Principal’s Report

What happened to Term 1?
The adage that time flies when you’re having fun applies to Term 1 at Mentone Girls’ SC. It was a short term but it seems to have gone by in a flash amongst a swirl of activities.

Our Year 7 Students settled into the Junior Learning Centre. New friends were made at Orientation camp. Through the Headstart program students at all year levels settled into their classes when they commenced way back in January. Several Outdoor Education classes have also had successful excursions and camps.

House spirit was on show at our annual Swimming Carnival. At our Athletics Carnival at Dolamore Oval on Tuesday 24th March students are again encouraged to wear their House colours with pride and participate in the many events held on the day.

Many students have been involved in the summer round robin interschool sports competitions. Preparations have begun for our House Music competition to be held next term. Thank you to all of the teachers and students who have volunteered their time.

I had great pleasure in addressing our student body at the International Womens’ Day assembly on Friday 13th March. Many students have undertaken leadership roles in a range of areas. May you wear your badges with pride and continue to contribute to making our good school great.

In my address to the College, I encouraged our students to have positive role models, “I encourage you to take positive risks with your education. Have no regrets. Own your opinions – be encouraged to ask questions. Listen to, and respect the opinions of others. You may not agree with them but then again, you may learn something along the way. Support each other, encourage each other, get involved in causes you are passionate about, learn more about the world (Facebook and Instagram aren’t the only sources of information available!). Actively find out about career paths that interest you; talk to adults – you may be surprised about what advice they can give you, given their life experience. There are many excellent women role models in the world for you to admire and emulate. Who are your role models? What do they say and do to promote equality amongst women? Sure, some famous women have lots of money and look good, but an awful lot of them demean our gender. I sincerely hope you are not that shallow. Find role models for more valid reasons – those that inspire you to be a better person and be an active member of your community.”

Julia Passarelli, our College Vice-Captain gave a memorable and inspiring speech about leadership which I have included in the body of this newsletter. I am proud of our student leaders who never disappoint with their insightful reflections.

On Friday 20th March, I will be visiting our four Year 9 students at the Alpine Leadership Camp – Gnurad Gundij campus. Deborah Lehner has been in China this week, promoting our International Students’ Program. Ekaterina Xanthopoulos will also travel to China soon, to further support the program and develop links with China. Our French study tour commences next week; the 24 students and three staff are looking forward to developing their French language skills and investigate the many sites favoured by tourists. Following the success of our recent World Challenge trip to Costa Rica and Nicuragua in January, the 2016 Challenge has been launched to enthusiastic groups of students and their families. The 2016 destination is Peru.

Congratulations to Ms Deborah McKay who has been successful with her application for the College Fellowship to undertake a study tour of Gallipoli.

To our College community I wish a happy, safe and relaxing holiday. I encourage our Year 12 students to take stock of their efforts for the term and consolidate their knowledge now they have the opportunity.

Ms Carol Duggan
Acting Principal
College Matters

End of Term Dismissal

LAST DAY OF TERM BELL TIMES (no period 4)

Friday 27th March

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<td>8.30am</td>
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National Day of Action Against Bullying: Friday 20th March

At MGSC we have a zero tolerance for bullying behaviour. Students are challenged to not be bystanders to bullying behaviour. Are you a bystander or an up-stander?

How to become the up-stander:

• Step in, tell the bully that their behaviour is unacceptable
• Report their behaviour and actions to a teacher, parent, or trusted adult
• Change the culture by standing up against the bully with your peers in a reasonable non-aggressive manner
• Be friendly and approachable to the victim. Providing attention and expressing your support are necessary behaviours that helpful up-standers exhibit.
• Redirect the situation away from the bullying by focusing on other activities.
• See it, Hear it, THEN stop it!

Where Are They Now?

The Caltex organisation have supported our annual Presentation Evening through their “best all-rounder” award each year. They have contacted me requesting an update of where the recipients are now. I have included a list below.

