

NEWSLETTER

Available online at <http://www.mgsc.vic.edu.au/newsletters>**Edition 13 | 18 August 2016**

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

'Grease' was the word last week. The school production transported us back to the late 50's and it was a truly memorable experience. I congratulate all the people who were involved in creating this wonderful show. The acting, singing, dancing, musicianship, set design and props, staging, costumes, lighting and sound all worked so well. It was a great team effort to bring it all together and the joy on the faces of the students and their families was clearly evident. All events have key people who go above and beyond. I thank Mr Geoff Perks for his direction of the production and Ms Anna Berlinger for her work in developing the musicianship of our students to the point that all the music was performed live by our students at each show.

Thank you to all the parents who were randomly selected to take part in the annual Parent Opinion Survey – we had another good response this year. This forms part of the data we use to plan what we need to do as a school. Another part is the "Students' Attitudes to School Survey". Students completed these surveys in Term 2. Our results show us at or above the state average on most factors. We will be meeting with groups of students to unpack the data and look at ways to further improve. The Staff Opinion Survey is currently being completed.

Today is Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews and it is pleasing to see many parents taking the opportunity to meet their daughter's teachers and discuss their progress.

I have been attending the VCE Wednesday morning briefings regularly over the year and it certainly coming to the so called 'business end' of Year 12. Students have been listening to and hopefully taking up on the sound advice they are being given in managing their time and keeping on top of their school work commitments. Additionally, they are now being asked to think about university course preferences that need to be submitted before the end of September. Students and parents seeking advice on courses should speak to Ms Rebecca Poulos Careers and Pathways manager.

NAKAMURA FAREWELL

The bus drew away from the curb and there was a visceral cry of anguish from the crowd waving goodbye.

That's how well MGSC homestay families and Nakamura High School students came to appreciate each other. MGSC and the families were warm and welcoming, and all the Nakamura students left with indelible memories.

My thanks go to the families who looked after the visitors so kindly. The whole program relies on your work. You did a wonderful job.

IN THIS EDITION

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on Balcombe Rd****Keynote Address****ISP & ELC News****Middle School News****Science****English****Sport****Depression Proofing
Your Kids****Key Dates**

Mr David Russell
Acting Principal

CURRICULUM MGSC

The Victorian Curriculum is to be fully implemented in schools for the start of the 2017 school year. The Victorian Curriculum is an evolution of the Australian Curriculum, and provides schools with some latitude to design programs to best suit their student cohort. The Victorian Curriculum endorses the value of distinct expert studies in the eight curriculum areas, with an emphasis on general skills and knowledge at the Breadth Stage at Years 7 and 8, and an increase in specialisation at the Pathways Stage at Years 9 and 10. It also recognises a set of General Capabilities common to all learning areas which represent transferable skills for flexibility and adaptability. Teams at MGSC have devoted much time to curriculum audits, course development and assessment design in order to deliver the best version of curriculum for our cohort of dedicated and ambitious girls. This represents a huge task in both scope and timing, so I thank staff teams for their efforts to date, with recognition that we still have several stages ahead of us.

The new 2017 MGSC Year 10 curriculum supports greater student choice to commence focused pathways of studies. This requires more flexible provision of VCE courses and continual guidance of students. The Victorian Curriculum emphasises the special role of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) as priority growth areas in Australia's economy, and the HEAL areas of Humanities, English, Arts and Languages in developing well-rounded and engaged citizens. MGSC sees the implementation of the Victorian Curriculum as an opportunity to upgrade our curriculum planning methods to embed active learning pedagogies with digital best practice and access. In 2017 MGSC will implement redesigned reporting systems to include progress reports on major work tasks, as well as twice-yearly semester reports. For parents and students this will mean more specific information, more often, with clear codes of achievement and progress in learning.

