Principal’s Report

This week we have held successful information sessions to outline the process for student selection of subjects for 2015. Please pay close attention to the due dates for submitting course selection, as late submission could lead to disappointment.

Sub-School teams are happy to spend time discussing options with students so please call them if your daughter needs help. Due to the resignation of our Careers and Pathways Manager, we have appointed a new person but they are unable to start immediately, so we will be approaching some private companies to hire them for the interim. All Assistant Principals, as well as Sub-School Leaders and Student Managers can be called on in the interim.

It is important that students choose subjects they enjoy, rather than selecting a subject because their friend is doing it, or because they feel pressure to do what a sibling has done.

Next week we welcome our Japanese Sister School – Nakamura High School. Thank you to all the families who will be hosting these students – the homestay experience is always important in helping our students with their Japanese, and their students with English. As the students share their cultures with each other, better understandings are forged and often life-long friendships are begun.

The Year 9 Camps are coming up and these will provide our students with the opportunity to learn more about Melbourne and its inhabitants. It is important for the social and emotional growth of students to attend the camps at each year level – this is a part of the educational experience that supports their resilience and social awareness.

On Friday 25th July students will not be required at school as all teachers will be involved in visiting other schools to observe some lessons and discuss with their teachers about pedagogy and process. We are constantly looking at ways to improve the learning experience for our students and to improve our students’ results. As a learning community it is important for us to continue to hone our skills so that we can provide challenging work for the students that helps them grow as learners.

I have mentioned our School Review earlier this year, and I would love to see lots of parents attend the Parent Forum to be held on Tuesday 29th July. This is a great opportunity to have your say and to review how we have performed in the last four years. If you are unable to come, you are welcome to send your ideas by email to either me or Mr Maurice Woolcock, Assistant Principal.

Ms Deborah M. Lehner
Principal
Parents’ and Friends’ Association

Parent Support/PFA

I would like to extend my thanks to the parents who attended the PFA production planning meeting on Tuesday 15th July and to those who responded to my email last week. I’m still looking for volunteers to help with:

- making some costumes (ie for the dancers) from scratch
- adjusting existing costumes to fit the cast members
- front of house, including serving refreshments at interval – for the Friday and Saturday performances
- providing props (see email from Adam Howells)

Please contact me on 9581 5214 or at Moline.Bronwyn.L@edumail.vic.gov.au if you can assist.

Back to the 80’s

The production dates are as follows:

- Tuesday 12th August – matinee for local primary schools
- Wednesday 13th August 7.30pm
- Thursday 14th August 7.30pm
- Friday 15th August 7.30pm
- Saturday 16th August 2.00pm
- Saturday 16th August 7.30pm

Tickets can be booked online through FlexiSchools and printed at home. Go to www.flexischools.com.au and type Mentone Girls’ Secondary College in the box below WHAT’S ON AT YOUR SCHOOL? The school name will appear; click on this. You will then see the services page with dates of the performances. Click on Book Tickets and select a seat to see pricing options, then follow the prompts to obtain your tickets.

National Schools Tree Day

The College will be celebrating National Schools Tree Day on Thursday 24th July by planting trees and shrubs near the lecture theatre, the Junior Learning Centre and the LOTE garden near P6 and P7. All students are invited to participate. Photos will be provided in the next newsletter.

2015 – 60 Years of Mentone Girls’ SC

Next year the College celebrates its 60th anniversary. I have been working with a small working party discussing ideas. The plan is to hold a two day event over a Friday and Saturday in August (exact dates to be decided). On the Friday the school will hold a ‘back to 1955’ day. The Past Students’ Association is considering holding an event at the school that evening. The Saturday will be the day when we invite past and present students and the local press to the school to partake in range of activities which will include the launch of the new logo and the new school song.

Middle School Corridor Upgrade

The upgrade of these classrooms is progressing well. The plastering is almost complete and the operable walls will be installed soon. The new locker bay is under construction and work will begin on the decking soon. A plan of the upgrade can be found on the MGSC website. See architect drawing from October 2013. Please note that some minor adjustments have been made to this plan.

Careers

Melbourne Career Expo

This annual event will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (2 Clarendon Street, Southbank Melbourne) from 15-17 August 2014.

