

MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter No : 2

DATE: 22 February, 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.



TERM 1



Principal's Report



Awards

Congratulations to our recent Award winners. So far this year we have held a whole school assembly and separate ones for Primary and Secondary students. These appear to be engaging for students. Students were very excited on Tuesday when room 3 students presented a video of students and staff making a pretend river.

Student Support Group Meetings

Student Support Group meetings have now been underway for two weeks. Thank you for meeting your child's teacher(s) to provide information about your child. This important information helps us to plan relevant long and short term goals and to best meet day to day needs.

Teachers are now working on developing Individual Education Plans. These will be available on Xuno when completed.

Annual privacy reminder for our school community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#) and the [Schools' Privacy Collection Notice](#).

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy, <https://www.mildss.vic.edu.au/policies>

describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [[Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education](#)] safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using [[Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education](#)], please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents](#). This information is also available in ten community languages:

Amharic
Arabic
Dari
Gujarati
Mandarin
Somali
Sudanese
Turkish
Urdu
Vietnamese

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.



Mobile Phones

A reminder that the Department of Education has in place a mobile phone ban that requires students who bring mobiles phones to school to have them switched off and securely put away during school hours.

The department is requiring all schools to ensure this ban is in place and enforced from the start of the 2024 school year.

The ban applies equally to all government schools right across the state. This helps ensure that school is a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions.

By ensuring mobile phones are kept away at recess and lunch times, students can interact with each other face-to-face, without the distractions and social pressures that mobile phones can cause.

I ask for the support of all our families, staff and students in continuing to support the implementation of this policy in our school.

Further information Exceptions: For a small number of students with particular health needs, an exception to the policy may be granted. Please contact your child’s team leader if you would like to discuss this.

Emergencies: In the event of an emergency or if you need to immediately contact your child, I ask that families contact the school office who will pass on a message as required.

School mobile phone policy: A copy of our school’s local mobile phone policy, which implements the government’s mobile policy in line with our local context, is available here <https://www.mildss.vic.edu.au/policies>

Parent support: The [Mobile phones in schools](#) webpage provides links to resources for families to help them balance their children’s time using mobile phones. If you have further questions, please contact the administration office.

Leadership Staff

Primary		Secondary	
Early Years’ Coordinator Rooms - 1, 2, 16/17	Karen Gardiner	Secondary L Coordinator Rooms -13, 23, 25, ILS	Sarah Lynch
Upper Primary Coordinator Rooms – Darling, 3, 4, 5, Music and 15	Gabby West	Secondary M Coordinator Rooms - 18, 19, 20, 22, 24	Susan Alexander
Specialist Coordinator	Bob Jankowski		

Team Leaders	
Early Years and Upper Primary Rooms 3, 4, 15	Kate Tyson
Upper Primary Rooms Darling, 5, Music and Secondary L	Mathew Leslie
Secondary M Rooms 18, 19, 20, 22, 24	Heidi Milner

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.

Penny Hale

Principal

Principal Awards

Room 3 - Koray - His great effort in reading.

Room 4 - Keoni - Taking his time with his writing.

Music Room - Alexis - Trying her best to write neatly while using a new technique.

Darling Room - Bunya - Showing enthusiasm when contributing to the 'Rhyming Words' exercise. Outstanding work!

Room 5 - Nathaniel - Doing a wonderful job and staying on task.

Room 5 - Levi - Showing great persistence with his learning and following all instructions.

Music Room - Tyrell - Attending school every day last week and completing all his work.

Room 15 - Riah - Listening and responding to directions in the classroom.

Room 17 - Gabrielle - Adapting quickly to the new morning routine.

Room 18 - Riley - Being a quiet achiever who actively listens and follows all instructions.

Room 20 - Ashlyn - Stepping out of her comfort zone and trying something new in P.E. Well done, Ashlyn!

Room 20 - Livinia - Letting the teacher know that she would like more time to think about her answers during a Respectful Relationships lesson.

Room 20 - Olivia - Keeping a positive attitude during learning time and asking for extra work after completing tasks.

Room 20 - Felix - Keeping a positive attitude and trying her best in all work tasks.

Room 22 - Joshua - Staying in the classroom and participating in all tasks.

Room 22 - Aden - For thoughtful contributions to class discussions.

Room 22 - Gabriel - Helping all new students feel welcome in Room 22.

Room 24 - Noah - Working independently and participating in class group discussions.

Room 25 - Daniel - Removing himself from situations that could upset him.

ILS - Patrick - Facing his fears head on, sharing and playing with students he isn't familiar with.

SWPBS Awards - being Safe

Room 4 - Isaac - Engaging carefully with staff when participating in learning activities.

Music Room - Kayne - Keeping a tidy work area and assisting other to clean up.

Room 15 - Riah - Independently and cautiously climbing into her wheelchair.

Room 17 - Levi - Sitting securely at the table to eat his food.

Room 18 - Abbie - Listening to all instructions before attempting the task in P.E.

Room 20 - Riley - Maintaining a clean kitchen and volunteering to wash the dishes. Thank you, Riley.

Room 20 - Moses - Maintaining a secure workspace and helping to lock away the scissors.

Room 24 - Izzy - Practising his mindfulness and walking away from negative situations.

Room 25 - Mathew - Always keeping his area tidy and packing up daily.

