

MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter No : 12

DATE: 1 August 2019



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

7 August—School Sports Day
19-23 August—Book Week
12 September—Swan Hill Sports Day
19 & 20 September—School Concert
20 September—Last Day of Term 3

Principal's Report



Awards: Congratulations to our Award winners this week. It was lovely to see students getting awards for helping others and for becoming more independent.



Student Led Conferences: Thank you to all the Parents and Carers for celebrating the learning last week. Well done to all the students, teachers and education support staff for preparing the work to share.



Sports Day next Wednesday, 7 August, 2019

We are looking forward to a fun day of sporting activities next week.

Please walk down Elstead Close to the back oval to watch the events.

Best wishes to all the competitors and House Captains.



WE WANT OUR PARENTS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

Our school is conducting a survey to find out what parents think of our school. The Parent Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training that is conducted amongst a sample of randomly selected parents. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of parents' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour and student engagement. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies. Approximately 30 per cent of parents have been invited to participate in this year's survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year the Parent Opinion Survey will be conducted from **Monday 22 July** to **Sunday 11 August**.

The survey will be conducted **online**, only takes **10-15 minutes** to complete and can be accessed at any convenient time within the fieldwork period on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. The online survey will be available in a range of languages other than English. These include: Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Chin (hakha), Hindi, Japanese, Greek, Turkish, Somali and Punjabi.

The survey results will be reported back to the school at the end of September.

Please speak to our Business Manager, Sharyn Morris, if you would like more information.

Reminder: Please remember to call the office (or write in the diary) if travel plans or afternoon activities change for your child. We don't mind making calls to check however it can become stressful for students if we can't make contact and buses are waiting to go. Thank you for your support with this.

School Uniforms: It is great to see so many students wearing their uniform. It is an expectation that students wear their uniform at school.

School Council: The next School Council meeting will be held on 12 August.

Penny Hale
Acting Principal

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Principal: Marg Curran
Assistant Principal: Penny Hale
Email: mildura.ss@edumail.vic.gov.au

(P) 50213311 (F) 50213314
Web Address: www.mildss.vic.edu.au

Principal's Award

Congratulations to all Award winners this fortnight.



SWPBS—School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

Room 3 gave us a presentation on being responsible. Each student talked about how they are responsible at school and at home. They then took photos of being responsible and typed up the information with the photo to show everyone at the assembly. They were very responsible standing in front of the school for our assembly.



Art & Music Awards

ASSEMBLAGE LINE BEING COLLAGED TOGETHER...

Projects are underway across all classes doing Art this term. Students are engaging well at exploring possibilities using paper, text and pictures to create interesting and unusual combinations of pictorial details and various sized text. The next inclusion will be the introduction of textiles and other materials to expand on the ideas getting started at this point.

Graham and Robert from Darling Room and Lachlan from Room 23 show examples of work. This involved early experiments using words and letters cut out of newspapers. These students are demonstrating commitment and engagement in their projects. Well done to you three and everyone else on the path to making new possibilities start to happen!



NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

This Term, Room 4 has been busy learning about Design Technologies.

We have been learning about solar power and light. We made a solar oven using foil and cardboard boxes. Room 4 has also designed and built their own flashlights using foil, batteries and a light bulb.

Moses and Vivien are both very excited to show-off their flashlights that they have made.



This term students in Rooms 6, 8 and 9 are learning about Space. We have been focusing on the Victorian Curriculum regarding 'Earth's rotation on its axis', to explore the planets, the Sun and the Moon. To add to the fun we have been busy creating Space themed art. Here the photos show students in Room 8 creating a star constellation using paint and straws to blow in to. Soon we will be starting to create our very own space helmets. To do this, we would appreciate any old newspapers that families may like to donate.

This week has also seen Room 8 students focusing on phonics to assist our learning in reading. To increase our reading capacity, we have been blending together common sounds for consonants and vowels to read short words. We have several phonic groups in the room who have been working on individualised tasks such as locating and sounding out the letter 'S' in print, playing 'Roll a Blend Bingo', and completing worksheets with a 'st' focus.



NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

Students in Room 15 are engaged in learning about the Solar System and space this term. We have been reading Big Books about the Solar System, watching the vision of man landing on the moon all those years ago and completing art and craft activities about our learning. Below is a picture of our space mobile and window display of our work.



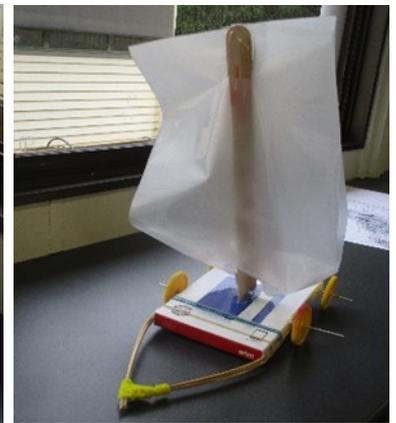
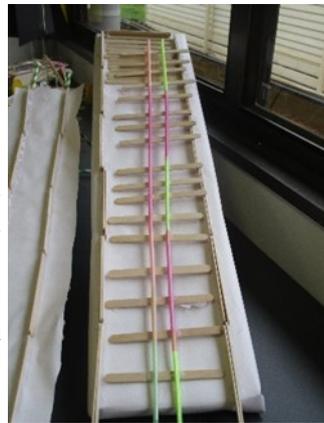
From Mr O'Brien's class, students have been learning how to make Coffee. They have also shown enjoying the mathematical challenges of jigsaw puzzle solving. Pictured is Braden demonstrating each of these activities.



in



In Room 22 students have been making posters which display their goals. In Technology, students have been making land yachts and future transportation systems.



AFL football clinic ended with Footy Colour's Day organised by SRC on the last day of term two.



Ashley Theofelos received 'Aussie of the Month' Award for her persistence and resilience in applying herself to all subjects.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



SUNRAYSIA COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES (SCHS) CO-ORDINATE THE ANNUAL 10,000 STEPS CHALLENGE.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

ONCE AGAIN, MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL HAS TEAMS REGISTERED FOR THE 10,000 STEPS CHALLENGE

This is a free community activity. The Goal is to be active and have fun!

The challenge is to walk as many steps as you can for the month of August. The starting date is Thursday 1 August, running through to Saturday the 31 August. Staff and some senior students, have been organising teams for the 2019 challenge. Each team has a Team Captain and up to 10 people. Later Years' staff have organised pedometers for students in their teams. If anyone else who requires pedometers, they are available for hire from all Mildura Rural City Council libraries. Steps can be recorded using a pedometer or iPhone and Samsung mobiles have a free app to track steps as well. This year, the 10,000 steps app is available from both Apple and Google Play stores. Fitbit or Garmin sync easily to the app.

What can families do to support? A flyer was sent home with student diaries this week. If you are interested in supporting your child please see the information sheet for more details.

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
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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



MyTime 'Mildura' Monday Group

MyTime groups are for parents and carers of a child with a disability, developmental delay or chronic medical condition.

A **FREE** service where you can socialise and share ideas with others who understand caring for a child with additional needs.

It's your time to catch up with other parents/carers in a relaxed setting. Play helpers are there to keep your children busy and active. Activities this term include sensory play, play dough, rice tray, painting. Siblings under 6 are welcome.

What will you get out of MyTime?

Assistance

Community

Shared Experiences

Friendship

Connections

Come along at 10am and see for yourself the benefit of being part of a group like this!

Facilitator – Rennae / Play helper - Donna

LOCATION

MFC Total
Learning Centre
(TLC)
Twelfth Street
Mildura
10am

MONDAY TERM 3 DATES

22nd July 2019
29th July 2019
5th August 2019
12th August 2019
19th August 2019
26th August 2019
2nd September 2019
9th September 2019

CONTACT

Rennae Cope
Group Facilitator / Early
Years Inclusion
Coordinator
0455025455

Or
Rhonda Smith

Team Leader Early Years
Learning and Literacy
0400818751