PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

What a wonderful day we all had at the Swimming Carnival this year! It was our best attendance with the most participation in recent years. House spirit was evident with the students and many teachers dressing up in their House colours. Congratulations to Kenny who were the winning House by only ten points to Melba. Thank you to our Carnivals Coordinator, Mr Anthony Bruhn, for his hard work and organisation of this huge whole school event, and to all the staff who helped the day run smoothly.

The Year 7s had their camp to Arrabri Lodge in Warburton East last week, and by all accounts it was a great success. The opportunity the camp presents for the students to get to know each other and their teachers helps when they experience difficulty in the classroom. Thank you to the coordinators, Ms Petra Witt and Ms Ilana Parker, for all the work and organisation they did to ensure that the camp was successful. Thank you also to all the teachers who attended the camp and made it possible.

There are many opportunities for students to take part in co-curricular programs at Mentone Girls’ SC. One of these in this year’s exciting school production, ‘Grease’. Although we encourage students to take advantage of these opportunities, I would urge parents to monitor how many things your daughter is doing. The Production ‘Grease’ will have many rehearsals so, for some students, other interests may need to be suspended during the workup to ‘Grease’.

This year we will be working on improving the safety of students as they enter and exit the school. We will also be replacing parts of the roof and tackling a number of problem areas. If you have any further suggestions please contact the school as they would be warmly received.

Ms Deborah M. Lehner
Principal
COLLEGE MATTERS

Parent Portal

In November 2015, at the commencement of Headstart, the College moved to a new student management system – Compass. The new parent portal is now live. Parents/guardians should have received a letter advising them of their unique username and password to access the parent portal. Initially through the portal parents/guardians will be able to see their daughter’s attendance, access reports and make appointments for parent/teacher/student interviews. Further features will be released in the near future. If you did not receive a letter advising you of your log in details or you have difficulties, please contact the IT helpdesk via portal@mgsc.vic.edu.au

Interim Reports and Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews

The Parent Portal will be opened for parents to access Interim Reports online on Wednesday 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 Thursday 17th March at 3.30pm. P/T/S Interviews will be held on Tuesday 22nd March from 1.30pm to 5pm and from 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. The school no longer provides hard copies. Parents are encouraged to save reports electronically on personal information technology devices. Parents who have difficulty accessing the Parent Portal (eg. forgotten password) should contact the IT Helpdesk via portal@mgsc.vic.edu.au

Mr David Russell
Assistant Principal

SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT

Welcome to the 2016 school year. This year has already been busy for students and staff as they settle into new routines.

Year 7 and 12 information nights were well attended and I encourage parents to take an active role in these nights and within the school community. We can gain valuable information and ideas to support our daughters through their secondary schooling and it also gives us the chance to meet other parents.

At our first Council meeting, Assistant Principal, Mr David Russell, presented Council with the latest updates on the Annual Implementation Plan for MGSC. This plan provides a clear direction for the school in order for everyone to grow and achieve higher outcomes. Targets are set in the areas of learning, engagement and wellbeing. Ultimately, the objective is to give our students as many opportunities as possible and to help them achieve to the best of their ability.

Elizabeth Bradley
School Council President

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Year 9s were introduced to the CASA, Community and Social Awareness award, in their Personal Learning lesson last week. The CASA requires each Year 9 to plan a number of activities. The planning process is compulsory and beneficial to the students’ growth in the areas of character, citizenship, communication, critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, creativity and imagination. The award will be presented to the students who complete all the activities by 30th October. Students have been asked to explain the CASA and the process to their parents. It is a requirement that parents sign the approval page and return it to the Personal Learning teacher as evidence they have read and approved their daughter’s participation in the program. We appreciate your cooperation with this.

On the 24th February the new Middle School students and their buddies attended a morning tea. Each of the students shared a little about themselves as we enjoyed fruit, snacks and drinks.

Middle School Team

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Year 7 Camp

Congratulations to the Year 7 girls for their exemplary behaviour and positive attitude on camp last week. We enjoyed their company and had lots of fun. The girls would have been tired on the weekend. They joined in the
activities with great enthusiasm and were happy to do their share of the jobs as well. A huge thank you to Mrs Petra Witt and Mrs Ilana Parker for their organisation of the camp. A huge thank you also to the staff who attended the camp. It is a big sacrifice for staff to attend, as they leave their families, prepare classes which will be missed and then be on duty caring for your daughters. Thank you to the families who took the time to thank our staff.

