Encouragement Award). Thank you to parents/carers who came to cheer us on!



Karate began last Tuesday here at school for some of the UMY students. Karate encourages self-discipline and fits in with our SWPBS values of Safety, Respect and Responsibility.

On Tuesday, we all participated in NAIDOC Week celebrations. Students participated in Dance, Art and culture tasks. We would like to thank the staff and visitors involved for making this an enjoyable, educational experience.

PAL students are working on discovering important details about Australia. They also practiced drawing a map of Australia by giving constructive feedback and lots of drafts, to make detailed drawings.



SRC

We were very excited when the Coles Sports for Schools order was delivered last week. Students helped to unpack the boxes, sort equipment into sections and pump up heaps of balls so they were ready for use. We would like to thank the family, friends and community that supported us earlier this year by putting the coupons into our collection boxes. We raised the most in the district which is a wonderful achievement. The students are benefitting from the equipment during yard play, structured PE sessions and we have some equipment for sports days. Again thank you very much.

The SRC have been organising activities for Book Week which is next week. Please come and join us for the dress up assembly on Tuesday and return the notes which list favourite books. We are also doing a Treasure Hunt with the theme this year being "Find your Treasure"



SPEECH



In Week 2 of Term 3, school speech pathologists Stephanie and Zorica attended the 18th Biennial International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) conference. ISAAC is an organization that works to improve the lives of children and adults with complex communication needs. ISAAC's goal is to create worldwide awareness about how AAC can help individuals without speech by sharing information and promoting innovative approaches to research, technology and literacy through AAC.

This was the first time that the ISAAC conference has been held in Australia and we were lucky enough to attend the whole conference plus the pre-conference workshops, over 6 days. Topics covered were: Different access methods for communication assistive devices (eye gaze, switch access, scanning), Autism and AAC, communication and access for children who have severe physical challenges and Cortical Visual Impairment, comprehensive approaches to literacy in AAC, AAC and Intellectual Disability, supporting language development using AAC, supporting communicative competence, service provision in the NDIS, teaching approaches for Speech Generating Devices (SGDs), and a number of sessions relating to becoming a communication accessible school. We also took the opportunity to attend extra hands on workshops that were relevant to our school setting.

We look forward to sharing all the up to date information gathered with the staff at our school and also with our speech pathology local network members.

Speech Team

CYBERBULLYING

This week's article is on cyber bullying a serious issue that is affecting children all over Australia, with numerous cases being reported in the media. Cyberbullying is widely accepted as a very difficult area to manage for parents, carers and schools. The following is some useful information sourced from a cyber bullying website to provide to young people:

- **Keep a record** (including time and date) – This may help you (or the police) to find out who is sending the messages.
- **Tell someone** - Talk to someone you trust, a parent, friend, school counsellor or teacher.
- **Contact your phone or internet service provider and report what is happening** – They can help you block messages or calls from certain senders.
- **If messages are threatening or serious get in touch with the police** – Cyberbullying, if it's threatening, is illegal. You don't need to put up with that!
- **Don't reply to bullying messages** – It'll only get worse if you do. By replying the bully gets what he or she wants. Often if you don't reply the bully will leave you alone.
- **Change your contact details** – Get a new user name for the internet, a new e-mail account, a new mobile phone number and only give them out to your closest friends.

Keep your username and passwords secret – Keep your personal information private so it doesn't fall into the hands of someone who'll misuse it.

Here are some helpful websites that you may like to look at:

<https://au.reachout.com>

<https://bullyingnoway.gov.au>

<https://kidshelpline.com.au>

I am available to speak to any student who would like more information on this subject or would just like to speak to me about this subject, please do not hesitate to come and see me.

Darren Jones – Student Wellbeing Coordinator.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Packing a healthy lunchbox



With the unpredictable nature of our day to day lives, preparing and packing a healthy lunchbox can be a difficult task. Finding time to shop and prepare interesting and healthy meals for school lunches can be stressful. But the foods we send to school with our kids can contribute up to 1/3 of their daily intake of nutrients. So it's important to pack a balanced lunch to ensure they're getting the nutrients they need.

Things you need to know:

What is in a balanced lunchbox?

Pack the core 4 + 1 for active kids

Main Lunch

Core Snack

Piece of fruit (seasonal)

Water with an additional small reduced fat milk drink or 99% fruit juice (aim for <200ml serve) for added variety throughout the day

+1 Extra snack for active kids

Add extra core snacks or one small 'extra' pre-packaged snack **once a week**.

