

MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter No : 67

DATE: 18 May, 2023

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

Friday 23 June—End of Term 2 - early departure.

Monday 6 November—Pupil Free Day

TERM 2

Principal's Report



Congratulations to all our Award winners. It was great to see so many Principal Awards. Congratulations to room 8 students for your presentation at assembly this week.

Staffing: We have re-advertised our teaching position and are advertising for speech and occupational therapists.



Staff Professional Development

On Friday 5 May teaching and education support staff worked with our expert facilitator from our Real Schools Partnership on building school culture and restorative practices.

With every behaviour having a meaning and a context, we learnt about how we choose our response rather than having the limbic system choose it for us. A big take – away was to stop and take a breath before reacting, to make sure we are regulated ourselves. If we are calm, the students will stay calm. We are all role models for those around us.

This work complemented our staff wellbeing professional development sessions where staff are learning about managing stressors and becoming self-aware so we can all support each other, which leads to positive outcomes at the individual, team and whole school level.

On Monday 8 May, staff spent the day with two facilitators from Melbourne learning about personal protective behaviours and how to respond and de-escalate a situation.



Attendance

Thank you for calling in, emailing or sending Xuno messages about student absences. Please see the information below about responsibilities for school and parents/carers.

1. Contact details

There are times when we will need to contact you, including on the day if your child is absent and you haven't informed the school as to why. Do we have your most up to date contact details? If not, please contact the school on 5021 3311 or mildura.ss@education.vic.gov.au so we can update our records. Please include parent/carers' name, address, phone numbers, email address and emergency contact

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.

2. Notify the school of your child's absence

Protecting the safety and well-being of children through the reporting and monitoring of absenteeism is the responsibility of both parents/carers and schools.

Please remember to call the school, email or log your child's absence using Xuno early in the morning if your child is going to be away or late for school so your child's absence can be recorded correctly.

For further information on the processes and procedures our school uses to record, monitor and follow-up student attendance and absence please read our Attendance Policy.

3. Same-day notification of unexplained student absences

Our school will text/call you as soon as practicable on the day if a student is not at school and you haven't notified the school as to why. If you are notified by the school that your child is away without a reason, please contact us as soon as possible. If we cannot reach you because we don't have your correct contact details (i.e. message notification fail, disconnected number), then we will make contact with any emergency contact/s nominated on your child's file held by the school, where possible, on the same day of the unexplained absence.

Please remember it is your responsibility to contact us to provide an explanation for your child's absence from school, and where possible, please inform us in advance of upcoming absences.

For further information on the processes and procedures our school uses to record, monitor and follow-up student attendance and absence please read our Attendance Policy <https://www.mildss.vic.edu.au/policies>

Safety at school

Sadly we have experienced recent episodes of aggression over the phone and in person on site. These incidents also have an impact on bystanders. Please refer to our Statement of Values and School Philosophy Policy within this newsletter.

If you have concerns please contact the school to talk with your child's team leader; David Wright, Assistant Principal or myself.

Thank you
Penny Hale

Principal Awards

Room 1 - Cameron: for assisting students to pack their belongings when packing up.

Room 3 - Keoni: for excellent participation in the lawn bowls incursion.

Room 4 - Mirage: for independently packing away before moving onto a new activity.

Room 4 - Isaac: for initiating a game of catch with a peer.

Room 8 - Nate: for colouring in the season's pictures carefully during a Numeracy session and using different colours with staff assistance.

Room 9 - Shakira: for assisting another student to communicate with his peers during Circle Time.

Room 18 - Zack - For using his initiative to work independently and build team work with peers during Retail practical session.

Room 18 - Jordan: for having a positive mindset to support his peers to work as a team during Retail practical session.

Room 24 - Graham: for independently decorating his Mothers' Day plate with a personal message for his mum.

Room 24 - Patrick: for assisting staff, without being asked, with a problem in the classroom.

Room 24 - Milan: for increased participation in classroom activities.

Room 24 - Harley: for watching a video about plants we eat and answering questions with enthusiasm..

Room 24 - Michael: for writing a descriptive sentence about the shared text.

SWPBS Awards - being Responsible/Safe

Room 3 - Xavier: by helping to keep the classroom tidy.

Room 18 - Benjamin: by asking to move to another area when he was feeling anxious.

