

MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter No : 3

DATE: 07 March, 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.

Monday 15 April—First Day of Term 2.

Thursday 25 April—Anzac Day—No School.



TERM 1



Principal's Report



Awards

Congratulations to our recent Award winners. We held our second whole school assembly this week. It was an exciting day with the prep students receiving their welcome bags and attending for their first Wednesday of the year. Look out for our prep photo in an upcoming issue of the Sunraysia Daily.

Individual Education Plans – Teachers are in the process of finalising individual education plans and these will be available after being reviewed. Thank you for your attendance and input into Student Support Group meetings.



School Council

Please consider nominating for School Council. The group comprises family members and Department employees. We meet twice per term about the governance of the school. Terms of office are for two years. We require 7 parents and two students. Parents and students of the same family can be on school council. Please see the information within this newsletter.



Special Events

The Lake Cullulleraine Activity Days are coming up. Thank you for returning the notes.

Our Vision

Mildura Specialist School aims to provide a safe, respectful and inclusive learning environment, with a focus on developing individual responsibility and student social and academic growth.

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.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

A snap shot of what it is to be on school council.

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Why is student membership so important?

Students have a unique perspective on education, teaching and schools. Having student members on school council allows students to have a say in the future direction of their school and ensures student input into decision-making. Student representation on secondary school councils will assist in the development of students' skills, including leadership and communication.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, however, in order to successfully perform their duties, councillors may need to gain some new skills and knowledge. It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM

PORTRAITURE AT WORK ACROSS THE SCHOOL!

All classes and Art teachers are now well on the way with exploring possibilities of creating interesting and effective interpretations based on the theme of portraits, either of themselves or taken from other sources of faces. This is being reflected in the works nominated for Art Awards for this week's assembly. It is impressive to see students tackling their projects in imaginative and colourful ways and the handling of equipment like scissors and glue has been adept and responsible. This demonstrates the value, benefits and enjoyment our students gain from learning about their world and community by expressing themselves through the Visual Arts.



Mildura Specialist School Hot Cross Bun Fundraiser 2024

6 March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Just a reminder that all Hot Cross Bun orders need to be finalised by Friday March 15th.

Orders can be collected from the Multi-Purpose room on Friday March 22nd between 2 and 4pm.

Cathie Toma

Fundraising Coordinator

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

I am an employee of the Department of Education.

Yes / No (please circle)

I am an employee of the school council.

Yes / No (please circle)

I am engaged in work at and for the school.

Yes / No (please circle)

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.

Form 7: self-nomination form for student member category

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

Name.....

Residential address.....

Contact phone (mobile or landline).....

Email.....

Statement

I am enrolled in Year 7 or above at this school – Yes / No (please circle)

I have discussed standing for election to school council with my parents or guardians – Yes / No (please circle)

I have a sound understanding of the obligations and level of commitment required to participate on school council – Yes / No (please circle)

Candidate to complete

I am prepared to serve as a student 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.

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Principal Awards

Room 3 - Azealia - Showing persistence and enthusiasm during a writing task.

Room 3 - Tarrell - Showing persistence during a maths assessment.

Room 18 - Natasha - Regularly offering interesting and thoughtful words to explore during Word of the Day.

Room 18 - Josh - Working with a positive attitude at Ritchies IGA on Friday.

Room 19 - Antwone - Always being helpful and mindful of his peers during drop off and pick up times.

Room 19 - Byron - Consistent and positive engagement during curriculum activities.

Room 19 - Jordan - Mature and positive attitude towards his learning.

Room 19 - Mathew - Being a great role model during yard time. Mathew used respectful words to support younger students in the game of down ball.

Room 20 - Paige - Working very hard to increase her reading understanding and fluency.

Room 20 - Shakira - Assisting her peers to log on to the computers during Digital Technology classes.

Room 20 - Riley - Thoughtfully contributing to a Respectful Relationships lesson about personal strengths.

Room 20 - Increased participation in Physical Education sessions.

Room 22 - Lincoln - Always being kind and polite.

Room 23 - Natasha - Completing work independently in class.

Room 23 - Eli - Managing his anxiety and transitions around the school.

Room 24 - Kane - Participating in discussions and completing writing activities.

Room 24 - Anthony - discussing positive outcomes from difficult personal and social scenarios.

Room 25 - Kye - Being positive and encouraging peers when they are answering questions.

SWPBS Awards - being Respectful

Room 3 - Liambart - Helping to keep the classroom tidy.

Room 18 - Johbi - Speaking kindly to others even when he is tired or upset,

Room 18 - Mahalia - Starting the day upset, but tuned her day around and ending with a positive attitude.

Room 19 - Cody - Demonstrating respectful and responsible team work in Physical Education activities.

Room 20 - Ezekiel - Using respectful language when asking his peers to stop inappropriate behaviour.

Room 20 - Jaxen - Being respectful and writing a gratitude letter to former staff member.

Room 20 - Aleeyah - Using respectful language at all time towards staff and her peers.

Room 22 - Zara - Always helping to do extra jobs in the classroom.

Room 23 - Milan - Following instructions to stay with her group at Lawn Bowls.

