Principal’s Report

Last week the Music department held its Vocal Night, organised and run by Ms Blanka West. It was an outstanding night that filled the Lecture Theatre to capacity. Congratulations to all involved.

This term we have numerous activities that add to the learning experience for our students. House Assemblies will be held to prepare for the House Music Competition on Thursday 22nd May (periods 2 and 3).

Yesterday’s College Assembly demonstrated our students’ success in a variety of fields. The Anzac Day commemoration was presented by Emili O’Neill, National History Challenge winner Bianca Ayling was presented with her medal, 7F performed their winning dance from the recent Fancy Dress Competition, and the Athletics results were announced. This was followed by MGSC Aerobics and Cheerleading performances that several teams trained by Ms Courtney Anderson have been rehearsing at 7.30am for some weeks. These students rehearsed during the holidays and will perform in State Competitions on May 10th and 11th in Geelong. World Environment Day was announced by Isabella Cree and Jade Munro and the Stage Band performed Boogie Down.

Tonight we are holding our Open Night and next week on Tuesday and Thursday we have two Open Afternoons to show potential students as well as our current students how the school runs and what educational experiences we offer. It is a chance to see the work being done by our students, and parents are most welcome to attend.

One aspect of our school is different this year – it is the first year we have not been able to offer a place in Year 11 for a girl from Letsibogo Girls’ High School in Soweto, Johannesburg, South Africa. We were unable to find families to host her for the four terms, and I would dearly love to see us hosting a girl in 2015. If families of girls in Year 10 this year could consider hosting for a term or half a term, we will be most grateful. Please contact Mrs Carol Duggan if you can help. We know that the girls who have come to us in the past have returned to their school and achieved excellent results enabling them to apply for scholarships and bursaries for university.

Finally, could I ask parents to support us by ensuring that girls do not wear their sports uniform in place of their jumper and blazer? If it is raining, students can use a plain navy raincoat to keep dry.

Remember:
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE – EVERY DAY COUNTS
For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx
School Council Report

At the first meeting of the year held on 18th March, Mentone Girls’ SC School Council executive committee for 2014 was voted for and sworn in. Your executive committee for this year is: President: Elizabeth Bradley, Vice President: Gary Hughes; and Treasurer: Bruce Mannion. Three new members of School Council were also welcomed this year – Patty Konstandakos, who has daughters in Year 7 and 9, and Martin Taylor and Glenn Chadwick who have daughters in Year 7 this year. Other members of the School Council for 2014 are – James Malliaros, Alan Sparks, Claire Houston, Deborah Lehner, Luke de Munk and Sylvia Christopoulos.

Other exciting news discussed at our meeting is that the contract has been granted for the refurbishment and upgrade of the Middle School. This redevelopment is expected to take four to six months and classes affected in rooms 1-8, the Middle School, SWC and psychologists’ offices as well as lockers in this area will be relocated during the construction period. Drawings of the upgrade will be displayed in the main foyer.

Following the Middle School upgrade, the Canteen courtyard will also be upgraded. Exciting changes will be seen within the next 12 months at your school. Hopefully the disruption caused will be minimal and certainly well worth it in the long term.

Claire Houston

Senior School News

Senior School Events

Plans are progressing for one of the highlights of the VCE calendar, the VCE Ball, to be held on Thursday 10th July at the Brighton International. While we are all excited about the event, a number of girls did not hand their permission forms in by the due date. These students have been placed on a waiting list. In the event a student pulls out or doesn’t pay on time, a student on the waiting list can be offered the ticket. Alternatively a student may be able to go as a guest of another student if that student applied for two tickets and no longer wants to take a date. It is essential that payments are made by the due date to secure the ticket.

Uniform

We expect our senior girls to wear full school uniform with pride and most do. As the colder weather approaches and girls wear winter uniform they can wear a scarf, but only plain navy or maroon please. Girls are not permitted to wear extra visible layers under the uniform, such as hoodies and high necked t-shirts. Only navy tights are permissible (not black), and no socks are to be worn with tights. Lace up black shoes (not fabric shoes or boots) are required, and the blazer must be worn with the uniform outside the school grounds. We appreciate your support in encouraging your daughter to be in correct uniform.

Senior School Team

Middle School News

Year 9 girls were treated to a sausage sizzle on April Fool’s Day to celebrate the opening term of the school year. From June 25th to 27th the Year 10s will be on camp at ‘The Summit’. Parents will be receiving a letter in a few weeks which will provide further details regarding the activities and requirements of this event.

