PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

After a career spanning over 40 years in education and the last 20 years at Mentone Girls’ Secondary College, Ms Deborah Lehner has decided that after her current period of leave she will resign as Principal. At a date to be advised we will celebrate Deborah’s achievements in education and in particular her time at Mentone Girls’ Secondary College. In the short term I will continue in the role as Acting Principal.

As usual Term 2 will be busy with normal classwork. Additionally taking place this term will be the House Athletics Carnival and House Music Competition, NAPLAN for Year 7 and 9 students, exams for Year 9, 10 and 11 students, the GAT for students studying a Year 12 subject, the continuing rehearsals for the School Production of Grease and the usual interschool sport. I urge all students to be actively involved in the many and varied activities that are available to you.

We welcome back the group of students, Mrs D’Adamo and Mrs Galliers from France. The trip was highly successful, with some excellent tales to tell. The girls were able to practise their French in a variety of settings, especially during the homestay part of the journey in Montpellier.

It was pleasing to see the many parents who attended the Parent/Teacher/Student interviews in the last week of Term 1. After a review of the process from 2015 there were a couple of changes made

a) Parents of students who are studying a Unit 3/4 (Year 12 subject) were given 24 hours priority access to make bookings

b) The rooms used for the interviews were changed to try to reduce the amount of travel time between interviews

We were pleased with the feedback we received about these changes and we will continue to look for ways to improve the process for the next round of interviews in Term 3.

We also welcome parents contacting individual teachers with any concerns regarding their daughter’s progress. For complex situations this is far better than waiting until the P/T/S interviews.

IN THIS EDITION

College Matters
School Council Report
World Challenge
Middle School News
Visual Communication
English
Visual Arts
Science
Parenting Ideas
Key Dates

Mr David Russell
Acting Principal

DATES for your DIARY!

Apr 20 – College Tour
Apr 26 – House Music Competition
Apr 27 – Cross Country
Apr 28 – Open Night
Check the Key Dates for more important dates!
COLLEGE MATTERS

Open Night – Alternative Bell Times

This year’s Open Night will be held on Thursday 28th April at 7pm. On this day we will have an early finish so staff and students can set up.

- 8.30am Students may enter buildings
- 8.45am Warning bell
- 8.50am – 9.50am Period 1
- 9.50am – 10.15am Recess
- 10.15am Warning bell
- 10.20am – 11.20am Period 2
- 11.25am – 12.25am Period 3
- 12.25am – 1.10pm Lunch
- 1.10pm Warning bell
- 1.15pm – 2.15pm Period 4

Mrs Carol Duggan
Assistant Principal

SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT

The recent School Council meeting held on March 15th was the first in 2016 for the current members. The following parents: Glenn Chadwick (renominated), Vicky Kasidis and Mark Weatherley, and teachers: Gary Hughes (renominated) and Maurice Woolcock all started new two-year terms.

Once the new councillors were welcomed, the election of office bearers for 2016 where voted on. Nominations for Council President, Deputy President and Treasurer were called for, with the roles filled by the following councillors:

- President: Elizabeth Bradley
- Deputy President: Richard Elstone
- Treasurer: James Malliaros

Congratulations to the elected office bearers.

For the remainder of the meeting, Acting Principal David Russell updated Council on the school’s continuing work on the 2016 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP). The AIP is an important document that outlines MGSC strategy for improving student outcomes and providing learning opportunities for all students that empowers them to achieve their personal best. This is a living document and will be constantly monitored and changed if necessary and progress will be reported to School Council on a regular basis.

Mr James Malliaros
School Council Treasurer

WORLD CHALLENGE

The students will be attending the training camp on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th April in the Gembrook forest. They are expected to be at MGSC by 7.15am on the Saturday with their gear packed in a backpack (no daypack is required) and should return to MGSC at around 4.30pm on the Sunday.

The itinerary has been posted on the World Challenge website but there is still no specific news on the flights (expected in June/July).

Mr Michael Warden

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Term 1 ended with a spectacular display of the Year 9 project, ‘My Migration Story’, being presented to the parent community on the evening of Wednesday 23rd March. The Middle School corridor was buzzing with excitement as parents and grandparents delighted in the presentations consisting of posters, three dimensional installations and videos.

Year 10 students are on Work Experience from the 18th April. This is an opportunity for students to get a glimpse into the working lifestyle as well as exploring possible future pathways. Year 10 teachers will be contacting and visiting them during the week.

We would like to remind Year 9 students that part of the process for acceleration in Year 10, 2017, is a review of their approach to their studies this year and the Semester
1 report. As exams are in eight weeks, this is a good time for students to reflect on their approach to their studies and perhaps make some improvements and changes.

Ms Sylvia Christopoulos
Middle School Leader

VISUAL COMMUNICATION

On Monday 21st March, Ms Rogosic, Miss Johnson and Miss Lowe accompanied approximately 60 VCE Visual Communication students to visit the 2016 Top Designs exhibition at Melbourne Museum. The exhibition showcased outstanding examples of student work completed during Unit 4 studies in Visual Communication and Design, Design and Technology, Food Technology and Media.

Students first attended a presentation where they heard a VCAA representative speak about Year 12 VCD folio requirements, followed by a Communication Designer who spoke about his path from a Year 12 Visual Communication Design student to his career today. In the exhibition, students were able to view a variety of developmental folios and finished work across disciplines such as architecture, product design, packaging design and advertising.

In addition, it was exciting to see work showcased from MGSC students, Ellen Winnett and Shanon McKenzie. Ellen is pictured next to her work, taken during the exhibition opening night.

