Term 3 commenced last week. It was terrific to see all staff and students back into work mode quickly after the break, refreshed and ready to go.

Information Nights for students progressing from Year 8 to 9, 9 to 10 and 10 to VCE level were held this week. Parents can help their daughters by discussing the various subject options available. 2017 will see a change in the structure of Year 10 which will open up more VCE options for students.

Tickets for the School Production of Grease are now on sale. Performances will run from the Wednesday 10th to Saturday 13th August at 7.30pm and at 1pm on Saturday 13th August. The cast, under the direction of Mr Geoff Perks, has been rehearsing and are looking forward to performing. Tickets cost $25 per adult and $15 per child/student/senior. Book online now at http://www.flexischools.com.au/. Type in Mentone Girls’ Secondary College in the box that says ‘Enter School Here...’ There is no need to create an account or login.

Barbara Ramatladi, our exchange student from Letsibogo High School, Soweto, South Africa, recently spoke at the Rotary Club of Bentleigh Moorabbin Central breakfast about her experiences in Australia and the differences between here and her homeland. Her speech can be found on page 2 of this newsletter. Again I sincerely thank those MGSC families that have opened their homes to Barbara as homestay families.

We have been successful in applying for a grant to have additional shade structures on the grounds. The new shade structure will be erected in the courtyard near the Year 9 locker bay/barbeque area. Thank you to Ms Bronwen Petersen for her work in completing the grant application process.

As this is the beginning of the term, it is timely to remind all students of their responsibility to keep themselves safe on their commute to and from school each day. In particular, some of our girls are still not crossing the road safely outside the gates on Charman and Balcombe Roads, and instead are running across amongst the traffic. Teachers on yard duty before and after school have been reminding the girls, however the message does not seem to be getting through to all. Could parents please have a conversation with their daughters about their safety so that nobody is injured. Students need to obey the road rules as much as car drivers do.
Barbara Ramatladi – Exchange Student – Letsibogo Girls’ High School, Soweto

Below is a brief summary of Barbara Ramatladi’s presentation at a breakfast held by the Rotary Club of Bentleigh Moorabbin Central. The Rotary Club generously support the exchange program.

I have now spent five months in Melbourne. I thank you for this wonderful opportunity. Your generosity has given me a year away from home to explore other educational facilities, programmes and learn about the wonderful Australian culture. This incredible journey means a lot to me and your kind sponsorship is going to allow me to grow and learn at a faster rate.

Mentone Girls’ Secondary College welcomed me and made sure I had my uniform, books and other things a teenage girl needs (my mobile phone and myki card!). I attended the VCE formal and really enjoyed dressing up and the dancing on the night. All my teachers have shown great enthusiasm to make me an integral part of the class.

My host families have been warm and caring people who have encouraged me to speak and join in their family activities. I was very fortunate to accompany the Reeves family on their family holiday to the Northern Territory in the last school holidays.

I do hope to live up to the ideals and philosophy of Rotary and I will share this knowledge and great experience with my fellow South Africans. I thank you sincerely for this wonderful life-changing experience.

Barbara Ramatladi

SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT

The School Council meeting was preceded by a special Council meeting. Its purpose was to receive a principal selection briefing from Sarah Burns, who works with the South Eastern Regional Office, Department of Education and Training. As you are aware, Deborah Lehner will be retiring and we are in the process of finding MGSC’s next principal.

The normal Council meeting saw the addition of two new members: Vas Kasidis as a parent representative and Gayle Steinfort as a school representative. Existing members extended a warm welcome to both.

Acting Principal David Russell spoke about some of the activities undertaken by staff and volunteers in addition to normal school duties. We appreciate their efforts, as do our girls and parents. David was also impressed by the Year 7 and 8 Music performance. It is incredible to think that some of the girls had never played these instruments before this year and the amount of time and practice they put into it.

Assistant Principal Carol Duggan spoke about the School for Student Leadership camp. Carol sought permission from Council for the opportunity for four of our 2017 Year 9 students to attend. The camp would occur over the first term of 2017. Details of the camp can be found at [http://www.gnurad-gundidj.vic.edu.au/](http://www.gnurad-gundidj.vic.edu.au/)

Acting Assistant Principal Gayle Steinfort proposed that the 2017 Year 7s and 12s start school on the 31st January, one day before everyone else. This will allow the Year 7 students to be better orientated within school without being distracted by students from the other year levels. Year 12 students would start their two day conference earlier allowing the College welcome assembly to take place on day three.

