

courage & work



mentone girls'

secondary college

<http://www.mgsc.vic.edu.au/newsletters>

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It doesn't feel like it is week five of the school term because time has flown by. This week our Year 7 students have gone on camp at Arrabri Lodge in Warburton where they will have had the most wonderful time bonding with their classmates and challenging themselves in all sorts of ways. I am very appreciative, as I am sure all of the parents are, of the personal time that our staff give to these sorts of endeavours. Without their good will, we would not be able to provide the girls with this unique experience.

Last week the Peer Support program also had its second session. This program is a very important part of the settling in process for the Year 7 students and assists them in feeling at home in the school. I would like to acknowledge the work and dedication of our Student Wellbeing Coordinators, Si Feng and Rana Davidson, and the Year 10 Peer Support Leaders for their care and guidance of the Year 7 students.

The first School Council meeting for the year occurred last week where we bid farewell to Elizabeth Bradley who has held the role of President since 2013. Her leadership of the School Council has been exemplary and she has given much to the school over the years since 2010 when she first joined Council. Our best wishes to Elizabeth in her life beyond the school gates.

Our wonderful staff have not only supported the girls in the classroom with their learning but have also been working with sporting teams. Intermediate teams in Cricket, Tennis, Softball, Volleyball, Lawn Bowls and Ultimate Frisbee have already commenced. These additional activities are a great addition to the girls experience at MGSC. I would like to encourage as many girls as possible to be involved in these activities.

Enjoy the sunshine and the last days of summer weather.

Linda Brown
Principal

In This Edition...

College Matters

School Council
Report

ISP & ELC News

PFA

Senior School
News

Middle School
News

English

Maths

Sport

Parenting Ideas

Key Dates

**Don't
forget to visit
www.mgscsports.com
for sports news!**

College Matters

Attendance

All absences can now be entered online through your Compass Parent Portal. You are now able to add late arrivals, early departures, appointments and illness. If you are having trouble logging on please email portal@mgsc.vic.edu.au

Fiona Ellul
Attendance Coordinator

Interim Reports and Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews

The Parent Portal will be opened for parents to access interim reports online on Thursday 16th March at 3.30pm. Parents with daughters studying a Unit 3/4 subject will be able to book P/T/S Interviews from this time. Interviews with class teachers for all other students will be able to be booked from Friday 17th March at 3.30pm. P/T/S Interviews will be held on Thursday 23rd March from 1.30pm to 5pm and 6pm to 8pm. There are no formal classes for students on this day. Students are expected to attend the interviews with their parent/guardian. The interim reports will only be available for parents by accessing the Parent Portal in Compass. The link is on the College website. Hard copies of the report are no longer provided. Parents are encouraged to save reports electronically on personal information technology devices. Parents who have difficulty accessing the Portal (eg. forgotten password) should email the College at portal@mgsc.vic.edu.au with your name, your daughter's name and a brief description of the problem.

David Russell
Assistant Principal

School Council Report

The new school year has begun with the usual busyness as everyone settles in to routines and great study habits.

Two new portable classrooms have been installed. Over the next few weeks you will begin to see changes around the school including painting inside and out as well as some landscaping.

Linda Brown and the leadership team have been busy adjusting and re-adjusting the Annual Implementation Plan. This important document sets targets and programs designed to improve our school and to give students the best possible opportunities and outcomes for their learning.

As both my daughters are now past pupils of the College, my time on Council also comes to an end. Our family has formed new and lasting friendships through the school community and my daughters are immensely proud to say they attended Mentone Girls' Secondary College.

As a new era at Mentone Girls' has begun I wish you all great success. I strongly advise parents to get involved. It is such a rewarding experience and the benefits for the success of the school and our daughters are immeasurable.

Thank you to those people who have mentored and supported me in my role as President, I could not have done it without you. I am privileged to have worked with such dedicated and passionate professionals.