**Year 8 Camp**

Year 8s will attend The Summit camp in Trafalgar East in May. 8ABCD are going from Monday 16th to Wednesday 18th May and 8EF GH from Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th May. The girls watched a video about the camp and its exciting activities and were given information to take home. The medical forms needed to be submitted by last Friday so if you haven’t done so, please give them to your daughter to hand in. To watch the video visit www.thesummit.net.au

**Year 7 & 8 Interschool sport**

Junior students are currently trying out for the interschool sporting teams of volleyball, tennis, cricket and softball. It is great to see so many girls have a go at these sports. Year 8 teams will play on Wednesday 9th March and Year 7 teams will play on Friday 18th March.

**Year 7 & 12 Fancy Dress Competition**

Year 7s will be busy in the next week working with the Year 12s on their dance routines to be presented at the Year 7 & 12 Fancy Dress Competition on Wednesday 22nd March. House points will be awarded to the winning team.

**LET’S LAUNCH GREASE!**

Grease is the 1978 hit musical romantic comedy. The film was the highest grossing film of the year. In the US Grease is still the highest grossing musical of all time, boasting a marvellous soundtrack.

In the summer of 1958, Sandy Olsson meets Danny Zuko at the beach while on vacation and they fall in love. As the summer comes to an end, Sandy worries about returning home to Australia and never seeing Danny again, but he assures her it is only the beginning for them.

On the first day of their senior year at Rydell High, Danny, the leader of a gang known as the T-Birds, meets with his fellow T-Birds and they catch up on what they did over the summer. Danny briefly mentions that he met a girl. Sandy, meanwhile, enrolls at Rydell after an apparent change in her parents’ plans but is unaware of Danny’s presence, as is he of hers. Sandy has made friends with a member of the Pink Ladies, an associated female equivalent of the T-Birds. Frenchy introduces Sandy to her fellow Pink Ladies. Is Sandy ‘too pure’ to be Pink?

Stay tuned for the rest of this all time favourite story... better still join the MGSC 2016 Musical Production of Grease.

The executive production team comprises Production Managers Judy Firestone and Val Bell, Director Geoff Perks, and Musical Director Anna Berlingeri, supported by a large team of staff and students.

Come to the Launch this Thursday or Friday lunchtime in the Lecture Theatre. There you will meet the Production team, get information, learn the audition pieces and sign up for auditions. Student auditions for the cast, the on stage roles of solo, chorus, dance and band will be held next week after school. All students are eligible to apply. Once the cast has been selected there will be an enrolment period before the first rehearsals commence next term.

Mentone Girls’ Secondary College enthusiastically encourages all students to participate and support this exciting school event.

Ms Judy Firestone

**ENGLISH**

**Guided Book Club**

The next session, ‘Wag the Dog’, is on Tuesday 19th April. We would love to see as many Year 12 parents as possible. As a film, it should be easier to prepare for than reading the play. Watch the film, register, then have fun talking about a text your daughter is studying in VCE English and meet other parents navigating the secondary years. Guided Book Club is facilitated by literary expert, Dr Rose Lucas. For more information and to register visit www.thetextfactor.com.au
On Demand Tests

Year 7-10 students have undergone their On Demand tests which is one measure of where they are on the academic continuum. You can ask your daughter’s English teacher about these tests at Parent/Teacher/Student interviews.

Ms Anne Gamble
English Domain Leader

**SCIENCE**

**Education Perfect Science Proficiency Tests – Year 7-10**

During Week 5-6 all Year 7-10 Science students completed an online proficiency test through their Education Perfect account. This test gives teachers feedback on the science skill level of the students in their class, so teaching can be modified to meet the needs of their students. Over the next semester, students will be directed to ‘Education Perfect smart lessons’ on those topics that indicated gaps in their knowledge. Please ensure accounts have been paid – an email has been sent to those students who need to finalise accounts.

Mrs Louise Rieniets
Science Domain Leader

**MATHS @ MGSC**

**Online Testing**

It is essential that we have a comprehensive program to assess our students for their learning. As part of this program, maths students are currently undertaking a range of adaptive testing using the OnDemand online package. Students are also using this as an opportunity to refine their testing techniques, while teachers interpret the results and adjust their teaching plans to account for individual student needs. This leads to improved learning outcomes for students, backed up by quantitative data and trend analysis.

**Celebrating Pi**

Our Maths Student Domain Leaders are busy preparing an action-packed program to celebrate International Pi Day on Tuesday 15th March. 3.14159265... is a significant number and the events will emphasise its importance in a fun and interesting way.