Mr Glen Chadwick

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM & ELC NEWS

Welcome to all the new international students who have joined our College this term. This week they commenced their English Language education in the ELC and ended their week with an excursion to the CBD. They are excited to be here to meet local students and make new friends.

Ms Ekaterina Xanthopoulos
International Student Program & ELC Manager

WORLD CHALLENGE

Welcome to Term 3. It is now important preparation time for all Challengers to collect everything they need for their kit. Stores may still be offering discounts during their end of financial year sales. Students should consider getting the required vaccinations. I went to 145 Centre Dandenong Rd for my Yellow Fever vaccination and scripts for Diamox.
(to help with altitude) and Doxycycline (anti-malarial) as this was the cheapest Travel Clinic I could find in Cheltenham.

Training walks start again this (Gold) Tuesday at 3.30pm from outside the Middle School Office. The final (large) payment is due in September.

Mr Michael Warden

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Middle School held two Information Nights for selection of 2017 elective subjects. The processes for subject selection were explained and log on details distributed. Students going into Year 10 will need to carefully consider their selections and should consult with their teachers before making decisions.

Year 10 students and their parents attended a meeting informing them about the VCE processes on Tuesday 19th July. There will be compulsory course counselling interviews for current Year 10 students on Friday 29th July. Personal Learning teachers will allocate an interview time with each student that will hopefully allow a parent to attend.

Unfortunately we had to postpone the Year 10 Social to Friday 19th August as the Performing Arts Centre will be in use for the School Production. Please note that students must attend the compulsory course counselling interview to allow entrance to the Social.

We are excited about the City Experience Camp for Year 9 students. Students will meet their teachers at Sandringham station in the morning of Wednesday 27th July and spend three days exploring what the CBD has to offer.

It has been very cold and more cold weather is on its way. Students should ensure they are warm by wearing the full winter uniform which should include good quality blue tights. It is not acceptable for students to wear trackpants or leggings under their uniform. If worn, these will be confiscated.

Middle School Team

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Uniform Matters

It has come to our attention that there is some confusion regarding the appropriate PE uniform. Blue shorts or trackpants with the MGSC logo is the expected attire as well as the MGSC polo top. Rugby jumpers and spray jackets may only be worn with PE uniform. Should full PE uniform not be available, students should wear normal school uniform to school and bring other appropriate clothes to change into for PE. They should not be travelling to and from school in alternative PE gear such as leggings.

Year 7 International Netball Competition

Over the holidays 10 of our Year 7 students represented MGSC at the Waverley International Schools Championships in Netball. The girls trained before school on a weekly basis last term and played 15 games over four days, competing against teams from interstate and overseas. The girls enjoyed the experience and showed enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the competition. A huge thank you to Ms O’Hara for organising the team and supporting them in this experience.

Junior School Team

SCIENCE

Australian Brain Bee Challenge

On the 13th July, five Year 10 girls and Ms Rieniets travelled to Melbourne University to compete in the Brain Bee Challenge. We competed against schools from around Victoria in both individual and team challenges, answering difficult questions about neuroscience. We learnt many new things from neuroscientist speeches and laboratory tours. We visited the Dax gallery, where we saw artwork created by people who have experienced mental illness or psychological trauma, and the Harry Brooks Anatomy museum, which contains one of Australia’s largest collections of real human specimens. It was an amazing experience, and even though we didn’t get through to the next round, we had lots of fun.

Margaret Bradbury 10A
STEM Incursion

Last Thursday, eight engineering students from Melbourne University came to MGSC for an incursion designed to get Year 10 students thinking outside the square and using problem-solving skills. Our task was to come up with a way to transport goods across a fast flowing river, and after some debate, it was agreed that we would construct bridges and cars. We split into six groups. Half were assigned to construct cars, the other half bridges. We used materials such as cardboard, icy-pole sticks, battery powered motors, and twine to construct the required components of our project. With the aid of the student engineers, each group created impressive and thoughtful products, some more successful than others when it came to testing the sturdiness of the bridges and the speed and agility of the cars. Being able to talk to the university students was quite compelling, as it gave us a chance to learn what uni life is like and how it differs from high school. The incursion was valuable for all students involved, and for many it sparked an interest in the field of engineering.

Jess Ryan 10D

ENGLISH

The Year 12 Literature class was fortunate to attend a session with an author of one of their texts, Cate Kennedy. This was an invaluable experience and the students took the opportunity to ask questions. In a similar vein, on 24th August the Year 9 cohort will be treated to a talk and interactive session with Nicole Hayes, the author of their current fiction text.

