Principal’s Report

There was no need to run School Council elections as the number of nominees matched the number of vacancies in the parent category. President Elizabeth Bradley, Treasurer James Malliaros and Richard Elstone were re-elected, and a former councillor, Darren Hawkless returns for another term. DET category representative Meredith Hutchins and Louise Rieniets are also joining the new Council that will have its first meeting in May.

The Swimming Carnival took place on a perfect day, with great performances in the water and on the sidelines where Houses competed for points for their chant and dance medley. This is a day where students and teachers can spend time out of class getting to know each other. While it was pleasing to see that most of the students attended throughout the school there were more than double the usual number of students whose parents reported them as being unwell and unable to attend. It is very disappointing that all our students were not in attendance supporting their Houses, especially on such a beautiful day. We aim to develop the whole person, not just the academic skills, and while 80% of time at school is spent on academic pursuits, it is the other 20% of time that we use to build respect, resilience and the pursuit of excellence in sport, music, civic responsibility and all the other co-curricular activities.

Meetings with Years 9 and 10 students took place this week to launch the 2010 World Challenge. This is another activity that teaches our students independence, resilience, leadership and many more qualities, as well as having a focus on helping others. Girls who go need to be fit and willing to participate in all the activities.

There will be a presentation for parents of VCE students on how to best support your daughter through VCE on Wednesday 22nd April. The two presenters, Sonya Kanas and Sacha Kaluri regularly present at the Year 12 Conference and students will be able to reassure parents that the experience is well worth attendance. We have kept the cost down because we feel it is such a worthwhile presentation.

Parents of Year 12 students will be offered places first, and then Year 11 parents. More details will follow, but please mark the date in your diary.

A reminder to all parents not to park across the school entrance driveway as access is required for staff and contractors.

Ms Deborah M. Lehner
Principal
College Matters

A Reminder of Our First Aid Protocols

We ask that families please support the established protocols for accessing First Aid. If a student is feeling ill, they are to report directly to the First Aid Office. A staff member will call home to discuss the issue. We have had some awkward situations where the first we know of an ill student is when their parent/guardian arrives at the school to collect their ill child. Students must report to First Aid (and not leave the school).

Students must always remember to sign out before leaving the school. If they don’t, their teachers will be looking for them. If a student is unaccounted for, their parent/guardian will be contacted immediately.

Co-Curricular Programs Under Focus

- Thanks to the wonderful staff in the Junior School, our Year 7 students have enjoyed their Orientation camp at Warburton. They made friends, became familiar with all things ‘Year 7’ and created memories of their first year at Mentone Girls’ SC.
- Four Year 9 students are currently at the Alpine Leadership Camp – Gnurad Gundidj campus. They will spend all of Term 1 learning about themselves as leaders. They are working on developing leadership skills both with their peers from across the state, but will also apply and share their learnings when they return to Mentone Girls’ in Term 2.
- We have again been successful in our application for placement at the Bogong Outdoor Education Centre in Term 4. Next term I will present an information session for Year 9 students who may be interested in applying for the week long camp near Benalla.
- I am delighted to inform our community that Catherine Panoussis has been invited to attend the UBS Young Women’s Leadership Academy which will be held at Sydney University from Monday 13th to Friday 17th April this year. There were many applicants vying for one of the 18 places at the Academy. The objective of the Academy is to:
  - introduce Year 11 students to a diverse group of contemporary women leaders
  - demonstrate the possibilities and satisfaction of a career in business
  - encourage leadership aspirations in young women
  - provide leadership skills development

The program is residential at The Women’s College, Sydney University. The course has been designed to be a creative mix of practical and theory with industry exposure, field visits and syndicate work.

For the students there will be a chance to develop their leadership skills and develop new relationships with their peer group from other schools.

I am sure you are proud of the many opportunities that are presented to students of Mentone Girls’ Secondary College. Our students always represent our College both professionally and enthusiastically.

Ms Carol Duggan
Assistant Principal

Interim Reports and Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews

The Parent and Student Portal will be opened for parents to access Interim Reports online and to schedule P/T/S interviews on Friday 20th March. P/T/S Interviews will be held on Thursday 26th March. They will run from 1.30pm to 5pm and from 6pm to 8pm. Please note there are NO formal classes for students on this day. Students are expected to attend the interviews with their parent/guardian.

The interim reports will only be available for parents by accessing the Parent and Student Portal. Hard copies of the report are no longer provided by the school. Parents are encouraged to save these reports electronically on personal information technology devices.

