Principal’s Report

Mentone Girls’ SC celebrated Literacy Week with a program of events culminating in a day when staff and students dressed up as their favourite book character. Our literacy results on the NAPLAN continue to improve and the emphasis on literacy across the curriculum is showing the same improvement.

VCE Business Management students ran their Market Day very successfully for most of the girls’ businesses. The gym was alive with stalls offering food and drink and the rest of the school gladly paid for the delicacies.

Ms Blanka West organised an amazing Vocal Night on Wednesday 10th September and our girls also attended the Regional Intermediate Bandfest.

This week saw the Beachside Track and Field competition attended by many of our girls, some of whom will go on to State Finals.

On Tuesday 16th September all Year 9 students were involved in presenting their research and findings from the City Project to community members who work in the disciplines selected by students. Many thanks to all the people who took part in this event, which is a major part of the Year 9 program.

Please keep October 15th free to come to our annual Malcolm Art Awards night. It is a chance to see the VCE students work in Media, Art, Visual Communication and Design and Technology. If your daughter is considering pursuing Visual Arts in VCE it would be a good opportunity for her to see the artwork and folios prepared by current VCE students.

The Middle School wing will be ready to use next term, and I would like to thank Assistant Principal Bronwyn Moline for overseeing this project. LAS Teachers met last week to discuss the best use of this space, and are eagerly awaiting the move. Thank you to the staff and students for managing so well in odd rooms all over the College while the renovation has taken place.

Best wishes to every student for a safe and refreshing break before the important and busy Term 4.

Ms Deborah M. Lehner
Principal
College Matters

End of Term Arrangements

Due to the Year 12 October test on the last day of term (requiring students to sit a three hour exam), the following bell times will apply:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Students may enter buildings</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.45am</td>
<td>Warning bell</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.50am – 9.50am</td>
<td>Period 1</td>
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<td>9.50am – 10.15am</td>
<td>Recess</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.15am</td>
<td>Warning bell</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.20am – 11.20pm</td>
<td>Period 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.25am – 12.25pm</td>
<td>Period 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.25pm – 1.10pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.10pm</td>
<td>Warning bell</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.15pm – 2.15pm</td>
<td>Period 4</td>
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Display Screens

If you would like to access the notices that your daughters see on the display screens each day, please log into the Parent Portal on the homepage of the school’s website. Look under News. If you don’t have your portal details (username and password) please send an email to portal@mgsc.vic.edu.au

Presentation Evening

Presentation Evening is being held on Tuesday 25th November at the Robert Blackwood Hall at Monash University. This is the night when we recognise and celebrate the achievements of our students across all year levels in a wide range of areas, including academic achievement, leadership, community service, music, drama and sport. There are also prizes for outstanding achievement in each Unit 3/4 study. At the conclusion of the evening we farewell our graduating class of 2014. This year’s guest speaker is Anna Seddon, a former student who is currently studying a Juris Doctor course at the University of Melbourne. All parents are welcome to attend. Booking details will be available early next term.

Statewide Autistic Services (SASI)

Christian Mitchell works at SASI and supervises the team of men who do our paper recycling each week. In addition he supports an organisation called One Girl that raises money for girls’ education in Africa. Tomorrow he and a group of his colleagues from SASI will wear our school dresses for Do It In a Dress Day. To make a donation, go to http://www.doitinadress.com/christian-mitchell

College Council Report

At the College Council meeting held on Tuesday 19th August, a warm welcome was given to Richard Elstone, our new parent member.

Council noted that the recent “Back to the 80’s” musical was a huge success. Well done to staff, student and parent helpers who worked tirelessly on this production.

With the upgrade of the Middle School wing nearing completion and opening for staff and students at start of Term 4, there was further discussion around the need for funds to make urgent repairs around the school. The College
Council is looking at ways to raise awareness within our local community and for politicians to bring the needs of our school to the forefront. The College Council is exploring ways to actively raise the profile of Mentone Girls’ SC and engage local State Government politicians to help secure urgently needed funding from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Patty Konstandakos  
School Council Member

**International Student Program**

**Mid Autumn Festival**

Last week, the International Student Program celebrated the Mid Autumn Festival which is a Chinese tradition and has many origins and stories. One is that the Mid Autumn Festival is about agricultural production because Autumn is the season of harvest. Many cities around the world celebrate this differently, but all people eat moon cakes, drink Chinese tea and look at the moon. In Shanghai, people also eat duck, beans and taro because they believe this brings good luck. In Fujian, women need to go over a bridge in order to have longevity of life. Enjoy your Mid Autumn Festival!

Tear Fan, Year 12 & Sandy Tao, Year 11

**Senior School News**

**Tertiary Courses for 2015**

During these holidays all Year 12 students should aim to have finalised both their course selections and, if relevant, SEAS applications.

**Stress Workshops**

A small number of girls took advantage of one-to-one assistance for stress management last Friday. Thank you to Louise Feeley, our Student Wellbeing Coordinator, for organising the workshops and liaising with the local council psychologists who provided the workshops.