The Melbourne Career Expo is the largest and most comprehensive careers event in Australia. Showcasing around 200 exhibitors, this event will encompass all career opportunities from employment to education and training in the trades, corporate and professional sectors. It exhibits a vast array of career advice, employment opportunities, large University and training representation, as well as the new ‘hands on’ Skills Industry Hubs. This is the only Career Expo with Large Australian Employers exhibiting.
Mrs Duggan has some free tickets to this event – drop by her office to collect one. First in best dressed! Alternatively, you can receive FREE entry tickets to the expo directly from www.careerexpo.com.au

**Open Days are Almost Upon Us**

Each year all universities and TAFE organisations open their doors to welcome prospective students. I have displayed OPEN DAY materials in the careers/VCE centre and all Year 12 students have now received their VTAC guide. The VCE team are keen to support our students with their tertiary selections, so make sure your daughters make an appointment with me, if they would like further advice/support.

In the meantime, I urge as many families as possible to attend the OPEN DAYS; only through visiting tertiary providers will you know whether it is the right place for you in 2015. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions about alternative pathways in the same career field. Find out more at http://www.openday.com.au/tertiary/melbourne/

Mrs Carol Duggan  
Assistant Principal

**Senior School News**

**Senior School Events**

Congratulations to Mr Warden, Ms Liakos and the VCE committee for organising such a successful VCE Ball. The girls looked fabulous and the night was glamorous and exciting. Photos are now available and can be ordered online or through the photographer at arranged times at school.

**Term 3 – It’s Work Term!**

There will be many SACs held this semester. It is likely your Year 12 daughter will have several SACs each week from now until the end of term as all teachers aim to complete course work before the September holidays. Some students could have more than 20 SACs, or equivalent in folios, to complete, so it is essential your daughter is organised. The most important way to reduce stress is to feel in charge and be able to manage what needs to be done in a systematic way.

Ten Tips to support your daughter:

- Keep a calm, supportive atmosphere at home.
- Prepare healthy meals she will enjoy.
- Ensure she has around eight hours sleep a night.
- Have a non-distracting, comfortable study space.
- Ensure your daughter reduces casual work commitments to a maximum of six hours a week.
- Relieve responsibility for household chores until exams are over.
- Encourage your daughter to have an organised study plan, allocating a minimum of four hours per week to each subject, and encourage her to stick to it.
- Factor in a routine for exercise and some social activities.
- Discourage use of phone and social media during study time.
- Reinforce that the teacher-set tasks are the most important to keep up with and complete.

Please let us know if there is any particular concerns with your daughter you think we should know of. The Year 12 final exam timetable is available on the VCAA website http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/vce/exams/timetable.aspx

**Courses for 2015**

Current Year 10s and 11s will soon be selecting courses for 2015. As explained at the Information Evening and to Year 10s and 11s all course selections must be completed online and submitted by Thursday 7th August. Please carefully follow the guidelines for course selection as indicated in the online instructions and the handbook.

Senior School Team

**Middle School News**

**Year 10 Camp**

We are happy to report that the Year 10 Summit camp was highly successful. All who attended derived some benefit and the activities offered were different to those experienced at the Year 8 camp which the girls attended at
the same venue. Most really challenged themselves with forays onto the high wire and abseiling from the lofty heights of the tower. Others overcame their fear of enclosed spaces by tunnelling through holes and entering a cave. There was a great spirit among the group and the facilitators commended our students for the commitment they showed to the camp ethos and for their laudatory behaviour.

Year 10 Social

The Year 10 Social is on Friday 1st August. During the day Course Counselling will be conducted and any student who does not attend cannot be admitted into the Social. When students have filled in their forms, they must retain it and bring it along with their payment to secure their ticket.

Year 9 Camp Reminder

We are looking forward to the Year 9 City Camp Experience which will be occurring over the next few weeks. 9ABCD will attend Wednesday 30th July to Friday 1st August. 9EFGH will attend Wednesday 6th August to Friday 8th August. Students will need a Myki card sufficiently topped up for three days travel to and from the city and around the city each day. Please refer to the packing list the students will receive this week as to what they need to be bringing with them.

