

MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter No : 1

DATE: 2 FEBRUARY 2018



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

6 February—School Captains Assembly
12 February—Labour Day School closed
19 February—School Council Meeting
28 February—Pet Food Drive—SRC
16 March—Worlds Greatest Shave
19-23 March—Multicultural Week

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SMART

Principal's Report

Welcome to all students and families to the 2018 school year.

We have had a wonderful start this week with students happy to be here and engaging in their programs in new classrooms and with new teachers and education support staff. We hope there will be many new friendships made with classmates throughout the year.

Congratulations to all our Prep students who are beginning their first year of school. They have arrived each day with their backpacks and smiles on their faces. Our new students joining at different levels in the school appear happy to engage in all their new routines.

The focus of this week has been on learning about new routines, getting to know each other and establishing the expectations in all areas of the school. Our values are being Respectful, Safe and Responsible and we will be explicitly learning how to be safe in the coming three weeks. New families please read about this in your Parent Handbook. It is a useful reference.

Communication: It is important we all work as a team and the daily diary entries are a great way to keep the communication flowing from home to school and back.

School Captains: This week senior students elected school captains and vice captains for 2018 with results to be finalised and badges presented at next week's school assembly. Each candidate prepared a speech and presented this to the senior school. I was impressed with each candidate and their confidence to stand and speak in front of their peers and staff. I look forward to the outcome and to working with the successful candidates. Parents/carers of those elected will be invited to attend the assembly.

Student Support Group Meetings: In the coming weeks teachers will make contact with parents/carers to arrange a Student Support Group meeting where learning goals will be prioritised to develop an Individual Learning Plan from the Victorian Curriculum. It is always helpful for teachers to know the interests and dislikes that can provide motivation for learning or impact on learning.

Essential items for summer: include a hat and water bottle - all labelled please. I have included tips for a healthy lunch, as we know students will always learn better if they have adequate sleep and food to fuel their bodies for learning.

Healthy Food: A packed lunch from home is a great way for your child to learn about healthy foods and drinks. Stick to fresh, unprocessed foods as much as possible, and water or a tetra pack of milk (frozen in the warmer months). For a healthy lunchbox, include something from each of the five food groups, as well as water.

Reminder: At the end of 2017, safety procedures for heating food at school were revised. As a result, food will not be heated unless arranged with teachers as part of the learning goals.

We look forward to sharing your child's learning journey throughout the year.

Marg Curran Principal

The 'Glasses for Kids' program coming to our school

The Glasses for Kids program will be visiting our school in the next few weeks to provide free (bulk-billed) comprehensive eye examinations and, if required a free pair of glasses for all Prep to Year 3 students.

This free initiative is a charitable partnership program delivered by State Schools' Relief and its corporate and community partners, with the support of Department of Education and Training.

Eye-Visit Optometry will be conducting testing session at our school. If your child is identified as requiring glasses, glasses will be prescribed and fitted on the day and sent away for lenses to be fitted. Once ready, these will then be sent back to the school for your child.

If further testing is appropriate to find the full extent of your child's prescription a voucher will be given for your child to have a comprehensive eye examination at the closest participating optical outlet.

Children with vision deficiencies often do not report symptoms, assuming that everyone sees the world in the same way as they do. Undiagnosed vision problems can affect a child's education and potentially lead to learning difficulties. Identifying and addressing vision problems early ensures students do not fall behind in their learning.

This program is supporting the State Government's Education State commitment to ensure that all children, regardless of their background or circumstances, have access to high-quality services and support they need to thrive and prosper. The Glasses for Kids program will help thousands of children to see what is happening in their classroom more clearly.

Prep to Year 3 students will be given an information pack to take home. This pack includes information on how the program works, a consent form and brief eye health questionnaire for parents to complete. Participation is voluntary, however a signed consent form is required for a student to participate in the vision sessions.

This is a unique opportunity for schools to participate in a pioneering and significant public health initiative that supports improved learning outcomes for Victoria's students.

COMMUNITY NEWS



You could win a \$1,500 home security system*.

Go for a break. Return to a break-in.

While you're on a getaway making precious memories, your home is vulnerable to others getting away with your precious possessions.

Home break-ins are more common in January, so make sure you're fully protected. We can review your home and contents insurance and give you a quote in minutes.

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Lawn Bowls—Give it a Try!

Mildura Workers Bowls Club and Mallee Sports Assembly will be conducting an All Abilities and Junior Lawn Bowls program in February and March 2018.

When: Tuesday's 6th February—27th March 2018

Where: Mildura Workers Bowls Club, Cureton Ave, Mildura.

Time: 6 to 7pm.

Cost: FREE

RSVP Contact: Tanya Wild, Mallee Sports Assembly,

Phone: 50213464, Mobile: 0417 925 539

Email: tanya@malleesportsassembly.org.au

Mildura Lawn Tennis club has a Social Tennis Program for People with Disabilities. The program will run from February to March 2018

Day: Wednesday's

Date: 7th February to 28th March 2018

Time: 6—7pm

Location: Mildura Lawn Tennis Club, Hugh King Drive, Mildura.

Cost: \$6 per non-club member

What to bring: Water, Hat and Sunscreen.

Tennis equipment will be supplied but participants are welcome to bring their own racquet if they have one.

Contact Tanya Wild at Mallee Sports Assembly for further information, or to register your interest.

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