PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

The school was a hub of activity on Tuesday as we welcomed the 2017 Year 7 students to MGSC for their Orientation Day. The playground was filled with the brightly coloured clothing of the girls as they ate their morning tea and chatted with their new classmates. It was lovely to meet the parents and with the girls on this day. Families were entertained by the Concert Band and All-Star Choir and were dazzled by an aerobics team performance. We are very fortunate to have talented and dedicated staff leading these groups—Vivienne Tate (Concert Band), Blanka West & Anna Berlinger (All Star Choir) and Tess Molina (Aerobics). The talents of our girls shine as a result of their dedication.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication of the Year 7 Student Managers, Petra Witt and Catherine Jones, and the Junior School Leader, Gayle Steinfort, for all of the preparations for the day. The girls appeared to be both challenged and comfortable in the school environment which is what we strive for.

The students at the school have settled into their Headstart classes and have risen to the challenge of the work pitched at the next year level and the Year 11 and 12 students have finished for the year. Teacher have been finalising their reports and we are counting down to the release of the reports to parents.

You can read about the many achievements of our girls in the area of athletics, cheer and scouts in this newsletter. There are most likely many other achievements that have occurred that I am unaware of so I would like to congratulate all of those who have participated in the various events. I enjoy hearing from parents, students and staff when there are achievements to be celebrated so do contact me if you wish to share anything with me.

It has been six weeks since I commenced in the role as Principal at MGSC and I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment. I have felt both welcomed and supported by the entire MGSC Community. At MGSC we are very fortunate to have teachers who are passionate about what they teach and educational support staff who are efficient and skilled in their roles. Together the staff provide a secure and supportive environment for each other and for the girls.

As this is the last newsletter for the year, I would like to take the opportunity to wish the students and staff all the best for the festive season. I hope you enjoy your time together with your families and return refreshed for the new academic year.

Ms Linda Brown
Principal
COLLEGE MATTERS

Blazer Pocket Information

In consultation with our uniform supplier, Costume World in Cheltenham, various items of uniform will be replaced with the new logo once existing stocks are sold. All items of uniform will be expected to have the new logo for the commencement of the 2018 school year.

The following arrangement applies for the transition of our ‘old’ blazer pockets to those with the new logo.

There are two types of blazers currently in circulation: those with a sewn in lining and those with a zip lining. The price for adjustments depends on which type of blazer is returned, and whether it has been dry-cleaned beforehand. Colour matching may not be 100% due to wear/fading of blazers due to cleaning and general wear, and also the slight pigment changes in fabric from batch to batch.

Following Presentation Evening on 22nd November, all blazers can be returned to Costume World so they can be sent to the manufacturer who will replace old pockets with a closely matched new pocket.

Blazers must be received at Costume World by 26th November so all work can be completed in readiness for collection in January. Blazers returned after this date will incur an additional charge ($5-$10 depending on when the blazer is handed in). ALL blazers must be clearly named with either an iron on/ sewn on nametag, or very clear indelible fabric pen.

Costs for this to occur are met by College families, with the following options:

PRICE FROM THE SUPPLIER:

• For a blazer with the zip lining: Dry-cleaning $8.50, return freight $2, supply & sew pocket $27.50
  TOTAL COST $38. If blazer is freshly dry-cleaned by customer $29.50 for supply & sew & return freight
• For a blazer with a sewn in lining: Dry-cleaning $8.50, return freight $2, supply & sew pocket $35.50
  TOTAL COST $46.00. If blazer is freshly dry-cleaned by customer $37.50 for supply & sew & return freight
• Supply pocket only $20.

PRICE FROM THE COSTUME WORLD TAILOR:

• For the blazers with a zip lining it will be $12 + ($20 for the pocket) total $32.
• For the blazers with a sewn in lining it will be $18 + ($20 for the pocket) total $38.

Families will need proof of dry-cleaning (i.e receipt) when they hand their blazers in (OHS requirement).

Please ensure you put all of the key dates in your diary to ensure this process goes smoothly for your family. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Ms Carol Duggan
Assistant Principal

SEMESTER 2 REPORTS

Semester 2 reports will be made available electronically for students and parents on Friday 9th December at 3.30pm in the same manner as the Semester 1 and Interim reports. Access the school portal at portal.mgsc.vic.edu.au and use the same username and password as used previously. All other reports for your daughter are also available here. We recommend you develop your own secure file management process on your home computer or using cloud technologies like DropBox or Google Cloud so you can keep copies of the reports. The email address for any username and password requests is portal@mgsc.vic.edu.au Please contact the school if you have any difficulties with this process.

Mr David Russell
Acting Principal

SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT

School Council welcomed Ms Linda Brown to her first meeting with us. We also thanked Mr David Russell for the fantastic work that he did in Ms Deborah Lehner’s absence.

