Principal’s Report

Welcome to Term 1 2016! I hope all our students had a restful and reinvigorating time, and also completed any work set in Headstart. A special welcome to new students and staff.

As usual, at the beginning of the year I am calling for nominations for College Council. Nominations open today and close on Thursday 11th February. I urge you to consider nominating so you can be elected and understand the way the School Council works to develop policies across many areas. Please see page 8 for more information about this.

Councillors whose two year term ends in March or who have resigned are Patty Konstandakos, Glenn Chadwick, Martin Taylor and Claire Houston. On behalf of the school community I would like to thank these councillors who have worked towards the betterment of the school. Of course, they too can renominate if they still have a daughter at the school.

Last year Assistant Principal Bronwyn Moline worked hard to develop a better plan for people entering and leaving the school in safety. There will be some changes to the drop off point to reduce the danger to students and other pedestrians. You will need to look for alternative drop off points because the Kingston Council staff will be monitoring the changes. Further information will be included in future newsletters and emails.

Once again, our VCE results were very good. I was pleased to see that all but a handful of students received an offer from universities and other tertiary training institutions. Congratulations to our Dux, Yutong (Rachel) Cheng, who scored an ATAR of 99.35.

The ATARs of our students reflect the amount of work done during the year. Some very capable girls were disappointed that their ATAR scores were less than they had anticipated, and in speaking with the teachers it was observed that these girls hadn’t put in the time and asked their teacher questions either in class or at recess or lunchtime.

I look forward to meeting lots of parents at the Year 12 Meet the Teachers night tonight and the Year 7 Information Evening on Tuesday 9th February. At these events, parents may park in the teachers’ carparks.

A reminder to keep the General Office informed of your correct email address so you continue to receive the newsletter.

Ms Deborah M. Lehner
Principal
College Matters
Welcome to the 2016 school year. I hope all students have enjoyed their first week; every indication is they have, with lots of smiling faces to be seen! I am one of two Assistant Principals at Mentone Girls’ SC. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions about any wellbeing issues. I work closely with Leona Thomson (Student Wellbeing Coordinator), our Department Psychologist and each of the three Sub-school leaders. I am looking forward to getting to know our students in Junior and Middle School in particular, both in the classroom and when they attend camps throughout the year.

Traffic Safety
Could our families note the changes to parking restrictions along Balcombe road. Please adhere to the restrictions as the Kingston Council and local police regularly issue fines. Our students’ safety to and from school relies on them crossing roads at the designated crossings. Due to the size of our school population, we do not permit parents to collect their daughter from the staff car park.

Camps, Excursions and Activities
Eligible families may now apply for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) which provides payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions (see advertisement on page 6).
Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. Eligible secondary school students will receive $225. A special consideration eligibility category also exists. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student.
Application forms can be collected from the General Office and should be completed as returned as soon as possible.

Senior School News
Congratulations to our class of 2015 for their wonderful results. We are proud of their achievements. Most look likely to take courses of their choice at tertiary intuitions. We wish them all the best for their future.
The Year 12 students will be embarking upon a study conference in the college later this week. On Thursday night there is an opportunity for Year 12 parents to meet with their daughters’ teachers from 6 to 7pm in the VCE Centre.
The year has started off well in the Senior School and we look forward to supporting the students to achieve their best in their studies.

Middle School News
Students and teachers have begun the year fresh and with enthusiasm. We are always excited to see our buddies and catch up with holiday stories. Middle School would like the students to bring in to their manager a favourite photo or postcard from the summer holiday to share on our community noticeboard.
The Year 9 and 10 year level leaders and SRC representatives will be announced this week. We congratulate all our leaders and look forward to working with them throughout the year. They will receive their badges at a forthcoming whole school assembly which will also celebrate International Women’s Day.
We have welcomed a number of new students during Headstart and this year. In the coming weeks the new students and a buddy will be invited to a special morning tea.
If you wish to contact us, the student managers for each level are as below:
Ms Sue Cook Year 9 A-D
Ms Adrianna Welniak Year 9 E-H
Ms Lizzie Ingold Year 10 A-D
Mr Michael Warden Year 10 E-H
Ms Sylvia Christopoulos (Ms Chris) Middle School Leader
Ms Carol Duggan Assistant Principal for Middle School
Phone: 9581 5208 or 9581 5218

Ms Carol Duggan
Assistant Principal
Senior School Team

Ms Carol Duggan
Assistant Principal for Middle School
Middle School Team
Junior School News

Welcome
A huge welcome to our Year 7s and a big welcome back to our Year 8s. We hope they had a great holiday and are ready for a productive year! We also extend a warm welcome to all new Year 8 girls. We hope they settle in quickly and make many new friends.