**Holiday Work Program**

All SACs and SATs have been completed. Congratulations on completing this gigantic hurdle – so much achieved in three terms! Now our focus is on the final exams. Year 12s and Year 11s completing a Unit 3-4 subject will be looking at these holidays as a SWATVAC – an opportunity to review the year’s work in their subjects.

It is important students have a program of review which incorporates undertaking practice exams. You can support your daughter by helping her organise a study timetable which includes rewards and breaks that enable her to relax and refresh. Your daughter will appreciate any treats you can provide: favourite meals; a comfortable, distraction-free study space; dispensation from some of her normal chores or family responsibilities, in fact anything that demonstrates you understand the pressure she is under and that you support her. Help her keep the year in perspective. Yes it is important, but her life does not depend on it. It is the way she goes about her study that is important, rather than a focus on the end result.

**October Tests**

On the first two days of next term every subject will have a formal mock exam under conditions closely resembling the final exam. This will be an important focus for each girl’s preparation. Her results will reveal where further preparation is required and how to properly understand assessor requirements in responding to the paper. On these two days there will be no scheduled classes for Year 12s other than the exams. Year 11 students will sit the Year 12 exam and will have an approved absence from any Year 11 class the exam clashes with. They must however attend classes that do not clash with the Year 12 exam.

**Support**

We are here to help support your daughter through all stages of preparation and completing exams. Let us know if there are issues developing. Our Student Managers are experienced at helping students through all manner of difficulties.

Senior School Team
Middle School News

On Thursday 11th September there was a sausage sizzle at lunchtime for Year 10s on ‘Are you Okay Day?’. This was gratefully received despite us working under duress due to the Middle School building works necessitating the use of the portable barbeque.

This week Year 9 and 10 students who have been nominated as a quiet achiever will receive their invitation to the morning tea which will be held during the first week of Term 4.

Those undertaking Middle School next year will be informed of their 2015 electives approximately one month into Term 4.

Middle School Team

Humanities

Bronte Alston is Going to Gallipoli!

Mentone Girls’ Secondary College would like to congratulate Bronte Alston (Year 9), one of 80 students chosen to represent Victoria in the centenary of Gallipoli celebrations. She will be travelling with a delegation of students and teachers from all education sectors to take part in the Anzac Day service at Gallipoli in 2015, as well as having a small tour of Turkey. As a passionate history student, we know Bronte will represent not only the school, but the state, with dignity and respect.

Ms Cat Jones

English

MGSC students and staff celebrated Literacy with our Fiction Free Dress Day on Friday 5th September. Hamlet mingled with a Minion, Pippi Longstocking conversed with Alice, Thing 1 and 2 popped up with the Hogwarts staff, the Middle School office embraced the Jazz Age, while an homage to the works of Robin Williams was played out by the Junior School. Well done to all who participated in the spirit of fun to celebrate the world of fiction.

VCE EXPOs

This year our VCE English classes have benefitted from intense targeted tuition in our EXPOs, to clarify exam tasks, study techniques and course content. The girls’ feedback suggests the sessions were of great value. Thanks to the English teachers for the extra time devoted to the students’ progress in these sessions.

Ms Nola Rees
Director of Teaching and Learning – English and Literacy

Maths @ MGSC

Time for Holidays and Reflection

It has been a busy time at MGSC over Term 3 with students and teachers looking forward to a well earned break. During the holidays we encourage students to reflect on their achievements and their recent school reports. Personal learning plans have been updated. These provide specific ideas for students to work on during the coming term.

Congratulations

We wish to acknowledge the efforts of the following students who competed in the online Education Perfect Maths Championships. Awards will be presented at the College Assembly on Friday 7th November. Well done.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natalie Desylva (7H)</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Michelle Taneja (7H)</td>
<td>Credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allison Sohn (7E)</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Karin Minami (7H)</td>
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<td>Hayley Murphy (7G)</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Eleena Chang (7G)</td>
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<td>Punyawee Liu (7H)</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Melody Sadler-Gray (7F)</td>
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<td>Emma Hicks (7F)</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Samantha Cattermole (7F)</td>
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Parenting Ideas – INSIGHTS
Nowhere else to go – reaching out to those at risk of youth homelessness
WORDS Sarah Wayland
© 2014 Michael Grose

On any given night in Australia, 27,000 young people are homeless. Living away from home with uncertainty as to where their next meal or safe place to sleep might come from. Parenting ideas writer Sarah Wayland looks at the signs and practical ways we can step in when concerned.

Our community has some stereotypical ideas about what ‘sleeping rough’ looks like, but youth homelessness is a broad term spanning a range of circumstances. It can involve anything from running away for a single night to long periods of time living on the streets or moving from refuge to refuge.

Young girls are more likely to be homeless than their male friends, and the majority of young people living away from home are classed as ‘hidden homeless’ because they don’t reach out for help. All of this means that the true extent of youth homelessness is unknown. Help more commonly comes from people in a young person’s inner circle: it’s usually a friend, or a friend’s parents, who ends up providing some level of safety, though sometimes this can feel precarious.

Kerri had a niggling feeling that her 16-year-old daughter’s friend was at risk or homeless. She decided to keep an eye on her. The signs were subtle at first – not too dissimilar to the striving for independence common to most adolescents.