Please encourage any past winners to contact me via email duggan.carol.c@edumail.vic.gov.au

1998 - Helen Galanopoulos
1999 - Jenna Davey-Burns
2000 - Sarah Preston
2001 - Monique Attard
2002 - Rachel De Summa
2003 - Helen Wilkie
2004 - Joanna McKenna
2005 - Kate Steinfurt
2006 - Sharon Flitman
2007 - Katherine Budge
2008 - Lucy McPhate
2009 - Alice McLaren
2010 - Sue Yin Chong
2011 - Vanessa Stephen
2012 - Evelyn Clark
2013 - Lucy Vanderstelt-Gu
2014 - Natalie Stewart

Year 7 Immunisations

At our recent immunisation day, many of our Year 7 students were distressed and consequently reluctant participants. To avoid lengthy delays, students at future immunisation days will be given two opportunities to have
their injections. If students become distressed, parents will be contacted to make their own arrangements to immunise their students at a Kingston Council location (out of school hours).

Ms Carol Duggan
Assistant Principal

PFA and Parent Volunteers

The PFA AGM was held on Tuesday 24th February.
President: Marina Lehmstedt
Treasurer: Leigh Gower
Secretary: Emma Walker

The next meeting is on Tuesday 21st April 7.30pm; the focus of which is to plan for Open Night and to discuss ideas for the school’s 60th anniversary (to be held on 22nd August). New parents are welcome to attend.

Canteen

Thank you to all the parents who are currently assisting in the canteen. There are still a few days when they could use assistance. If you are able to assist, please contact Val Felsenthal on 9581 5225.

Literacy Support

Do you have experience in tutoring students in literacy? Would you be interested in volunteering at the school? If so please contact Bronwyn Moline on 9581 5214 for further information.

School Environment and Litter

I am pleased to report that there appears to be less litter in the school than in previous years which means many girls are remembering to put their rubbish in the bin each day. However, there are a few areas which are left full of wrappers and food scraps every day – the deck at the front of the school and the canteen courtyard. These areas are used by students from all levels, but predominantly Year 9s and 10s. Please encourage your daughter to ‘do the right thing’.

Ms Bronwyn Moline
Assistant Principal

Interim Reports & Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews

Friday 20th March

The Parent and Student Portal will be opened for parents to access Interim Reports online and to schedule P/T/S interviews.

When booking interview times please consider the time it may take to move from one interview to the next. It may be advisable to give yourself five minutes (one interview timeslot) to move locations. The smooth running of the interviews relies on everyone being punctual for their start time and finishing at the allocated time. If more time is required please make arrangements with that relevant staff member to speak at a later time.

Thursday 26th March: P/T/S Interviews

The interviews will run from 1.30 to 5pm and 6 to 8pm. Please note there are NO formal classes for students on this day. Students are expected to attend the interview with their parent/guardian.

The interim reports will only be available for parents by accessing the Parent and Student Portal. Hard copies of the report are no longer provided by the school. Parents are encouraged to save these reports electronically on personal information technology devices.

Parents who have difficulty accessing the Parent and Student Portal (eg. forgotten password) are asked to contact the IT Helpdesk via portal@mgsc.vic.edu.au

Mr David Russell
Assistant Principal

International Womens’ Day Assembly Speech

When I say the word leader, what is the first thing that comes to your mind? Some of you may be thinking Nelson Mandela, Mother Theresa, Bill Gates, Julia... Gillard. So what is it that makes all these leaders unique and powerful?
Whether you realise it or not, every single one of us has some high-class skills which gives us the ability to be a leader. Leadership is about being motivated and committed to making a change. Leadership is about supporting others to achieve their goals and visions.