Ellen Winnet and Chloe Horler have received certificates for excellence in application, participation and progress in English.

Year 10 welcomed an international student from China, Rita Zhiu, at the beginning of this term.

This year both Year 9 and 10 girls are creating digital portfolios as part of their personal learning programs. Your daughter can work on this at home as well as during designated class times. This should become a valuable resource that she can use as part of her education and future employment opportunities.

Middle School Team

Sport

State Swimming Team

Congratulations to the following students who represented the school at the state swimming competition on Tuesday 29th April. It is a fantastic achievement to make it to this level and we are very proud of your achievements. Thanks to the wonderful support crew of parents who made a great cheer squad on the day. All girls swam extremely well. The results are as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Result</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-15 Years Freestyle, 200m</td>
<td>Liz Kourtis</td>
<td>8th</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Years Butterfly, 50m</td>
<td>Kiele Dale</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-20 Years Freestyle, 100m</td>
<td>Kiele Dale</td>
<td>5th</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Years Backstroke, 50m</td>
<td>Amber Cardwell</td>
<td>7th</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Years Freestyle Relay, 4 x 50m</td>
<td>Liz Kourtis, Sarah Mathews, Jordyn Bruce, Sophie Boyle</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Years Freestyle Relay, 4 x 50m</td>
<td>Olivia Purcell, Poppy Kelly, Zoe Purcell, Olivia Davies</td>
<td>3rd</td>
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**English**

**English Student of the Week**

To help celebrate student excellence in application, participation and progress, the English Domain is awarding a weekly Student of the Week Award. Recipients of the award to date are: Katarina Alf (Year 11), Nicole Crozier (Year 12), Ellen Winner (Year 10) and for the week commencing 5th May, Chloe Horler (Year 10). Congratulations to these girls whose work, attitude and improvement inspired their teachers to nominate them for recognition.

**MGSC Writing Competition**

**70 Word Stories**

Craft a tale to intrigue, amuse or challenge your readers in just 70 words. You will need to select all action, imagery and dialogue with great care, as each word must be rich in meaning for your 70 word story to work. Plan it, craft it, polish and refine it. Submit your entry to your English teacher OR to Edmodo, Group Code: 7cfn93. Competition closes: 30th May 2014.

**English Sessions:**

**Thursdays, 3.30pm to 4.25pm Library**

English staff are available to help students with their English and general work every Thursday after school in the library. Students should bring current items of work for focus.

Ms Nola Rees
Head of English and Literacy

**Media**

Our large group of Year 12 Media students had the opportunity to visit the city to get inspired by the best Media productions of 2013 at Melbourne Museum’s Top Designs exhibition.

As a fun way to begin the day, students ventured to the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) at Federation Square where they visited the permanent installation called Screen Worlds. Students had the opportunity to interact with many installations including a ‘create your own flip book’, a screen projection turning their shadows into monsters, playing original 1970s and 80s video game consoles and probably the highlight was The Matrix-inspired booth that allowed the girls to perform a movement and see the vision transform into a sequence reminiscent of the film’s famous scene with a multiple camera setup. However, there was an authentic Academy Award statue on display belonging to Melbourne Animator, Adam Elliott, that raised a few eyebrows.

The girls saw Media productions at Top Designs that ranged from video, photography and print and were clearly inspired by the exceptional standard of...
work in order to achieve greater results for their own productions commencing in Term 2. They also heard an industry professional, Cam Cope, speak about his path to becoming a travel and art photographer, as well as a VCAA representative outlining the steps needed to produce a high quality Production Design Plan (PDP) and finished production work.

Both the Top Designs exhibition at Melbourne Museum and ACMI Screen Worlds are free to the public.

Top Designs includes the best of Victorian student’s work from subjects such as Media Studies, Food Technology, and Visual Communication and Design.

Miss Lisa Blumenstein

Science

Unit 2 Biology Excursion - Ricketts Point

At the end of Term 1 the Unit 2 Biology students had the opportunity to visit Ricketts Point Marine sanctuary to view interactions in this marine ecosystem and gain an understanding of how this local sanctuary is managed.

Year 8 Beach Excursion - Science & Humanities

At the end of Term 1, Year 8 students stepped outside the classroom to study the landforms and geological features at Mentone Beach. The photo (right) shows field sketching in action.

