Principal’s Report

Teachers have been busy with assessment, correction and writing semester reports that will come out at the end of term. There will be two shortened days (Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th June) so that reports can be proofread and finalised. The bell times for these days can be found on page 2.

Parents will need to ensure they can access the Parent and Student Portal to receive these reports as they will not be printed. It is a good idea to set up a folder to put all reports in so that they can be accessed when needed.

It is important to discuss your daughter’s report with her, as some students may need to reflect on their study habits if results are not as good as they had hoped. There is time in Semester 2 for students to work hard and improve the outcomes at the end of the year.

Semester 2 began yesterday, which was also GAT day for students studying a unit 3/4 subject. The VCE Ball was held last night instead of during school holidays as it usually is. We will review this event to see whether the timing was better in the busy school calendar.

Last year we needed to ask another school to host a girl from Letsibogo Girls’ High School in Soweto, South Africa because we could not find homestay families to host her. We will be once again putting forward the opportunity for families to host a student in 2016. This program has been amazingly successful for the girls from Soweto. Prior to the program Letsibogo had not had a student go on to tertiary study, but over the last 15 years this has changed dramatically, and we now have students who have become doctors, accountants, teachers and engineers. The difference is made one girl at a time, and I am hoping we can host a girl in 2016. Host families offer board and lodging for periods of four-six weeks or even sometimes a whole term.

I would love to hear from families who are interested in being part of this amazing program, especially current Year 10 girls’ families. The Soweto student comes for a full year in Year 11 and the school supports her with books, uniform and pocket money. There is the possibility that Rotary may also be able to offer assistance, and I will be asking the SRC to see if they can contribute as well.

Please consider what you can do to support a global connections program that enhances one girl’s life and many girls’ understanding.

Ms Deborah M. Lehner
Principal
Report Verification Sessions (early dismissal)
The school will be conducting report verification on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th June. Each day will have four shortened periods as follows:

8.50am - 9.55am  Period 1
9.55am - 10.20am  Recess
10.20am - 11.25am  Period 2
11.25am - 12.30pm  Period 3
12.30pm - 1.25pm  Lunch
1.25pm - 2.30pm  Period 4

Students will be dismissed at 2.30pm when the teachers will begin the verification process.

Last Day of Term Bell Times (no period 4)

8.30am   Students may enter buildings
8.45am   Warning bell
8.50am – 10.05am  Period 1
10.05am – 10.45am  Recess
10.45am  Warning bell
10.50am – 12.05pm  Period 2
12.05pm – 12.55pm  Lunch
12.55pm  Warning bell
1.00pm – 2.15pm  Period 3

Ms Carol Duggan
Assistant Principal

Reports
Semester 1 reports will be made available electronically for students and parents on Wednesday 24th June via the Parent and Student Portal as per the March interim reports. Please contact the IT helpdesk via email at portal@mgsc.vic.edu.au if you have any difficulties with this process.

You will also see that previous reports for your daughter are available here. It is recommended that you develop your own secure file management process on your home computer or using cloud technologies where you can keep your own copies of these reports.

Mr David Russell
Assistant Principal

Senior School News
All students who nominated to have the flu vaccinations have received their injections.
The GAT went smoothly as did the Year 11 exams. Teachers are currently writing reports and the parents will receive information concerning their daughters’ examination performance at the end of this term.

Semester 2 (units 2 and 4) for Year 11 and 12 respectively started today.
The VCE Ball was a roaring success. Special thanks to Mr Travis Dangstorp for all his assiduous work in organising this. A special mention too to the VCE Committee members who assisted with this.

Senior School Team

Food
Over the last five weeks, Year 10 Masterclass students have been designing and producing morning tea and coffee for the teachers. They have raised close to $200 for the Secondbite food charity and have enjoyed learning to make coffee.

Ms Tess Molina

Remember:
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE – EVERY DAY COUNTS
Sport
Intermediate Netball

Congratulations to all Intermediate Netballers who represented MGSC on Friday 29th May. All girls showed great sportsmanship and perseverance both on and off the court. A special mention to our student coaches – Brooke Davies, Holly Bowman, Summer Keith and Emma Gardiner – for training and coaching the girls. A great day was had by all.

