

PRINCIPALS REPORT

By the time you read this Newsletter I will be on Long Service Leave until Friday 31st March. During this time, I have appointed Mrs Belinda Hudak to be Acting Principal. We have an extremely dedicated and professional Leadership Team at our College and I have every confidence in the support and guidance, they will continue to provide the College in my absence.

Start to School Year

The start of the 2017 academic year at Mildura Senior College has gone very smoothly so far and we have begun the year with approximately 925 students. Teaching staff have focused on ensuring students feel settled and are to be commended on the calm and orderly environment we have established. I could not be happier with the approach of students and teachers in their classes to date. Term One is extremely short with only nine weeks in total so a focused start is essential.

Tertiary Placements for our 2016 Graduates

The College was delighted with the range and quality of the tertiary study offers received by our graduating students in 2016. Over 200 students received a first round offer. Many students received offers in both

South Australia and Victoria and a significant number of students received scholarships to support their studies. We also continue to see a good proportion of our students taking up a first round offer from La Trobe – Mildura. Lavina Hamilton, Linda Snoxall and Nick Goodieson have done a great job supporting the application process and ensuring students are making informed choices.

School Insurance

Students and parents are reminded that there is no DET Insurance for accidents or thefts at school. There are Insurance Companies who provide such insurance but this is the responsibility of families not the school. Our advice is to encourage students that bring valuables to school to ensure they are locked securely in their lockers or handed in at the General Office for safe keeping during the day.

Retiring Members

Our last meeting of College Council on Monday 20th February saw the completion of their current term on Council of 3 Parent Representatives; Sunita Kalkal, Maddalena Chislett & Mark Jenkins. I would like to thank them for their service to our College community which was highly valued.

It was also the final College Council meeting

for Dr Phillip Webster, who has been both a community and parent representative for over 16 years.

I would like to recognise his professionalism, care and knowledge which has made a valuable contribution to the work of Council and the success of our school over a prolonged period of time.

Annual General Meeting

The next meeting of College Council is our AGM which will be followed immediately by the general committee meeting for March. This meeting is on Monday 20th March at 5.30pm in the College Library.

Commencement Ceremony

Thursday 2nd March is our Commencement Ceremony which involves the investiture of our College Captains for 2017; Amelia Power & Christian Jackson and our Deputy Captains, Emma Golding & Atticus Banks. This Ceremony also sees the investiture of our Student Representative Council. A large part of the evening is also an opportunity to acknowledge and present to students who were in Year 11 2016

Andrew Ough
 Principal

KEY DATES

- Mar 10** School Photos Catch Up Day
- Mar 13** **LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY**
- Mar 24** SLP 2 (Student Progress Report 2) available to Parents via Compass Parent Portal
- Mar 27** Parent/Student/Teacher (PST 2) Conferences 5.00pm-7.30pm
- Mar 31** End Term 1 – Classes end at 2.30pm



Assistant Principals Report

Student Services Centre

Students are reminded that the Student Services Centre is where they will find the Sub School Leaders and Attendance Officer. If students have questions about their program or completing their certificate, attendance queries or just need general help they should go to the Student Services Centre for advice.

Sub School Leaders

We have 8 Sub School Leaders and families will have an email introducing them to you. If you did not receive this email please call the College and check we have your current Email address. Letters were also sent out at the start of the year introducing Sub School leaders, Pathways Teachers and Subject Teachers to all families. To speak with a student's Sub School Leader please call the College and follow the prompts or email them on:

Jim Blue	bluej@milsen.vic.edu.au
Reg Byrne	byrner@milsen.vic.edu.au
Andrew Banks	banksa@milsen.vic.edu.au
Deanne Marr	marrd@milsen.vic.edu.au
Joanna Panagiotaros	panagiotarisj@milsen.vic.edu.au
Ineke Rogers	rogersi@milsen.vic.edu.au
Graeme Smyth	smytheg@milsen.vic.edu.au
Marg Wilson	wilsonm@milsen.vic.edu.au

Special Provision

Students with medical conditions, disabilities and exceptional personal circumstances are reminded that they can apply for Special Provision and/or Special Exam Arrangements. Students must see Marg Wilson Leading Teacher - Student Wellbeing for further information as soon as possible. All students who are already on the Special Provision list will have received letters.

