PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Every year students and staff from Mentone Girls’ Secondary College and Nakamura High School are involved in a cultural exchange in which a group from one of the schools travels to visit the other in their country. This year, it is the turn of our sister school in Japan, Nakamura High School, to travel to Australia. On Wednesday 27th July we welcomed three staff members and 15 students to our school community. The students are being hosted by families from within the school and I thank them for opening their homes to our guests. The students and staff take part in classes with their host students, and through the homestay and school experiences get an understanding of Australian culture and way of life. The additional bonus is the opportunity for students of both schools to practice listening and speaking in each other’s native language. I thank Mr Trigellis-Smith, Ms Witt and Mr Yamamoto for their work in organising and overseeing this program.

We are moving into the part of the year when much of the work is done in preparing for the following school year. Students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 have been busy consulting and making their subject selections. These are always difficult decisions with many factors to be considered. Thank you to all staff who have been part of this process, giving advice and guidance. If parents have questions, please contact the Careers and Pathways Manager, Ms Rebecca Poulos, or the relevant head of Sub School.

A successful Year 9 City Camp was run from Wednesday 27th to Friday 29th July. I was fortunate to join a number of groups on Thursday afternoon as they visited various places in the city. It was interesting to hear the students comments that they had been to places they hadn’t realised existed and seen a different aspect of the city other than the fashion shops. Thank you to the Middle School team, Ms Christopoulos, Ms Cook and Ms Welniak, for their organisation and leadership of this experience.

It is with great excitement and anticipation that next week sees the culmination of the hours of practice and rehearsal in readiness for performances of this year’s school production, ‘Grease’. Ticket information can be found on the school website and I urge all members of the school community to come and support the students who have dedicated many hours to hone their performances.

Mr David Russell
Acting Principal
COLLEGE MATTERS

Interim Reports and Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews

The Parent Portal will be open for parents to access interim reports online on Wednesday 10th August at 3.30pm. Parents with daughters studying a Unit 3/4 subject will be able to book P/T/S Interviews from this time. Interviews with teachers for all other students will be able to be booked from Thursday 11th August at 3.30pm. P/T/S Interviews will be held on Thursday 18th August and will run from 1.30pm to 5pm and 6pm to 8pm. There are NO formal classes for students on this day. Students are expected to attend the interviews with their parent/guardian. Interim reports will only be available through the Parent Portal. The school no longer provides hard copies of the report. Parents are encouraged to save reports electronically on personal information technology devices. Parents who have difficulty accessing the Portal (eg. forgotten password) should email portal@mgsc.vic.edu.au.

Mr David Russell
Acting Principal

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Term 3 and Middle School has left the blocks, firing on all cylinders.

We began the transition of Year 8 students into Middle School with the Information Night on Wednesday 20th July. Students and parents should now be completing the elective choice process for 2016.

On Monday 18th July Year 9 students and their parents attended the 2016 Information Night. Students should be discussing their choices for 2017 with their families, current teachers and VCE subject teachers if they wish to accelerate next year. There will be a meeting for Languages students who wish to accelerate to review their online selections and problem solve any difficulties they may be having. Students are asked to look out for an email advising when that will occur.

The Year 9 City Camp was fabulous! It could not have been so if not for the dedication of the managers who organised the program and the staff who attended. We hope everyone has caught up on their sleep and are feeling energised.

On Friday 29th July Year 10 students attended Course Counselling for 2017. Students should have completed this process and have their online selections finalised.

Year 10 camp payments and student forms need to be returned as soon as possible so the Student Managers can process the transport, accommodation and activity groups.

Middle School Team

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

The Junior Learning Centre

Our JLC has recently become a technology-free zone outside of normal class time. The girls are welcome to chat quietly, play board games or do some colouring in that is provided. Students who would like to complete work are welcome to do so in the library. After just one week this appears to be having a positive effect on social interactions at recess and lunch.