The most important thing to understand is that you don’t need a badge, trophy or your name engraved on a plaque to prove that you are a leader. This recently came to my attention while observing the wall of leaders in the VCE Centre, where I noticed a striking photo under my name who was surprisingly not me. I wondered who this strange person was trying to take my identity? Of course, it was my identical twin sister Bianca looking glamorous on the wall. I’m not sure if the school was trying to suggest something about who they thought was the better looking twin. We can all take a lot from this story, as it reveals the meaning of leadership on a deeper level. Being a leader is about being the best person you possibly can be, regardless of whether you have a leadership position. It is true leaders who have the self determination and confidence to continually persist in order to achieve their dreams.

Even the smallest action can be the catalyst for enormous change. You could be that person to make that change, and it all begins with your actions from this moment. It’s about stepping forward, instead of stepping back. It’s about raising your hand and not staying in the background. I encourage you all to set your goals high and know that the only limitations we have are those we put on ourselves. Whatever the mind can conceive and believe, we can achieve. Never let failure paralyse you. Learn from your mistakes, as it is through our mistakes that allows us to improve and grow as people.

Developing your leadership abilities all begins with positivity and confidence. We can all grow as leaders by listening to others, communicating well with our peers, establishing trust and developing a sense of teamwork. Leadership is just any action that makes the world a better place. If we all went out of our way to perform one small action, imagine the positive change it would have on ourselves and school.

For those of you who stand here today with a leadership position, make your leadership skills shine bright like a diamond. You have been chosen to represent your classmates. You have been chosen to represent this school. Make sure you make the most of this opportunity and lead with confidence, integrity and pride. A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.

I want to leave you all with a quote. ‘You don’t have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great.’ We all can be leaders; it’s just about stepping forward and taking action. In order to be a leader, it is important to stop using the word ‘try’ and replace it with ‘will’. As a leader, you will express your passions and values so you are able to make a change. As a leader, you will provide others with support and encouragement so they can reach their goals. Be a leader so you can show, all your classmates the way to go, to enable yourself to grow, by displaying your leadership skills like a pro.

Julia Passarelli

Athletics Carnival

As an important and exciting part of the Physical Education and Sport program, all Year 7-12 students will be participating in our Annual Athletics Carnival on Tuesday 24th March. This is a compulsory school event. Students need to wear sporting clothing in their house colours, or alternatively they may wear their PE uniform. Apart from the 100m and 200m heats there will be points awarded in every event as well as House chant, dance off and novelty games. Points can also be awarded for student helpers on the day.

All students are required to make their own way to Dolamore Oval in Mentone (MEL 87, B7) ready for roll call at 8.50am. See Dolamore Oval map for Form Assembly locations. For students who have difficulty in making their own way to the athletics track, the school bus shall depart MGSC at 8.30am and return by 3.20pm. Students who wish to use this service must place their name on the list displayed on the gym office. Students are reminded to bring sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, a water bottle and some lunch and/or money. There will be a BBQ available on the day with sausages, drinks and icypoles. If you have any queries or would like to be of assistance on the day, please contact Mr Anthony Bruhn at the College on 9581 5230.

Mr Anthony Bruhn
Carnivals Coordinator

International Student Program

Last week, new International Student, Sarah Yu attended the International School Student Welcome event at Government House with International Student Coordinator, Mrs Doanvy Roberts.

Along with 400 International Students from other Victorian schools, we listened to welcome speeches by the Governor of Victoria, His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov and Deputy Premier, the Hon James Merlino MP. Tuan
Anh Tran, a Victorian International Student Award recipient, gave an inspirational account of his time as an International Student, and encouraged current students to strive for excellence, not only in their academic but also in their personal pursuits.

After the formalities, we managed to take a photograph with the Governor’s wife, Mrs Elizabeth Chernov. Sarah was able to catch up with some English Language School friends, while we explored the beautiful rooms and grounds of Government House and were treated to a scrumptious morning tea.

