

MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter

No : 19

DATE: 28 November 2024



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

School Council - 9 December
End of Term 4 – 20 December



SunSmart



Principal's Report



Congratulations to our Award recipients this past fortnight. The Primary excursion was cancelled due to the STEM Circus Spectacular. Thank you to Bob for organising this event which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. There will be a whole school assembly on 4 December.



Graduation: A ceremony was held on Wednesday evening last week, for our eleven Year 12 graduates. It was wonderful to see all our students take their place at the lectern and present their speeches

A signature bear or football was presented to each of our graduates at the Secondary Assembly on Wednesday. This was followed by the cutting of cake by Jordan and Cody.

Thank you to Jordan, Cody, Ryan and Kane for your leadership as school captains.

Thank you to parents, family members and friends who joined the celebrations. Special thanks to the Secondary staff, especially Heidi, Paul and Belinda for your preparations to make this time so special for all our students, staff and families.

On behalf of the school community, I would like to wish our graduates all the best for the future.

We are looking forward to the Year 6 Graduation on the 10 December at the Primary Assembly.

Student Support Group Meetings: Thank you to parents/carers for your participation in the termly SSGs. We hope you enjoyed the student led component of the meetings this term. I know students have been putting a lot of thought into their presentations over the past few weeks.

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
(P) 50213311 (F) 50213314

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.



Reports: These are being finalised and will be available towards the end of the year. Families will receive a pack with 2025 information which will include a Parent Handbook and important dates.

With the end of the year, fast approaching, class groups are being organised. Teachers and education support staff are finalising end of year tasks to ensure a uniform handover of information to 2025 staff.

Transition: Kate and the Early Years Team have just finalised Prep Transition. It was wonderful to see all the students engaging with play activities with staff in room 2. Thank you to the team for your work to make this such a success. Students transitioning from other schools will attend on the statewide transition day on 9 December. We will also hold a short session for all students.

School Council: Our last School Council will be held on 9 December.

Penny Hale
Principal

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Room 1 – Ryu - For taking turns with friends when playing the maths games on the board.

Room 1 – Colton - For always helping friends and teachers tidy up the toys in the classroom.

Room 3 – Tarrell - For telling an adult when other students weren't being safe in the yard.

Room 5 – Kyson - For always being on task.

Room 5 – Benjamin – For listening to staff and making positive choices throughout the day.

Room 15 – Carter – For assisting staff and peers to make a class poster about recycling.

Room 15 – Axel - For independently getting out of his wheelchair.

Music Room – Alexis - Making a decision to move in class to work more independently.

Music Room – Kayne - Being a great partner for blind folded social skill activity.

Music Room – Nathaniel – For sitting at his table and completing all work tasks.

Room 18 – Quinn - Diligently working on his Student Led Conference PowerPoint by reading and editing his work independently.

Room 18 – Johbi - His diligence in maintaining presentation of the Mini Woolies store by demonstrating fantastic attention to detail and commitment to customer satisfaction.

Room 20 – Felix – For assisting a new student during a transition session by helping them with an activity and inviting them to a choir session.

Room 20 – Ezekiel - For assisting a new student during a transition session and making them feel very welcome at Mildura Specialist School.

Room 22 – Lincoln - For always giving things a go and doing his best in class!

Room 22 – Wyhatt - For always being kind, thinking of others and supporting others when he can!

SWPBS Awards – Being Respectful

Room 5 – Benjamin – Transitioning safely.

Room 5 – Indy-Lou - Helping her fellow students.

Room 5 – David - Focusing on positive play interactions during yard time.

Room 15 – Axel - Being safe when independently climbing into and out of the leaf swing.

Room 15 – Jonah - For safely using classroom equipment.

Room 18 – Riley - Riley listens and follows instructions to complete work tasks at Ritchies IGA each Friday. He is being safe by following workplace regulations.

HERE ARE OUR RECENT AWARD WINNERS



ART ROOM NEWS

Bronwyn Bancroft and the Mining Landscape

Students in Room 23 have been studying the work of Indigenous artist Bronwyn Bancroft who uses her work to tell uplifting stories about Australian history from various perspectives and describes the beauty found in the natural forms of the land.

Brodi has used his interest in buildings and structures to create a detailed patterned work depicting the view of house rooftops seen from above. He has also incorporated this interest in his buildings to explore features seen in the industrial landscape, Along with Bronwyn's work this theme has been introduced in Term 4 and interpreted through painting and collage by (clockwise from top left) Eli, Jayda, Lacie and Angus. Well done all fine artists in Room 23!



RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Room 15 students are welcomed into the classroom and their favourite songs are played while their teacher, Terry, checks in to see how they are feeling and to make a connection with the student.



