

MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter No : 20

DATE: 5 December 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

17 December—Summer Fun Day

20 December— Last day of school—Early Departure

School Finishes at 1 pm.

Early Parent Departure &Taxis—Commencing 12.40pm



**TERM 4
SUN
SMART**



Principal's Report



Staffing: On Wednesday we farewelled Krystal Tiedemann who has left us to prepare for a new arrival in her family. We wish her all the best for the future and thank her for all her work with Karyn Sedgmen in Room 11. Mrs Deb West and Jamie Murray will be taking the class.



Graduation: What a wonderful evening we all had last Thursday to celebrate the achievements of our 15 graduates. The students presented a speech about their time at school and talked about the friendships made and knowledge gained as well as their plans for the future. A huge thank you to the Later Years' Team, especially Belinda for all your work to make this Graduation event such a success.

On Tuesday a special assembly was held where certificates and Graduation bags were presented. Thank you to Heidi Milner for coordinating the assembly and to all the family members who were able to attend. The Hospitality students made sausage rolls for the morning tea which was followed by a slice of Graduation cake.

The year six students were also presented with a certificate for completing their primary education. Congratulations to all our Graduates and families.



Reports are being finalised and will be sent home in the last week of term.



Transition: Students transferring into our school from other schools will visit again next Tuesday. Students moving to a new section of the school will be involved in some fun activities in their new spaces over the next two weeks. Details about staffing and rooms for next year will be provided before the end of the school year.



Monash University Students: At the end of this week we will be saying goodbye to our Monash University student teachers. Thomas worked with us for two weeks whilst Megan and Amy finish at the end of this week. I would like to congratulate them for being selected for this pilot program and for their positive energy around the school. On behalf of everyone, we wish you well in your teaching careers. Megan and Amy thoughtfully presented the school with a photo and message (from all three students) at our recent assembly.

Penny Hale Acting Principal

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Principal's Award

Congratulations to all Award winners this fortnight.



SWPBS—School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

During our recent assembly Ethan, Ashlyn, Ezekiel, Cosimo and Blake were randomly selected from the audience to come to the front of the school and tell everyone something they do that is Respectful. All students answered the question with positivity and confidence. It was fantastic that students were able to come and say how they are respectful without practicing first. It shows the learning across our school.



RETAIL GRADUATION

Congratulations to the students who completed their Certificate II in Retail Services this year



Art & Music Awards

INDEPENDENT THINKING LEADS TO SURPRISING RESULTS!

Students can be full of surprises. This fortnight Lachlan from Room 22 and Sione, now in Room 25, both pulled work out of the bag. Lachie with an impressive mask that's highly animated while Sione played around with drawing, then colouring portraits of Bob Marley. Both students worked independently on these projects. That's the surprising bit – a theme or idea is suggested to them and students like these two go off to think and respond to this by starting pictures of their own ideas. With self-motivation and greater engagement, they take ownership over their ideas and claim them as their personal property. It is exciting to see this process happening and it springs up in the most unexpected places from different students.

Hip Hop is an ongoing interest and focus for Shania (Room 18). It has been a stable influence for her in Dance and in Art. Shania has drawn, designed and interpreted posters and logos on this theme. From these images and with a little help from her friends (and staff) Shania was able to complete a large poster of a design that now hangs proudly at home.

Meanwhile, Nathan, also from Room 18, has steadily pursued ideas from digital games and characters, depicting them in his unique and personal style. Through this process, he has been developing and practising his drawing skills. This independent thinking and work from him and the students mentioned above, shows a growing confidence about



NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

Early Years' students have been enjoying learning about different celebrations and festivals this term. In the last two weeks we have focussed on Asian Pacific and Indigenous celebrations. Classes have been enjoying making Hawaiian pizzas and damper. There have been a lot of happy faces after trying these foods. We are now getting preparing for end of the year celebrations.



Lower Middles' students have been participating in authentic literacy activities related to books like 'Where's the Green Sheep?' and recreating characters from the book using tactile materials. Students have also been using outside facilities to stimulate a learning environment for reading collaboration.

Lower Middles' classes are also displaying their Learning Intentions and Successes Criteria in different ways, so students are more involved in their learning.

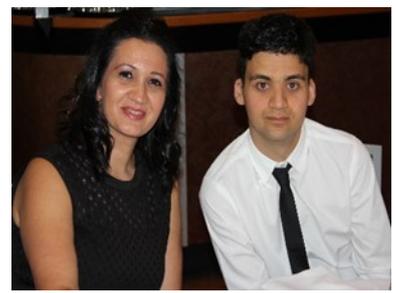
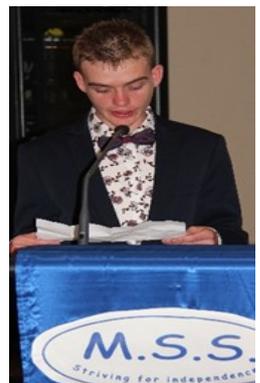
Students are now beginning to explore Christmas themes through craft, cooking and Literacy and Numeracy activities.



NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

The Darling Room students have started their Summer Workbooks, focussing on the vocabulary around Summer. The clothes we wear and activities we do, during this time. We will move onto our Christmas activities next week. The students AAC devices will be loaded with the vocabulary to assist their learning.

Graduating students and their families attended the Graduation Dinner and Certificate Presentation at the Working Man's Club last week. It provided a great opportunity to reflect on the growth and development of our students from their early years, until now. Some will attend various courses at institutions such as TAFE, others hope to secure apprenticeships and jobs within the community, while some will attend programs provided by organisations such as SRS, Christie Centre and others. Whatever courses their futures take, we wish all our school leavers very successful and satisfying lives, after MSS. Assembly this week was a special celebration of graduating students' achievements and learning during their time at MSS. Planning for students attending MSS in 2020 has been undertaken over the last few months. During the next two weeks, students will have opportunities to spend time with their 2020 classmates, teachers and other MSS staff. Swimming sessions at Mildura WAVES continue for another week, with Later Years students enjoying the experience.



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



Did you know?

- Only about a quarter of children aged between 5 and 15 years do at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity each day.
- Boys in Years 6, 8 and 10 are more active than girls, however physical activity declines with age.

Why get active?

Regular physical activity is an important part of getting healthy and staying healthy.

Encouraging kids and teens to be active from a young age sets good habits early on and helps them develop the skills they need to stay active throughout their lives.

Regular physical activity helps kids and teens:

- with healthy growth and development
- build strong bones and muscles
- improve balance and develop skills
- maintain and develop flexibility
- achieve and maintain a healthy weight
- improve cardiovascular fitness
- reduce stress and feel more relaxed
- improve posture
- boost confidence and self-esteem

have fun with their friends and make new ones

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 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.

COMMUNITY NEWS