Ms Louise Rieniets
Science Domain Leader

Maths @ MGSC

2014 NAPLAN Testing

Year 7 and 9 students will be involved in numeracy testing as part of the annual NAPLAN testing program. This was held in the 4th week of Term 2 (13-15 May) during school hours. Resultant individual student reports will be sent to parents/guardians in September 2014 via the VCAA administration authority. Each report will show the student’s results on their NAPLAN tests against the national average and the middle 60 per cent of students nationally. These reports will contain a description of what was assessed in each of the tests and provide information about what students can typically do. Students are currently practicing their skills in preparation. They are also able to use our specifically set up website www.naplan2014.wikispaces.com and www.jacplus.com.au online resources to help with this work.

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

Maths Domain Team

Music

Vocal Night

It was a pleasure to perform with the various other vocal students last Wednesday at Vocal Night. Overall, the night was a great success and was greeted with positive feedback from the audience. With jazz, pop, theatre and songs from many other genres, both the audience and performers had a fantastic time listening and performing well known classics to modern pop songs.

A big thank you goes out to the accompanists, audience, singers and speakers. I would like to extend thanks to the teachers, Anna Berlingeri, Judy Firestone and Blanka West who helped run the spectacular night.

Monique Kuhn, Year 11
Helping Students Get Ready for the NAPLAN Tests
By Michael Grose
During the second week of May Australian children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The stated purpose of this testing program is to gain an overall picture of educational attainment levels to assist education policy and decision-making. The program first implemented in 2008 has drawn some criticism from a number of different quarters, particularly in regard to the use of the information gained through the NAPLAN tests. You’ve probably heard a number of different viewpoints expressed in the media over the last few weeks.

One view commonly put forward is that the NAPLAN tests put undue pressure on children to perform in test situations. If so, then perhaps the best approach for parents and teachers is to help them handle the pressure rather than avoid it. The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it’s best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.

Children and young people take their cues from their parents about how to handle many situations. American psychologist Martin Seligman discovered more than a decade ago, through his research into children’s thinking styles, how closely a child’s explanatory style mimics that of the parent they spend most time around. Optimistic parents beget optimistic kids, just as anxious parents can beget anxious kids. The impact of a parent’s explanatory style seems to be magnified somehow in small families where there are fewer voices to be heard.

As a parent it helps your child, if you take a positive view of the NAPLAN tests. It’s better to see them as learning opportunities for kids as well as opportunities to overcome any anxieties or nerves that these tests may bring on. It’s also worth remembering that many children don’t stress over these tests. The vast majority take them in their stride, wondering what all the fuss is about. Whether your child stresses or takes them in his stride here are some tips to help prepare for the NAPLAN tests:

1. **Take your cues from your child:**
   If your child doesn’t worry about them then neither should you. Be careful not to create a problem that doesn’t exist by incessantly talking about, or worrying about the test.

2. **Focus on doing their best and trying hard:**
   Choose your words carefully when you speak with your kids. As with all their learning activities place your focus squarely on effort rather than results. The only pressure on kids should be to try hard rather than to do well.

3. **Listen to any concerns they have:**
   If your child confesses to some nerves then validate their feelings, rather than shut them down with a ‘get over it’ response. “Yes, sometimes tests can be a little scary, but they get easier every time you take them.” Use this as an opportunity to develop some emotional smarts, which starts with recognising how kids feel.

4. **Give them some relaxation ideas:**
   Anxious or nervous kids will benefit from some simple relaxation strategies. Taking some deep breaths, changing their thinking and exercising the morning of the test are some simple ways to help kids get some feeling of control.

5. **Help them retain their perspective:**
   One way to help children who become excessively anxious about an event is to ask what’s the worst thing that could happen? Okay, they may not do as well as they would like but the sun will still rise tomorrow, regardless of how well they do. Keeping perspective is a life skill that we all need to practise.

A positive, caring parent attitude is one of the best gifts you can give a child when they are apprehensive or nervous about approaching any different situation whether it’s going on school camp, joining a new club or sitting a NAPLAN test.

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**MORDIALLOC NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE**

Just a few of our exciting programs that we will be running during Term 2:

- **TAI CHI** – Tuesday: 1.30-2.30pm
- **ART FOR PLEASURE** – Wednesday: 9.30-11.30am
- **FAMILY HISTORY** – Thursday: 1–3pm
- **YOGA** – Monday & Wednesday: 7.30–9pm

For further information or to make a booking, please phone: 9587 4534

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**Host families urgently needed!**

The College is looking for families who can provide a homestay in Term 3 or 4 for our Japanese language assistant.

