Principal’s Report

On Thursday 7th May an exhibition of images from the collection of Carl Wilhelm Janssen was launched at the Mordialloc and District Historical Society Museum in Mentone. A group of Year 9 girls, under the guidance of Mrs Deborah McKay, were given the opportunity to research and write about local men in the 5th Battalion in WW1. They then developed a catalogue for the exhibition, working to a very tight timeline.

At MGSC we are always looking for ways to interact with the community, and this example has been very rewarding for the girls as well as for members of the Mordialloc and District Historical Society. The exhibition is still open to the public every Sunday in May, only between 2 and 4pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

A very successful music camp over three days from Friday 8th - Sunday 10th May saw 90 girls really stretching themselves and developing their skills so that the concert they put on for parents on the last day was outstanding. Thank you to Ms Berlingeri for all the organisation and the music staff who gave up their time to help make it a success. We will see the fruits of this labour at the Winter Concert and Presentation Night later in the school year.

Our annual House Music Competition is coming up on Thursday 21st May during periods 2 and 3 in the school gymnasium. It is held during the day as it is a whole school event, so that all students can participate. Parents are welcome to attend and support their daughter’s House. Please see the article in this newsletter for more information about House Music.

Given a recent traffic incident near our school, it is timely to remind members of our community to be alert when arriving and leaving school grounds. We are working with Kingston Council to identify ways of improving safety procedures, however students have a responsibility to follow traffic safety rules and for families to observe parking restrictions. Kingston Council road safety staff have been vigilant in issuing fines for traffic violations, including parking illegally near the College. Also, a reminder that driving into the school to drop off or pick up your daughter is prohibited as it is an occupational health and safety issue. We appreciate your understanding on this matter.

Ms Deborah M. Lehner
Principal
College Matters

Parent Support

Thanks to the PFA for their assistance serving refreshments and answering parent questions at Open Night, specifically, Leigh Gower, Emma Walker, Marissa Ford, Ales Nebesky, Cathy Capomolla, Alison Ball and Vicky Karitinos. If you would like to become involved in the PFA or enquire about other ways in which parents can offer support, please contact me at the school.

Ms Bronwyn Moline
Assistant Principal

UBS Young Women’s Leadership Academy

Whilst the other girls of Year 11 were preparing for the return of school on the 13th April, I was on a plane to Sydney, anxiously anticipating the week ahead. I sought comfort in the fact that I was one of 50 public high school students from across the country selected to attend the UBS Young Women’s Leadership Academy – at least one of them was bound to be as nervous as I was.

Much to my surprise, the unease seemed to disappear as soon as I introduced myself to a handful of Melbourne participants. It wasn’t long at all before I realised that each and every girl attending the program shared an interest in leadership, business and of course, new experiences.

The week involved many seminars which discussed topics like the importance of a first impression, personality types, learning styles, confidence-building, preparing for a job interview, raising awareness of social issues and personal branding. A diverse group of contemporary female leaders shared their knowledge with us, including Dr Amanda Bell – Principal of Woman’s College, Clare Kelly – Foundation for Young Australians, Anne Anderson – UBS Global Asset Management’s Head of Fixed income for APAC; and Catharine Lumby – Professor of Media at Macquarie University.

We were also invited to take a tour of the Art Gallery of NSW as well as the UBS Australian headquarters, home to the largest trading floor in the Southern Hemisphere. The Women’s College served as our home for the week, where we were each assigned a host student to share a room with.

To all of the students at MGSC, I strongly advise volunteering for opportunities such as this one. In the space of only five days, I was fortunate enough to learn another side of myself, my peers and the workforce.

Many thanks to Ms Duggan for initially presenting me with this memorable experience, The Women’s College of Sydney, and to UBS for organising and funding the academy in its 11th year of running.

Catherine Panoussis, Year 11

Work Experience 2015

The Year 10 cohort has returned from their week of Work Experience and the feedback from employers, students and visiting teachers has been positive and encouraging. Congratulations to all students and thank you to all those who helped make this possible.