Year 7 Olympic Challenge

On Monday 1st August all Year 7s participated in an Olympic Challenge to celebrate the opening of the Rio Olympics. The tabloid activities completed were based on Olympic sports and included Noodle Fencing, Sock Wrestling and Scooter Board Swimming among many others. The event was a great success and Junior School would like to thank all teachers and student leaders involved, including the Health and PE Leaders, Junior School House Captains and Mr Hull’s Sports Psychology class. Congratulations to the following countries on their success:

- First place: Germany (first half of 7D)
- Second place: Denmark (second half of 7B)
- Third place: The Bahamas (second half of 7A)

Ms Lisa Kosack
Acting Junior School Leader

BOOK WEEK 2016

Book Week 2016 will be held from 20th to 26th August. The theme this year is: Australia: Story Country. To celebrate, the Library is offering several fun-filled and book related activities. Many classes have already started Book
Week games which began on the 25th July run by the Library staff. Activities include:
- Visualise yourself as an Australian animal and create a story around that
- Author and title scavenger hunt
- Author and title Hang-Man
- Guess the winning book for this year’s Booker Prize.

All participants are in for a sweet treat. The student who correctly guesses the prize-winning book will bag a great surprise.

Ms Neelika Kottachchi
Library Manager

LANGUAGES
Nakamura Update

16 families from the MGSC community have been kept frantically busy looking after Nakamura students. From all reports, they have enjoyed the visit; Nakamura students have been given a wonderful experience in Melbourne. My sincere thanks go to all MGSC hosts for the care you have shown. A program like this cannot run without your contributions.

Mr Allan Trigellis-Smith
Languages Domain Leader

SCIENCE

2016 ICAS Science Competition: Year 7 and 8 Results

Congratulations to the 391 Year 7 and 8 students who participated in the ICAS Science competition. Overall results:
6 Distinctions (Year 8: Chloe Boul, Chelsea McDonald and Ashley Warden, Year 7: Romana McGlashan, Amy Morrison and Jessica Marquis), 63 Credits and 39 Merits. Students will receive their certificates from their Science teacher as well as a letter that outlines their strengths and weakness.

ICAS Science assesses students’ skills in the key scientific areas of:
- Observing and measuring – Noting and measuring features of items and phenomena
- Interpreting data – Interpreting diagrams, tables and graphs
- Applying data – Including inferring, predicting and concluding
- Investigating – Experimental design, use of controls and notion of ‘fair test’
- Higher-order skills – Including reasoning and problem solving

Across Australia some schools only enter their top achieving students, whereas MGSC enters their entire Year 7 and 8 cohort. Therefore, comparison data (indicated by the grey band) does not give an accurate indication of your daughter’s performance compared to the rest of Australia. For more information about the data shown on the achievement letter please go to https://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/school-results

VCE Biology Excursion

On Friday 22nd July Unit 4 Biology students investigated the inheritance in Arabidopsis thaliana and various DNA manipulation techniques at Melbourne University. Students were able to gain valuable knowledge from this genetic workshop in order to complete their VCE requirements.

Science Week is Fast Approaching... (Week 6)

Don’t forget to participate in the Education Perfect Science Championships. Ask your Science teacher for more information or go to http://worldseries.educationperfect.com/science-world-championships.html

National Youth Science Forum: Success

Breaking news! Year 11 students Bridget Assi, Lucy Tsuchida and Tara Graves have been accepted into the National Youth Science Forum and will travel to Canberra in January 2017 to participate in a 10 day program with like-minded Science students from across Australia. Congratulations to all girls who went through the rigorous selection process.

Ms Louise Rieniets
Science Domain Leader
ENGLISH

The Year 12 Literature class was fortunate to have Cate Kennedy, author of the short studies they are studying for their examination and SAC to come and speak with them. They found this beneficial and learnt much about the texts and the crafting of writing from her. 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 her 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. Prizes will be involved with both of these.

Ms Anne Gamble
English Domain Leader

Parenting Ideas: How to manage teen behaviour and
maintain a strong relationship
By Michael Grose

One of the biggest challenges parents of teenagers face is how to maintain a good relationship with a young person while managing also their sometimes tricky and anti-social behaviour. The balance between good guy and bad guy is precarious indeed.

There are two simple strategies, when used in tandem can really help parents straddle this great divide. They are - following through and following up.