On Tuesday the Music Room and Room 25 played games together to help develop connections between senior and upper primary students. The classroom was full of positive discussions, turn taking and new friendships developing.



EARLY YEARS' NEWS

The Early Years team hopes everyone enjoys the final weeks of school. With the holidays approaching, Room 2 has been busy concluding various topics before transitioning to Christmas activities in early December.

As part of our Inquiry Unit this term, which focuses on Design and Technologies, the Early Years' team has been exploring the design cycle through themes centred around Nursery Rhymes and Traditional Tales. One of the key texts we examined was 'The Three Little Pigs'. After reading the story, students engaged in a discussion about key features, such as the wolf blowing down different structures. We explored the materials used to build each house and then tasked the students with brainstorming and designing their own structures using recyclable materials, aiming to create a design that could potentially keep the three little pigs safe from the big, bad wolf.

Once students had researched and designed their structures, they began building. They were encouraged to use a variety of materials, and under staff supervision, students constructed a wide range of structures based on their designs. After completing their builds, students had the opportunity to test the durability of their structures by using a hairdryer to simulate the wolf's huffing and puffing.

We are pleased to report that each structure withstood the hairdryer challenge, and the students thoroughly enjoyed the process. They also took time to reflect on their designs once completed. It's clear that we may have some future engineers among us!

Below are photos of Room 2 students following the Design Cycle: imagining, planning, creating, testing, and reflecting.



UPPER PRIMARY NEWS

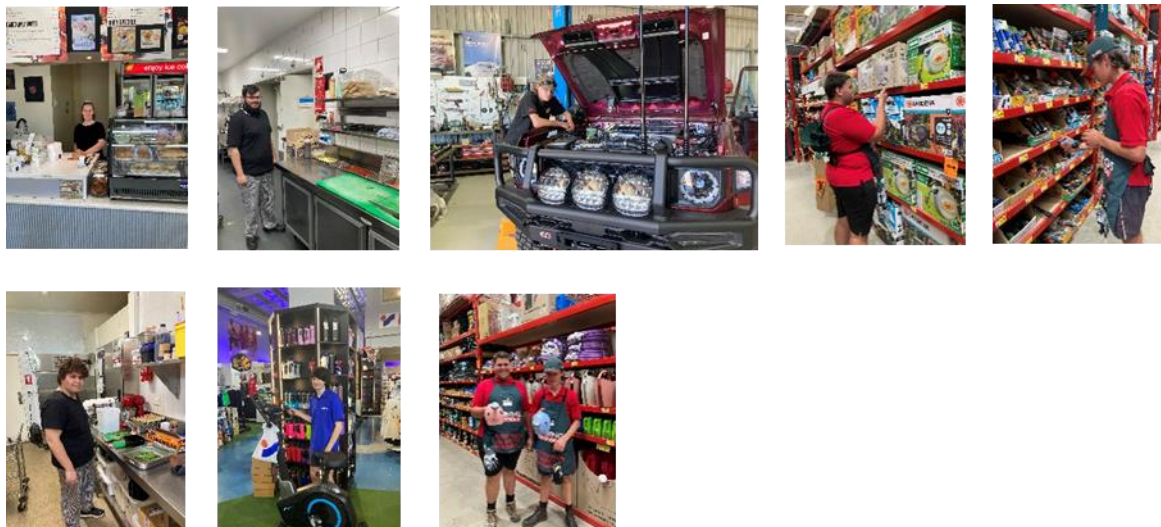
It's been a busy few weeks in the Upper Primary section. The students in the Darling and Music rooms created algorithms by giving a character on a computer the step-by-step instruction it needs to complete different puzzles, for example guiding the character to collect all the apples. Students in Room 15 have been practising their counting and are looking forward to making Christmas decorations. Students in room 3 have been learning about celebrations and are busy planning for a class party. Room 5 students have been practising their money



SECONDARY NEWS

Students from Room 19 recently completed Work Experience at various local businesses. The students returned to school reporting they enjoyed their time and recorded the skills and experience gained in updates to their Resume and Digital Portfolio. We would like to thank Dale Harvey from the NMLLEN (Northern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network) for his work liaising with employers to arrange these opportunities along with the employers for supporting our students with their Work Experience program.

- Ella: Espresso Drive Through.
- Byron: Mildura Workers
- Mathew: Mildura 4WD Accessories
- Jordan: Bunnings
- Kadin: Bunnings
- Cody: Intersport



Also, we congratulate our 2024 Graduates who had their special evening last week and the Graduation assembly this week. Wishing you all the best for your post school adventures.