The Top Designs exhibition is open until 10th July 2016. Entry is included in museum entry ticket.

Ms Monika Lowe

ENGLISH

Year 12 parents whose daughters are studying mainstream English are reminded that this is the last opportunity to register for the next Guided Book Club which is on Tuesday April 19th and is connected to the film ‘Wag the Dog’. The link for registration is: http://www.thetextfactor.com.au/whats-on-3/

During Term 2 Year 7 and 9 cohorts will be engaged in the NAPLAN testing program and will undertake some preparation during classes.

A reminder to encourage your daughters to freely read fiction during their leisure time. This is invaluable in assisting with their vocabulary development. We have a policy whereby all students in Year 7-10 spend the first ten minutes of every class reading their novels so it would be beneficial if you could be involved with their reading and remind them to take their novels to school.

Ms Anne Gamble
English Domain Leader

VISUAL ARTS

Special Guest Basil

The Year 10 2D Art class had a special guest in Term 1, Basil the black maltese cross poodle. Basil attended class for a period and was the perfect life drawing model. Thank you to Scarlet Farr and mum Fiona who brought in Basil for the lesson. The girls thoroughly enjoyed having Basil, and he received lots of pats in between drawings.

Ms Gemma Johnson
Visual Arts Domain Leader

SCIENCE

Australian Brain Bee Challenge

Congratulations to the ten Year 10 students (pictured) who participated in Round 1 of the ABBC last term during ‘Brain Awareness Week’. We look forward to hearing if students will progress to the State competition to be held later this term at the Melbourne Brain Centre.

Mrs Louise Rieniets
Science Domain Leader
Children with healthy self-esteem and self-confidence learn more, achieve more and are generally happier than those with low confidence levels. Building children’s and young people’s confidence is complex. It’s more than being a praise robot and heaping positive comments on a child at the first sign of them doing something well.

Here are five practical strategies that you can use to build real self-confidence in kids of all ages:

1. **Model confident thinking**
   Kids soak up the language, thinking and behaviour of those closest to them in their environment. Parents and teachers, play a part in modelling confident thinking and behaviour particularly when it comes to tackling new activities, including letting kids hear positive self-talk.

2. **Focus on effort & improvement**
   Current thinking shows that people who believe that they can increase their intelligence through effort and challenge actually get smarter and do better in school, work, and life over time. One way to develop a growth mindset is to focus your language on effort and improvement rather than on the results of what they do.

3. **Praise strategy**
   While effort is key for achievement, it’s not the only thing. Kids need to try new strategies and seek input from others when they’re stuck. They need this repertoire of approaches – not just sheer effort – to learn and improve. It helps too to focus language on better and smarter ways on improving.

4. **Develop self-help skills from an early age**
   A child’s self-esteem comes as a result of his or her successes and accomplishments. The most important competencies to build confidence are basic self-help skills. These form the building blocks upon which other competencies such as organisational skills and many social skills are formed.

5. **Give them real responsibility**
   From a young age start giving children responsibility for some aspects of their lives. By giving kids responsibility for many aspects of their lives we are sending a powerful message that we think they are capable. Also they are learning the skills necessary to care for themselves.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATON FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMP, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum. CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION
For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

ATTEND A STUDENT EXCHANGE INFO SESSION THIS APRIL AND REALISE YOUR DREAMS!

This April WEP Australia is holding student exchange Info Sessions in Melbourne! If you’ve ever dreamt of living and studying abroad, learning another language or boosting your CV with international experiences, now is the time to find out more as applications for exchange programs commencing in late 2016 are closing soon! WEP guarantees country of choice and offers more than 100 programs that fit into the Australian academic schedule. Let us provide you with all the information you need to make your dreams come true! RSVP now at wep.org.au/lets-talk/sessions or request a free information pack at wep.org.au/resources/free-information-pack/ to find out more!

ASPENDALE GARDENS COMMUNITY CENTRE

HATHA YOGA

Mondays & Thursdays, 2:00pm -3:00pm
$10.00 per class or $9.00 upfront for 10+ classes
(Seniors receive a $2.00 discount per class)

Please bring your own mat if you have one (some may be available), a drink and towel.
An enrolment form is available from the Centre and must be completed prior to your first class.

DONNA WILLIAMS, BA Hons, Dip Ed
Autism & Siblings (siblings most welcome)

When: Tuesday 3 May 2016
Time: Arrive at 6:45pm; 7:00pm sharp start
Cost: $10.00 per person payable at the door.
Bookings essential, contact our office.
Additional Dates with Donna this year:
Tuesday 2 August – Autism Stereotypes, Myths & Diversity
Tuesday 25 October – Making Use of Personality Traits to achieve Potential
### KEY DATES | APRIL 2016

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<td>House Music Assembly</td>
<td>Senior Round Robin (selected students) Yr 11 Legal Studies Excursion; County/Magistrates Court</td>
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<td>NewsLetter #7</td>
<td>Yr 10 Inside the Human Body elective; <em>Monash Clayton</em> Yr 12 guest speaker (P4); VCE Centre</td>
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<td>VCE Recital</td>
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<td>Beachside Cross Country (selected students)</td>
<td>9am College Tour</td>
<td>House Music Assembly</td>
<td>NewsLetter #8 House Music Competition (P2&amp;3); Gym Past Students’ 10 year reunion; VCE Centre</td>
<td>Cultural Diversity International program day Intermediate Round Robin Yr 12 GAT familiarisation P4; Lecture Theatre Yr 8 Brainstorm incusion P4</td>
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**Year 11 Exam week**