At the meeting, it was reported that the number of students attending MGSC next year will increase again. So much so that we will add another Year 7 class. It is anticipated that the enrolment will total more than 1160 students.

Three Year 11 students, Tara Groves, Lucy Tsuchida and Bridget Assi, will travel to Canberra in January and represent MGSC in the National Science Youth Forum. The Mordialloc Rotary Club interviewed all contestants and concluded that Tara, Lucy, and Bridget were the best. The Council noted the efforts of Ms Louise Rieniets in getting the contestants to this point which included mock interviews.

Finally, a discussion was had about appropriate behaviour of the girls while on excursions and camps. It was agreed that the current policies and measures do reflect the school’s principles and aspirations.

Glenn Chadwick
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM & ELC

Many of the international students will be returning home and so we would like to wish them a safe journey and a great time visiting family and friends. We also would like to thank Boying Wu and Leila Lu for being the International Student Leaders this year. They did a great job! Judy Wang and Leila Lu (second year running) will be the leaders of 2017 so we wish them a great and energetic year.

Ms Ekaterina Xanthopoulos
ISP and ELC Manager

CONGRATULATION TO OUR STUDENTS

National Cheer and Dance Competition on the Gold Coast

It is important to share the achievements of our students with our community and today I wanted to highlight the achievements of Kimberley Horrigan of 9B who has just competed at the AASCF National Cheer and Dance competition on the Gold Coast with her dance team the Mathis Diamonds.

Kim is in an Open team dancing with much older girls, including Samantha Holland, who finished at MGSC last year. They performed a Lyrical and Jazz routine and came 1st for both. In doing so they have also been awarded a bid to compete at the International Competition in Florida next year for both dances. The girls have worked really hard all year and will continue to do so until they go to International next April. They are the first Australian team to ever achieve a bid in the Lyrical genre.

We are very proud of Kim and Samantha as this is an amazing achievement. Kim is standing 4th from the left holding corner of the banner, and Sam Holland is standing 2nd from left. They went on to take 1st place for both routines in the Pinnacle contest on 30th October which means they’ve essentially swept the pool at Nationals.

Australian Scout Medallion

Congratulations to Ayannah Blazek and Loren Henry who were presented with the Australian Scout Medallion on Saturday 19th November at a presentation attended by hundreds of people from across Victoria. This is the highest award earned by Scouts.

Ayannah and Loren are members of the 1st Beaumaris Scout Group. The award recognises their work in leadership, organisation, drive, determination, resilience and high-level practical scouting knowledge including campcraft and hiking. These are excellent leadership qualities.

National Athletics

Anthony Bruhn and David Russell attended the National Schools Knockouts Final in Canberra where they watched Kisarna Berntsen (10th), Zoe Cunningham (11th) and Emily Ryan (4th) compete for Victoria in the Championships and then watched our team of six compete against the best schools in the country for the National Schools Final. Kisarna, Zoe and Emily were joined by Teiki Waata, Milly Webster and Sophie Bolmat in seven events throughout the day. Team MGSC dominated the Junior Girls’ competition by winning the javelin (Kisarna), long jump (Zoe) and shot put (Emily), 2nd in the 4x200m relay (Zoe, Teiki, Kisarna and Milly), and 3rd in the hurdles (Zoe) – all of these excellent results meant that our team finished in 2nd place. This means that our team of six students were the second best school in the entire country! What a wonderful achievement.

Anthony Bruhn has done an outstanding job in training the girls and organising fundraisers. Many staff members donated their time and money at the barbeque fundraisers and had a guess with the Jelly Bean contest to assist with raising funds to subsidise the team travelling to Canberra.

Well done girls and well done to Anthony Bruhn for his tireless support of the athletics program and his enthusiasm.

Ms Linda Brown
Principal

Don’t forget to visit www.mgscsports.com for sports news!
SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Our 2016 Year 12 students will receive their results from VCAA Monday 12th December. We wish them all the best for their future and hope they can be proud of their efforts this year.

VCE 2017 studies have already started. Students will have holiday homework to complete and it is recommended they do this early in the break. Their teachers are still at school so if students have any difficulties they can contact them and find assistance before the end of the school year.

We look forward to the Year 12 Conference beginning on 31st January. The Year 12 Managers have planned a two day program of activities and guest speakers to kick start the academic year. Students should arrive at school by 8.15am ready for an 8.30am start. The program is tight for time so it is important students are not late. The Principal will address the students at 8.30am sharp in the Lecture Theatre. We will be holding a ‘Meet the Teachers’ evening for the parents of Year 12 students in the VCE Centre, from 6pm to 7pm on Tuesday 31st January.

We consider all VCE students as leaders of the school and hence we ask they are always mindful about how they present themselves to the school and wider community. The way they wear the uniform is the first impression. Uniforms should always be clean, pressed and correct. School bags should not be replaced by hand bags. The way they conduct themselves confirms that first impression, whether they are considerate of others both in and out of the school grounds.

