

# MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter

No : 20

DATE: 12 December 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

End of Term 4 – 20 December 1.30pm finish.

Term 1 – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025



SunSmart



## Principal's Report



Congratulations to our Award winners this past fortnight. This week we presented the Early Years and Upper Primary Aussie of the Month certificates, badges and pens to two worthy recipients. Congratulations to Kaydon and Ashton. This award recognises students for their citizenship within the school community. The Secondary Aussie of the Month Awards will be announced on Wednesday morning.



This week we formally recognised the end of primary school for year 6 students. Thank you to parents and carers for joining us for this celebration.



Thank you to our school captains Kane, Jordan, Cody and Ryan for your leadership throughout the year.



As the year draws to a close I would like to acknowledge Mildura Specialist School staff and thank them for their dedication and enthusiasm to provide such a quality education and environment for our wonderful students.

## Staffing

At the end of the year, we are farewelling Tamara Neal and Hayley Graer. Tamara and Hayley have been working with us for a term. I would like to thank them for their exemplary work and wish them all the best for the future.

**School Council:** Thank you to our school councillors for your time and input this year on school governance: Connie Aldamiz - President, Tracy Craig - Vice President, Bianca Bugeja, Amy Hensgen, Terry Dyke, Paul Trevaskis and David Wright.

**School Reports and Class Groups:** Reports are finalised and will be released via Xuno early next week. Information regarding 2025 will be sent home in an envelope.

## 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.



Wednesday 18 December for Upper Primary and Secondary.

Thursday 19 December for Early Years.

Staff return on 28 January. Students return 30 January.

Thank you to parents and carers for partnering with us this year. Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday.

Penny Hale  
Principal

### PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

- Room 2 – Nate - For actively participating and staying engaged during the Literacy Daily Review Power Point.
- Room 2 – Levai - For walking safely and looking in all directions during parent pick-up and drop-off.
- Room 4 – Isaac – For having positive interactions with a peer by pushing them on the swing.
- Room 4 – Keoni - For having positive interactions with a peer by pushing them on the swing.
- Room 5 – David – For sitting on the mat ready for learning.
- Darling Room – Xavier – For keeping calm when the classroom gets a little noisy.
- Darling Room – Adrian – For starting and completing his weekend recount independently.
- Darling Room – Seilose – For inviting others to play with her at play time.
- Room 18 – Bella – For designing and creating the festive theme for our classroom door.
- Room 18 – Riley - Supporting and guiding Brodi through the work the team does at Ritchies IGA.
- Room 19 – Mathew - Offering to sew calico bags for our Senior store.

### SWPBS AWARDS – Being Responsible

- Darling Room – Hayley - For being responsible by sitting down with her friends before play starts.
- Darling Room – Ashton - For being responsible by always helping to pack up the equipment after every play.
- Room 4 – Nathaniel – For following instructions to engage in new activities.
- Room 5 – Indy-Lou - For always striving to do more than required.
- Room 18 - Riley - For responsibly completing a breakfast order for a classroom.
- Room 18 – Abbie - Offering a hand when staff require assistance.
- Room 19 – Ella – Staying on task in the canteen.

### HERE ARE OUR RECENT AWARD WINNERS



## ART ROOM NEWS

Students from Rooms 15, 19 and 20 have engaged in a variety of Art activities throughout the year. They created artwork around the themes of Identity, Portraiture, Spirituality, Fantasy, France, Inventions and Industry. They used a diverse range of materials to complete their masterpieces including, paint, markers, water colours, tape, coloured card and wool. Here is a selection of work from right through the year.



## EARLY YEARS' NEWS

Early Years' students have been getting into the festive spirit the past couple of weeks. We have been starting to make Christmas decorations and cards and have been creating display pieces for our school-wide Christmas door competition!

Last week, we focussed on the Christmas story 'The Elves and the Shoemaker'. We read the story, used masks to re-tell the story and completed a range of different activities relating to the story. We put on our elf hats and designed and made our own shoes and created art work to go on our window displays. We talked a lot about how the elves in the story were kind because they made the shoes and how the shoemaker and his wife were kind because they made the elves some new clothes. We talked about how we could be kind in school. Here are some photos of the Early Years elves hard at work.



# UPPER PRIMARY NEWS

## YEAR 6 GRADUATION



Congratulations to our Year 6 Graduates:  
Jai , Dean, Phoenix, Tyrell, Alexis, Indy-Lou, Raymond,  
Benjamin, Isaac and Keoni.



What a great year we have had in Upper Primary!

This fortnight, we celebrated our Year 6 students graduating primary school with a special assembly. We also had some Emergency Service visits from the Police, Ambulance and Fire Brigade. Students enjoyed learning about their jobs and exploring the vehicles.



Our classrooms have been working hard to decorate for the Christmas Door Competition. Room 4 has been turned into a winter wonderland.



Summer Fun Day is on Wednesday 18 December. Don't forget your bathers/spare clothes, spare shoes, a towel and sunscreen!

## SECONDARY NEWS

A big congratulations to Logan who won the 2024, MSS Mallee Excellence Award - an award and book, donated by Anne Webster local MP, to recognise outstanding achievements for a selected year 10 student.

As a dedicated and enthusiastic member of our school community, Logan has been elected by his peers as a Sports House Captain for 2024 and actively contributes to the Student Representative Council (SRC), representing his fellow students with pride and commitment. He also lends a helping hand in classrooms, supporting younger students with activities and tasks, all while staying on top of his own class work. Logan participated in the 2024 All Abilities Cricket Tournament, where he received the Encouragement Award for his uplifting and respectful attitude toward all players. He is a passionate participant in school sports events, and his talent for drawing continues to amaze, as he creates artwork that tells meaningful stories. Logan exemplifies our school values of Respect, Responsibility, and Safety, effortlessly connecting with his peers and making a positive impact in every role he undertakes. Congratulations, Logan, on these well-deserved accomplishments!



## SECONDARY NEWS

Students have been working hard on decorating our doors for the Christmas Door Competition. Our doors are looking great and students should be congratulated on their efforts.

This week we had a visit from Police, Ambulance and Fire emergency services.

Secondary L wishes to extend Seasons Greetings to all our families, we hope you have a wonderful break and look forward to seeing you next year.





## 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](http://sunsmart.com.au) and as a free SunSmart app. Sun protection times can also be found at the [Bureau of Meteorology website](http://Bureau of Meteorology website) and live UV levels are available from [ARPANSA](http://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](mailto: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!

# December

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						1
2	3 Lunch orders due in.	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Lunch orders due in.	11	12	13	14	15
16 Raffle drawn	17	18	19	20 Last Day Term 4 1.30pm finish	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
.....School Holidays.....						
30	31					

# January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
.....School Holidays.....						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
.....School Holidays.....						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
.....School Holidays.....						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
.....School Holidays.....						
26 Australia Day Public Holiday	27	28	29	30 Term 1 starts	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