Principal’s Report

Congratulations to the Cheerleading Pom Team, who won the State Championship and will be competing in the National Championships in Queensland in week 4 of Term 3. Ms Courtney Anderson has trained not only the Cheerleading Team but also three Aerobics Teams, going with the girls to Geelong for the Championships. Our Aerobics Teams also deserve congratulations for their great results – two teams came second, one team has placed third and the last team placed fourth.

On Monday 16th June the College Assembly was treated to some wonderful singing from the Year 9 Music class and the All-Star Choir. We also saw one of the Aerobics Team performing their routine. College Captain Neena Hunt gave a wonderful speech about taking – or not taking – risks. Our College motto, Virtute et Labore (through courage and work) encompasses the worth of being courageous and taking risks. For the young women of today this is a most important concept to take on board. This school has many graduates who have taken a chance on themselves and gone into a wide variety of careers, some of which used to be seen as non-traditional for women.

Our Careers and Pathways Manager, Mr Greg Feben, is retiring from the start of next term. He has helped countless girls explore their future, has counselled and supported our students over and above his duty. Mr Feben will be sorely missed and we lose years of expertise and wisdom with his retirement. I am sure the College community joins me in wishing him all the best for the future.

Due to the resignation of Mr Bruce Mannion from College Council, there is a casual vacancy. We will miss Bruce, who has been our Treasurer for the last few years and wish him well in the future. Please contact me if you would like to fill this vacancy.

I hope all of our students and staff have a safe and revitalising break after a really busy term.

Ms Deborah M. Lehner
Principal

Applications for the 2nd instalment for EMA are required to be lodged at the General Office by 1st August. This applies only to families that have not applied for the 1st Instalment. LATE APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED.
College Matters

Uniform on Cold, Wet Days
Please be reminded the sports jacket can only be worn with the sports uniform. Students may wear any plain navy jacket of their choice over their winter and summer uniforms when it rains.

Safety Outside School Hours
With disturbing news reports of attempted kidnappings, it is timely to remind all members of the community to be careful when travelling to and from school. It is best to travel in groups rather than on your own. Please ensure any concerns about safety when travelling to and from school are directed firstly to the police, then to the College.

Staff Professional Development Day
Please note in your diaries there will be a pupil free day on Friday 25th July for the staff professional development day.

Year 10 Families
All families were sent a letter inviting them to participate in hosting our Year 11 Soweto student from Letsibogo High school in 2015. Reply slips are due back by Friday 27th June.

This is an important program for our College and relies on the goodwill of our families to enable it to continue. If you have not received this letter in the mail and would like another copy sent, please contact me via email: duggan.carol.c@edumail.vic.gov.au

I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a safe and relaxing break.

Ms Carol Duggan
Assistant Principal

Senior School News

VCE Ball
On Thursday 10th July, the Year 11 and 12 students and partners will gather at the Brighton International for a night of glamour and fun. Please note that the contract signed by you and your daughter on behalf of herself and her partner is strictly enforced. We hope everyone has a fabulous night. Our great appreciation goes to Mr Warden who patiently and graciously fielded many issues that arise organising so many young people for an event. Our wonderful VCE committee and Ms Liakos have also been working hard to ensure the success of the evening.

Holiday Homework
Term 3 is an exceptionally busy time for students completing Unit 4 studies. It is anticipated all subjects will have course work completed by the end of term, including all SACs and SATs. You can help your daughter by encouraging her to have a study work program for the holidays, with a view to consolidating Unit 3 work and getting ahead with work on Unit 4. Try to make the work environment serious but also comforting and reassuring. Build in some treats to celebrate completion of study targets. The last day of Term 3 will finish a little later for Year 12s as they will be completing a full-length English exam on Friday afternoon.

Senior School Team

Middle School News
All Middle School students were treated to a speech from a visiting American motivational speaker, Reggie Dabbs. He spoke words of wisdom and played his saxophone, involving the girls in singing and dancing. The girls learned valuable life lessons as he encouraged them to be positive and embrace their goals and dreams.

The Year 10 cohort visited the Holocaust Museum on Wednesday 28th May as part of their Humanities program. This complemented their studies and provided them with the sobering experience of meeting Holocaust survivors in person.

The Middle School girls have all completed exams to mark the end of the semester.
A special reminder to parents that there are still outstanding camp form returns for Year 9 students who will be embarking on their exciting City Experience early in Term 3.

On Friday 20th June the traditional ‘Keys Please’ session was conducted which is a wonderful educative experience for the girls in respect of discovering what is involved in become a responsible young learner and eventually driver on the road.

Nina Selover, Alyssa Hopkins, Talia Yates and Alannah King all performed at last Monday’s assembly with aplomb showcasing their musical talents.

