

MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter No : 1

DATE: 9 February, 2023



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

13 March—Public Holiday—No School
17 March—School Photos
6 April—Last Day of Term. Early departure.



TERM 4



Principal's Report



Welcome Back:

It was wonderful to see everyone returning to school eager to see friends and staff again. Students are settling into their new routines and are getting down to the business of learning. Thank you for your preparations with uniforms, hats, drink bottles, notes and lunch boxes. Please make sure all items are labelled.

Xuno is our main form of communication at Mildura Specialist School. We will be increasing the use of the functions this year. Please contact the office or your child's teacher if you need support or a new log-in. Student Support Group meetings will be held in the coming weeks and you should have received information about how to book a meeting on Xuno. Using the platform will hopefully increase communication between home and school and reduce the amount of paper we use.



Congratulations to our Award winners this week. There were several awards to hand out this week for both Principal and School Wide Positive Behaviour Support. Great work! Thank you to the parents and carers who joined our assembly for the presentation of Primary Student Representative Council badges for 2023. Thank you to Judi L'Huillier.

New staff: Welcome to our new teachers, Estelle Winders in room 3 and Jasmine Heaysman in room 6. We have appointed two new education support staff who will start in the coming weeks.

Placements: We have welcomed four students from Monash University this week. The students are working in different areas across the school. We wish them all the best during their time in our setting and are sure they will enjoy exploring the local district. Thank you to Tiffany, Bridget, Yasmin and Liam. Next week we will be joined by Grace.



Policies: These are located on our website, <https://www.mildss.vic.edu.au> Please click on this link for the Schools' Privacy Policy - [Schools' privacy policy \(education.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.mildss.vic.edu.au/schools-privacy-policy)

Penny Hale
Principal

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.

Parent pick up/drop off

Thankyou for your patience with the parent pick up/drop off routine. Please note the time for early years and upper primary students is from 2.40pm and for secondary students, 2.50pm. Please don't block the parking area outside the chiropractors or the motel entrance. Parking is also available on the other side of the school driveway, if you wish to park and walk down.

School Council

School Council Elections are now in process. Please see in this newsletter information about what the role of a member of School Council is and who is able to apply. There are five parent nominations this year with the last of the current committee meeting in February. Positions are for two years and members are able to re-nominate. I encourage you to consider nominating for council and assisting in the governance of the school. The council meets eight times per year on a Monday at 5:30 pm. Nomination forms will be available electronically from Monday and paper copies by request.

Penny Hale
Principal

Principal Awards

Room 8 - Jai: for using good manners such as please and thank you when speaking with staff and students.
Room 20 - Mahalia: for coming to school with a mature outlook, ready to work independently and attempt all set tasks each day.

Room 20 - Bella: for using carefully chosen, respectful language when participating in a thought provoking conversation about Australia Day.

Room 20 - Neesha: for going out of her comfort zone to make new friends.

Room 22 - Clayton: for a great start to the year, he has participated in all activities with genuine enthusiasm.

Room 23 - Antony: for successfully transitioning to Secondary PAL.

Room 25 - Emily: for showing confidence when answering interview questions in front of the class.

SWPBS Awards - being Safe

Room 8 - Riley: by pushing in his chair to keep the classroom safe.

Room 20 - Kyle: by including others and ensuring safe choices were made when playing a chasing game in the playground.

Room 22 - Chantilly: by participating in all activities and doing extra to work in activities.

Room 25 - Brodi: and Sun Smart by wearing his hat into the yard.

Room ILS - Lacie: by always following staff instructions.

Some of our Award winners this week.



ART

During the first week of term students completed art activities around the theme Fruit. Students used a variety of fruit to create printed pictures whilst others followed step by step instructions.



EARLY YEARS' NEWS

Early Years' staff would like to welcome back all students to school. It is great to see students back ready to learn and remembering their hats and water bottles. We welcome Renee and Libby into our staff team in Rooms 1 and 16/17. We look forward to seeing the growth and change in our new prep students during this year and having you get to know them through our newsletters. Our topic for Term One is Dreamtime Stories. Students have already begun thinking about ways we communicate and how we tell stories.



Dhelila is printing with paint. Xavier is creating some music. Maddix is exploring the different texture in the playground. Riddik is using a switch to say 'Hello' in the morning.

UPPER PRIMARY YEARS' NEWS

Upper Primary students were involved in Australia Day activities. Students created a pair of thongs using old rubber tyres and packaging foam. Students learnt about things that are unique to Australia such as our native animals, meat pies, vegemite and thongs. It was a great way to build relationships and get off to a quality start to 2023.



PAL NEWS

All students are settling back into the school routine, and are getting to know their classroom staff and peers.

The Community Access activity for this term will be Lawn Bowls starting at the end of February. Notes will be sent home shortly.

Cooking will be a combined program between Rooms ILS, 23 and 24, focusing on skill development.

ILS students have enjoyed doing apple stamping in Art with Mrs Weaving.

Room 13 have been doing Valentine's Day activities. While Room 23 students have been enjoying English activities.



SECONDARY—VPC NEWS

Secondary/VPC students have started the year with many activities to get to know new members to the school/team and strengthening our previous social connections. Room 20 have had conversations around our goals for this year, with many students expressing that they would like to increase their reading levels, whilst others would like to expand their friendship circles.

The focus for this week has been getting to know each other better, and having meaningful discussions regarding Australia Day. Below are images of Bella and Neesha expressing their opinions about Australia Day.



Students seem to be enjoying the new yard roster with more students accessing the yard at once. Many students have described the experience as very positive as everyone is getting along. This week, students ranging from Years 8-12 participated in a planking contest during lunch time. The winners were Zack Jacobson with a time of 5.08, and Riley Elliot-Blair with a time of 5.06. We were all very impressed!



Room 22 students have all been eager participants in their learning this fortnight. They have also been enjoying the chance to play music again, with Catherine.

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	Lunch orders due in. 7	8	9	10	11
12	13	Lunch orders due in. 14	15	16	17	18
19	20	Lunch orders due in. 21	22	23	24	25
26	27	Lunch orders due in. 28				

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	Lunch orders due in. 7	8	9	10	11
12	Public Holiday—No School 13	Lunch orders due in. 14	15	16	School Photos 17	18
19	20	Lunch orders due in. 21	22	23	24	25
26	27	Lunch orders due in. 28	29	30	31	

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.

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 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.

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 VCAL. 2.50—3.00PM

This is to help ease congestion on Deakin Ave and for safety of cars and students.