Elizabeth Bradley
School Council President

Parents and Friends Association

The Parents and Friends Association (PFA) consists of parents who volunteer their time to meet and discuss a variety of matters relating to the school as well as organising various social events. We also support the Second-Hand Uniform Shop whereby money raised is used to contribute to school projects through PFA donations. We are always looking for new parents to become members of our friendly association or to join our wonderful team at the Second-Hand Uniform Shop. This is a great way to meet other parents and to connect with the school by getting involved.

The first PFA meeting for 2017 is on Tuesday 7th March at 7.30pm in the staffroom. All parents are welcome to attend. Any parent interested in volunteering for the Second-Hand Uniform Shop, which is open 2.45-3.45pm on Tuesdays and 8.15-9.15am on Wednesdays, please contact Donna on 0421 782 123.

Emma Walker
PFA Vice President

International Student Program & ELC News

It is great to see the new international students settling in, both in Year 10 mainstream classes and in the ELC. Every Tuesday lunchtime a meeting is held for all international students to ensure paperwork is completed and notices are distributed.

On Thursday 16th February, we ran an Information Evening for new homestay parents. It was a supportive evening which provided an opportunity for homestay parents to meet and share experiences. Thank you to all for attending.

Ekaterina Xanthopoulos
ISP & ELC Manager

Senior School News

The first week of March marks the start of rehearsals for the House Music Competition in May and the Year 7 and 12 Fancy Dress on 24th March. This is a fun time for students and teachers. However, first and foremost, all students involved in these events must check the organisation of their studies to ensure they do not create unnecessary pressure on themselves by not keeping up with class work.

The VCE Centre is available to students for study purposes before and after school. Several students are also utilising the Centre during recess and lunch. Hence we are asking students gathering for social conversations to hold them elsewhere.

All Year 11 students are required at school each alternate blue week Friday, period 4, for an assembly. Please do not book appointments before 3.15pm. Year 12 students must attend a briefing every Wednesday morning in the VCE Centre. They should arrive at school by 8.15am to prepare for period 1 and be seated to start promptly at 8.30am.

Although not all students have an official responsibility position, every Year 12 student has earned the title of leaders of the school. The younger students look to seniors for example of acceptable behaviour and presentation. We are proud to say that the VCE students are presenting well but we do not want these high standards to fall. We remind all students to wear their full uniform including the official school bag. VCE students have been informed at briefings that alternative bags will be confiscated and they will be supplied with a plastic bag in which to place their stationery and books until the uniform indiscretion is rectified. Please contact us if you have an issue with this policy.

Senior School Team

Middle School News

We would like to congratulate the Middle School leaders for 2017 – Year 9: Daisy Walker, Ashli Sali, Isla McAllister and Megan Taylor and Year 10: Jenny Ung, Taylah Tysoe and Natalie Desylva. We look forward to working with these students as they provide leadership to their respective year levels.

We were pleased with the participation and behaviour of the Middle School students at the Swimming Carnival both in the pool and also supporting their houses with House Chants and cheering their other team members on.

Year 10 students should have been finalising their Work Experience placements for next term and be ready to complete online learning modules to support this experience.

Middle School Team

English

The Year 12 mainstream and Literature students were treated to an excellent performance of the key scenes and interpretation of the pivotal ideas in the play *No Sugar* by a theatrical group. This helped enriched their understanding of the text which assists them in their preparation for the SAC and final exam. Additionally it exposed them to live theatre and aided them in respect of their appreciation of the unique elements of the drama genre.

Anne Gamble
English Domain Leader

Maths @ MGSC

Student Maths Domain Leaders

We had an overwhelming response to our search for Student Maths Domain Leaders this year. Maths at MGSC is exciting and well done to the following students will be active promoters of a broad range of maths activities in 2017:

- Jemma Cree (Year 8)
- Samantha Hooper (Year 8)
- Navneet Bataan (Year 8)
- Cassidy Copeland (Year 9)
- Janvi Gupta (Year 10)
- Seo-Yeon (Kristine) Sohn (Year 12)

Maths Competitions – open for entries

Being able to challenge our Maths students and apply their skills to a range of problem types and scenarios is an important part of our co-curricular program. We have a number of related competitions currently taking entries including:

- AMT Maths Challenge
- UNSW/ICAS Maths Competition
- University of Melbourne Maths Competition
- International Maths Modeling Competition

Students should see their school email for full details and links to online entry forms.