Ms Ilana Parker

Aerobics

On Sunday 7th June, five Aerobics teams represented MGSC at the State Aerobics finals in Geelong. Teams ‘Accelerate’ and ‘Angels’ both placed 1st in the wildcard section in the morning and went on to compete in the finals in the afternoon. Congratulations to team ‘Accelerate’ (coached by Ms Anderson) who placed 2nd overall in the afternoon finals and secured a berth to the National Championships in August on the Gold Coast. Thank you also to Ms Molina, Ms Ingold and Rikki Andison. All teams achieved a personal best performance on the weekend.

Ms Courtney Anderson

Maths @ MGSC

Congratulations

Our Year 9-11 students have completed their mid-year exams. They are to be applauded for their preparations and excellent conduct during these important assessments. When students have completed any major activity at school, including exams, they should take some time to reflect and plan for the future. Questions they should ask include, did I:

• give myself the opportunity to do my best by completing a thorough revision of all topics
• work on areas of weakness as shown in topic tests and assignments
• prepare a summary of typical questions/answers
• sit practise exams under simulated exam conditions
• set a study timetable and stick to it
• form a study group with friends
• use resources like www.mymathsonline.com.au or www.mgscmathshomeworkclub.wikispaces.com to help with revision
• attend Maths Homework Club (Tue 1.15-1.45pm in Room 12 & JLC, Thu 3.20-4.50pm in Room 12)
• achieve good exam results and were there any areas I need to revisit
• learn any lessons about how to prepare for exams and how will I apply these for my end of year exams
• balance my studies with some other interesting activities
• take time to celebrate my successes

Semester 1 Student Reports + Personal Learning Goals

Teachers are currently finalising Semester 1 reports, so it is important students complete any outstanding assignments/homework. We encourage students to review these reports with their parents/guardians and develop a plan to address noted areas for improvement. Students should also be looking at their Personal Learning Goals which were set earlier in the year and evaluating how they performed. It is important they then set related goals for the next semester, taking into account what they have achieved and any areas requiring changes.

Opportunities to Extend Maths Skills

Every Maths class provides opportunities for students to stretch themselves and develop new skills. We have a wealth of online resources to cater for differentiated learning and individual needs. This includes mapping a learning plan that provides challenges and growth in essential numeracy skills and a range of mathematical concepts and their applications. The learning continues outside the classroom via our extensive co-curricular program. We aim to make Maths an enjoyable and inviting experience at MGSC because, as our motto says, “maths makes a real difference”.

Maths Domain Team
MICHAEL GROSE’S TOP 5 PARENTING TIPS FOR SCHOOL MEETINGS
By Michael Grose

Conferences and meetings between parents and professionals offer an opportunity to discover a child’s progress; share information or resolve social and learning challenges. They can also be the source of conflict and stress as views can differ so it helps to remember that everyone’s goal is to work from the best interests of a child or young person. Here are some tips to help make the meeting or conference more productive and less stressful for everyone involved:

1. Confirm the meeting
   If the meeting has been called by someone at the school then confirm that you will be attending. Confirm also if someone such as another parent, family member, friend or professional will be attending the meeting. If in doubt, find out if more than one person will be attending from your child’s school, including an outside professional such as a speech therapist of other specialist.

2. Work from a fresh slate
   Sometimes meetings can be marred before they start as negative past experiences can carry residual resentment. Every new meeting offers a fresh opportunity to create better outcomes for your child.

3. Prepare well
   Before a meeting or conference, list any questions that you want to raise. Keep the questions short and to the point. Similarly, it may be useful to list some of your child’s strengths and areas of improvement that you’ve seen at home. Writing information down in advance ensures that your point of view is expressed and that critical information is covered. Similarly, make sure you take notes during the meeting so that vital information isn’t missed.

4. Listen first
   Give the teacher a chance to make an assessment of your child’s progress or behaviour. This may sound obvious but some meetings never get off the ground because an enthusiastic parent takes over.

5. Ask what you can do
   Show your commitment to producing better results by asking for exercises that you can do at home to develop skills. It may be a good opportunity to ask for recommendations for outside resources to help you and your child. Often teachers know about camps, activities, organisations or events that can encourage educational and social growth.

Parent teacher meetings and conferences take many formats including the direct involvement of children. Regardless of the format you will be more effective if you go in with a positive attitude, an approachable demeanour, and a willingness to work collaboratively with your child’s teacher to reach the best outcomes possible for your child.