Mrs Doanvy Roberts
International Student Coordinator

Beachside Swimming Carnival

On Tuesday 10th March, 24 MGSC students competed in the Beachside Swimming Carnival at Oakleigh Recreation Centre. Our girls represented the school with excellence throughout the day which resulted in MGSC winning the Junior, Intermediate and Aggregate Girls’ scores for the carnival. Well done to Liz Kourtis for winning the Under 15 Age Group Champion as well. There will be 15 students representing the district at the Southern Metro Region Carnival on Thursday 26th March at MSAC. Good luck girls.

Mr Anthony Bruhn
Carnivals Coordinator

Senior School News

The Year 11 Information Night was held on Tuesday 12th March and we were happy with the way this was patronised by the parents. This provided all who attended with valuable insights into what is required to successfully negotiate the new challenges faced by the girls in this cohort. Parents learnt how the Outcome and SAC system works and they can collaborate with their daughters to ensure that they prepare appropriately for key tasks. They understand that there will be correspondence with the senior sub-school if arrangements have to be made to redeem work or reschedule assessment.

A reminder that the Athletics Carnival on Tuesday 24th March is a compulsory event and any girl not attending must have the reasons verified by parents which must conform to the criteria constituting an unapproved absence.

From 19th March parents can sign up for P/T/S interviews. The senior sub-school sees this has a great opportunity for you to meet your daughter’s parents and as a way of monitoring her progress at this juncture.

The Senior team wishes all the girls a safe and happy Easter break and we look forward to them returning refreshed and ready to tackle Term 2. Some students may be given holiday homework to assist them with preparations for the next unit of work.

Senior School Team

Health & Physical Education

Year 10 Physical Education

The Year 10s have just finished the final week of their Term 1 PE elective. The girls have participated in one of racquet sports, ball sports, alternative activities or sessions at Genesis Gym in Mentone. Well done to all girls. Each teacher has been impressed by your efforts and level of participation!

Year 10s will start Term 2 with either three sessions of Ten Pin Bowling or Self Defence. If your daughter is in 10ABE or F they will be going to Moorabbin Bowl by bus. They will NOT need to get changed into PE gear for these three sessions. The other classes will need to get changed for Self Defence sessions at school.

Ms Jackie Mathews
PE Domain Leader

March English News

Wide Reading

TREE is the acronym of the MGSC wide reading program, and stands for Try Reading Every Evening. The program fosters regular reading habits through timed wide reading at the beginning of every English period, fortnightly library periods for recommendations, reports and novels exchanges and for activities hosted by the College librarians.
All research shows a strong positive correlation between regular wide reading habits and academic achievement, so we continue to ask parents to support the program. Please ensure your daughter is reading each evening for half an hour before bed time, preferably a paperback so her brain is not stimulated by a back-lit screen. Students and staff at MGSC are generally keen readers and we feel confident that the culture of reading is alive and well at our College.

Romeo and Juliet

Our Year 10s’ extensive study of Shakespeare’s play ‘Romeo and Juliet’ and its many film adaptations culminated in a performance and workshop by Eaglesnest last Thursday. Eaglesnest perform and analyse scenes to explore symbolism, themes and embedded humour, and to extend the girls’ appreciation of the craft of the playwright. The student response was impressive, indicating their thorough knowledge of the play and a deep appreciation of its meaning due to the excellent Year 10 study program. Shakespeare’s relevance has never waned, as the playwright’s ability to artfully explore human pride, ambition, loyalty and justice provides a frame of reference for exploring examples of these in our lives. Live performances are an important aspect of our English program.

NAPLAN 2015

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy Testing (NAPLAN) will be held at the College from May 12 to 15 2015.

Parents who wish to familiarise themselves with test aims can find information in English and translations in most other languages at the following site: http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/prep10/naplan/parents/index.aspx

Students wishing to practise their skills with past papers (with answers) can explore these at: http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/prep10/naplan/schools/naplanwriting.aspx#link47

This year’s writing task will be in either a persuasive or a narrative form; it will be unknown until the day of the test. Preparation on the test format and time management skills will take place in classes. However, we believe our English programs comprehensively develop all the National Curriculum skills, thus extensive NAPLAN pre-test drilling will not occur.