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

Maths Curriculum Area Team

Sport

Student Achievement

On Saturday 18th of February the LAVic Southern Metro Regional Competitions were held at Ballam Park. Sapphire Harrison-Corney of 7A came first in The Southern Metro Region for High Jump with a height of 1.42 meters. This takes her to the State Championships. Sapphire has also made the State Championships for the Chelsea Life Saving Club held in Warrnambool for the 3rd year in a row. Well done Sapphire!



Swimming Carnival

Coming soon online - stay tuned!



HOW TO GROW KIDS INTO LEADERS

By Michael Grose

If you believe as I do, that leaders are made, not born then the way we raise our kids has a massive impact on their leadership potential. Here are 5 ways you can foster rather than inhibit your child's or young person's leadership potential:

1. Allow children and young people to experience risk

Currently our community is risk adverse when it comes to our kids. It's a parent's job to protect our children and young people but that doesn't mean we completely insulate them from risk-taking behaviour. One European study found that if children don't play outside and have never experienced skinned knees and other small hurts, they frequently develop phobias as adults. Just as young children need to learn to fail a few times to learn it's normal, teenagers need to experience some friendship break-ups along the way to appreciate the maturity that real relationships require. When we remove risk we increase children's dependence on others, which is the antithesis of strong leadership

2. Give kids a chance to solve their own problems

If your child left his lunch at home would you take it to him or her? If your teenager forgot a sports uniform would you take it to school if you were able? If so, you'd be inhibiting their resourcefulness by solving their problems or, alternatively, not allowing them to cope with inconvenience. Flexibility, coping skills and resourcefulness are trademarks of good leadership in both adults and young people.

3. Be realistic with praise

Stephen felt uncomfortable receiving my praise because it hadn't been overly lavished on him as a child or young man. He had to earn his parents' praise so he hasn't been conditioned to expect it as a right. Praise and feedback should be realistic and given sensitively rather than handed out like a nervous tic whenever children or young people do something well. Young people generally learn at some stage that their parents are the only people who think they're awesome, which can come as a rude shock when they hit the real world of the workforce.

4. Expect them to earn the right

A common trait among many children and young people is their strong and increasingly, false sense of entitlement. That is, many kids expect they have a right to (pick any of the following and feel free to add to the list): go where they want; use their mobile phone whenever they want; play in the living room without cleaning up. Alternatively, we can insist that children and young people earn their rights through hard work, responsible behaviour and being cooperative. Learning that a right needs to be earned, rather than something that's simply handed out to you, is a valuable lesson for an aspiring leader in any field of endeavour.

5. Focus on character

Currently as a community we neglect character at the expense of personality. In this current era of reality TV and social media it's not hard to get fifteen minutes of fame whereas in the past your spot in the limelight needed to be earned usually by applying yourself to a sporting, artistic or other endeavour. It's quite a turnaround. However, character strengths such as grit, conscientiousness and reliability rather than personality traits consistently appear in discussions about leadership. Parents can actively promote their character strengths of children and young people in many ways - including focusing on character in conversations; sharing stories where character paid off for them in their lives; and using every day examples of how character leads to success.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

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. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is 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 is:

- \$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

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Entries due 23rd June



Can't get through to your pre-teen or teen? Is the frustration affecting your relationship?

The Communicating with your Adolescent workshop will support parents by targeting personal effectiveness in communication skills to enhance your relationship with your child. You will explore the origins of your communication style, better understand the communication styles used by others and develop personal communication skills.