Ms Rebecca Poulos
Career & Pathways Manager

International Student News

International Student Forum

Over 120 international and local students, teachers and International Student Coordinators met at the State Library of Victoria on Wednesday 29th April to brainstorm the challenges and opportunities of having the International Student Program within schools. MGSC International Student Leaders, Daisy Ling and Coco Zhen were among them. We heard inspirational words from two exceptional international students, whose involvement in leadership, music and sporting activities within their schools help them to cultivate a broad friendship base, enhance their own experience as international students, as well as contribute to their schools.
Overall, the students at the forum were interested in greater integration between local and international students, more cultural exchanges and cultural training for both local and international students and greater involvement of international students in school activities.

Mrs Doanvy Roberts
International Student Coordinator

Senior School News

The Women’s Victorian State Team for golf has won all their interstate matches and Olivia Kline was again at the forefront. This is another truly meritorious achievement for her.

On Friday 22nd May there is GAT familiarisation training for Year 11, while on Friday 29th May Year 12s will undergo their session. All students must attend or it will be deemed an unapproved absence. Please remind your daughters of these dates.

On Friday 8th May the Year 11s were treated to a performance called ‘Wired’ by Brainstorm which highlighted how they’re not alone in juggling many competing imperatives in their adolescent lives. It stimulated discussion and provided them with food for thought and perhaps some solutions in dealing with the challenges they are faced with.

The girls have received a letter regarding Flu vaccinations on 27th May. It costs $25 cash if they would like the injection.

The VCE Ball is on Wednesday 10th June. All VCE students will have a later start of period 2 the following day.

Senior School Team

Middle School News

Students have completed worthwhile and wonderful work in Term 2 so far. The exams are just a few weeks away, the 3rd-5th June. For some, it is a time of high stress. This should be seen as an opportunity to develop resilience and strategies for future VCE years. Everyone is encouraged to take care of their health. Eat good food, ensure time is spent in the fresh air and maintain an exercise regime that is enjoyable and promotes fitness.

As usual, room 1 is open for Middle School students to use for study during break times and before and after school.

Parents will have received notification about Middle School Camps. These are an important part of the school program and it is expected that all students, unless they are involved with other school activities, will attend. Payment is due at the end of the month. Please contact the General Office if you have any difficulties with the payment.

Once again, Middle School students have made us proud – a group of Year 9 students led by Ms Deb McKay produced a catalogue for an exhibition of photographs taken by Carl Wilhelm Janssen at the Mordialloc Historical and District Society. The quality of this work was impressive and demonstrated students’ abilities beyond the Year 9 level. Congratulations to Deb and all the students involved.

Middle School Team

Music

House Music Competition – Thursday 21st May 2015

MGSC’s House Music Competition will be held on Thursday 21st May from 10.30am-1pm in the Gymnasium. Parents and friends of House Captains, choral and instrumental conductors, accompanists, soloists and performers are invited to attend.

The House Captains, instrumental and choral conductors, and accompanists have all worked tirelessly in preparation for the event, attending the Conductor’s Workshop, collaborating with the Music staff and selecting and preparing pieces for the competition. They have done a wonderful job of motivating their peers and leading their houses in rehearsals for the chorals and instrumentals during lunchtimes, and also the whole house rehearsals held during assemblies at school. I would like to thank and congratulate each of them, as well as all the students involved in the choral and instrumental ensembles, as they have all made invaluable contributions to this student led event.

Our special guest adjudicator this year is Mr Ian Nisbet who is currently writing his PhD in musical theatre at Monash University and has an impressive career as a performer, musician, chorus master, musical director and vocal coach in over 20 productions. He will judge each of the houses as they present two choral pieces, the house chant, an instrumental ensemble and a featured house soloist. Will last year’s champions Jackson take the trophy again, or will Kenny, Mackellar and Melba step up to the challenge?