English Domain Student Leaders

Congratulations to our fine 2015 English Domain Student Leaders: Natalie Stewart, Holly Parlanti, Jess Schauer, Stef Whitla, Elaina Stephanou, Darcie James, Charlie Kambouris, Illeanna Croome and Megan Taylor. These students will be in charge of selecting and publicising events and competitions, designing information boards and sites and representing the English Domain at meetings and assemblies. Well done girls!

Ms Nola Rees
Head of MGSC English and Literacy

Maths @ MGSC

Making Improvements

The Maths Domain at MGSC is an exciting place be. We are working on the first year of our new Numeracy Improvement Plan which is seeing some wonderful changes in the delivery of our mathematics curriculum. The focus is on ensuring students remain at the centre of the learning experience and on empowering them to develop their learning skills. This includes the ability to reflect on their study habits and to work with their teachers and classmates to achieve, and even exceed, the desired learning outcomes.

It is supported by curriculum programs which continue to be revamped to make use of more engaging, differentiated and ICT rich resources. It is informed and measured by a range of assessment tools, including online testing resources, surveys and defined assessment tasks.

The feedback to date from teachers, parents and students has been positive and encouraging – our Junior School iPad Maths programs are a particular highlight.

Student Maths Domain Leaders – Special Day

The following Student Maths Domain Leaders were recognised at our last College Assembly on 13th March with the presentation of their badges:

- Kristine Sohn
- Oli Robertson
• Caitlyn Woods
• Coco Zhen
• Jennifer Schaumann

Well done and good luck to these students as they work throughout the year in promoting Mathematics within the College.

2015 Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians

We had an excellent response from students wishing to enter the 2015 Maths Challenge for Young Australians competition. This competition will see students from Year 7-10 completing a range of problems, individually and in groups, starting in the last week of this term and working through to early next term. They will be competing against students from across Australia with their work to be assessed and certificates awarded early in Term 3.

And remember... “Maths makes a real difference”
Maths Domain Team

Raising sensitive kids
Michael Grose

Do you have a sensitive child?
You know, a child who takes everything you or others say to heart; a child who has a thin skin and worries too much, particularly about things out of their control.
Sensitive kids worry about what others think of them. They often sense danger well before others and they see the consequences of behaviours well before their peers.
Sensitive kids are like mood detectives with their antennae up trying to detect subtle changes in the moods of those around them. In some ways this is healthy as emotionally intelligent people are tuned into the behaviours and feelings of others. Sensitive kids generally have high emotional intelligence quotients.

If you have a sensitive child you need to see and appreciate both their sides. The side we most often see is the shy, inhibited, fearful worrier. The flipside is that sensitive kids generally have kind hearts; are empathetic, intuitive and usually possess a creative streak. These are wonderful attributes to have.

Recent research into the area of children’s sensitivity revealed that around 40% of sensitive kids experience some form of real anxiety.
The secret to the 60% of kids who DON’T experience anxiety are certain ‘protective’ factors. The top of this list is parenting style. Sensitive kids benefit from having an optimistic, resilient parent who supports them but doesn’t allow them to take themselves too seriously. It also helps if parents can encourage their child to take risks socially and applaud their social successes, no matter how minor. Parents need to show their child how to recognise their own emotional state and in doing so better manage their emotions so they can live happy, more productive lives.

The double whammy for kids of sensitivity and negative or pessimistic parents is not ideal. Kids need a parent who gets across the message that there are some unpleasant events but they can cope with them. Parents need to recognise their own emotions and response in order to help their child recognise and regulate their emotional state.

It is good if parents are supportive; even better if a parent is resilient so that the sensitive child sees how to cope with some of life’s hurts, rejections and disappointments. In fact, sensitive kids are less likely to develop anxiety if at least one parent is of the ‘thick-skinned’, positive, even jovial type. This reinforces that the world really is a great place and not full of uncertainty and danger.

