Principal’s Report

On Friday 24th April the College Assembly paid tribute to the 100 year anniversary of Gallipoli through a commemoration presented by Emili Spartalis, the Anzac ode read by our College Captain, Grace Bucchorn, the last post played by Bonnie Kelly, and a minute’s silence. The All Star Choir sang a mash-up from the First World War and then the Madrigal sang John McCrae’s ‘In Flanders Fields’. There was a wonderful air of respect throughout the school, which carried through to the dawn service at Mentone which was attended by many staff and students.

This week is Work Experience Week for all our Year 10 students. Various teachers have volunteered to visit each student in their chosen workplace. I am disappointed that so many girls organised their Work Experience in primary schools, kindergartens and preschools, when they could have experienced a much wider range of occupations. I would like to see this year’s Year 9 cohort working on placements for next year that better reflect the range of occupations there are. Of course, some girls have arranged Work Experience in the area they may want to work in after they finish their education, sometimes commendably organising this a year ahead of time.

One of our teachers, Ms Deb Mckay, has organised a joint MGSC and Mordialloc and District Historical Society Event opening on Thursday 7th May at 7pm at the Charles Ferguson Museum in Mentone. This exhibition features the work of our Year 9 students and links our school with the community. You can support our girls by attending either the opening or on one of the Sundays. There is an invitation with more information on page 6 of this newsletter.

Thank you to all the MGSC staff and students for their efforts on Open Night last night. Our girls are impressive and it is delightful to see them presenting their work in all their subjects. There will be two Open Afternoons next week while classes are in action for those who may have been unable to attend last night. The Open Afternoons will be held on Tuesday 5th May and Thursday 7th May commencing at 2pm in the Lecture Theatre. Parents are most welcome to attend.

Ms Deborah M. Lehner
Principal
Parent Support

Open Night
Thanks to Alison Ball, Cathy Capomolla, Marissa Ford, Vicky Karitinos, Ales Nebesky and Emma Walker for their assistance at Open Night, answering questions from prospective parents and serving tea and coffee.

Volunteers
We are appreciative of our parent volunteers and there are still opportunities to help in the following areas: the Second-Hand Uniform Shop, the canteen and the Art domain or if you have experience in English tutoring. If you would like more information, please contact me at the school.

Ms Bronwyn Moline
Assistant Principal

NAPLAN
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2015 for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students will be held on Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th May. NAPLAN tests assess student knowledge and skills in Writing, Reading, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. The results of the tests provide information for students, parents, teachers and principals which can be used to improve student achievement.

All students are expected to participate in the NAPLAN tests. During test week, catch-up tests will be available for individual students who are absent on test days. These students may undertake catch-up tests on the days in the test week after the scheduled test, up to and including Friday 15th May.

Later in the year you will receive your child’s personal NAPLAN report. The report will describe your child’s particular skills in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. The report will also show how your child performed in relation to national minimum standards. These describe the minimum acceptable standards for students across Australia.

I am confident that the information you receive as a result of your child’s participation in the NAPLAN tests will be valuable in helping you to assess your child’s progress in literacy and numeracy.

For more information, please visit the VCAA website at www.vcaa.vic.edu.au or the NAP website at www.nap.edu.au

Mr David Russell
Assistant Principal

World Challenge
The planning is underway with the first scheduled World Challenge meeting occurring in the JLC on Tuesday 5th May between 3.30 and 5.30pm to discuss the World Challenge website and fund raising. To help students pay for the expedition, a walkathon has been planned for Tuesday 19th May. Students have been given the relevant paperwork.

Students were also given a Friendship Form to nominate some friends they would like to be with in their team. Could you please ensure this sheet is completed and returned as soon as possible.

Mr Michael Warden

Senior School News
Congratulations to Olivia Kline, an accomplished golfer whose captaincy is now in the spotlight. Under her leadership, the Victorian State Team went on win the Junior Girls Interstate competition after being ranked the lowest team out of the other five states which competed. It’s very exciting because Victoria hasn’t won the Junior Girls matches since 2007. Our Junior Boys won as well and Victoria has never won both series before in the same year. Olivia was both stoked and shocked at this outcome.