Please note the times students will need to meet at Mentone Station on their first day, and what time they will return on the Friday.

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Middle School Team

Junior School News

Year 8 BBQ

Year 8 girls were treated to a sausage sizzle last Friday, courtesy of the Junior School. Junior School staff and Gerry Van Den Berg cooked up a storm to welcome the girls to Term 3. We hope they have an enjoyable and productive term.

Year 8 to 9 Information Evening

This was held at school on Monday evening. Each Year 8 girl now must complete the paperwork, enter the data electronically and submit the receipt to their Year 8 Humanities teacher. If they have any questions they should see their Humanities teacher. This must be completed by 5th August.

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to Ebony Price, Chelsey Reindel, Bianca Carrera and Michelle Taneja who joined us this term. We hope they enjoy Mentone Girls’ Secondary College and make the most of every opportunity offered here.

Uniform

Quite a few girls recently have taken to wearing their PE uniform to school with the excuse that their winter skirt is being washed. Often they are not wearing their correct PE uniform either. Could we ask parents that winter skirts be washed on the weekend or that they purchase a second-hand spare winter skirt from the Second-Hand Uniform Shop. In emergencies when they are unable to wear their winter uniform, they need to wear their correct summer uniform and bring a note to the Junior School office before class.

Junior School Team
**English**

Term 3 has started well in MGSC English classes. Please support your daughter’s reading program and home study. All student work is available for their home access on their class ‘edmodo’ site.

**English Sessions**

Students and parents are reminded that English Sessions are held from 3.30 to 4.30pm every Thursday in the MGSC library where students receive one to one assistance with their work from a group of English teachers. This is a wonderful opportunity for girls needing support or extension to receive expert tuition.

**English Student of the Week:**

- JENNY UNG of Year 7E, for the Habits of Mind of Using Humour, Responding with Wonderment and Awe and Thinking Flexibly (14/7/14).
- NICKY LEE of Year 12, for the Habits of Mind of Persistence, Thinking Flexibly and Responding with Empathy (21/7/14).

**Literacy Week is Coming**

Later this term we will celebrate Literacy Week, with festivities culminating in a Fictional Character Free Dress Day (gold coin donation required). Students and staff will be encouraged to dress as their favourite character from the fiction of literature, film, television, etc. This day always proves to be great fun, so start planning your outfits.

Ms Nola Rees
Head of English and Literacy

**Physical Education**

**Cheerleading Competition**

During the school holidays, the cheerleading team competed at their first competition for the year. All 16 girls did a fantastic job on the floor, pulling impressive stunts and wowing the audience with difficult tumbling lines. The girls placed 1st in their section and also took away the Grand Champion banner for the highest scoring routine. Go Panthers!

Miss Courtney Anderson

**State Cross Country Championships**

Well done to Grace Gordon, Sarah Mathews and Emily Suckling for making it through to the State Cross Country. The girls competed well in trying and variable weather conditions. Special mention should go to Emily who is in Year 12 and has made it through to the State level in each of her six year at MGSC. Another top 20 finish in 2014. A fantastic achievement. Well Done Emily!

Mrs Jackie Mathews

**Maths @ MGSC**

**ICAS Maths Competition**

We are keen to involve our students in a range of Maths competitions. This exposes them to some useful exam type conditions and also a rich set of challenging maths problems.

A key element of this co-curricular program is the ICAS Maths Competition which involves thousands of students from across Australasia. This will be held during period 2, Tuesday 12 August 2014, with participation from our Year 7-10 students. Specific papers are set for each year level. They comprise 35 multiple choice / 5 free response questions to be completed in 60 minutes. (Year 7 without calculators, others with calculators). Students are able to practise using resources at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/prepare/practice_questions

Maths Domain Team

中村 なかむら Nakamura is coming from Nagoya, Japan from 30th July – 9th August
Ten Common Discipline Mistakes
By Michael Grose

Discipline is easy when children are easy. It can be downright tricky when children are difficult, have interesting personalities or who at more difficult developmental stages. But it’s with challenging kids that we need to get our discipline techniques right.