When sensitive kids are raised in a balanced way with proper understanding and encouragement, they are well-placed to grow up to be happy, healthy, unusually well-adjusted and creative adults.

FREE STUDENT EXCHANGE INFORMATION EVENING IN MELBOURNE
Hear from returned students, find out more about discounts and scholarships available and ask questions.
Wednesday, 25th March - 7.30pm
Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens
380 William Street, Melbourne
Visit www.studentexchange.org.au or call 1300 135 331 for more information
CCC is offering a Holiday Program for Grade 6, Year 7 & 8 kids in the April Holidays.

Three sessions will be available with awesome Youth Leaders Lauren & Jarrod

Monday 20th March
9am—4pm
Movie Madness
Join in the fun of sports and craft. Make your own gourmet popcorn and movie snacks and head off to see the Spongebob Squarepants movie!

Wednesday 1st April
9am—4pm
Easter Extreme
Make Hot Cross Buns, amazing chocolates and head to Chelt Park for an awesome egg hunt and games!

Wednesday 8th April
9am—4pm
City Scavenger Hunt
Meet at CCC head down to Chelt station and catch the train into the city! Split into 2 teams lead by Lauren and Jarrod and explore the city solving the clues and collecting items!

Cost $42.00 per session
Booking is essential
Numbers are limited!
Book Online at www.chelt.com.au
BYO MORNING TEA, LUNCH, SNACKS & DRINK BOTTLE

Cheltenham Community Centre Inc.
8 Chesterville Rd, Cheltenham 3192
0953 0106
0953 3919
admin@chelt.com.au
www.chelt.com.au

Funded by Parenting Adolescents Program

Be part of the Parenting Adolescents Program and you will not only discover what and why teenagers do the things they do, but you will be provided with strategies to deal with issues related to teenagers.

Topics include:
- Parenting styles and parenting traps
- Adolescent development
- Risk taking behaviour
- Alcohol and other drugs
- Self-injury and suicide
- Parenting and the Internet
- Adolescent violence

Where: Due to Office Site changes the venue is yet to be confirmed

Time: 6.00pm to 8.00pm
Dates: Weekly, commencing Tuesday 21/04/2015 - 09/06/2015
Cost: Free but Bookings essential

For bookings & further information please contact Elisa or Vicky from the Youth & Family Team at Family Life on 97827800
www.familylife.com.au

MENTONE GIRLS’ SC NEWSLETTER
Edition 4 | 19 March 2015
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## KEY DATES | APRIL 2015

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<td>7pm Vocal Evening; LT</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>House Music Assembly</td>
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<td>(College Assembly bell</td>
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<td>COLLEGE ASSEMBLY</td>
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<td>Yr 12 Top Arts Excursion;</td>
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<td>Gold Week</td>
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<td>9OE1A Mountain Bike</td>
<td>Cross Country Carnival</td>
<td>VIC SRC Conference – VCE SRC leaders; Haileybury College Keysborough Campus Singfest (selected students); Cheltenham SC</td>
<td>9am College Tour</td>
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<td>Excursion</td>
<td>Yr 7 ALL and 9 LAS Expo evening</td>
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<td>Gold Week</td>
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<td>9ABCD Excursion; Shrine &amp; Mentone Memorial</td>
<td>9OE1B Orienteering Excursion Uni of Melb Maths Competition 7-9pm Open Night; Gym &amp; Tours</td>
<td>NEWSLETTER #6</td>
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<td>10.30am-1pm 9OE1A Rock Climbing Excursion</td>
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<td>Year 10 Work Experience week</td>
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**TERM 1 HOLIDAYS**
- **April 1:** Term 1 Holidays

**MENTONE GIRLS’ SC NEWSLETTER**
Edition 4 | 19 March 2015