It was fantastic to see so many parents attend the College assembly on the first day and watch the school welcome the Year 7 cohort into the gym.

Junior School Team
Our Junior School team this year is:
- Ms Carol Duggan  Assistant Principal to the Junior School
- Ms Gayle Steinfort  Junior School Leader
- Ms Ilana Parker  7ABCD Year Level Manager
- Mrs Petra Witt  7EFGH Year Level Manager
- Ms Lisa Kosack  8ABCD Year Level Manager
- Ms Amanda O’Hara  8EFGH Year Level Manager

We are excited to be working with the girls and their families this year. To contact any of the team, please ring:
- Year 7 Student Managers & Ms Steinfort 95815240
- Year 8 Student Managers 95815244

Absences
If your daughter is absent, leaving early or arriving late, please ring the central absence line on 9581 5236. You can leave a message 24 hours a day and you don’t have to send a note with your daughter if you leave a message.

Clothing
Please make sure ALL clothing is clearly named. We often find jumpers, blazers or PE gear left at school and we cannot return it if it is not named.

Collection Points
If you are dropping off or collecting your daughter, please don’t come into the school with her or wait outside the JLC for her. Please arrange to meet her outside the gym or outside the school gates.

Year 7 Parent Information Evening – Tuesday 9th February
Year 7 parents are invited to attend a Parent Information evening on Tuesday 9th February at 7pm in the Nina Carr Hall. This is an opportunity to meet parents from your daughter’s class and to meet her teachers. The formal part of the evening will conclude in the JLC at about 8.30pm but our wonderful Parents and Friends Association invite parents to stay and enjoy a drink and nibblies. All Year 7s have been given a letter with more information. Please call us if you need further details.

Year 7 Camp – Arrabri Lodge
All Year 7s will be attending a camp at Arrabri Lodge in Warburton East. 7A-D will attend on Monday 22nd to Wednesday 24th February and 7E-H will attend on Wednesday 24th to Friday 26th February. This is a fantastic opportunity for the girls to get to know each other and their teachers in a relaxed setting.

If you have not already paid for the camp, please do so. If you are having trouble with payments, ring the General Office on 9581 5200 to arrange a payment plan.

iPad Bags
To prevent iPads being dropped and broken, please ensure that your daughter has some sort of protective cover for her iPad and a carry bag, preferably with a shoulder strap.

Junior School Team
Hi everyone and welcome to 2016. I’m looking forward to it being a happy and positive year. We have lots of exciting things happening in Term 1.

The Peer Support Program for Year 7 and 10 students will be commencing in week 3. The same sex attracted and gender diverse group ‘The Equalites’ will continue its work within the school to promote diversity, equality and inclusion.

This term should see us employ an additional SWC to assist with the ever increasing workload of the wellbeing team.

Kingston and Bayside Youth Services will visit to run some personal development programs with the Year 7 and 8s. On Sunday 31st January Bronwyn Moline, some of our students and I attended the Pride March in St Kilda and walked with Safe Schools Coalition, Stand Out and Minus 18. It was a fabulous day and we were proud of the students.

Lastly, if parents have any concerns about their child, our process is that they first contact their child’s sub school and the student management team. If it is determined that the issue requires a response from the wellbeing team, student managers will refer to the Student Wellbeing Coordinator. This referral process means that all concerns are streamlined and ensures a faster response time.

Miss Leona Thomson
Student Wellbeing Coordinator

Welcome to Jane Dinh from Vietnam, our new International Student. Jane will be in Year 10 once she completes her time in the English Language Centre.

We are looking for two or three Year 9 students who would like to run Conversational Classes with our international students. This can be your CASA project. Email Ms Xanthopoulos if you are interested or would like more information: xanthopoulos.ekaterina.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

Ms Ekaterina Xanthopoulos
ISP & ELC Manager

Only 10 months to go! Fortnightly training walks will begin on Tuesday 16th February from the Middle School office at 3.30pm and return to school at 4.15pm. If your daughter’s passport expires before July 2017, please arrange to get a new one as Victoria King at World Challenge (9245 7404) will need to know the new details for processing flights, etc.

Mr Michael Warden

Parents of Year 12s are invited to attend the first Guided Book Club session in the Lecture Theatre on Thursday 26th February between 7 and 8.30pm. It is a wonderful opportunity to become involved with the texts your daughter is studying. You can discuss it with experts. The first text on this date is ‘No Sugar’. The cost is $25.00.