Ms Anne Gamble
English Domain Leader

LANGUAGES

Nakamura Visit and Languages Week

The group from Nakamura High School, our sister school in Japan, will be visiting us from 27th July to 6th August. Our thanks go to all those MGSC families looking after them at home. The visitors will be leading activities in Japanese culture with Year 8 classes, as part of Languages Week, with the aim of encouraging Year 8 students to continue their language studies into Year 9.

Mr Allan Trigellis-Smith
Languages Domain Leader

VISUAL ART

The Young People of Bayside Art Exhibition

Congratulations to Dominique Lonsdale, Fiona Sanderson, Larissa Eigenbrod, Rebecca Marquis, Molly Nadj, Scarlet Farr, Phoebe Gallagher and Tjala Hobbs. These students have their work on display at the Young People of Bayside Art Exhibition. Opening night is Wednesday 20th July from 6pm to 8pm at the Bayside City Council, 76 Royal Avenue Sandringham. Their work will be on display from the 13th July until the 9th August.

iPhone App Design Elective 2017

In 2017 MGSC is offering the new elective Digital Programming and Design to Year 10 students. This elective is an excellent opportunity for students who are interested in ICT, Design and Maths. It is focusing on the STEM in schools initiative which will equip our students with necessary skills for the economy of the future.

Currently there is a shortage of app coders and developer in Australia, especially women. MGSC is looking to assist our students in widening their career opportunities by offering this elective. Students will learn about app coding, Xcode, Adobe Illustrator, Swift Playground and how to load their apps to the Apple store.

Current Year 10, 11 or 12 students who are interested in learning coding for apps are welcome to contact me in the Technology staffroom for more information on how to get started.

Ms Gemma Johnson
Visual Arts Domain Leader
SPORT

Cross Country

On Thursday 14th July, 18 MGSC State Cross Country competitors made their way to Bundoora Park to test their legs against the best in the State today. After a long day in the bus and at the course, Mentone Girls’ SC had an incredibly successful day with 15 of the 18 runners going home with a medallion.

The U13 team kicked off the day getting a silver medal with Sophie Bolmat coming home 8th followed by Holly Tysoe 34th, Mia Tsiros 54th, Sienna Lee 56th and Angel Caris 57th. The defending State champion U14 team repeated their feat from 2015 and won gold again. Millie Belleville finished 7th, K.B 16th, Maddie Atkinson 36th, Teiki Waata 40th and Violet Atkinson 44th. Daisy Walker 38th also competed in the U14 event and Hannah Economedes 34th was our solo U15 competitor. The U16 team won a gold medal as well. Unsure of how they would go against the States best, with a top 3 position in mind, the girls all run superbly with Emily McCarthy finishing 16th, Emilie Templin 42nd, Sarah Mathews 50th, Tash Belleville 51st and Ebony Anderson 65th.

Last but not least was our solo Year 12 runner and Kenny House Captain, Maddie Culshaw. Maddie has competed in Cross Country every year at MGSC and set her sights on making States for the first time. Not only did she succeed in making it to States but she came home in the top 50 finishing 41st. Well done on a great XC career at MGSC Maddie.

As always, thank you to Mrs Jackie Mathews for her help and support as well as the parents who attended. The Cross Country season is now over and our girls have outdone themselves yet again. I thank all the girls who attended the cold morning running sessions and those who committed hours outside of school to achieve these results. Congratulations and I thoroughly look forward to next years XC season. Go MGSC!

Mr Anthony Bruhn
Carnivals Coordinator

Health & Physical Education

As the weather is now colder, a reminder that our new school tracksuit pants are available for purchase at Costume World for $49.

Year 7 Olympic Challenge

On Monday 1st August all Year 7s will be participating in our own mini Olympics. In groups of 12 the students will represent a country in a variety of activities that represent Olympic sports. In Personal Learning last week each group researched their country, commenced making their flag and designed a theme that represents their country. On the 1st August students will come to school in their PE uniform. Preparations and a parade around the school will occur at lunchtime and our Olympic Challenge will take place during period 4.

Mrs Jackie Mathews
Health & PE Domain Leader

TEXTILES ASSISTANT REQUIRED

The Textiles department are looking for a parent helper with fashion and sewing skills to assist with some of the textiles classes.

Please email molina.tess.a@edumail.vic.gov.au if you are interested

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SHOP

We need stock! Especially winter skirts. Do you have any items to sell? Bring them to the General Office. Thanks!
TOLERANCE: A VITAL INGREDIENT FOR YOUR CHILD’S SUCCESS
By Michael Grose

Kids who accept differences in others are setting themselves up for success in the world of diversity that they will enter. Want your child to be successful way past the confines of the school gate? Then you need to make sure your child is tolerant of individual differences and accepting of children and adults who look and act differently to them.