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

Maths Domain Team

**HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Congratulations to our Health & Physical Education student leaders for 2016 – Katrina Young, Olivia Ross, Ava Jaconelli and Ruby Crofts.

One of the aims these leaders have for 2016 is to increase the level of activity of all of our students. It has been terrific to see so many of our students riding to school. One simple way of increasing your daughter’s activity levels is to encourage her to walk or ride to school! Also a reminder that our gym is open most lunchtimes. Our circuit room is always popular with up to 40 students working out at lunchtime.

Mrs Jackie Mathews
Health & PE Domain Leader

Year 12s playing Bubble Soccer in PE
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

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.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

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Teenage development is full of twists, turns and reversals so that a 10-year-old who is beginning to experience the confusion that can come with early adolescence has a far greater need of her parents than she did at eight.

The age between 10 and 14 is a particularly needy time. Friendships become complex and the challenges of school can overwhelm children at this stage. They benefit a lot from late afternoon and evening chats with a parent. Mornings are too rushed for the types of conversations they need.

While parenting toddlers can be physically tiring, responding to the mental and emotional demands of teenage children is equally if not more exhausting. If you come home totally fried by the demands of work, the last thing you want to engage in is mind games with a tricky but needy teenager. You’ve got to be fit and focused (on them) to parent teens well!

Minimise Being Home Alone

Late afternoon is a recognised danger zone for adolescence. Toddlers stay in long daycare and primary-aged kids use after-school care or are happy to be picked up by others. However, for teenagers who are testing their independence this is a tricky time.

Teens who are left to their own devices are more prone to engage in risk-taking behaviours, lose themselves online or in some cases become addicted to computer games. The world is trickier than when we grew up. Cyber-bullying, self-harm and depression are now part of the adolescent landscape.

Teenagers still need supervision, whether it’s through structured activities such as sports training or after-school or holiday programs. They also need parents who check up on them, make sure homework is completed and ensure that they have fulfilled their family obligations including completing their chore list.

Parenting Ideas

TEEN TIME

By Michael Grose

‘The younger the child, the more they need their parents’ has been traditional wisdom for some time. Many parents respond to this mantra by spending as much time as they can with babies and toddlers, then ramping up their careers as their kids move into school age. The older the children, the less time is put aside for them appears be the current practice.

A child’s development is full of twists, turns and reversals so that a 10-year-old who is beginning to experience the confusion that can come with early adolescence has a far greater need of her parents than she did at eight.

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**KEY DATES | MARCH 2016**

- **MONDAY**
  - 1
  - 7
  - 14
  - 21
  - 28

- **TUESDAY**
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  - 8
  - 15
  - 22

- **WEDNESDAY**
  - 3
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  - 16
  - 23

- **THURSDAY**
  - NEWSLETTER #3
  - 10
  - 17
  - 24

- **FRIDAY**
  - 4
  - 11
  - 18
  - 25

- **SATURDAY**
  - 5
  - 12
  - 19
  - GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY

- **SUNDAY**
  - 6
  - 13
  - 20
  - HOLIDAYS

**HOLIDAYS**

- LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY
- GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY
- HOLIDAYS

- **Notable Events**
  - Gold Week: 1st March
  - Blue Week: 7th March
  - Labour Day Holiday: 14th March
  - GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY: 25th March

- **Activities**
  - Beachside Swimming Carnival (selected students)
  - Yr 8 Round Robin
  - Yr 9 Immigration Museum
  - Yr 7 Round Robin
  - Yr 11 & 12 Vis Com Excursion; Melbourne Museum
  - P/T/S Interviews
  - Yr 7 & 12 Fancy Dress Competition (P4)
  - Last day of Term 1
  - Melville Prom
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<td>First day of Term 2</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival; <em>Dolamore Oval</em></td>
<td>Media Excursion Yr 11 &amp; 12; <em>ACMI &amp; Melbourne Museum</em></td>
<td>5-8.30pm Aerobics Evening; <em>Performing Arts Centre</em></td>
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<td>Yr 7 Immunisations</td>
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<td>Yr 9 Law Matters Excursion; <em>Melbourne Magistrates Court</em></td>
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<td>ANZAC DAY HOLIDAY</td>
<td>House Music Competition (P2&amp;3); <em>Gym</em></td>
<td>MGSC Cross Country</td>
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<td>STAFF PD DAY (Pupil free)</td>
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**HOLIDAYS**

- **World Challenge training weekend**

**MENTONE GIRLS' SC NEWSLETTER**

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