Ms Anne Gamble
English Domain Leader

From 4th-16th January we attended the National Youth Science Forum, held at the Australian National University in Canberra. It was an amazing experience focused on networking with like-minded students from across Australia and around the world, as well as opening our eyes to pursuing careers in the science and engineering fields. We had the privilege of meeting many extraordinary people who have accomplished great things within this field, including Nobel Laureate Brian Schmidt. As well as focusing on science and future careers, the forum also promoted personal

Ms Anne Gamble
English Domain Leader
and social development through social events and team building exercises. Although it was all amazing, moments that stood out were; our visit to Questacon, lab visits, tour of Parliament House, video conference with CERN (Large Hadron Collider) and the many social events including formal dinners, sports and the concert. We were extremely fortunate to attend the forum and would encourage others to apply, as it is a once in a lifetime opportunity that will help us in future and with our studies in the coming year.

Evie Tripp & Ella Hardam-Hill, Year 12

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Science domain leaders: Tracy Teck Yong 12F, Lizzie Honeybone 10A, Shannon McFadries 10D, Issy Jacques 9D, Ayannah Blazek 9D, Charlotte Ozaydin 9H and Chloe Corcoran 8E. Stay tuned for Science events they will run throughout the year.

Australian Brain Bee Challenge 2016 for Year 10’s

A group of Year 10s have been invited to participate in the ABBC which aims to help them learn about the brain and its functions, neuroscience research, find out about careers in neuroscience and to dispel misconceptions about neurological and mental illnesses. We wish them luck as they prepare for round 1 of the competition.

Ms Louise Rieniets
Science Domain Leader

Languages

Japanese teachers will be supervising a student teacher, Miona Yamashita, from International Christian University, Mitaka, Tokyo, while she is on a teaching practicum for a month from 15th February. She hopes to talk to all our Japanese students. She will be staying with the Gilmour family.

Mr Allan Trigellis-Smith
Languages Domain Leader

Health & Physical Education

As you are no doubt aware, we have a new PE uniform which is compulsory for Year 7s. Only Year 7s can wear the new uniform for the entire day on days they have PE. Year 8-10s must still get changed at school at the start of their PE lesson. Year 8-10s may buy the new uniform, but don’t have to.

A few points to remember for Year 7s and PE uniform:

• If your daughter is injured and cannot participate in PE, she should still wear her PE uniform to school but should bring a note from home explaining why she cannot participate and her activities may be modified for the lesson.
• If your daughter’s PE uniform has a problem or has been misplaced, she should wear her school uniform to school and bring a change of clothes (suitable for sport) to wear for PE.
• On school assembly days, if daughter has PE, she should still wear her PE uniform to school as usual. She will attend the assembly in her PE uniform.
• The only occasion your daughter should NOT wear her PE gear when she has a timetable PE class is on SCHOOL PHOTO day on Monday 15th February. If your daughter has PE on this day she should wear her school uniform to school and bring her PE gear in her bag.
• Encourage your daughter to check her timetable so she knows when she has PE.

Year 10 PE students chose one sporting activity per term to participate in during PE. For Term 1 options included: Genesis gym, beach activities, bootcamp, racquet sports and ball sports. In Year 10 PE there are two compulsory activities: three sessions of self-defence and three sessions of ten pin bowling. Four classes will participate in self-defence at school at the start of Term 2 whilst the other four classes will go bowling at Moorabbin Bowl. The reverse will occur in Term 3.

Please remember that hats are compulsory in PE in Terms 1 and 4. We recommend that girls apply sunscreen (available in the gym office) at the beginning of outdoor classes.

Term 1 sporting and aerobics team trials commence next week. We look forward to seeing lots of girls names on the lists in the gym. Please remind your daughter to check her emails and the screens around the school so she doesn’t miss her opportunity to trial.

Ms Jackie Mathews
Health & PE Domain Leader
Maths @ MGSC

Welcome

A big welcome to everyone from our fabulous Maths Team. We hope all students and their families enjoyed a wonderful break and are prepared to do their best in all aspects of their learning this year. For the Year 7s and other students new to MGSC, they are joining a school which values all students and commits to achieving excellent outcomes.

Improving your results

So what can students do to achieve impressive results in maths this year?

• Come prepared for their lessons with appropriate books, writing materials.
• Be positive and show determination to do well.
• Become an active member of class and take the opportunities to share skills and work with classmates to develop a deeper understanding in maths.
• Think about how they learn, build on their strengths and address any areas for improvement.
• Try different approaches to problems and discuss these with classmates, before seeking assistance.
• Keep tidy notes, including good examples of worked solutions for a range of problems.
• Try constructing their own challenging problems and work through solutions.
• Revise topics throughout the year, not only for topic tests, but for exams as they occur.
• Set themselves a study timetable that allows time to complete assignments, update notes and revise for tests/exams.
• Work with their classmates in study groups in the library, or at home.
• Last but not least, have some fun.