Following through to teach responsibility
‘Following through’ means doing what you say you’ll do. If you say “You’re grounded” yet then let a young person off the hook when they came home from an outing later than agreed, you are merely issuing a meaningless threat. Most young people know a meaningless threat when they hear one.

‘Following through’ is about taking parent action and the most appropriate action is the use of behavioural consequences. When young people behave poorly, irresponsibly, transgress family rules or someone’s individual rights, then the experience of a negative consequence teaches them that there is a link between their behaviour and outcomes.

It’s important that the consequence issued matches the misdemeanour. When we go too far – “you’re grounded for the term” – then we generally get resentment. Not strong enough – “you should apologise” and they become ineffective. It also helps when consequences are related to the misdemeanour.

Following up to reconnect
It’s easy to lock a young person out emotionally following a behaviour meltdown or disagreement, particularly when they’ve said or done hurtful things. Once the dust has settled after discipline or a dispute then it’s time to follow-up with a kind word, an enjoyable activity or even just sincere smile. It generally takes the adult in the relationship – parents or teachers – to make the first move to put the relationship back on an even keel.

Following through and following up are a dynamic discipline duo when they are used together as they help parents straddle the good guy, bad guy line that seems to appear on almost a daily basis. Use them in tandem and you’re more than likely hit the right parenting mark.

GRAB SOME FRIENDS AND COME DOWN TO OUR GIRLS CRICKET SIGN UP DAY AND FREE CLINIC & BBQ
Friday August 19th, 2016, 5:00pm – 7:30pm
MordyHQ Indoor Sports
3 Haymer Court, Braeside 3195
More Info: Aaron (0410854544) or Gerry (0417037183) at the club.
Mordialloc Redbacks a Great Family Club

TICKETS ON SALE NOW
Book online: www.mgsc.vic.edu.au
10th 11th 12th 13th August 7.30pm 13th August 1pm
Nina Carr Performing Arts Centre
adult $25 child/student/senior $15

Book, Music and Lyrics By Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey
By Arrangement with Origin® Theatrical www.origintheatrical.com.au

MERTONE GIRLS’ SC NEWSLETTER
Edition 12 | 4 August 2016
# KEY DATES | AUGUST 2016

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<th>TUESDAY</th>
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<td>8</td>
<td>9am College Tour</td>
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<td>Production - Matinee (selected audience)</td>
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<td>7.30pm Production - evening performance</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>ICAS Maths Competition</td>
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<td>Production - Matinee (selected audience)</td>
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<td>7.30pm Production - evening performance</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>SYMPOSIUM - VSMF</td>
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<td>P/T/S Interviews</td>
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<td>News Letter #13</td>
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<td>P/T/S Interviews</td>
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<td>Girls’ School Conference; Mac.Rob</td>
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<td><strong>Gold Week</strong></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Staff Professional Development Day (student free)</td>
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<td>Yr 9 English Incursion P4</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Yr 7 Immunisations</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Yr 9 English Incursion P4</td>
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<td>9-2.30pm Yr 12 Physics excursion; Synchrotron Market Day</td>
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<td>24</td>
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<td>Winter Concert</td>
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<td><strong>Gold Week</strong></td>
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- **Gold Week**
- **Blue Week**

**NOTES**
- Gold Week:
  - 1: Unit 4 Outdoor Education Camp

**NEWSPAPER**
- Blue Week:
  - 16: Symphonic wind - VSMF excursion; Deakin Edge

**NUMERACY WEEK**
- Gold Week:
  - 31: Numeracy week (til 2/9)

**LITERACY FESTIVAL**
- Gold Week:
  - 31: Literacy festival (til 2/9)
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<td>Yr 12 English Exam Expo</td>
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<td>Vocal Evening</td>
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<td>Beachside Aths</td>
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<td>9am School Tour</td>
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<td>VCE Recital</td>
<td>College Assembly</td>
<td>4 Period Day (shortened classes)</td>
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<td>Mid Autumn festival</td>
<td>Yr 12 October test - English</td>
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<td>No more SACs unit 4</td>
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<td>5.30pm Dizzy's Jazz Club</td>
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<td>Performance (Jazz &amp; stage bands); Richmond</td>
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HOLIDAYS

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