SECONDARY NEWS

Students in Room 13 have been working on implementing strategies and using equipment to help regulate emotions. Each of the students has varying interests and sensory needs. As you can see, Kai likes laying on some oversized bean bags, Reece is enjoying some time on the rocking chair and Daniel is using an iPad while looking at colours. Other activities that students engage with are gardening, jumping on the trampoline and using the nest swing. With the recent weather, it's been a little difficult to get outside.



This morning we attended our last incursion for the year. The STEM-Circus Spectacular was enjoyed by both staff and students.

Room 23 students made some paper mâché fruit for our Calendar Tree. November's tree shows a simulation of a multi-graft tree that showcases some of the fruit we grow in our region. We have included mangoes, cherries, nectarines and peaches.

We have also been using Maths games to practise counting and addition. Here we have some students playing a Four in A Row addition game.





We are SunSmart - a note for families

Too much of the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer.

UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life. Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Australia. It is also one of the most preventable cancers.

You can't see or feel the sun's UV. Whatever the weather, if the UV levels are three or more, it's important to *Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide!*

Sun protection times

Don't just wait for hot and sunny days to use sun protection. Check the sun protection times each day so your family can be protected when they need to be.



Daily local sun protection times and weather details are available from the SunSmart widget on our school website, in the weather section of the newspaper, on the SunSmart website at sunsmart.com.au and as a free SunSmart app. Sun protection times can also be found at the Bureau of Meteorology website and live UV levels are available from ARPANSA.

SunSmart membership

Our school is a registered member of Cancer Council Victoria's SunSmart Schools Program. We aim to protect students and staff from too much UV.

Sun protection and skin cancer prevention is a shared responsibility. Please help support our SunSmart membership and sun protection efforts by ensuring your child follows the SunSmart measures included in our policy at school and at home.

During the daily local sun protection times (usually from mid-August to the end of April), **use these 5 SunSmart steps – even if it's cool and cloudy.**

1. **SLIP** on covering clothing

For free dress days, ensure your child wears clothing that covers as much skin as possible (e.g. elbow length tops with a higher neckline or collar and longer style shorts or skirts). Densely woven fabrics are best.



2. **SLOP** on SPF50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen

Apply a generous amount of sunscreen at the start of the day and make sure children have sunscreen in their bag ready to reapply throughout the day. Sunscreen should be reapplied every two hours. Please ensure children get plenty of sunscreen application practice at home so they'll be all set when they are at school. Under supervision, ask children to put a dot of sunscreen on each cheek, nose and chin and rub it in (avoiding the eye area) and sunscreen squiggles or dots on the back of the neck, arms and legs to cover these areas.

3. **SLAP** on a hat that protects the face, neck and ears

Choose a wide-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat. Peak caps and visors do not offer enough UV protection so please leave them at home. Please help your child remember to bring and wear their approved **school hat**. Please keep this at school so they will always be ready for outdoor activities, outdoor learning and play during school days. For the walk to and from school and weekends, please have an extra **home hat** to help keep children protected at home.

4. **SEEK** shade

Choose shady spots for learning and play whenever possible.

5. **SLIDE** on wrap-around AS1067 sunglasses

When appropriate and practical, help protect the eyes with sunglasses.

Need information in another language? Call 13 14 50 and ask to be connected to Cancer Council Victoria in your language

11 November 2024

Christmas Raffle 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Mildura Specialist School is seeking your support for donations towards our Christmas hamper raffle

Items can include, non-perishable foods, Christmas decorations, or table item

Items may be sent to school with your child, or dropped at the front office by Friday 13 December

Thanking you
Cathie Toma
Fundraising Coordinator

SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION

If a staff member has gone above and beyond for you,
nominate them for a staff merit.

Merits can be given at any time throughout the year.

m.s.s.
mildura specialist school

Email mildura.ss@education.vic.gov.au

Send the name of the staff member and a brief reason for the merit.
Your words will be put on an Award and given to the staff member.
You will make their day!

November

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Lunch orders due in.	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Lunch orders due in.	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Lunch orders due in.	27	28	29	30	

December

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						1
2	3 Lunch orders due in.	4	5	6	7	8
9 School Council Meeting	10 Lunch orders due in.	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
				20 Last Day Term 4		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
.....School Holidays.....						
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.

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.

CSEF applications forms are available at the front office.

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 paperwork 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 Andrea 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.



Free Support & Services for Carers



Carer Gateway is an Australian Government program offering a range of FREE supports and services for carers including counselling, coaching, practical assistance, tailored support packages, in-person peer support and emergency or planned respite.

To learn more, call Carer Gateway on **1800 422 737** Monday to Friday; 8am to 5pm. To have a conversation in a language other than English, call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450.

Alternatively, [click here](#) or use the QR code to register for a call back from our assessment team.

Let's talk!



Scan me

carergateway.gov.au
1800 422 737 Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

 Carer
Gateway
An Australian Government Initiative

 Merri Health