The students are excited in anticipation of the House Music Competition, so please come along and support them as they show off their enthusiastic House spirit and wonderful musical skills!
**Music Camp**

Music Camp is always a good time, but this year it was more rockin’ than any other year. 91 people attended, most participating in almost everything. Our jam-packed schedule included many rehearsals, late nights, early mornings and exciting activities to choose from, such as archery, flying fox, candle making, shuffle boarding and more.

We all participated in the rehearsals and picked up the music quickly. Each band played unique music genres. Jazz Band had many surprises, including Beyonce’s Crazy in Love which Shanon McKenzie arranged, and a nice surprise from Ms Berlingeri with Uptown Funk that she arranged beautifully. With practice, the girls caught onto the song quickly and had fun performing it at the Saturday concert. It was funky and fabulous.

Everyone can agree that the Talent Show was the best part of Music Camp. Everyone had a go, dancing, playing an instrument, singing or even teaching the audience how to do sign language. Music Camp 2015 was a blast!

Meredith Hunt 10H, Music Captain

**Languages**

**French Tour 2015**

In the last week of Term 1 and first week of school holidays, Madame D’Adamo, Madame Galliers and Mrs Duggan accompanied 23 Year 10 & 11 French students on the 2015 French Tour. We spent the first week in Montpellier in the south of France where the students stayed with French families, attended language lessons every morning and explored different aspects of the beautiful city each afternoon. The second week we stayed all together in a lovely hotel in the 10th arrondissement in Paris. We saw the sights, ate lovely food and had an authentic Parisian experience. We had a ball!

Ms Sue D’Adamo

**Food**

All Year 7 Food Technology classes developed their Design a Muffin Task. They all worked very hard and created some excellent designs.

Ms Lizzy Ingold

**Sport**

**Hockey**

Millie Geddis of Year 9 represented Hockey Victoria in the 2015 Hockey Australia Nationals in Queensland from 11th-19th April. Millie was selected after three trials (over 190 girls) and six weeks of intense training twice per week plus skills and fitness homework. The competition was played against the best in the nation with 10 games played over the 10 day period. There wasn’t much rest with the team rising at 7am for team walks, mapping of games, team meeting, training sessions and skill sessions. Millie had a great experience, learnt many new things and made new friends. She thanks MGSC and Hockey Victoria for their support. Millie has upcoming trials for Hockey Victoria Junior Championships and School Sports Victoria U16 team as well as playing for her local hockey club, Mentone, where she represents them in both Junior U16 team and Women’s Premier Reserves and Women’s Pennant A. MGSC congratulates Millie on this outstanding achievement and wishes her the best of luck for her upcoming trials.

**Junior & Senior AFL**

On Thursday 7th May the Junior and Senior Football teams competed in the Beachside round robins. Despite wet and windy conditions, both of the A-teams were successful and won all of their games. The Junior team star was Nikki Stobie who was consistent throughout all of her games and the Senior team star was Emma Hilton who dominated in all games kicking eight goals. Both teams are competing in the Southern Metro Regionals on 30th July. Well done to all competitors for representing MGSC with such talent and enthusiasm.

Mr Anthony Bruhn
The 14th Annual Tintern Interschool Horse Trials

Last weekend I competed with my horse, Waterford Harbour, at The 14th Annual Tintern Interschool Horse Trials. I represented MGSC against 80 other schools from all over Victoria, competing in three phases (dressage, show jumping and cross country) over two days. Sitting in first position from start to finish, I won my division by nine points. My horse and I received the winning rug and rosette. Despite the rotten weather, we had an awesome time proudly representing MGSC at one of my favourite events.

Amina Mahmoud, Year 11

English

The English Domain is working on individualising student learning. All students in Years 7 to 10 will have consulted with their teachers to complete a skills inventory in English. These will be used by teachers to develop individual extension and support tasks as needed to best develop all students’ skills and potential. Your daughter might be one of the girls who are currently developing an Individual Learning Plan in English this term. You will receive a copy of this plan and be part of the three way partnership of learning. Girls will understand that they will be working on their specific weaknesses, and extending their abilities at their own level.