Parents who have difficulty accessing the Parent and Student Portal (eg. forgotten password) are asked to contact the IT Helpdesk via portal@mgsc.vic.edu.au

Mr David Russell
Assistant Principal

School Community Volunteers Needed

Are you looking for an opportunity to become a more integral part of our school community? We are looking for volunteers to help at Mentone Girls’ SC in the Technology and Visual Arts areas. Do you or someone you know have a background in wood working, metal working, visual arts, design, advertising…anything? Would you have a few spare hours a month to help out? We need help with preparing classroom materials, maintenance, organising and cleaning
so we can spend more of our valuable time creating, implementing and assessing exciting curriculum for our students. Jobs might include: cutting up wood or lino, organizing and cleaning store and class rooms, stacking the kiln and putting up displays of students’ work. All jobs would be flexible depending on your interests and abilities.

A Working With Children Check would be necessary to work within the school, but these are free for volunteers. Please contact Caitlin Hurwitz on 9581 5223 for further information.

Ms Bronwyn Moline
Assistant Principal

Careers

Year 11 & 12 students: Are You Interested in a Gap Year?

On Tuesday 17th March at lunchtime in Room 10 students will can hear about the wonderful opportunities available to them through Latitude Global Volunteering.

Year 10 Students: Work Experience

Time is fast approaching and there are still students who have not organised their placements. Any students having difficulty should come and see me immediately.

Thank you to all the parents who offered to host our students on work experience. Your participation and support is greatly appreciated and your expertise invaluable.

Ms Rebecca Poulos
Career & Pathways Manager

School Council Report

As usual it’s been a busy and exciting start to the school year with information evenings, goal setting and study beginning in earnest for the students.

The College’s School Strategic Plan for 2015-2018 has been completed and will be sent to the Region for final approval. The Plan has a very clear outline of the direction in which the College wishes to head and of what can be achieved to improve MGSC over the next four years. Thank you to Mr Maurice Woolcock for his efforts in formalising all the data into this comprehensive document.

One form of data collection for our College is through a Parent Opinion Survey. If you receive one of these, please spend a few minutes to complete it. These surveys help enormously when trying to plan and give staff a clearer idea of parent expectations.

It has become apparent that some of the guttering and windows in the older part of the school are in urgent of replacement. This work will be carried out in the term holidays. It’s extremely frustrating that the cost of these repairs, on government owned buildings, have to come from our school funds. Funds that could better spent on directly enhancing the education of our daughters. Council is continuing to campaign our local Members of Parliament for much needed funding to replace our ageing buildings.

If you have a moment, consider emailing Mr Murray Thompson (Sandringham) murray.thompson@parliament.vic.gov.au and Mr Tim Richardson (Mordialloc) Tim.Richardson@Parliament.vic.gov.au. Let them know that as a parent community we are concerned at the lack of financial assistance from the government. The time to replace our 60 years old buildings is well overdue.

A loud community voice makes a bigger impact!

Ms Elizabeth Bradley
School Council President

Senior School News

The Year 11s were treated to a talk by WEP which outlined possibilities for an international exchange in the ensuing years. Our speaker from Belgium was entertaining and the students were riveted by his presentation.

The VCE team was pleased with the attendance at the Swimming Sports with girls in this sub-school actively involved in the day and the Year 12s in particular, marking their final carnival with a colourful display paying homage to their house allegiance.

Congratulations to Olivia Kline (Year 12) who has been awarded a scholarship for golf with the Victorian Institute of Sport and will be training under their auspices for the remainder of her time at the College.
A special commendation is also extended to Catherine Panoussis for her outstanding achievement in leadership which saw her selected as a nationwide delegate (see College Matters).

A reminder to parents that girls are expected to use their official school bags rather than one of their own choice. All VCE students have been informed at briefings that alternative bags will be confiscated for the day and that they will be supplied with a plastic bag in which to place their stationery and books until the uniform indiscretion is rectified. Please contact us if you have an issue with this policy.

Senior School Team

Middle School News

We were delighted with the Middle School students’ participation and attendance at the Swimming Sports. Numbers were up from last year and they looked colourful in their house colours. The students celebrated this wonderful effort with the managers with icy-poles.

Last year during Headstart, Year 9 students were introduced the CASA, Community and Social Awareness award. Each Year 9 is required to plan a number of activities to qualify for this award. The planning process is compulsory and beneficial to the students’ growth in the areas of character, citizenship, communication, critical thinking and problem-solving, collaboration, creativity and imagination. The award will be presented to the students who complete all the activities by the 30th October this year.