Happy Holidays from the Senior School Team.

Senior School Team

CHRISTMAS DONATION

The Library wants to thank the parents and students who donated nonperishable food items towards our Salvos Christmas collection. Many parents participated generously and gave large quantities of food and toiletries. Thank you for supporting this great incentive and encouraging generous attitudes in young people.

Neelika Kottachchi
Library Manager

ENGLISH

Students at most levels have been provided with summer homework suggestions. Generally this will be reading novels to help the girls to begin considering the major ideas and concerns intrinsic to novels. Understanding of a text is an organic process and it will greatly assist the students to develop their relationship with texts at the beginning of the year. Students should ensure they enjoy their leisure so that they return refreshed.

Many rewarding activities were connected with the English Domain throughout the year and students helped make these memorable through their participation. The 2017 English monitors will be announced soon after we return next year.

The English Domain wishes all a safe and insouciant break.

Ms Anne Gamble
English Domain Leader

MATHS @ MGSC

Another Exciting Year Comes to a Close

As the 2016 academic year comes to a close, we extend our best wishes to all members of our MGSC community for a safe and enjoyable holiday break.

2016 has been an exciting time in all things mathematical at MGSC. We have seen students embrace their maths studies with great vigour and produce some excellent results at all levels. They have also shown wonderful participation in a range of competitions, challenges and quizzes. A special mention goes to the support given by the Maths Student Domain Leaders: Caitlyn Woods, Kristine Sohn, Janvi Gupta, Michelle Taneja, Natalie Hooper, Sophie Gibbins, Kirsten Pitts and Ella Phillips. The Maths Homework Club, now closing for the year, has also proven a real boon together with our developing range of websites, maths apps, social media and other ICT resources.

As students prepare for holidays, they should think about their plans for next year and set some meaningful goals to achieve. We especially encourage our VCE students for 2017 to complete their assigned holiday homework. Our Year 12 students can also access prior year exams and other study resources via links on the MGSC Connect VCE Maths site.

That is a wrap from the Maths Domain for 2016. Enjoy the holidays and remember... “Maths makes a real and imaginary difference.”

Maths Domain Team
THE ARTS
Congratulations to the following students who have been shortlisted for the “TOP” areas. All folio subjects offered at Year 12 this year had at least one student shortlisted. This is a wonderful achievement as getting shortlisted is quite competitive.

Visual Communication & Design (Top Designs): Cindy Chen
Visual Communication & Design (Top Designs): Sam Gibson
Art (Top Arts): Rochelle Lesley
Food (Top Designs): Izzy Harper
Media (Top Screen): Shanon McKenzie
Media (Top Screen): Neha Shenri
Media (Top Designs): Charlotte Byrne
Media (Top Designs): Jade Bartholomew

Ms Gemma Johnson
Art Domain Leader

HOW TO KEEP YOUR TEENAGER SAFE DURING SCHOOLIES WEEK
By Michael Grose

As a parent you want your young person to have a great time; but you also want them to come home safe, sound and in one piece.

You also know that they’ll be in a place and headspace that is about as far away from the protection of their parents as they’ve ever been. So it may help, at least for your peace of mind to reinforce some key messages before they leave the relative safety and stability of home.

Messages such as:

1. Don’t overdo alcohol because you want to remember it.
   This message is obvious but what may not be so obvious are the dangers of drink spiking. If you haven’t done so already talk about the dangers of spiking and encourage them to do a risk assessment of the place they are in and the crowd they are among before drinking.

2. Look out for leaches.
   Schoolies attracts all types including toolies and other leaches for sex, a good time and, in some cases, a fight. Girls are obvious targets for sex, while drunk guys and those with big mouths are at greatest risk of violence.

3. Look out for your friends.
   ‘Keep an eye out for your mates’ should be a mantra reverberating around your young person’s head long before they head to Schoolies. It also means that kids should tell their friends what they are doing, who they are with, what they are drinking and the details of any drugs they are taking. It will most likely be a friend that will take a young person to an ambulance to have their stomach pumped; deal with a drug issue or search for them if they go missing.

4. Attend Schoolies Only events.
   Most councils around the country have Schoolies Only events that are run with young people’s needs and safety in mind. Choose these to minimise risk.

5. Drink plenty of water.
   Dehydration is a big issue for young people at Schoolies events so reinforce the Drink Plenty of H2O message. It’s also a smart move to drink heaps of water before drinking alcohol to prevent over consumption of alcohol.

6. Seek out support from Red Frogs and other youth support providers at events.
   Red Frogs are a Schoolies Best Friend. When a young person gets in any type of trouble they should seek out a friendly Red Frog who can help get them out of a jam. They are easy to spot. You guessed it—they are decked out in red and they are everywhere.

So if you haven’t done so already, start talking!
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**MENTONE GIRLS’ SC NEWSLETTER**
Edition 20 | 8 December 2016