Room 23 - Lacie - Always using her manners and following all instructions.

Room 24 - Narni - Keeping the classroom environment tidy.

Room 24 - Logan - Listening to volunteers at Lawn Bowls and trying his best.

Room 25 - Ryan - Using respectful language to all staff and students.

Some of our past award winners



EARLY YEARS' NEWS

In the Early Years rooms we have been talking about our families. Some students have started to create a family tree with the different members of their family. We have been listening to stories about different families. For Respectful Relationships work Room 16/17 have been learning to recognise different emotions you might see in family life. During our Art session students created a portrait.



Raine and Alivia cutting leaves for their family tree.



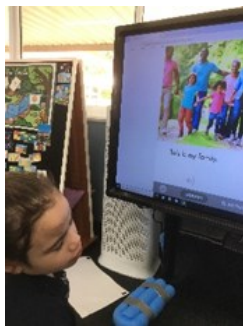
Maddix creating a family collage.



Riddik making his portrait.



James and Dhelila listening to a story about families.



Gabby investigating emotions.

Prep News

Today was the first Wednesday our new Prep students have attended school. Our Preps have been learning the school routines over the last few weeks and they are starting to sit to participate in work longer and they are joining in more of the classroom activities. Today they received a special bag with books in it from the Premier and water bottles from Lower Murray water. If you are going to send the water bottles into school, please clearly label them as all the Prep students now have the same drink bottle. The Sunraysia Daily have also sent their photographer to take a photo of our Prep students for the paper so keep your eyes out for that.



UPPER PRIMARY YEARS' NEWS

The primary classes were thoroughly engaged in the incursion today showing great enthusiasm and full participation throughout the show. The students have adapted to their new playground area taking turns to kick the football in the designated area. The trampoline, hammock and playground areas are being well utilised. We have been learning about how to look after ourselves in health by being sun safe, exercising our bodies, eating a variety of food, keeping ourselves clean and the importance of having a good sleep routine.

SECONDARY NEWS

Room 25 students have been singing and playing drums with enthusiasm every Monday afternoon at their Music session with Rosie. Below are Ben, Kye and Matthew playing their chosen instruments along with the music.



During term one in Geography, Room 25 students have been learning about which town, state and country they live in. Students have looked at the map of Australia and labelled each state and territory, naming their capital city and important places in each one. Below is a sample of Kane's fantastic work.

KANE Kane Kane

AUSTRALIAN Information Guide

Colour in the flags using the correct colours and fill in the information about Australia using the PowerPoint as a reference point.



How many states & territories are there altogether?	SIX STATES + 2
What is the capital city of Australia?	Canberra
What is the population of Australia?	26 670 188
What is the currency of Australia?	Australian dollars

Cap 2007



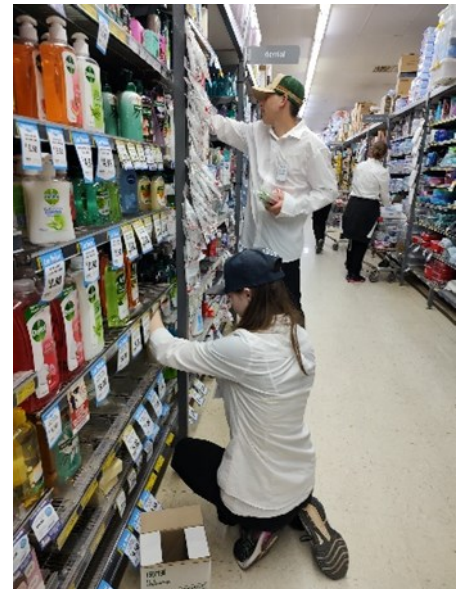


Last Friday Johbi worked in Room 3 for the morning. He was a great buddy, supporting Early Years students in several activities.

Below Room 18 students first session at Ritchies IGA in Red Cliffs, involved replenishing shelves with new stock. Students read labels, barcodes and dates on cartons and matched the labels on the shelves. Our students' comments are below.



- Riley** – I stocked toothbrushes as part of the refilling work.
- Tash** – I had to use my brain differently to get the work done.
- Bella** – I found it difficult to locate where the new stock goes on the shelf.
- Mahalia** – I enjoyed the whole morning working with the stock and placing them in the right place.
- Abbie** – I found the work practice more fun than school work.
- Gabriel** – I enjoyed actually stacking the shelves with stock.
- Kyle** – I helped with stocking a new product on the shelf.



Room 18 Art

Room 24 - Personal and Social Capabilities

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	15 School Photos	16	17
18 School Council	19 Lunch orders due in.	20	21	22 Collect Hot Cross Bun Orders	23	24
Lake Cullulleraine	Lake Cullulleraine	Lake Cullulleraine	Lake Cullulleraine			
25	26	27	28 Last Day of Term 1.	29	30	31
.....WOMBAT ALPINE CAMP.....						

April

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
.....School Holidays.....						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
.....School Holidays.....						
15 First Day of Term 2.	16 Lunch orders due in.	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Lunch orders due in.	24	25 ANZAC DAY . No School	26	27	28
29	30 Lunch orders due in.					

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.



COMMUNITY SECTION