Maths Homework Club

Our Maths Homework Club is running again this year to provide students with extra support for their maths studies. It is held in Room 12 as follows:

• Tuesdays 1.15-1.45pm
• Thursday 3.20-4.45pm

Everyone is welcome, so pop in if you need any help.

And remember... “Maths makes a real and imaginary difference.”

Maths Domain Team
Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Creating good study and work habits in secondary school

Natural smarts is not the only factor that will impact on your young person’s success at school this year. A positive attitude, a sense of resilience and a willingness to persist and work through difficulties will help. Perhaps more importantly, it’s your young person’s work and study habits that will have the most potent impact on the marks they receive at the end of the year. It’s worth keeping in mind that the study habits they develop in school also impact on their success in life beyond school.

Here are seven ways to develop healthy, strong study skills that will serve your young person well this year and throughout their lives.

1 Establish a thorough homework process
Doing the homework is one thing, but there are many steps in the process before handing an assignment in. Encourage your young person to:
- Write down an assignment when it’s given orally
- Ask the teacher clarifying questions if he doesn’t understand anything
- Use a planner or some other organiser to plan his or her time
- Place his homework in a designated place as soon as it’s finished.

2 Establish a Study Zone at home
Choose a consistent study or homework space that’s conducive to working. Encourage your young person to stick to this space. Some young people need absolute quiet when doing homework, while others work better with soft music. Contrary to the opinions of many teens, studies consistently show that loud music and/or TV are highly distracting to students. Don’t let your young person develop the habit of working in bed as this will make it difficult to go to sleep. Keep work and sleep spaces separate.

3 Establish a regular study time
The establishment of a consistent and specific time to do home work has been linked to academic success. Help your young person work out the best time for him or her to crack the books – before or after dinner, or both. Encourage your young person to take regular breaks to keep their brain alert. Every hour – or whenever she feels frustrated or angry – she should get up and walk around, get a snack and let her brain recover.

4 Establish a way to stay organised
Getting organised reduces stress levels and improves the chance of success. Consider a colour-coding system to keep assignments organised by selecting a single colour for each class (like science or history). Use that colour for that subject’s folder, highlighters, sticky notes, etc. The colours will not only keep your teen organised but will also enhance his or her recall of the subject.

5 Establish good time management skills
The best way to help your young person organise their time is to use a large wall calendar so they can jot down study, leisure, family and other activities. The visual nature of the wall calendar will enable you as a parent to help them stay on track as well.

6 Eliminate time robbers
Many teens work inefficiently wasting time on mobile devices and other activities. Help your teen recognise time robbers and eliminate them so they can finish homework quickly and have more time to do other things.

7 Conduct a regular extracurricular audit
Take a hard look at your young person’s overall time commitments. Help them reprioritise their commitments if much of their time and energy is taken up with a part-time job, extracurricular activities, and their social lives. While it’s important that young people have interests outside school, it’s equally important that these commitments don’t overwhelm or impact negatively on their study.

Here are seven healthy and strong study habits that will serve your young person well throughout their school years and their lives.

Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my FREE weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.
School Council Elections

Information for Parents

School Council Elections 2016

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category - more than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.
- A mandated elected DEECD employee category - members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category - members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider
  - standing for election as a member of the school council
  - encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.

Schedule 4: Notice of Election and call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of: Mentone Girls’ Secondary College.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4pm on 11/02/2016.

The ballot if required will close at 4pm on 22/02/2016

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for elections are as follows:

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If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Deborah Lehner
Principal
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**KEY DATES | FEBRUARY 2016**

**March 2016**

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**MENTONE GIRLS’ SC NEWSLETTER**
Edition 1 | 4 February 2016
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<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue Week</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>MGSC Swimming Carnival; <em>Carnegie Swim Centre</em></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Week</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Beachside Swimming Carnival (selected students)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Yr 8 Round Robin</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Yr 9 Immigration Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Week</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19, 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>IWD College Assembly; House Music launch</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19, 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>P/T/S Interviews</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Yr 7 &amp; 12 Fancy Dress Competition (P4)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Week</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29, 30, 31</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>32</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Unit 3 Outdoor Education Camp*

*9OE camp; Wilsons Prom*

**KEY DATES | MARCH 2016**

**MENTONE GIRLS’ SC NEWSLETTER**

Edition 1 | 4 February 2016