You will gain a better understanding of your approach to the relationship, and specifically to communication with your adolescent. The workshop will enable you to develop valuable strategies and tools to become more effective in your communication, fostering a stronger relationship with your pre-teen or teen.

Topics include:

- Self-awareness: understanding who you are and how you came to be at this point
- Active listening skills
- Conflict resolution and problem solving
- Being assertive
- Practical tools and strategies

Investing a few hours now, will create a valuable roadmap for navigating those challenging teen years.

Best suited to:

Parents and carers adolescents aged 10 to 17 years.

When:

The workshop runs across three Wednesday evenings.

Wednesday 15th March 7pm to 9pm
Wednesday 22nd March 7pm to 9pm
Wednesday 29th March 7pm to 9pm

Light refreshments provided.

Where:

Family Life meeting room, 197 Bluff Rd, Sandringham

Cost:

\$165 per person (\$150 concession)

Bookings and more information:

To book or for more info, visit us at heartworks.com.au
email heartworks@familylife.com.au or call (03) 8599 5488



KEY DATES | MARCH 2017

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Gold Week			1	2 NEWSLETTER #2	3	4	5
			Yr 7 Camp (7EFGHI)				
Blue Week	6	7 Beachside Swimming and Diving VCE Legal Studies excursion; <i>County & Magistrates Court</i> 7.30pm Parents and Friends Association Meeting	8 College Assembly – IWD/House Music launch	9 9am College Tour	10 Yr 7 Incursion – Brainstorm Production (P4) Student Voice Workshop; <i>Frankston Arts Centre</i>	11	12
			Yr 9 Outdoor Education Camp; <i>Wilson's Prom</i>				
Gold Week	13 Labour Day Public Holiday	14	15 Interim Reports online Yr 8 Summer Round Robin International Student Welcome Reception; <i>Government House</i> 3.30pm P/T/S interview booking open for Unit 3 students	16 NEWSLETTER #3 Athletics Carnival; <i>Dolamore Oval</i> 3.30pm P/T/S interview booking open for all students	17 Yr 7 Immunisations 2017 Student Leaders Afternoon tea (P4)	18	19
Blue Week	20 Yr 8-12 Student Photo Day	21 9OE Stand up Paddle (lunch & P4); <i>Sandringham</i> Unit 3 Bus Man excursion (P1 & 2); <i>Yakult</i> Yr 7 Summer Round Robin 7.30pm College Council	22 Yr 11 & 12 Music Performance excursion Athletics Carnival back-up day Yr 11 & 12 Vis Com excursion; <i>Melbourne Museum</i>	23 1.30-8pm P/T/S Interviews Yr 12 Textiles Top Designs	24 Yr 11 Environmental Science; <i>Werribee Sewerage Plant</i> Yr 7 & 12 Fancy Dress Competition (P4)	25	26
			Unit 3 Outdoor Education Camp			French Study Tour	
Gold Week	27 Cultural Diversity Day	28 11.45am - 3.15pm 9OE Kayaking; <i>Sandringham</i>	29 9am College Tour SMR Swimming and Diving Yr 11 & 12 Media Excursion; <i>Melb Museum & ACMI</i>	30 NEWSLETTER #4 6pm Yr 9 My Migrant Expo	31 Yr 11 & 12 Art excursion; <i>NGV</i> Last day of Term 1	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
	French Study Tour						

KEY DATES | APRIL 2017

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Gold Week						1	2
						French Study Tour	
						SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Blue Week	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	French Study Tour						
	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS						
Gold Week	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS						
Blue Week	17	18 First day of Term 2	19 8.30am - 3.15pm 9OE Mountain bike riding; <i>Lysterfield Park</i>	20	21 Yr 11 Incursion P4	22	23
	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS						
Gold Week	24 College assembly - ANZAC	25 ANZAC Day Holiday (pupil free)	26	27 NEWSLETTER #5	28 STAFF PD DAY (Pupil free) <i>VCE Ball; Brighton International</i>	29	30