NAPLAN test formats have been examined with all English classes, and the girls have strategies to manage time and to undertake the tasks. Nevertheless, this week is an opportunity to learn to control the anxiety which tests often generate. We encourage the girls to take a deep breath and use the positive mantra “I can do this.” Please reiterate this at home if your daughter is concerned about her NAPLAN performance.

Ms Nola Rees
Director of Teaching and Learning - English and Literacy

Maths @ MGSC

Open Night Success

It was great to see so many parents and students attending our Open Night on Wednesday 29th April. It was a chance for us to showcase our excellence in maths and to demonstrate/explain the great learning opportunities we provide students in this important area of study. Student work, interesting challenges and activities, websites/computer resources, assessment tools and much more were all on display. Current teachers and students guided visitors through the various displays/activities and answered questions. The iPad demonstrations of student project work and assessments was a real highlight – special thanks to Mrs Perks and her 7G students Mia Gorissen, Maya Gherini, Tereza Nebesky and Eva De Bruijn. A big thank you also to our student Maths Domain Leaders and additional Year 7s for their wonderful assistance on the night and to the many teachers who participated.

University of Melbourne – Mathematics Competition

Wednesday 6th May saw a range of Years 7-10 students competing in the annual University of Melbourne Mathematics Competition. They completed a varied set of challenging maths problems over two-three hours. Results and awards will be advised later in the year.

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

Maths Domain Team

Science

2015 ICAS Science Competition – All Year 7 & 8 Students

On Wednesday 3rd June in period 1 all Year 7 and 8 students will participate in the ICAS Science Competition. This will provide students with an opportunity to test their skills in: interpreting data, investigating, measuring and observing, predicting/concluding from data, and reasoning/problem solving. Students can ask their Science teacher or visit https://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/preparation for further information and ICAS past papers.

Mrs Louise Rieniets
Science Domain Leader
Everyone has felt inspired at some point in life. And the best thing about inspiration is that it can come from anywhere. I have spent many nights watching Beyoncé’s music videos feeling inspired, because the next thing I do is take out my hairbrush microphone and horribly sing Pretty Hurts at the top of my lungs.

However, there are many other times when I’ve been blessed with a feeling of inspiration, just because someone is talking about something they are truly passionate about. It’s contagious; and it doesn’t matter how ‘cool’ you want to appear, you know you’ve felt it at some point.

And it’s just that, it’s a feeling; it’s not an instruction. I can’t say ‘be inspired’ and you will, just like I can’t stand up here and make you feel motivated to study for that maths test you have to sit tomorrow or that essay you should have finished two days ago. It doesn’t work like that.

Because when you feel inspired by something, that’s what creates the motivation. It’s a burning desire that flows out of the entire core of your body. You want to put 200% effort in and you’re called to act on your thoughts, because for a solid 10 seconds you are in direct alignment with the amazing potential that is yourself. It’s an overwhelming feeling that makes you unstoppable. But here’s the catch. Anyone can feel inspiration, but it takes a special kind of person to be ‘inspirational’.

Tomorrow marks the 100th anniversary of the Anzac landing in Gallipoli. Sir John Monash, aka the man on the back of the $100 note, is considered by many to have been the greatest Australian commander of WW1. He threw out the boundaries, he challenged traditional thinking, and he won a war. He understood the people he lead and he understood how to motivate them.

Having authority doesn’t make you a leader, and being a leader doesn’t make you inspirational. It’s those ordinary people who have done extraordinary things that inspire us. And it’s human nature to appreciate when someone has the ability to be an all-in-one selfless, confident and innovative super-human. But the thing that makes these people truly inspiring is that, despite nearly impossible odds and insane opposition, they weren’t even remotely afraid to give everything for what they believed.

I want to talk about a little known movement that I discovered while I was scrolling tumbler one day. It’s called ‘Keep the Stoke.’ To be stoked means to be at the peak happiness of your entire life. For example, when you ace that test you’ve been studying for nights on end, that’s being stoked.