Tri-Star Medical Services on Site

We have a Doctor (General Practitioner) as well as a Mental Health Nurse available on site each week. Students who would like to make appointments should see the Wellbeing Team. Parents can also make appointments for their students by contacting the front office. Hours are 9:00am – 3:30pm.

Parent Portal on the College Website

The Parental Portal is active on our College Website and parents are reminded they can access the following information;

- Advise Student Absences
- Student Timetable
- Attendance Data
- Student Calendar
- Ability to book for Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews
- Newsletters

IF YOU CANNOT ACCESS THE PORTAL, PLEASE CONTACT THE COLLEGE ON 03 5021 2911 AND SELECT OPTION 5.

You can find information and helpful hints on our Website on using our COMPASS system.

To approve your child's absence on Compass

Parents have the opportunity to advise the College of students absences, approve past and future nonattendance via the parent portal on the College website.

If there is an issue or query with an absence and you do not approve the date/s or lesson/s, please email the subject teacher directly or email attendancemanager@milsen.vic.edu.au for further information.

It is important you call your Sub School Leader for anything that requires attention. Your absence approval will not automatically alert the Sub School Leader or our welfare team when follow up is required.

Student Drivers

If students are driving independently to school they should register their car with the front office. There is a short form to fill out that indicates who the car belongs to in case of an emergency or accident.

Student Drivers are reminded they are not permitted to transport other students during the school day. This includes lunch and recess time.

College Support Contacts

Wellbeing Coordinator

Martha Maiorana - maioranam@milsen.vic.edu.au

Careers Advice

Lavina Hamilton - hamiltonl@milsen.vic.edu.au

School Based Apprenticeships External VET subjects

Linda Snoxall - snoxall@milsen.vic.edu.au

Trish Clifford - cliffordt@milsen.vic.edu.au

Work Place Transition Coordinator

Advice on preparing for the workforce.

Nick Goodieson - goodiesonn@milsen.vic.edu.au

Attendance - Every day counts!

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on your child's future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year.

At Mildura Senior College absence is magnified – every day missed makes it harder to achieve success.

A Year 12 student regularly absent has little hope of achieving success at the most important year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes. At Mildura Senior College we have a 90% minimum attendance rate for all students – 90% should be the minimum.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your student must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Contact the College to find out your student's attendance rates or check parent portal to find out this information. Your student's attendance rate is also published for each subject on all reports
- Speak with your student's Sub School Leader and teachers to find out what work your student needs to do to keep up.
- Get your student back to school as quickly as possible
- Your student's Sub School Leader will contact you directly if your student's attendance level is too low
- Remember, every day counts. If your student must miss school, speak with us as early as possible.
- If you're having attendance issues with your student, please contact the school as soon as possible so we can work together to get a speedy return to school.

Year 11 and 12 are particularly demanding in their workload so students need to attend all classes.

It is strongly recommended that families do not arrange holidays, trips or appointments during the school terms or the school day. This can cause undue stress on your student trying to catch up and keep up with the class work. All appointments should be made for Wednesday morning or outside school hours.

Assessment tasks are held continually throughout the year and must be sat on the scheduled day.

All VCE, VET and VCAL subjects have a compulsory attendance requirement. The minimum attendance rate is 90%. Parents will be contacted for ongoing absences.

Students with poor attendance will most likely fail one or more subjects which may lead to a possible exit from the College.

Student Learning Profiles

Our 1st SLP is included in this mail out, and is also available on line via the parent portal. A reminder that any "Below" rating or "At Risk" notification is a concern. Please contact the relevant teacher via the email address shown on the SLP if you have concerns. SLP 2 will be published on Thursday 23rd March on the Parent Portal.

Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences

Our second PST is scheduled for Monday 27th March between 5.00pm and 7.30pm. Bookings are essential and can be made through our Parent Portal. If your daughter/son is "At Risk" in one or more subjects, please make an appointment to see the teacher of that subject.

Photos

School Photos have occurred on Wednesday 1st March. There will also be a catch up day and Year 12 Photo on Friday 10th March. Parents can order School Photos via the Compass Parent Portal.

Tracy Marr,
Ineke Rogers (Acting),
Deanne Marr (Acting),
Assistant Principals



Learning Assistance for students at MSC

- If you need help do not hesitate to ask for it.
- Start by asking your classroom teacher.
- Your pathways teacher is also there to assist your learning progress.
- Look at your student learning progress statements to gauge how you are going.