Ms Nola Rees
Head of Curriculum and Enhancement

CHANGES TO CARPARK ON BALCOMBE RD

Editions 15 and 17 in 2015 of the newsletter outlined the proposed changes to the front carpark to improve student safety by eliminating (as much as possible) students walking through the carpark. This will be achieved in a number of ways. The pedestrian gates on Balcombe Road have been relocated. One is at the gym with a proposed zebra crossing path to the gym pathway. The other has allowed students to access the school from the rear of the Music Centre, from where they can connect to pathways around the perimeter of the Performing Arts Centre. Changes to the carpark include making Gate 1 entry only. Gate 2 will remain exit only. In October 2016 Gate 2 will be closed to incoming traffic and converted to an automated sliding gate, activated by a sensor pad in the car park. Parents are to drop students off at the curb on Balcombe Rd or Charman Rd. They are not to be dropped off in the carpark area, unless families/students have medical reasons or meeting with staff. This is for all student safety.

Please contact me at the school if you have any questions about this.

Bronwen Peterson
Facilities Manager

KEYNOTE ADDRESS WHICH ACKNOWLEDGES THE IMPORTANCE OF A COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Year 10 student, Lizzie Honeybone, delivered the keynote address to the Scouts Victoria 2015 ARAP. Her address expressed her gratitude to the scouting movement for its inclusiveness. Her eloquence and grace are shown throughout the speech and can be seen in the following excerpt:

What I'm trying to say here is, Scouts takes the kid who would be ignored and gives them social interaction. It gives them chances to have their voices heard. It gives them acceptance. That's why Scouts needs to be more visible in the world. We need to be proud about being Scouts, and we need to start being loud about being Scouts so that more kids can have more chances to be included and heard.

Lizzie is commended for her impressive community spirit and it is notable that Adam Brant, a member of the State Council of State Victoria acknowledged her contribution to this spirit by quoting from her speech in the Federal Parliament.

On behalf of the College community I would like to thank Lizzie for sharing her sentiments which are a testament to the generosity of the human spirit.

Ms Paula Cohen



ISP & ELC NEWS

In order to make the international students feel part of the school community, we have encouraged several of the students to make links with organisations outside of our College. This includes participating in International Student Program events organised by the International Education Division and connecting with local international students from other schools. Once the students have made these links, they will return and report to the International Student Leaders and members of our College.

Ms Ekaterina Xanthopoulos
ISP/ELC Manager

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

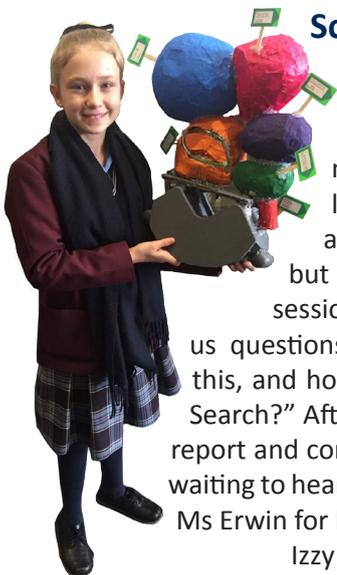
Year 9 and 10 students have finalised their elective choices and Miss Chris is currently working on these. She hopes to accommodate their selections but there will be a review period once these are released. Electives for Headstart and 2017 will not be published before week six Term 4.

Middle School is excited about the Year 10 Camp. The managers have organised the evening groupings and are finalising the activity groups for the three days. A reminder to parents of students who are not coming to camp that it is expected they will attend school for an alternative program.

Don't forget the Middle School Breakfast Club. Ms Ingold and Mr Warden open the kitchen in room 17 every day at 8.15am for students to partake in a hearty breakfast and some socialisation before school.

Middle School Team

SCIENCE



Science Talent Search

On Saturday 6th August we attended the 2016 Science Talent Search Judging Day at MLC. It was exciting to see Science models made by other students. After a long wait we were called to the judging area where we had to wait even longer, but this helped prepare us for our judging session. Once we sat down the judge asked us questions such as "What inspired you to make this, and how did you hear about the Science Talent Search?" After demonstrating our model, he read our report and congratulated us on our efforts. We are still waiting to hear if we won a prize! We would like to thank Ms Erwin for being a judge and giving up her Saturday.