The Year 7 and 12 Fancy Dress was a roaring success. The girls went to great effort with costumes and invested time in the dance routines. Some forms displayed great choreography and the music had everyone bopping along to blasts from the past. Special thanks to Mrs Clare Selir and Mrs Leah Liakos for their organisation of this event. It was wonderful to witness how the Senior and Junior girls bonded and this spirit of fraternity is sure to be a guiding force for the younger girls this year.
On 22nd April two guest speakers, Sonya and Sacha, held a seminar for parents where they spoke about the journey of adolescence and endeavoured to provide support by suggesting how girls might achieve a balance between study and their life outside of school. This was invaluable for parents who are assisting their daughters through this challenging period of their lives.

A final reminder for parents to ensure their daughters return the contract for the VCE Ball by 12th May. It is imperative that the paperwork is completed to ensure they attend the event.

Senior School Team

Middle School News

The Year 9 students completed Migrant Story projects for the Expo on the evening of the 21st April. The Middle School corridor was buzzing with excitement as parents and grandparents delighted in presentations displayed as posters, three-dimensional installations and videos.

Year 10 students are on Work Experience from the 27th April. Work Experience is an opportunity for students to get a glimpse into the working lifestyle as well as exploring possible future pathways. Year 10 teachers will contact and visit them during the week.

The Year 9 Managers have reminded students that part of the process for acceleration in Year 10, 2016, is a review of their approach to their studies this year and the Semester 1 report. Hence, and as the exams are in five weeks, it is a good time for students to reflect on their approach to their studies and perhaps make some improvements and changes.

Parents, please ensure your daughters come to school in the correct uniform. Most students do, however, occasionally black socks, unauthorised jumpers and jackets appear. Also, students must use the school bag and not hand or shoulder bags which contribute to numerous back problems.

Middle School Team

MGSC Year 7 Famous Australian Women Expo

Year 7 students exhibited their hard work at the ‘Famous Australian Women Expo’ on the evening of Tuesday 21st April. While dressed to represent famous women, students demonstrated their impressive research and presentation skills with posters and various computer programs. The Expo was a huge success with great attendance from the wider school community. Visitors had the chance to vote for the student presentations from each form that they judged as being (a) most creative and engaging, (b) most thoroughly researched, and (c) best presentation overall. The winners will be presented with certificates of achievement at the next College Assembly and the ‘Best Overall’ winners will also receive a prize. Well done to all of our Year 7 Students.

Year 7 Famous Australian Women Expo Winners 2015

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<th>Engaging/Creative</th>
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<th>Best Overall Prize Winners</th>
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<td>Jessica Baranov</td>
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<td>Stephanie Kyriacou</td>
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<td>Charli Hubbard</td>
<td>Sara El-Masri</td>
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<td>Emmie Iqbal</td>
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<td>Sophia Petropoulos</td>
<td>Megan Taylor</td>
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<td>Loren Henry</td>
<td>Cassidy Copeland</td>
<td>Eva deBruijn</td>
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<td>Daniella Abdulsamad</td>
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Mr Adam Howells
MGSC 7ALL Program Coordinator

#101DAYSOFYOU Project

Do you ever feel insecure about yourself? Is your body shape different to the ‘perfect’ bodies of the individuals around you? Do you suffer from confidence issues? Mental illness is prevalent in today’s society, characterised by depression, anxiousness, suicidal thoughts and self-harming. The people of the Bayside Youth Ambassador (BYA) group
are here to share with you that you are beautiful in your own unique way. The Bayside Youth Ambassadors have created a mental health campaign intended to foster positive self-image to all adolescents in the Bayside area.

Located around the school are non-slip, recyclable stickers with encouraging YOU messages aimed to free youths of negative messages on how they should act and look, and who they should aspire to be. Bayside City Council Mayor Cr. Felicity Jones has noticed the change in the younger society and stated, “With one in four young Australians currently experiencing a mental health condition and one in 16 young Australians currently experiencing depression, mental health remains an important issue for all of us.”

Recognising this matter, the BYA group chose to make a difference to all mentally unwell teens by developing the 101 Days of YOU movement. The campaign emphasises what young people have done for the community and provides them the opportunity to discuss the significance of mental illnesses.