The concept is simple; always ‘keep the stoke’ and keep that excitement in your life. Never loose that feeling of inspiration that makes you want to pursue your wildest dreams. Get off your computer, go outside and breathe in fresh air. One person can’t change the world, but it’s a pretty solid start.

Do you want to be inspiring? People appreciate other people who can make them feel alive and motivated. The kind of people who on their worst days will give the most epic pre-game speech of your entire life, the kind of speech that says, “To hell with the boundaries, I rule the world!”

You are as big as your greatest excuse, so stop making them. If you want to feel unconquerable then you’ll get there, every person is made from a different formula but just because someone gets there before you, it doesn’t mean you never will, it just means you need to work harder to discover exactly what it is you’re made of.

Shanon McKenzie, Year 11

Good morning teachers, parents and student body. My name is Emili and I’m here today to share a few thoughts with you on what Anzac Day means to me.

The 25th of April conjures up visions of weary, aging faces marching in formation across the country’s cities and towns. The dwindling numbers of past servicemen is evident each year with the children and grandchildren enlisted to the formation to replace them.

Primary school children proudly displaying their ancestors’ medals, not totally aware of the circumstances in which they were awarded, are reliant on history to fill in the gaps. The courage displayed by the fallen won’t be forgotten with 2015 seeing Australia commemorate a sombre Anzac Centenary.

This day sees communities come together to acknowledge the sacrifice made by so many so we can enjoy our way of life. Past generations were more accustomed to conflict, including the grim reality of death. The memories of these people must be commemorated, as the happiness we experience today undoubtedly had a price.

The name ‘Anzac’ is more than just the name of the day or a small cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Anzac is synonymous with the spirit that exemplifies courage and mateship. These qualities are displayed in all communities, with our school being no exception. Excursions to the Mentone Memorial serve to remind us all that the ultimate sacrifice was made by those a lot closer to home. They were the ancestors of many past and present students, the workers, husbands and sons of a generation which galvanised the community.

With over 8000 Australians lost at Gallipoli alone, we can begin to humanise these numbers by putting names to them. 23 of this group were in fact local men from the Mentone area, including 23 year old William Penny, a young man who, alongside his two brothers, enlisted in 1916. The Penny family lived over in Florence Street, a haunting reminder that these men who became immortalised as Anzacs were in fact local people like you and I.

William, or Bill as he was known, was tragically killed when a shell exploded near his trench, his two surviving brothers tasked with bearing the painful news to their parents upon their arrival home – but with the absence of their brother Bill, no words would have been needed.

With each generation comes the possibility that the Anzac memory may be diluted just a little more so it is the responsibility of us all to take a few minutes each year to reflect on what was sacrificed for so many. Regardless of religion, background or place of birth, it is a day to commemorate this self-sacrifice of past and present generations.

I’d now like to read you all a short poem by iconic Australian poet, war correspondent and solider, Banjo Paterson:

In this war we’re always moving,
Moving on;
When we make a friend another friend has gone;
Should a woman’s kindly face
Make us welcome for a space,
Then it’s boot and saddle, boys, we’re Moving on.
In the hospitals they’re moving,
Moving on;
They’re here today, tomorrow they are gone;
When the bravest and the best
Of the boys you know “go west”,
Then you’re choking down your tears and Moving on.
Anzac Day is a time to reflect and contemplate how different our lives may have been had it not been for the bravery of our ancestors and their sense of duty. Time may age those weary faces, but our freedom and way of life only survives as long as people are willing to defend it.

Emili Spartalis, Year 12
8 Guaranteed Ways to Emotionally Stuff Up Your Kids
Sherrie Campbell, PhD

Our children are the lights of our lives. We all start off as parents envisioning nothing but success, love and happiness for them. However, these dreams often do not manifest because they are not getting the important things they need to become disciplined, mature and motivated adults. The following are eight parenting stuff-ups that will guarantee your child will suffer from depression, anxiety, anger, tense family relationships, problems with friends, low self-esteem, a sense of entitlement and chronic emotional problems throughout his or her life.