Students have been asked to take the CASA books home to explain the process to their parents. There is a requirement that parents sign the approval page at the back of their book and return this to their Personal Learning teacher as evidence the parents have read and approve their daughter’s participation in the program. We appreciate parents’ cooperation in respect of this.

On Tuesday, the students attended the launch of the December 2016 World Challenge expedition to Peru. The expedition is only available to current Year 9 and 10 students as it only runs once every two years. The launch of the expedition occurs now as it is hoped the students will be responsible for saving the necessary money to participate. Suggestions for fund-raising will be made available shortly.

Middle School Team

Junior School News

Year 7 Camp

Congratulations to the Year 7 girls for their exemplary behaviour and positive attitude on camp last week. We enjoyed their company and had lots of fun. The girls would have been tired on the weekend. They joined in all of the activities with great enthusiasm and were happy to do their share of the jobs as well. A huge thank you to Mrs Petra Witt and Miss Stef Smith for their organisation of the camp. A huge thank you is also extended to all of the staff who attended. It is a big sacrifice for staff to attend, as they leave their families, prepare classes which will be missed and then be on duty caring for your daughters. Thank you to the families who took the time to thank our staff.

Year 8 Camp

Year 8 girls are going to The Summit camp in Trafalgar East in May. 8A, C, D & G are going from Monday 11th to Wednesday 13th May and 8E, B, F & H are going from Wednesday 13th to Friday 15th May. All of the girls watched a video about the camp and its exciting activities and have been given information to take home. We would like the medical forms to be returned to the Junior School Office as soon as possible. If you would like to watch the video please go to www.thesummit.net.au

Year 7 & 8 Interschool Sport

Both year levels are busy at the moment trying out for the Interschool Sporting teams of volleyball, tennis, cricket and softball. It’s great to see so many girls have a go at these sports. Year 8 teams will be playing on Wednesday 11th March and Year 7 teams will be playing on Friday 20th March.

Junior School Team
Swimming Carnival
On Thursday 19th February, Mentone Girls’ SC held their annual Swimming Carnival at Carnegie Swim Centre. The day produced perfect weather for us and was a success with the girls competing in the swimming events, volleyball courts, relaxing in the little pool, house chants and the dance off. There will be 24 students competing at the Beachside Swimming Carnival on 10th March at Oakleigh Recreation Centre. The results for the MGSC Swimming Carnival and age-group champions will be presented at the next school assembly – Friday 13th March. Well done to all the competitors and for those who helped out on the day. Thank you.

Mr Anthony Bruhn
Carnivals Coordinator

Art
5000 Poppies Community Project
The work of several Year 8 Art classes will be on display in Fed Square as part of a fabulous collaborative community project called 5000 Poppies during Anzac Day celebrations this March. Students created handmade fabric poppies in order to participate in the worldwide project which will see a sea of more than 150 000 poppies installed in Fed Square to honour our Australian service men and women. There’s still time to contribute if you want to be involved, just head to their website https://5000poppies.wordpress.com/

Congratulations to the students involved in this heartfelt community project, we can’t wait to see them all installed.

Ms Caitlin Hurwitz
Visual Art Domain Leader

Science
Science Opportunity for Year 11/12 Students During Term 2 Holidays
The International Science School (ISS) is an amazing, all expenses paid two weeks of science at the University of Sydney. Join 140 other top young scientists from Years 11 and 12, from around Australia and across the world, for inspiring talks by leading researchers, tours of scientific labs, hands-on experiments and activities, and a packed social program. Applications due 16th March. The ISS are looking for talented Year 11 and 12 students with a passion for science. Go to: http://sydney.edu.au/science/physics/international-science-school/program/ISS2015-application.shtml

Ms Louise Rieniets
Science Domain Leader

Health & Physical Education
Year 7 & 8 PE students have been busy practising their athletics skills in preparation for the House Athletics Carnival in the final week of this term.

Our Year 10 Sports Coaching students have been coaching some of our Junior PE classes to practise their coaching skills. Over the coming weeks these girls will be going to local Primary Schools to coach their students in a variety of activities. Also a reminder that leggings are NOT part of the PE uniform.

Year 9 Outdoor Ed Camp
Last week 41 Year 9 Outdoor Education students went to Wilson’s Prom for a three day camp. Whilst on camp, the students were given the opportunity to cook their own meals, sleep in tents and navigate hiking tracks. The girls participated in a surfing lesson which was a standout, with most students managing to ‘catch a wave’ or two.