The BYA group encourages everyone to take photos with the stickers and upload them to social media, hashtagging #101DaysofYOU. Not only do the stickers promote self-confidence but they are a great way to win prizes. Every two weeks, a new 101 Days of YOU competition is open offering amazing prizes. To find out which competitions are on, go on to either the Instagram account: BaysideYouthServices, or the Facebook Page: Bayside City Council’s Youth Services. It’s easy to enter and win, so make sure you check out the competitions!

The Bayside Youth Ambassador group designed and established this idea from acknowledging the struggles young people endure within themselves. Our purpose is to give courage to adolescents to confide in parents and friends, saving themselves from the pain of mental illnesses. If you ever feel hopeless, isolated and overwhelmed please do not hesitate to tell someone, visit www.beyondblue.org.au or call the Lifeline 13 11 14.

Helena Ces 9E

Sport

Cross Country Carnival

On Tuesday 21st April, the annual Cross Country Carnival was held at school. Starting from the oval the students were required to make their way through the school grounds to Charman Road, onto Beach Road, up Marina Road, across Balcombe Road, down Charman Road and finishing back on the oval near the start line. Various staff members were stationed along the 2.5km course to provide encouragement, assist with any issues, and in the case of Ms Jones to enjoy the wonderful view that is Mentone Beach. Millie Belleville from Year 7 ran the quickest time in 10.02 minutes, followed closely by Sarah Mathews, Lucy Burgess and Emily McCarthy. We have our largest cohort of students, 75 girls, going on to compete at the Beachside Cross Country carnival on Tuesday 26th May at Karkarook Park, Heatherton. Well done to all competitors!

Mr Anthony Bruhn
Carnivals Coordinator

Music

Vocal Night 2015

On Wednesday 15th April, Mentone Girls’ had our first Vocal Night for 2015. It was an evening of enjoyment for both the performers and their family and friends, with all of the students that had been practising in their lessons and both of the choirs performing.

The choir performed the set song for House music, Roar by Katy Perry, as well as a mashup of Pack Up Your Troubles and Tipperary, songs the Anzacs sung to cheer themselves up, as it was the 100th anniversary of Anzac Day. The Madrigal also performed Flanders Fields, a song about WW1.

For months, the students had been preparing songs from a variety of genres. Many girls performed in groups, trios, duets and solos. Ms Blanka West helped all of the students perfect their pieces for this wonderful evening.

The evening was a success, with the audience and students enjoying every performance. The event wouldn’t have been possible without the help of Ms Berlingeri, who helped organise the evening, and of course, Ms Blanka West.

Emma Chandler
Middle School Music Captain
Science

Australian Brain Bee Victorian State Finals

Congratulations to Year 10 students: Lili Israelian, Jordan Mackenzie, Bettule Assi and Jenna Wilson who have progressed to the ABBC state finals to be held on Wednesday 17th June at the Melbourne Brain Centre, University of Melbourne. They will all participate in both an individual and team competition as well as listen to guest speaker Nobel Laureate Peter Doherty. Tours of research laboratories and the Anatomy Museum will also be highlights for the students on this day.

Mrs Louise Rieniets
Science Domain Leader

Helping students get ready for the NAPLAN tests

By Michael Grose

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.

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 worse, 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.
You are invited to...

A JOINT MGSC & MORDIALLOOC and DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENT

Opening

THURSDAY 7th MAY 2015 at 7pm

The exhibition is on for four Sundays from 10th May, open from 2-4pm.

CHARLES FERGUSON MUSEUM, OLD BAKERY LANE, MENTONE 3194

An exhibition based on photographs taken by C.W. Janssen, a WW1 soldier whose family were from Mentone. The photographs are supported by research and information written by Year 9 students of MGSC. Students have also created short films based on the lives and experiences of WW1 soldiers from the local Bayside area.

*Photo provided courtesy of the State Library of Victoria

PLEASE CONTACT DEB MCKAY AT MCKAY.DEBORAH.M@EDUMAIL.VIC.GOV.AU OR ON 9581 5200 WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

Forever brothers in arms

PROJECT FOR CLASS LIFTS LID ON STORY

Therese Allaosi

WHEN teacher Deb McKay set her students the task of unveiling stories of Mentone soldiers of WW1, little did she know she herself would resurrect the tale of two brothers.