Izzy Jacques 9D &
Charli Kline 9D

Science Week Activities – Become a 'Citizen Scientist'

Science Domain leader, Chloe Corcoran (8E) spent time visiting Year 7 classes explaining how students could become 'citizen scientists'. For



Why is Shakespeare Still So Powerful? 'Hamlet'

Anita Buckland, Year 10

'Hamlet', despite being the longest of Shakespeare's plays and written four hundred years ago, is still relevant and continues to appear in theatres worldwide. Why is a seventeenth century revenge-tragedy play still regarded as entertaining? Appealing to modern audiences, it is rich with dark wit, puns and carefully constructed humour that surprisingly adds to the tragedy. The formal Elizabethan language has proven not to be problematic as the richness of meaning overcomes any contextual barrier. This is coupled with the play's minimal stage directions which give directors scope to let their creativity take hold – allowing for the production of many different adaptations in not only theatre but also film and television. There is not one key meaning or message to be taken from 'Hamlet'; instead many interpretations can be drawn. Prince Hamlet could be considered to have become mad while another interpretation may find him sane in a corrupt world. This has resulted in many critical debates and essays exploring the vast aspects of the play – corruption, religion, Hamlet's inaction, politics, sanity, expectation, and many more. The protagonist, Hamlet, is deeply philosophical and constructed by Shakespeare to comment on the complexity of human nature. Audiences or readers can either sympathise with Hamlet's dilemma in exacting revenge for his father's murder by his uncle's hand, appreciate his witty and dark humour or even find him to be an inactive and immature man. However the true genius of this characterisation is that people are able to see themselves reflected in the protagonist – he is a supreme procrastinator, he is indecisive, he endures friendship and relationship issues, experiences depression and extreme elation; it is easy to identify with some facet of his character. Each time period and setting has its own context and views and values, moreover we develop a theory based on our own circumstances, with this play there are no right or wrong answers. Shakespeare's multidimensional text reveals that issues surrounding human nature are, for the most part, fundamentally constant. Political corruption is still problematic across the globe and procrastination is definitely something that most students are able to relate to.

more information about how to help save threatened species and preserve Australia's iconic wildlife visit: <https://wildlifepotter.net.au/>

Education Perfect Science Championships

As part of Science week (theme: Drone, Droids and Robots): Year 7-10 students are competing in the Science championships. Big prize up for grabs and a free pizza lunch for your class! Students should visit their Education Perfect dashboard for details.

Ms Louise Rieniets
Science Domain Leader

ENGLISH

On 24th August, the Year 9 cohort will benefit from Nicole Hayes, the author of their novel One True Thing coming to spend a period with them. They are invited to ask questions, in addition to hearing the author's thoughts about the text. On 2nd September we will celebrate the last day of Literacy Week by asking the students to come dressed as a representation of their favourite literary genre. There will also be a writing competition during that week but the costume competition is the culmination of activities pertaining to the highlighting of literacy in the community. Prizes will be involved with both of these.

Ms Anne Gamble
English Domain Leader

SPORT

On Thursday 4th August, the intermediate A Netball team beat Berwick and Alkira, advancing Mentone to the grand final. We played Mckinnon in the final and it was an extremely close match. Everyone played really well as a team and we won by one goal. Intercepts and defensive pressure throughout the last quarter contributed to our win. Well done to the girls, they all worked really hard and showed great sportsmanship. We are looking forward to competing in the state championships on 2nd September. Go Mentone!

Emma Gardiner

It has been a busy term for sport. In week 3, seven teams competed. The AFL teams played in the Southern Metro (SMR) finals. They did not win the day, but fought hard and had lots of fun in the mud. The Intermediate, Year 8 and Year 7 Soccer teams also competed in the SMR finals and were up against some difficult opponents. The Intermediates won their first game 5-0 and lost their second 0-1. This was not enough to secure a spot into the next competition.

The Intermediates had two Futsal teams at the Beachside level. The A team won the day. We also had three Intermediate Basketball teams play at Dandenong Basketball Stadium. They did not get through to the next round.

The Intermediates, Year 7 and 8 Netball A and B teams all played very well in the SMR finals. The Year 8 and Intermediate A teams made it through to the State finals in September. We wish Miss O'Hara, Miss Miliken and all the girls the best of luck.