“She’d call from the park down the road late at night, crying, asking if she could stay,” Kerri explained. “She’d be hesitant to return home and didn’t want me to ring her mum to let her know she was okay.”

After the third occurrence of this in a few months, Kerri decided that she needed to reach out for help and contacted her daughter’s school. With the help of the school counsellor and some sessions with the Youth Health Services in their local community, her daughter’s friend got the help she needed. She was provided with some stable temporary accommodation until she and her mum could decide whether returning home would be the best decision for everyone.

Kerri looks back on that time and feels honoured that her home was seen as a safe place. But she also knows that the situation put her out of her depth, which is why she sought help.

Irrespective of the reasons why a young person is not at home, there is the need for that child’s safety to be assured as they navigate the crisis period.

So what do you do if you are concerned about your teen’s friends?
• Embrace the idea that your home might be seen as a place of safety.
• Use that concept of a safe space to springboard conversations about what might be happening for them.
• Listen openly and objectively.
• Don’t focus on solving the issue alone. Be guided by the young person but be mindful that the issue might be bigger than you can help with.
• Use your resources. Speak to the young person’s school and the school counsellor. Counsellors will use strategies like family conferences to facilitate discussions, as well as making practical referrals to ensure safe housing is available if the situation worsens.
• If the young person is not attending school, contact your local youth health service and ask for help.
• Keep it simple. A warm cup of tea and a calm environment can drastically reduce the stress a young person is experiencing.

Kylie Ofiu echoes those suggestions. She is a woman who experienced youth homelessness herself and is now an ambassador for communities@work in Canberra. She is philosophical about how others can help.

“Unfortunately, you can’t change what is going on in the home but you can help the child. Be supportive, offer a safe place to hang out, be available to listen, help with schoolwork and so on,” she suggests.

Reaching out to young people to help them through a momentary crisis or a life-altering experience can be a privilege. Helping to prevent another young person sleeping rough by linking them with the people and services that can help can transform lives.

For more information contact: Kids Helpline – kidshelp.com.au, Headspace – headspace.org.au
Friday Nights at Mentone Girls Secondary College. For more details visit: www.baysidepiratesfutsal.com.au
Follow us on Face Book

Parent Support group

Assistive technology: Choosing technologies to support reading and writing

To help our kids with learning differences: Dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia etc

HELP US CELEBRATE BY GETTING INVOLVED IN ALL THREE OF OUR MAJOR EVENTS

Event 1 - (Current Students & Their Families Only)
Classroom and Whole School Activity Day – turn back the clock – we are going to learn in the good old fashioned way.
Friday 17th October 9.30am – 3pm

Event 2
Open Day
Picture and Photo Displays, Memorabilia, Get Together, Entertainment
Remembering each decade
Saturday 18th October 10am – 3pm

Event 3
Centenary Dinner Dance
Frankston RSL, 3 course meal & entertainment, drinks at bar prices.
$65 per head. Limited seats, so book early.
Saturday November 22nd from 6.30pm

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JSL FUTSAL

JOMA Sala League
The annual JOMA Sala League (Brazilian Styled Indoor Soccer) Kicks Off on Friday October 3 at MENTONE GIRLS SECONDARY COLLEGE.
FOR GIRLS OF ALL AGES
OPEN WOMEN'S LEAGUE
INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS ARE WELCOME
QUALIFIED FFA FUTSAL COACHES
QUALIFIED FFW REFEREES
JOMA UNIFORMS AND FUTSAL SHOES AVAILABLE
FORM A TEAM AND ENTER!

HOLIDAY IDEAS

Play safe games
http://splash.abc.net.au/games

Learn about small creatures around your garden and make a mini video for just 60 seconds on just one of them; say a caterpillar, spiders, beetles or ants, etc.
http://splash.abc.net.au/media/-/m/104078/flowers-living-factories-for-making-seeds
### KEY DATES | SEPTEMBER 2014

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<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
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<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18 NEWSLETTER #15</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Last day of Term 3 (early finish)</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>College Assembly</td>
<td></td>
<td>Unit 3&amp;4 English practice exam</td>
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<td>VCE Recital Evening</td>
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**Early Finish**

**Term 3 Holidays**

Cheerleading Competitions; MSAC - Albert Park
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<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td>Term 4 Commences</td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td>7.30pm PFA Planning Meeting for Malcolms Art Show; Staffroom</td>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
<td>Yr 11 PE Excursion (lunch &amp; P4) - 1000 steps</td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
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<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td>MALCOLM ARTS AWARDS; 7pm Past Students’ Association (15 &amp; 20 Years)</td>
<td><strong>16</strong> NEWSLETTER #16</td>
<td>Grade 6 Music Information Evening #2</td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
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<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td>College Assembly</td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
<td>Yr 12 Celebration Assembly (P1); Valedictory Dinner</td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
<td>Annual Finance Budget meeting</td>
<td><strong>23</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MENTONE GIRLS’ SC NEWSLETTER</strong></td>
<td>**Edition 15</td>
<td>18 September 2014**</td>
<td><strong>Year 11 Theatre Studies Performances</strong></td>
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