Here are 10 common mistakes I see many parents make when trying to get cooperation from their children; keep them safe or teaching them behave well.

Do any of these bloopers ring a bell?
1. Repeat yourself. If so, you are training kids to become parent-deaf. Kids learn more from respectful actions than your repeated words so talk once, twice at most, then DO something.
2. Shout to be heard. You are better off going below the noise baseline to get their attention rather than raising your voice.
3. Set limits too late. Set a limit a few weeks after new object or situation is introduced (e.g. kids get a new mobile phone, teen starts going out at night) and suddenly you are seen to be taking away a freedom. Set limits first then loosen them up later.
4. Set no limits. Boundaries, rules, expectations and standards teach kids what’s expected. Boys love them. They also like to push against them so you need a firm backbone.
5. Fail to follow through. Talk! Threaten! Nag! No way! See No. 1 above.
6. Make consequences too harsh. ‘You’re grounded for a month Mr. 6 year old’ is a tad harsh and will usually bring resentment not to mention confusion. Stick to the 3 R’s of respectful, reasonable and related to the behaviour when setting consequences and you can’t go too far wrong.
7. Apply consequences when you or they are angry. When anger is in the air kids will become mad at you... if they listen at all. Calmness makes a huge difference to effectiveness at the point of discipline.
8. Mix discipline with counselling. Never mix the two as it sends mixed messages. If a child misbehaves manage that situation. If you suspect something negative is going on in their life, then deal with that at a separate time. Keep the two actions separate so they can both be effective.
9. Defer discipline to a child care centre, pre school or school. This is taking the easy way out and teaches kids that you don’t have real authority. Have the confidence to be the authority and take a lead.
10. One parent is always the bad guy. This gets wearing. Also it’s hard to have fun when you are the tough cop all the time. If you are in a two parent situation take discipline in turns. If you are parenting solo bring sparents into the act.

We’ve all made mistakes when disciplining kids. Tiredness, emotion and lack of skill can get in the way of effective discipline. But part of the evolution and growth of you as a parent involves eradicating some of your old ways, and replacing them with new, more effective, more sophisticated ways of managing yourself and your kids.
BACK TO THE 80’s
...The Totally Awesome Musical!


$25 adults
$15 students & seniors

Tuesday 12 August:
Matinee performance for primary schools midday

Wednesday 13 August: Performance 7.30pm

Thursday 14 August: Performance 7.30pm

Friday 15 August: Performance 7.30pm

Saturday 16 August: Matinee Performance 2.00pm
and Evening Performance 7.30pm

Bookings can be made through FlexiSchools – see college website

Mentone Girls’ Secondary College - Nina Carr Hall
**KEY DATES | JULY 2014**

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<td>27 Vic Schools’ Volleyball Cup (selected students); Dandenong Volleyball Centre</td>
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<td>30 (UMAT) 7pm Past Students’ Association 10 Year Reunion</td>
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<td>31 Japanese visitors at MGSC (until 8th August)</td>
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**MENTONE GIRLS’ SC NEWSLETTER**
Edition 11 | 24 July 2014
# KEY DATES | AUGUST 2014

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**Blue Week**

4
College Assembly
9OED Sailing Excursion (P3 & lunch)

5

6

7 NEWSLETTER #12

8 Intermediate Round Robin

9

10

**Gold Week**

11

12 ICAS UNSW Maths Competition

13

14 Yr 8 Round Robin

15

16

17

**Blue Week**

18 9LAS City Immersion Excursion
Yr 12 Physics Excursion

19 9OED Sailing Excursion (P3 & lunch)
College Council
2.30-6pm VSMF - Symphonic Band (P4 bus departure);
Federation Square

20 Yr 12 Legal Studies Excursion

21 NEWSLETTER #13

22

23

24

**Gold Week**

25 Yr 7 Immunisation Day

26 Yr 7 Chinese Museum Excursion

27

28

29 Yr 7 Round Robin
Yr 10 State girls’ school conference (selected students);
Pascoe Vale GSC
Yr 9 LAS Student-led Excursion Day

30

31

**Production Week - Back to the 80s**

Japanese visitors at MGSC

Japanese visitors at MGSC

Japanese visitors at MGSC