Keep "occasional" foods such as snack food bars, sweet biscuits, flavoured or coated popcorn and savoury biscuits and chips out of the lunch box. Although they can offer a practical convenient solution for lunchboxes, they should not replace the core snack and should be kept for special occasions. Avoid including the ones with added **confectionery** and opt for wholegrain varieties packed full of whole foods you can see with your eyes.

MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Presents our concert

At the **Mildura Art Centre**

On Thursday 20 September

Time: 10:30 A.M.

Gold Coin Donation

Design by Benjamin Wilkinson

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, seafood 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.

PICK MY PROJECT

The Project Plan is to provide a structured play area that houses a large "Climbing Structure" and "Nest Swing" with soft-fall, where students can socialise with other students and be physically active. As students' progress to the senior area, there is a lack of structured play activities that allows them to be able to interact and socialise in an informal setting that enables all students of various abilities to be inclusive.



PICK MY PROJECT

Your local community. Your decision.

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE PROJECTS

Pick My Project is a Victorian-first community grants initiative with at least \$1 million in funding available for each metro and regional area. Now it's time to vote for your favourites and make your community an even better place to live. Pick your three favourite project ideas in your local community and help make them a reality.

Simply go online and vote by 5pm, Monday 17 September 2018.

pickmyproject.vic.gov.au

 If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service. For more information, www.relay.vic.gov.au.





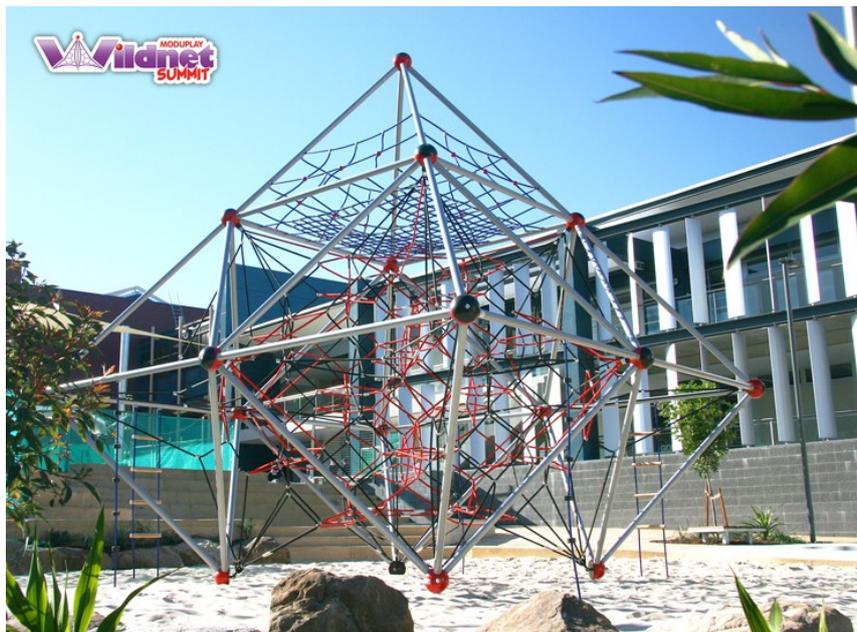
HOW TO VOTE

Voting is quick and simple, and open until 5pm, Monday 17 September 2018.

-  Register for a Pick My Project account at pickmyproject.vic.gov.au. If you already have an account, simply sign in.
-  Select your local community by entering your suburb or address. You can then browse the project ideas in your local community and create a shortlist of your favourites.
-  Pick your three favourite project ideas from your shortlist and verify your mobile number. You'll then be able to submit your votes. Be sure to share who you've voted for with your family and friends.

Need help with voting? Contact us on **1800 797 818** (translation services are available) or contact@pickmyproject.vic.gov.au. Or drop into your local library or Neighbourhood House for assistance.

PICK MY PROJECT 



REDLANDS JUNIOR SCHOOL - CREMORNE, NSW



Come & Try AFL 9's



**FRIDAY AUGUST 17th
4.30-6PM @ City Oval**

Come along and try a fun and all abilities inclusive game of AFL 9's, for boys and girls aged between 6 and 10 years old.

**Free
sausage
sizzle!**

**GIVE
AWAYS**

**FUN
FUN
FUN**

For more information and to register your interest contact David Kennedy at sparranomes@bigpond.com or 0411448400