Schools are diverse places
Walk into any school ground in Australia and you’ll witness diversity firsthand. You’re likely to see children from many different cultural, racial and family backgrounds. You’ll also see kids with different needs and diverse ways of expressing themselves. Tolerant kids are accepting of these differences. They make friends with children and young people who may look and act differently to them.

Intolerance breeds bullying
Intolerance, or prejudice, is at the heart of a great deal of the bullying that occurs among children and young people. Kids who look and act differently or who are more isolated often experience bullying for no apparent reason other than the fact that they are ‘different’. Whole-hearted acceptance and even appreciation of differences is a preventative bullying measure that we can all support.

Tolerance starts at home
Kids learn attitudes such as tolerance from those around them. Children in primary school usually reflect the attitudes of their parents. While adolescents are strongly influenced by their peers, parental attitudes still have a significant impact on their attitudes to other people. In short, if you want your child to be accepting of differences – whether they are racial, cultural, behavioural or in sexual orientation – then make tolerance a family trait.

Here’s how:
• Help your child feel accepted, respected, and valued. When your child feels good about himself, he is more able to treat others respectfully.
• Model acceptance. Kids learn what they live so make sure you welcome differences in others, and be sensitive to cultural or racial stereotypes. It also helps on a practical level to discuss prejudice and stereotypes when they occur in the media.
• Challenge prejudice or narrow-minded views. Sometimes kids, knowingly or unknowingly, can say the cruelest things about others. As a parent respectfully remind your child or young person about the impact that a narrow view can have on his or her own behaviour as well as on those it may be directed towards. Intolerance of diversity is an attitude that parents should make a stand against.
• Answer kids’ questions about differences honestly and respectfully. Teach your kids that it is acceptable to notice and discuss differences as long as it is done with respect.
• Respect individual differences within your own family. Your ability to accept your children’s differing abilities, interests and styles will go a long way towards establishing an attitude of tolerance in the children themselves. By valuing the uniqueness of each member of your family you are teaching your kids to value the strengths in others, no matter how diverse.

MENTONE GIRLS’ SC NEWSLETTER
Edition 11 | 21 July 2016
### KEY DATES | JULY 2016

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<td>9am College Tour</td>
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- **First day of Term 3**
- **7pm Nakamura homestay Information evening**
- **Year 9 Camp**
- **Nakamura visitors arrive (til 6th August)**
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<td>4 NEWSLETTER #12</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>9am College Tour</td>
<td>10 Production - Matinee (selected audience)</td>
<td>12 Yr 8 Round Robin (7.30pm)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>College Assembly</td>
<td>11 7.30pm Production - evening performance</td>
<td>13 1pm Production Matinee &amp; 7.30pm Evening performance</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Symphonic wind - VSMF excursion; Deakin Edge</td>
<td>17 18 NEWSLETTER #13 P/T/S Interviews</td>
<td>19 Girls' School conference; Mac.Rob Yr 10 Social</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Yr 7 Immunisations</td>
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<td>25 9-2.30pm Yr 12 Physics excursion; Synchrotron</td>
<td>26 Yr 7 Round Robin</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Numeracy week (til 2/9)</td>
<td>31 Year 10 Camp (til 2/9)</td>
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**KEY DATES | AUGUST 2016**

- **Gold Week**
  - 1: College Assembly
  - 4: NEWSLETTER #12
  - 8: 9am College Tour
  - 15: Symphonic wind - VSMF excursion; Deakin Edge
  - 22: Yr 7 Immunisations
  - 29: Numeracy week (til 2/9)
  - 30: Literacy festival (til 2/9)

- **Blue Week**
  - 2: College Assembly
  - 9: ICAS Maths Competition Production Dress rehearsal
  - 16: Symphonic wind - VSMF excursion; Deakin Edge
  - 23: Winter Concert
  - 30: Numeracy week (til 2/9)
  - 31: Year 10 Camp (til 2/9)

- **Gold Week**
  - 3: 7pm English Parent Forum
  - 10: Production - Matinee (selected audience) 7.30pm Production - evening performance
  - 17: 18 NEWSLETTER #13 P/T/S Interviews
  - 24: Winter Concert

- **Blue Week**
  - 11: 7.30pm Production - evening performance
  - 12: 7.30pm Production - evening performance
  - 13: 1pm Production Matinee & 7.30pm Evening performance
  - 14: NEWSLETTER #13 P/T/S Interviews
  - 20: Girls' School conference; Mac.Rob Yr 10 Social
  - 26: Yr 7 Round Robin

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