Ms Jackie Mathews
Health & PE Domain Leader
Food Technology

It has been a busy few weeks in Food Technology. Year 7 have been focussing on their flipping techniques with Tuyen demonstrating her skills.

International Food created American meals for their American Food Challenge. Jem Noy created the traditional beef burger. Octavia MacDonald created a club sandwich and a New York cheesecake, all in the space of 75 minutes.

Food For Life developed their very own recipe for their Lifespan Nutrition Assessment. Shekinah Mould created marinated salmon and crumbed mushrooms.

Ms Lizzy Ingold

Maths @ MGSC

Spreading the Word

“Maths makes a real difference” is the motto for the MGSC Maths community in 2015. We are passionate about spreading the word and promoting mathematical studies to all our students. So we ask all our maths students to keep this motto in mind as they strive to do their best this year.

Facebook (www.facebook.com/mgscmaths) and Twitter are our two social media sites for spreading this word. They include the latest maths news, competitions, quizzes, jokes and resources for all maths students at the College.

OnDemand Testing

It is extremely important that we have a comprehensive program to assess our students for their learning. As part of this program, MGSC maths students are currently undertaking a range of adaptive testing using the OnDemand online package. Students are also using this as an opportunity to refine their testing techniques, while teachers interpret the results and refine their teaching plans to account for individual student needs. This leads to improved learning outcomes for students, backed up by quantitative data and trend analysis.

Maths Homework Club is also Online

We encourage students to attend Maths Homework Club and make use of this great opportunity to receive further help with maths studies and homework. It is held on Tuesdays 1.15-1.45pm and Thursdays 3.20-4.50pm in Room 12.

If students cannot make it to Maths Homework Club in person, they can join us online at www.mgscmathshomeworkclub.wikispaces.com. It has plenty of useful resources and includes an option to submit questions and look at the history of other responses. Links exists to exams/solutions, calculator worksheets/operating system updates, www.mymathsonline.com.au, NAPLAN practice tests, etc.

And remember... “Maths makes a real difference”

Maths Domain Team

Eagles Basketball

We are a family friendly basketball club, participating in the Southern Basketball Association domestic competition in Sandringham. We are currently seeking players and teams for the upcoming winter season, May-September (with a break in the school holidays).

We offer great coaching for all levels of player as well as a pathway to the representative program run by the association for players who are capable and interested. Competitions are available for under 9s, under 11s, under 12s, under 14s, under 16s and under 18s.

If you want to find out more about our club visit www.eaglesbasketball.org.au or email us at southerneaglesbasketball@gmail.com.

Education Perfect levy: students of French and Japanese who have not yet paid the levy ($30 for the full year) through Campion Books should go to the Campion website and pay online by 13th March. They provide a computer-assisted language learning program we find useful.

New Arrangements for the TFN Application Process for Secondary School Students

The Australian Government is strengthening proof of identity (POI) processes through a standardised national approach for government agencies. The Secondary Schools TFN program does not comply with these guidelines which require sighting and verification of original proof of identity documents.

Applying online and presenting POI documents at a participating Australia Post Office is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for ‘QC27248’
5 Golden Rules For Parenting Success In 2015
Michael Grose

The requirements for effective parenting are changing rapidly, just as the profile of parents is changing. If you add to this mix that children are growing up at the speed of light, information technology can make parents seem redundant, and increasingly parents claim lack of time is their biggest impediment to effective parenting. So what is a parent to do?

Here are 5 golden rules to guide you along your parenting journey in 2015:

1. Build confidence

With so many parents reporting that they have a child experiencing anxiety it would seem that we are currently experiencing a crisis in children’s confidence. It would also seem that we have somehow forgotten how to absorb children’s fears, insecurities and anxieties, and instill a sense of confidence that these can be overcome. Using a mixture of coaxing, coaching and cajoling parents need to find a way to impart in children a sense of courage to put themselves in new or potentially awkward social situations; to have a go at activities where failure is a real option; and to contribute to the wellbeing of others, which reduces anxiousness and fear.