The Janssen brothers Enrek, 23, and Carl, 27, from Barry St, Mentone, enlisted only days after the war broke out in 1914. They are the only brothers who were killed and listed at the Mentone Park memorial.

Carl, an engraver for The Argus newspaper, often wrote to his sister Beatrice. But his younger brother’s letters spoke of him missing home life.

“I have often wished that we had brought Bussco on board with us he would have been great company no doubt,” Enrek wrote.

What struck Ms McKay, also of Mentone, was their father Inuk’s desperate bid to find out whether his sons were alive after communication between them stopped in April 1915. Carl was killed at the landing in Gallipoli on April 25, 1915 and later buried at sea. Inuk began a search to find out if his younger son was still alive. He was informed, almost a year after the event, he had been killed at the battle of Krithia between May 8-12, 1915. Enrek’s body was never found.

Ms McKay, who teaches at Mentone Girls Secondary College said the family “deserved to be remembered”.

“They lived just around the corner from me, they would have been my neighbours,” Ms McKay said.

Ms McKay obtained a photo of Enrek, taken by Carl, from the State Library, Victoria Australian Manuscripts Collection, Papers of Carl Wilhelm Janssen.

FREE STUDENT EXCHANGE INFORMATION EVENING IN MELBOURNE

Hear from returned students, find out more about discounts and scholarships available and ask questions.

Thursday, 7th May - 7.30pm
Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens
380 William Street, Melbourne

Visit www.studentexchange.org.au or call 1300 135 331 for more information

MENTONE GIRLS’ SC NEWSLETTER
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### Key Dates: May 2015

**Gold Week**

- **Monday, May 4th**
  - House Music Assembly (College Assembly bell times)
  - 2-3.30pm Open Afternoon; LT & tours

- **Tuesday, May 5th**
  - Unit 1 & 3 Vis Com Excursion; Melbourne Museum
  - Yr 10 Dance Evening; LT, DR1 & DR2

- **Wednesday, May 6th**
  - 9OE1A Orienteering Excursion
  - 2-3.30pm Open Afternoon; LT & tours

- **Thursday, May 7th**
  - 9OE1A Orienteering Excursion
  - 2-3.30pm Open Afternoon; LT & tours

- **Friday, May 8th**
  - Yr 11 Wired Presentation (P4); LT

**Blue Week**

- **Monday, May 11th**
  - Senior Winter Round Robin
  - 11.50am-2pm 9OE1B Rock Climbing Excursion

- **Tuesday, May 12th**
  - 12

- **Wednesday, May 13th**
  - 13

- **Thursday, May 14th**
  - NEWSLETTER #7

**Gold Week**

- **Monday, May 18th**
  - House Music Assembly (College Assembly bell times)
  - 10.30am-1pm 9OE1A Rock Climbing Excursion

- **Tuesday, May 19th**
  - College Council
  - 10.30am-1pm 9OE1A Rock Climbing Excursion

- **Wednesday, May 20th**
  - STAFF PD DAY (Pupil free)
  - VCE Recital Evening

- **Thursday, May 21st**
  - House Music Competition; Gym

**Gold Week**

- **Monday, May 25th**
  - 11.50am-2pm 9OE1B Rock Climbing Excursion

- **Tuesday, May 26th**
  - Beachside Cross Country

- **Wednesday, May 27th**
  - 9am College Tour
  - 6-9pm Yr 7&8 Band Evening

- **Thursday, May 28th**
  - 7-10 Incursion; Gym
  - Yr 10 Drama Performance Evening

**Gold Week**

- **Friday, May 29th**
  - Yr 7 & 9 Immunisations

- **Saturday, May 30th**
  - 2-4pm MGSC & Mordialloc and District Historical Society Exhibition Opening; Charles Ferguson Museum, Mentone

**Gold Week**

- **Sunday, May 31st**

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**MENTONE GIRLS’ SC NEWSLETTER**

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<td>REPORT WRITING DAY (Pupil free)</td>
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<td>NEWSLETTER #10</td>
<td>Keys Please (Yr 10)</td>
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<td>Blue Week</td>
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<td>9am College Tour</td>
<td>9ABCD Excursion; Cruise &amp; Museum</td>
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<td>Stringfest – selected students COLLEGE COUNCIL</td>
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**TERM 2 HOLIDAYS (Until 12th July)**