Navigating Adolescence
A free presentation for parents:
Adrian McMaster is a local psychologist. Along with raising a teenage family of his own, Adrian has many years’ experience working with parents and adolescents. Join us for Adrian’s presentation as he shares his knowledge about what parenting strategies are useful during your child’s adolescence and some of the behaviour that makes life harder at home.

Wednesday 17th June at 6:30pm at MGSC in the Lecture Theatre

The Department of Education and Training has released an App to help you better understand the curriculum we use to teach your children every day. The App, SchoolMate, is available for free download now in the App Store for iPhones and iPads and in Google Play for Android phones and tablets.

SchoolMate gives you a general overview of the Victorian curriculum in each subject at each year level and:

- Provides you with an overview of what your children are learning in each subject at each year level according to the Victorian curriculum (AusVELS)
- Provides you with tips regarding activities and things you can do at home to help your kids in each subject and year level
- Suggests apps, books, events and activities related to each subject area and year level.

Our school, like all other government schools in Victoria, uses AusVELS as the basis for the learning programs we run at school every day. Our teachers adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of our students and community, for example, designing learning programs around what your children are interested in, or around days or celebrations that are important to our community. SchoolMate is designed to give you an overview of what children are expected to learn in Victorian government schools across every subject from Prep to Year 10.
Financial Assistance
Information for Parents
Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student will be:
• $125 for primary school students
• $225 for secondary school students.

How to Apply
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Closing Date
You should lodge a CSEF application form at the school by 26 June 2015.

For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Making Waves 2015
Front Cover Competition
Would you like to have your work published over 1,000 times!
Design the cover for this year’s school magazine!
It must be A4 size or larger and can be made using any media.
DUE DATE: End of Term 2!
Unlimited entries, original work only
It’s MGSC’s 60th anniversary - can you include this on the cover? Get cracking you arty people!

Tuning in to Teens
Emotionally Intelligent Parenting

Tuning into Teens is a 6 week program that teaches your teen how to develop emotional intelligence.

Would you like to learn how to:
be better at talking with your teen?
be better at understanding your teen?
help your teen learn to manage their emotions?
help to prevent behaviour problems in your teen?
teach your teen to deal with conflict?

Who: Parents and Carers
Where: headspace Bentleigh, Ground Floor, 973 Nepean Hwy, Bentleigh
Time: 7pm – 9pm
When: Commences Monday 13th of July and then runs consecutive Monday evenings (20th, 27th July and 3rd, 10th and 17th of August 2015)

Contact: Toula Filiadis or Kirsten Cleland on 9526 1600.
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**Key Dates - June 2015**

- **Monday, June 1**:  
  - SEMESTER 2 COMMENCES
- **Tuesday, June 2**:  
  - 9EFGH Excursion; Yarra Cruise & Museum
  - 11.50am-3.20pm Unit 2 Physics Excursion; Moorabbin
- **Wednesday, June 3**:  
  - 9AM College Assembly
  - Report Verification (early finish 2.30pm)
  - Stringfest – selected students
  - College Council
- **Thursday, June 4**:  
  - 9am College Tour
  - Report Verification (early finish 2.30pm)
- **Friday, June 5**:  
  - Units 2 & 4 commence (P2)
- **Saturday, June 6**:  
  - 9ABCD Excursion; Yarra Cruise & Museum
  - Yr 10 Keys Please (P1)
- **Sunday, June 7**:  
  - Last day of Term 2 (2.15pm dismissal)

**Term 2 Holidays**

**Mentone Girls’ SC Newsletter**

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## KEY DATES | JULY 2015

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### Term 2 Holidays

**6**
- First day of Term 3

**7**
- 7.30-8.30pm PFA Meeting; Main Staffroom

**8**
- 7pm Yr 9 into 10 information Evening; Lecture Theatre

**9**
- 6pm VCE Expo/Info Evening; Lecture Theatre & displays
- 9am College Tour
- Yr 10 Assembly (P1); Lecture Theatre
- 7pm Yr 8 into 9 Info evening; Lecture Theatre

**10**
- **NEWSLETTER #11**
- Yr 10 Course Counselling Day; VCE Centre
- Yr 10 Social; DR1 & DR2

**11**
- Year 9 Camp

**12**
- MENTONE GIRLS’ SC NEWSLETTER
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