**Ayana Mizuno**

Ayana is 22 years old, from Tokyo, newly graduated from university. She is interested in travelling, meeting people from other countries, and Australian history. She has been to Melbourne once before.

If you can help by offering her a place to stay, or would like more information, please contact me at school or by email.

(Prof Martin Seligman was instrumental in introducing 'Resilience' into his school, Wedge Park)

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**MENTONE GIRLS' SC NEWSLETTER**

Edition 6 | 1 May 2014
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<td>1 NEWSLETTER #6&lt;br&gt;Unit 3 Outdoor Ed Kayaking&lt;br&gt;excursion&lt;br&gt;7-9pm Open Night</td>
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<td>3 E-H Shrine excursion&lt;br&gt;Yr 11 &amp; 12 Art Excursion&lt;br&gt;Yr 7 &amp; staff immunisation day</td>
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<td>7 House assembly (college assembly bell times)&lt;br&gt;5-7.30pm Dress rehearsal for Aerobics &amp; Cheerleading&lt;br&gt;squads; Nina Carr Hall</td>
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<td>8 Unit 3 Biology incursion&lt;br&gt;2-3.30pm Open Afternoon</td>
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<td>9OE excursion (P3 &amp; lunch)&lt;br&gt;Yr 11 &amp; 12 Art excursion&lt;br&gt;Senior girls netball/football&lt;br&gt;2-3.30pm Open Afternoon</td>
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<td>12 Senior winter round robin</td>
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<td>15 NEWSLETTER #7&lt;br&gt;Year 8 Camp (8ABCD); The Summit&lt;br&gt;Year 12 Theatre studies performance week&lt;br&gt;Year 10 Work Experience Week</td>
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<td>29 NEWSLETTER #8&lt;br&gt;Yr 10 excursion A-D (am) E-H (pm)&lt;br&gt;Yr 7-10 incursion; Gym (P1)</td>
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**Gold Week**

- 5th May: Senior winter round robin
- 9th May: House assembly (College assembly bell times)
- 19th May: 9am College Tour
- 26th May: Beachside cross country

**Blue Week**

- 6th May: 9OE excursion (P3 & lunch)
- 20th May: College Council
- 27th May: 9OE excursion (P3 & lunch)

**Gold Week**

- 7th May: House assembly (college assembly bell times)
- 8th May: Unit 3 Biology incursion
- 16th May: Newsletter #7
- 29th May: Newsletter #8

**Blue Week**

- 11th May: College Council
- 18th May: 9OE excursion (P3 & lunch)
- 25th May: College Council

**Gold Week**

- 12th May: Senior winter round robin
- 13th May: Year 8 Camp (8ABCD); The Summit
- 15th May: Year 8 Camp (8EFGH); The Summit
- 28th May: Year 8 Camp (8EFGH); The Summit

**Blue Week**

- 14th May: Year 12 Theatre studies performance week
- 22nd May: House Music Competition (P2&3)
- 30th May: Intermediate Winter Round Robin
## Key Dates | June 2014

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<th>TUESDAY</th>
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<td><strong>Gold Week</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Blue Week</strong></td>
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<td>Yr 9 Altitude day (selected Yr 9 students)</td>
<td>Yr 7 &amp; 8 ICAS Science competition (P1)</td>
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<td>Yr 10 Exams</td>
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<td>Year 12 Exams</td>
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<td>Queen's Birthday Public Holiday</td>
<td>REPORT WRITING DAY (student free day)</td>
<td>SEMESTER TWO COMMENCES</td>
<td>NEWSLETTER #9</td>
<td>Year 11 exams</td>
<td>Yr 9 Exams</td>
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<td>College Assembly SMR Cross country</td>
<td>Report verification (early finish 2.30pm)</td>
<td>Yr 7 winter round robin</td>
<td>Yr 10 incursion (P2&amp;3)</td>
<td>Yr 10 Keys Please (P1)</td>
<td>Yr 7 incursion (P4)</td>
<td>Aerobics competitions; The Arena - North Geelong</td>
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<td>9OED Rock Climbing excursion (P3 &amp; lunch)</td>
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<td>NEWSLETTER #10</td>
<td>Last day Term 2 (early finish)</td>
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<td>Cheerleading competitions; State Basketball Centre, Wantirna South</td>
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<td>Term 2 Holidays</td>
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**Mentone Girls’ SC Newsletter**
Edition 6 | 1 May 2014