Tips

- Make use of your textbook and Moodle resources to improve understanding.
- Keep up to date with classwork and homework.
- Ensure you have a quiet area with a desk at home.
- Complete a homework and study timetable and try to stick to it.
- Do not procrastinate.
- Come in Wednesday morning 9am till 10.30am to get extra help for your subject/s.
- Form a study group to help each other.
- Attend homework classes Tuesday and Wednesday after school.
- Homework classes are held in the library from 3.30pm till 6.00pm.
- Be organised and use course outlines to know when assessment tasks are happening.
- Attend Assessment preparation and revision classes.

If you are overwhelmed DO NOT avoid classes see your Sub School Leader for advice.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS in Scored Assessment

- To be the best, you have to be the best prepared, the only way to achieve this is to work hard
- Top students study for two to four hours on a week night and three to six hours at weekends
- Put distractions away

- Turn off your mobile phone
- Make a list of deadlines
- Try using earplugs and listen to music only when doing undemanding work
- Consider studying in a library where there are fewer distractions
- Find study buddies for sharing notes and discussing ideas
- Get help from your teacher
- Plan your week ahead
- Remember to take breaks
- Get a copy of the Area of Study as it is a guide as to what should be in your study notes
- Read the Examiner's Report in conjunction with the 2015 Exam
- Review class materials regularly
- Use colour to highlight important heading. Subheadings act as memory triggers
- Do lots of practice exam papers. Research shows that this is what top students do
- Read additional material, taking notes of relevant material
- Think and look for unique angles. Demonstrate that you understand opposing views and then explain why you believe one argument is more correct
- Learn from your mistakes, this is critical for success
- Prepare carefully for all assessment tasks.
- Keep things in perspective- you cannot perform well when you are stressed

Sports Report

Boys Cricket

It was a great day for our Boys Cricket team on Monday 20th February, with two very solid wins.

The weather was excellent, as was the boys' sportsmanship, attitude and general willingness to help.

This is a very strong, mainly Year 11 team, so the next 24 months appears to be going to be great.

Well done boys on a great win!

Results

MILDURA SENIOR COLLEGE 8/128 (20 overs) **defeated** ST JOSEPHS COLLEGE all out 104.

Best for MSC: Jeremy Graham 41 & 3/15 (3 overs); Lauchy Wade 25; James Perry 21; Paddy Keogh 2/10 (2 overs)

MILDURA SENIOR COLLEGE 7/130 (20 overs) **defeated** COOMEALLA HIGH SCHOOL 8/123 (20 overs)

Best for MSC: James Perry 40; Jeremy Graham 3/8 (3 overs)

Kevin Maunder

Coach

SRC News

SRC Camp

The SRC Camp was run over the Tuesday 14th - Wednesday 15th February at the Lake Cullulleraine RSL Camp.

All 30 SRC representatives attended (15 Year 11s and 15 Year 12). The weather was in our favour, being sunny and high 20's both days.

Students undertook a number of team-building activities on the first day run by Wild Side Outdoors and enjoyed a pleasant dinner on the banks of the Lake.

At night they really got into the newspaper fashion show and Karaoke (some more than others!!). On the second day, students completed some self-reflection activities and started the planning process for 2017; with the theme "What will the SRC at MSC do in 2017?".

A big thanks to Craig and Carma for their help during the camp.

Boys Cricket Team



Free 1 day workshop
for parents & carers of
school-aged students
on the autism
spectrum!

Mildura
14 March 2017

Register your place:

positivepartnerships.com.au



MILDURA SENIOR COLLEGE
a pathway to the future

All absences must be verified by one of the following:

- Compass: Parent Portal (www.milsen.vic.edu.au)
- Compass: Parent App (*Compass School Manager*)
- Email: attendanceofficer@milsen.vic.edu.au
- Phone: 5021 2911 (*answering machine on 24/7*)
 - Medical certificate
 - Appointment notification
- A signed and dated note with student full name

MSC Calendar 2017

March

10	School Photos Catch Up Day
13	LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY
24	SLP 2 (Student Progress Report 2) available to Parents via Compass Parent Portal
27	Parent/Student/Teacher (PST 2) Conferences 5.00pm-7.30pm
31	End Term 1 – Classes end at 2.30pm