2. Build developmental knowledge

Many challenges parents experience with their children are due to a developmental mismatch. That is, parents raising their ten year old as if they are eight. The nuances of parenting are age-related, yet due to inexperience we so often don’t read the cues. Recently, I witnessed a mum and dad tearing their hair out trying to communicate with their nine-year-old son. For the first time he was saying no to them. They thought him stubborn and disobedient. I thought him normal, as nine can be a problematic age, where usually malleable children suddenly start changing. Puberty is stirring. When this couple’s second child turns nine she will experience the benefits of her elder brother paving the way and breaking her parents in for her.

3. Swim against the tide

Listen to talkback radio, read the headlines of a newspaper or watch a current affairs TV program and you’ll realise that, right now, we live in an incredibly judgemental society. Parents are harshly judged as well. Allow your kids to walk to school and you risk being judged as negligent. Drive your kids to school and you risk being told that you are spoiling them and neglecting their physical wellbeing. It takes a strong parent to swim against the tide of popular opinion. It also takes a strong parent to deny her child say a mobile phone when every other child has one. It helps to say “This is the way we do it in our family.”

4. Be brave

Perhaps the biggest challenge facing parents, and their children, is the ability to let go of their parental reigns and give kids the freedom they need to develop autonomy. It’s relatively easy to develop children’s independence at home as the stakes aren’t as high. If they can’t cook a meal then you just have to do it for them. However, developing children’s independence outside the home is a different story. Granting kids freedom has an element of risk; that’s why parents need to be brave. Having the courage to let go is a basic requirement of parenting. It won’t stop you worrying, but that’s part of the game.

5. Add emotional intelligence to your parenting mix

With kids experiencing mental health challenges at a depressingly high rate it’s time to add some emotional intelligence to the parenting mix. While many schools are now introducing emotional and social programs on the curriculum, it’s important that parents develop a deep understanding of how emotions work: how emotions can be recognised; how they can work for us and against us; how we can regulate our emotions so they don’t overwhelm us; and how to recognise and respond to the emotions of others. These sound like life-changing skills that if learned, are capable of impacting significantly and positively on future generations.
### Key Dates | March 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blue Week</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gold Week</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Labour Day Public Holiday (student free)</strong></td>
<td>4-6pm Conductors’ Workshop – House Captains; Performing Arts Centre</td>
<td>Yr 8 Summer Round Robin GRIP Leadership Conference – Yr 7 leaders; Melbourne Convention Centre</td>
<td>Yr 10 Romeo and Juliet Play (P2&amp;3); LT, DR1&amp;2 6.30pm World Challenge Information Evening; LT</td>
<td>COLLEGE ASSEMBLY – International Women’s Day (launch of set song for House Music)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gold/Blue Week</strong></td>
<td>9OE1B Sailing Excursion (P3 &amp; lunch) Unit 2 Biology Excursion; Ricketts Point COLLEGE COUNCIL</td>
<td>9OE1A Sailing Excursion Unit 2 Biology Excursion; Ricketts Point</td>
<td>NEWSLETTER #4 10.30am-1.30pm 9OE1A Sailing Excursion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blue Week</strong></td>
<td>10.30am-2pm 9OE1A Kayaking Excursion</td>
<td>MGSC Athletics Carnival; Dolamore Oval</td>
<td>Yr 12 Media Top Screen/Top Arts; ACMI Fed Square</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1 (early finish 2.15pm) 9OE1B Mountain Bike Excursion Yr 12 Sociology Excursion (lunch &amp; P4); NGV Fed Square</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gold Week</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term 1 Holidays</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**French Trip**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Week</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Week</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Term 1 Holidays</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Week</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16 NEWSLETTER #5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.50am-2pm 9OE1B Sailing Excursion</td>
<td>7pm Vocal Evening; LT</td>
<td>NEWSLETTER #5</td>
<td>Year 7 &amp; 12 Fancy Dress (P4); LT, DR1&amp;2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Week</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9OE1A Mountain Bike Excursion</td>
<td>MGSC Cross Country Carnival</td>
<td>9am College Tour</td>
<td>House Music Assembly</td>
<td>COLLEGE ASSEMBLY (Anzac Day commemoration)</td>
<td>Anzac Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>VIC SRC Conference – VCE SRC leaders; Haileybury College Keysborough Campus</td>
<td>(College Assembly bell times apply)</td>
<td>Yr 12 Top Arts Excursion; NGV Fed Square</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Week</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30 NEWSLETTER #6</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9ABCD Excursion; Shrine &amp; Mentone Memorial</td>
<td>9OE1B Orienteering Excursion</td>
<td>Uni of Melb Maths Competition</td>
<td>10.30am-1pm 9OE1A Rock Climbing Excursion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>