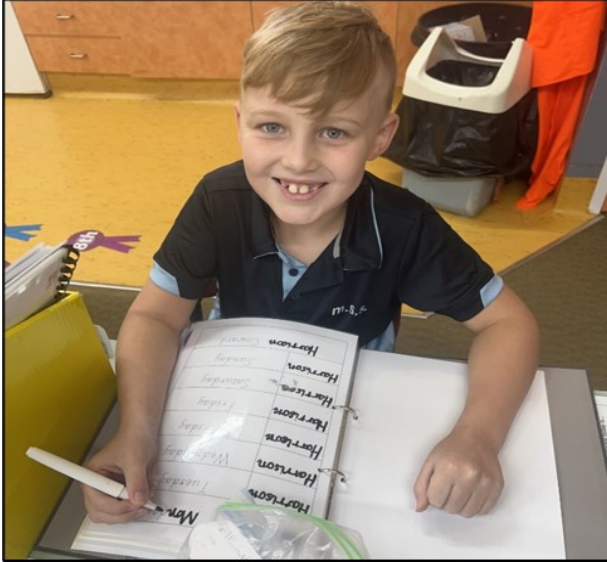
Some of our past award winners





EARLY YEARS' NEWS

Room 2 has had a busy but enjoyable start to the year. We commenced our studies in Humanities learning with our topic My Self and My Family. Room 2 students started the topic by completing a name tracing and decorating task. In Literacy, we started learning about syllables, as well as letters and sounds in daily phonics. During our morning activities, Room 2 have been exposed to 2D shapes, money and numbers.



Harrison is tracing his name.



Allie is decorating her name.



Maleah arranging her letter T sentence.



Raidon is matching Australian notes.

UPPER PRIMARY YEARS' NEWS

Upper Primary students are getting down to work!

During humanities, we have been learning about Australia by completing activities relating to our weekly Australian based book focus. After reading the story, *The River*, students in Room 4 made a river model and presented it at the Primary Assembly.

Ellara is mixing the food colouring into the water.



Dean and Keoni are demonstrating the flow of the river water at assembly.



Alexys is researching facts about Australian animals.



Room 3 found the purple wall while on the hunt for objects beginning with the 'p' sound.



NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM

NEW YEAR, NEW TERM, NEW PROGRAM

Welcome back to all students at MSS, new and returning! Students have been placed in to new rooms with new friendships forming and new programs to explore and learn about. Always an exciting and anxious start, which remarkably settles into patterns soon enough and those apprehensions get replaced with curiosity and learning possibilities.

And so it is with the Visual Arts program. This year each Art Specialist will plan a program around a specific theme, developed in consultation, contribution and feedback with one another. Bob will begin Term 1 with Portraiture and Identity, Karyn will work on Fantasy and Spiritualism. In Term 2 and 3, Mrs. Weaving will be taking us all to faraway places with Viva La France through Winter into Spring. Shana will swing Term 4 into Industry and Invention. An exotic and exciting collection of projects and tasks await all students across the school!

Added to this there will also be a brief dipping into the history of music through the prism of Australian music icons - from Slim Dusty, Bee Gees and Olivia Newton John and on to Baker Boy. These icons will be dispersed in bite size chunks each term to introduce students to the rich tapestry of sound which makes Australian music so special!

All in all, a spectacular year of action and sound is on the horizon!

SECONDARY NEWS

The Secondary Geography focus for this year is Climate Change.

As part of this learning, the students in Room 23 have been learning about the difference between weather and climate. They have also looked at how different weather can affect us in our everyday lives. This will help us better understand how we may be affected by climate change in the future.



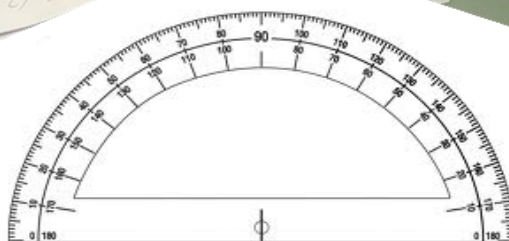
Room 23 students engaging in a Geography lesson about weather and climate. At the end of the lesson most students were able to identify, with support, the difference between weather and climate.

How does the weather affect us?	
Positive impacts	Negative impacts
Health Sunny weather makes us feel better.	Storms can cause sunburn and heatstroke.
Farming Crops grow well in good weather. Good weather means less delay in travel.	Heavy rain can cause flooding of grazing land and damage crops. Ice roads can cause car accidents.
Retail (shopping) More of people visit stores and are more likely to buy more.	Cold weather keeps people home, out of the shops. They don't spend money. Sports events must be cancelled in bad weather.
Tourism and recreation More people visit the beach in warm, sunny weather. Tourists can avoid winter.	More fuel is used for heating in cold weather.
Energy	

The students also discussed and compiled some ideas of how weather can impact us positively and negatively.

Also in Secondary.....

Below, Lucas and Noah from Room 24 are learning how to create pie graphs during a Math's lesson using a protractor.



February

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Lunch orders due in.	14 Lake Cullulleraine Notes go home.	15 Hot Cross Buns orders due in	16	17	18
19 School Council	20 Lunch orders due in.	21	22 Hot Cross Buns delivered to school	23	24	25
26	27 Lunch orders due in.	28 Lake Cullulleraine Notes due back.	29			

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 Lake Cullulleraine	16	17
18 School Council	Lunch orders due in.	20	21	22	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.....						

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



Designed to change perceptions of social violence.

Be Wise Presentation
Monday February 26th @6pm

WHERE: Mildura Waves Aquatic & Leisure Centre
AGE: Suitable for years 13+
COST: FREE

Bookings necessary
alignedleisure.formstack.com/forms/pat_cronin_foundation_registration



Be Wise LET'S END THE COWARD PUNCH