1. Ignore or minimise your child’s feelings. If your child is expressing sadness, anger or fear and you mock them, humiliate them, ignore or tease them you minimise what they feel. You essentially tell them what they feel is wrong. When parents do this they withhold love from their child and miss opportunities to have open and vulnerable connections teaching them to bond and to know they are loved unconditionally.

2. Inconsistent rules. If you never talk about your expectations, you keep your child from knowing how to behave appropriately. Children live up or down to what you expect. Rules give them guidelines and boundaries to help them define who they are, good and bad. If you keep your child guessing and life is vague, they will begin to act out to find the boundaries themselves, which leads to low self-esteem and problem behaviour.

3. Make your child your friend. Never share all your worries, concerns and relationship problems with your child or ask their advice. If you act helpless and defeated to your children they will never learn to respect you and will treat you as an equal or an inferior because you have used them for your own therapy. You must show your children you can stand up to problems, face your challenges and handle life through all the stress and come out on the other side. Be real, have your emotions, but do not burden your children.

4. Put down your child’s other parent. If you never show affection and love to your partner/spouse in front of your child, the child does not develop a barometer for what love is or what it looks like. If you are always putting your spouse down and rejecting him/her, threatening divorce, you create a chronic state of anxiety for your child. If you are already divorced and you remain cold, distant, bitter, angry and blaming of your ex-spouse, you are sending the subtle message to your child that your ex-spouse is the cause of the divorce and you need to be the preferred parent. This is parent alienation.

5. Punish independence and separation. When we punish our children for growing up, we make them feel guilty for having normal developmental needs and desires which often causes deep insecurity, rebellion, cutting and other forms of behaviours that indicate failure to be able to branch out and be themselves as independent people.

6. Treat your child as an extension of you. If, as a parent, you link your own image and self-worth to your child’s appearance, performance, behaviour, grades and how many friends they have, you let them know they are loved not for who they are but for how well they perform and make you look good. This turns them into pleasers rather than doers, and they will always worry about being good enough.

7. Meddle in your child’s relationships. Directing every action your child takes in their relationships - from friends to teachers - inhibits their maturity. For example, if your child gets in trouble at school and you immediately rush to talk to the teacher to get them off the hook, or you are constantly telling your child how to be a friend, as your child grows he/she will never learn to navigate the sharper edges relationships bring on their own.

8. Over-protect. When we protect our children from every problem and emotion, it creates a sense of entitlement and inflated self-esteem that often crosses the line into narcissism. They expect life to be easier than it is. They want everything done for them no matter how they behave. They then become depressed and confused when they don’t get what they believe they deserve.
Mentone Girls’ Secondary College presents...

House Music Competition

Thursday 21st May
10.30am-1.05pm (P2&3)
MGSC Gymnasium

With special guest adjudicator, Mr Ian Nisbet

Every student in the College will participate in the House Chant and Choral Competition. Selected students will perform in the featured Choir, Soloist and Instrumental sections.

Family members are welcome to attend.

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.

Adrian speaks to parents honestly and candidly about how to relate to their children in a proactive way. Adrian’s session is sure to provide you with useful tools to assist you to support them from childhood to adulthood.

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

For all enquiries please contact Ms Leona Thomson on 9581 5200.
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<td>MONDAY</td>
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<td>QUEENS BIRTHDAY (Public Holiday)</td>
<td>REPORT WRITING DAY (Pupil free)</td>
<td>SEMESTER 2 COMMENCES</td>
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<td>NEWSLETTER #9</td>
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<td>COLLEGE ASSEMBLY</td>
<td>Report Verification (early finish 2.30pm)</td>
<td>9am College Tour</td>
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<td>9EFGH Excursion; Yarra Cruise &amp; Museum</td>
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<td><strong>TERM 2 HOLIDAYS (Until 12th July)</strong></td>
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**Weekend Events:**
- Year 9 Exams
- Year 11 Exam week
- NO YEAR 12 SACs

**Holiday Dates:**
- TERM 2 HOLIDAYS (Until 12th July)