The Year 8 Futsal team came a close second at the beachside level, having lost only one match and the Year 8 Basketball team won their day convincingly, and will now be going onto the SMR finals. Good luck girls!

Mr Phil Hull
Interschool Sport Coordinator

Bonjour!
To celebrate
Languages Week at MGSC,
Alain the crêpes man came
again this year. The girls ordered
in French and enjoyed
delicious crêpes! Bon
appétit!

Depression proofing your kids!

- **Sadness is not always bad**

We all want our children to be happy but there are times where sadness can set in. Helping your child understand that they won't be happy all the time is important. Moreover realising that all feelings can pass and we are able to learn from these feelings, is a part of being human.

- **Decreasing stress**

Identifying major sources of stress for your child and help develop ways to combat stress. Even if the stressful event cannot be avoided, develop methods to wind down. Exercising and being active are some of the best ways. Engage your young person in activities they enjoy and ones that challenges them. Being absorbed in pleasurable activities can help to take away some worries.

- **Talking to friends**

Like family, having those supportive friends that we can talk things over with really helps protect us during hard times.

- **Eating Healthy**

Keeping in mind we are what we eat! Foods high in selenium such as meat, fish and cereal grains are shown to decrease symptoms of depression. Leafy green contain magnesium also helps with depression and helps with sleep patterns.

- **The karma club**

Contribute and do something positive for someone else's life! It's amazing how you'll benefit from it!

- **Being grateful and lucky**

Instead of focusing on things setting you back, most of us have many things and people to be grateful for and decide to be lucky!

- **Getting enough sleep and rest**

Over 60% of people that sleep 5 hours or less per night end up obese and depressed. Young people should be getting at least 8 to 9 hours sleep.

- **Laugh more**

Do things that make your child laugh! Even when they don't feel happy, laughter has been reported to improve their mood and sense of wellbeing.



Mentone Girls' Secondary College presents...

Winter Concert

Wednesday 24th August 2016

Proceedings begin at 7pm with pre-concert entertainment in the Music Centre and Nina Carr Performing Arts Centre foyer. The Winter Concert, featuring all the major performance ensembles, commences at 7.30pm in the Nina Carr Performing Arts Centre. Supper will be provided for parents and friends during the interval.

Ticket Prices:
Concession \$5, Adult \$7, Family \$20

KEY DATES | AUGUST 2016

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Gold Week	1	2	3	4 NEWSLETTER #12	5	6	7
Blue Week	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Gold Week	15	16	17	18 NEWSLETTER #13 1.30pm P/T/S Interviews	19 7.30pm Yr 10 Social	20	21
Blue Week	22 Yr 7 Immunisations	23 Staff Professional Development Day (student free)	24 Yr 9 English Incursion P4 Winter Concert	25 9-2.30pm Yr 12 Physics Excursion; <i>Synchrotron</i> Market Day	26 Yr 7 Round Robin	27	28
Gold Week	29	30	31 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Year 10 Camp</div>				
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Numeracy week</div>						
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Literacy festival</div>						

Remember:
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE – EVERY DAY COUNTS

KEY DATES | SEPTEMBER 2016

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Gold Week				1 NEWSLETTER #14	2 Yr 12 English Exam Expo Literature Dress Day	3	4
				Year 10 Camp			
				Numeracy Week			
				Literacy Festival			
Blue Week	5	6 Vocal Evening	7	8	9 Yr 12 English Exam Expo	10	11
Gold Week	12 Beachside Aths	13	14 9am School Tour VCE Recital	15 NEWSLETTER #15 College Assembly Mid Autumn festival No more SACs unit 4 5.30-10pm Dizzy's Jazz Club Performance (Jazz & stage bands); <i>Richmond</i>	16 Last Day of Term 3 4 period day (shortened classes) Yr 12 October Test - English P4 onwards	17	18
						HOLIDAYS	
Blue Week	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	HOLIDAYS						
Gold Week	26	27	28	29	30		
	HOLIDAYS						