Room 23 - Kera-Lee: by listening to staff and following instructions responsibly during swimming lessons at the Waves.

Room 24 - Angus: by following instructions at swimming and progressing to placing his head under water, during swimming sessions.

Room 24 - Oscar: by attempting new activities during playtime.

Some of our Award winners.



ART

VPC STUDENTS' COMMUNITY ART PROJECT WITH BELINDA FOX

Belinda Fox is an internationally known artist who originally hails from Mildura. She is preparing for an exhibition at the Mildura Arts Centre (MAC) in June. Part of her display will be a Community Collage Project where she will incorporate work done by local school students. The VPC students in Rooms 18 and 19 have been working with Belinda online and in person over the past month. They have been creating their own interpretations about living in and being part of the community - at school, home and around their neighbourhood.



EARLY YEARS' NEWS

We have had another busy fortnight in Early Years. We have continued to work on our Living Things topic and classes are starting to create cress heads. We were very lucky to be involved in the Lawn Bowls incursion last week. Students became quite adept at rolling the ball down the roller or towards the target mat. Staff are looking forward to meeting up with families over the next couple of weeks for SSG meetings. If you haven't yet then please book your meeting time with the classroom teacher.



This week we celebrated Education Support Appreciation Day on Tuesday 16 May. Without our ES staff we would not be able to run as a school. Our ES staff help to facilitate the students learning and growth during their school life. They provide extra time and attention for students by building a rapport and giving students another person they can talk through issues. They help teachers creating resources and completing tasks with students in an engaging manner. They are valued every day for the numerous little tasks they carry out without being asked which make the teachers day easier.



UPPER PRIMARY YEARS' NEWS

Last week we made cards and gifts for the important women in our lives. We hope you all enjoyed a lovely day on Sunday. On Thursday and Friday students in Upper Primary participated in an incursion where we played a modified game of lawn bowls. Students had fun and the school has purchased a set so we can continue to practice and have fun.

Room 15 students went on a walk to Henderson Park on Monday. We enjoyed looking at and touching the Autumn leaves in the park. We wrote a weather report when we returned from our walk.

Rooms 3 and 4 have been bike riding together during PE lessons. The student's practice being safe by wearing hairnets and helmets.



PAL NEWS

Last week PAL students enjoyed a bowls incursion. Students used a ramp to roll the bowls towards a target that contained holes with scores. Students seemed to enjoy the activity and knowing their score.

The school has purchased a set of bowling equipment, so we will be able to continue to enjoy this fun activity.

Students in Room 23 focussed on the letter sound O this week and read the book, *Tickly Octopus*, by Ruth Galloway. They completed some 'letter O' octopus craft.



SECONDARY—VPC NEWS

During the first few weeks of Term 1 in Science, students from Room 20 and Room 22 planted up some pots with cuttings to be ready for Mother's Day. Part of studying living things was to look at different ways animals and plants reproduce. As the cuttings produced roots and started to grow, we admired all the new little shoots.



PreVPC classes went swimming at Mildura Waves, practicing their swimming skills and having fun while doing so!



Last week the Northern Mallee Horticulture Immersion project for Term Two, started their day at Chaffey Farm by reviewing the relevant Occupational Health and Safety sheets for the day. They then staked their individual garden pea plants and collected data about the measurements and numbers of leaves and flowers. They helped with potting Citrus Tree rootstocks and made observations about their Dwarf

Beans in the nursery hothouse, planted in three soil types, garden mix, crusher dust and river sand. Following this they visited SuniTAFE smart farm for a presentation about the VET Delivered to Secondary Schools (VETDSS) options at SuniTAFE. They also explored the latest technologies used in the industry, including crop and soil monitoring sensors, pest management sensors using Artificial Intelligence and weather stations. They were then given the opportunity to operate drones used to collect information for various purposes, over a wide area.



May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 PUPIL FREE DAY—NO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL	6
7	8 School Council PUPIL FREE DAY—NO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL	9 Lunch orders due in.	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Lunch orders due in.	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		NO LUNCH ORDERS				
28	29	30 Lunch orders due in.	31			

June

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	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 SCHOOL COUNCIL	20 Lunch orders due in.	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
.....SCHOOL HOLIDAYS						

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 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.