**Junior School News**

**Brainstorm Productions – The Hurting Game**

Year 7 girls were fortunate to attend an incursion on ‘The Hurting Game’ by Brainstorm Productions. This play focussed on all of the ways people can hurt each other through social media, peer pressure, rumours, exclusion and the lengths young people go to fit in. It then looked at how and why young people can stand up to those pressures. It was an entertaining, thought-provoking presentation and the girls all enjoyed it.

**Year 7 Peer Support**

The Year 10 Peer Support leaders met with the Year 7 girls again this week to catch up and see how they are getting on. They finished the session with a BBQ and will meet again late next term.

**Wishing Tree**

The Year 8 leaders have set up a Wishing Tree and have asked each Year 8 girl to write a wish, a challenge or an aspiration on a ‘leaf’ to attach to the tree. At the end of the year, they will look at their wishes to see if those challenges or aspirations have been reached.

We wish all of the Junior School students a happy, safe and relaxing holiday.

**Year 7 Community Gardening and Sustainability**

Recently, the Year 7ALL teachers and students were granted $2000 from Victoria Teachers Mutual Bank for the Teaching Initiative Program: Year 7 Community Gardening and Sustainability. This project will create a supportive environment for students in the category of sustainability that will improve their learning practice and enrich the curriculum of the Year 7ALL program (English, Humanities and Personal Learning) as well as integrating other subjects. It will target the needs of students to learn about their world and the impact people have upon it. This learning will go beyond the classroom to the rest of the school community, as well as the local community. Students will learn about gardening, managing infrastructure, investigating historical community gardening movements and will consider the impact their decisions have upon the Earth.

For students with allergies to particular plants, we will be supplying gloves as well as providing alternative activities (some designed by the students) that support the program. The girls are excited to get started and dig in!

Ms Ekaterina Xanthopoulos

**Book Week in the Library**

**Connect to Reading – Reading to Connect**

This year’s Children’s Book Week is from 16th to 22nd August. Each year we develop various fun-filled activities and offer competitions to celebrate Book Week in the Library. The theme set by the Children’s Book Council of Australia this year is ‘Connect to reading and reading to connect’. In an age where people connect predominantly via social media, we offer a different kind of a challenge. We invite students (and teachers) to come to the library during Book Week and connect to others through building Lego designs and with jigsaw puzzles. Girls can take the challenge all week in small groups during lunchtime and build designs of their choice. The designs will be judged by selected staff at the end of the week and the best design will be given a prize. All participants will also receive treats. It’s fun to connect.

Ms Neelika Kottachchi
Library Manager
English

Students of the Week

The English Student of the Week Award acknowledges the excellent learning habits of students as observed by their English teachers. The awards are couched in the 16 Habits of Mind of Art Costa in order to specify and reinforce the learning behaviours that bring success. The recent recipients of the award are:

- Natalie Hooper 7C, for showing empathy in her interpersonal relationships, fine organisation and taking responsible risks.
- Sandy Tao 11 EAL, whose persistence, accuracy and high level of organisation have led to some excellent learning outcomes in English.

Congratulations girls!

‘Romeo and Juliet’ Performance

The Year 10s have studied Shakespeare’s ‘Romeo and Juliet’ throughout Term 2, and on Thursday 19th June they enjoyed an interactive performance of the play by Eaglesnest Theatre Company in the Lecture Theatre. The girls’ appreciation of this interpretation of the play was enhanced by their deep familiarity with the play. Eaglesnest’s presentation includes discussion with the audience of various aspects of their interpretation, encouraging the girls to see texts as living and complex works, open to their own well justified viewpoints. Live performance is an essential experience in understanding any play, and an important dimension of our MGSC English curriculum.

Tournament of the Minds

Thanks to Mr Bill Murray, we are entering a ‘Literature and Language’ team in this year’s Tournament of the Minds Competition. Our team comprised of girls from Years 7 to 10, is currently working on the TOM list of texts, developing lateral thinking skills and awaiting our specific task challenge which is due for release in the first week back. Watch for further news on this exciting challenge.

Ms Nola Rees
Head of English and Literacy

Maths @ MGSC

Looking to the Future

Students received their reports yesterday, which contain important information about student performance in each of their subjects, but they are more than this. Student reports contain student reflections on their Personal Learning Goals and ideas from teachers about potential areas for improvement. Before the holidays begin in earnest, we encourage students to celebrate their successes, but we also ask they consider how they will implement changes to address their Personal Learning Goals and the improvement areas highlighted by their teachers.

We know many students find performing well in exams difficult. Some experienced their first formal exams in the last few weeks. Whatever the situation, having a plan and preparing well for exams is a skill students refine over their years at school. As they progress into Semester 2 studies, we ask all students to reflect on their study habits and target improvements related to preparations for tests and exams.

Current Year 12 Maths students should use the term break to continue preparations for end of year exams. Related trial and past VCAA exams can be accessed at www.mgscmathshomeworkclub.wikispaces.com in the links section.

We hope you enjoy the school holidays and remember… “Maths makes a real difference”.

Maths Domain Team

Sport

Netball

Our Year 8 girls took away 1st and 2nd place for the Netball tournament on the 12th June. All teams did extremely well and enjoyed their day away from the books. Back to the courts for the ‘A’ team to defend their title of state champs (fingers crossed).

Ms Callista Carver-Moore
READING YOUR CHILD’S REPORT
By Michael Grose

Could try harder . . . always does her best . . . lacks concentration . . . easily distracted . . . a pleasure to teach . . . Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar? Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

1. Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?
   Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child’s abilities. A quick check of your child’s last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2. Do you believe that children learn at different rates?
   There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends’ children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

3. Are you willing to safeguard your child’s self-esteem rather than deflate it?
   Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible. School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child’s progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child’s report:

Focus on strengths. Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.

Take into account your child’s effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child’s progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don’t dismiss these as unimportant.

Take note of student self-assessment. Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

Discuss the report with your son or daughter talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child’s efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.
Mentone Girls’ Secondary College

THE ’10 YEARS ON’... REUNION

Class of 2004

Wednesday 30th July
7.00pm – 9.00pm
VGC Centre
Enter from Charman Road

Finger food and beverages $10.00 per person at the door
All profits are used to assist disadvantaged students
Catch up with others from your year (2004)
Put the date in your diary now and join in!

*If you are not coming please keep in touch by looking up our website /FB page via MGSC website -Past Student Association.
And please pass this invitation on to others as our 2004 database addresses may not be current for others in your year

RSVP: Friday 25th July (for catering)
By Email - Maureen: moznmanny@optusnet.com
or Ring/SMS - Maureen 0403 17 4976
All future info on Past Students Association will be on school website/PSA Facebook page

MGSC DESIGN BRIEF

POSTER COMPETITION

Client
Ms Bronwyn Moline

Client Need
Poster, program, ticket design for college production:
Must include the following information:

- Back to the 80’s – The Totally Awesome Musical
- Written by Neil Gooding
- By arrangement with David Spicer Productions www.davidspicer.com.au

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 Performance 7.30pm

Nina Carr Hall

Tickets
$25 adults
$15 students and seniors

Bookings can be made through FlexiSchools – see college website for details

Audience
Mentone Girls’ Secondary College (MGSC) students, parents and staff, prospective parents and students, the local community.

Purpose
To create an eye-catching design that captures the feel of the 80s and that will entice audiences to come to the show.

Contact
Will be displayed on:
- Display board at front of school
- Program
- Poster
- Ticket

Due Date
The competition closes at 3.00pm on Thursday 17th July

School Immunisation program 2014

If your daughter is in Year 7 or Year 10 and you think they may have missed out on their vaccinations this year. It’s not too late to catch up!

You can bring her to any of our Infant Immunisation sessions for their catch up.
See our website for dates and times www.kingston.vic.gov.au/MCHI
or
You can contact us on 9581 4870 for more information.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>27 Jan</td>
<td>VCE Ball; Brighton International</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Feb</td>
<td>Term 3 commences</td>
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<td>15 Feb</td>
<td>7.30pm PFA planning meeting for College production; Staffroom</td>
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<td>16 Feb</td>
<td>Making Waves 2014 Front Cover Competition entries due!</td>
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<td>17 Feb</td>
<td>Yr 12 TIS incursion (lunch or P4); Lecture Theatre</td>
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<td>18 Feb</td>
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<td>19 Feb</td>
<td>Staff Professional Development Day (no students)</td>
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<td>20 Feb</td>
<td>Vic Schools' Volleyball Cup (selected students); Dandenong Volleyball Centre</td>
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<td>21 Mar</td>
<td>9am College Tour Year 9 into 10 Info Evening</td>
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<td>22 Mar</td>
<td>9OED Rock Climbing Excursion (P3 &amp; lunch) Year 12 PE Excursion - Monash Peninsula (P2-4) 6pm VCE Info/Expo Evening</td>
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<td>23 Mar</td>
<td>Yr 12 Biology Incursion Year 8 into 9 Info Evening</td>
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<td>24 Mar</td>
<td>NEWSLETTER #11</td>
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<td>25 Mar</td>
<td>Staff Professional Development Day (no students)</td>
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<td>26 Mar</td>
<td>9ABCD City Camp (until 1st August)</td>
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<td>27 Mar</td>
<td>Japanese visitors at MGSC (until 8th August)</td>
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# KEY DATES | AUGUST 2014

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<th>MONDAY</th>
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