Principal’s Report

The Victorian Government has committed to establishing Victoria as the Education State. The Education State is about a public guarantee of educational excellence and opportunity in every community. It means improving student outcomes for every student in every classroom, in every school and in all communities. The vision is to build a system that provides for every student with the knowledge, skills and attributes that will see them thrive in their world, regardless of where they start, the path they pursue or how the world might change around them.

Mentone Girls’ Secondary College shares this vision of our students, focusing on respect, resilience and doing one’s best. Resilience is learned when students have to face disappointment or do things on their own without help. A Queensland academic, Rachael Sharman, wrote a recent article in which she argues that children learn valuable lessons from stress and failure and that, depending on why parents help their child with homework, they may be doing more harm than good.

Sharman, a lecturer in psychology at the University of the Sunshine Coast, asks parents, “Are you motivated to help your child because you are worried they may fail, or how their performance might reflect upon you? Are you concerned they may miss out on longer-term goals (like university entry) unless you take over some tasks for them? Are they so stressed out by their homework you feel you should help them out?” Should parents answer ‘yes’ to any of these questions, they may in fact be hindering their child’s progress. While parents may take over tasks like homework to prevent their child from anxiety, this actually reinforces the message that children can avoid taking on a challenge that teaches them to rely on others for an easy way out. This, she says, is where the line is crossed from supporting to enabling.

Fortunately, most of our girls are up for a challenge, ready to have a go and learn from the experience. One example is Madison Lalor who won the State Award for Democracy in the 2015 National History Challenge, as well as the State Award for the category of Primary/Year 7. Congratulations to Madison and thank you to Ms Catherine Jones who organised students to enter the competition.
**College Matters**

**Uniform**

Term 4 has begun with typical spring weather and a mixture of hot and cold weather. A reminder that girls may wear summer or winter uniform until the end of October but it must be EITHER summer or winter uniform, not a combination of both.

Girls must wear their blazers to and from school each day, unless there is extreme heat. If it is over 30 degrees, girls may wear just the summer dress. Girls are only allowed to wear their sports jacket with their PE uniform – not with their summer or winter uniform.

Leggings are not to be worn as their PE uniform and girls are not permitted to wear their PE uniform to school unless they are involved in interschool sport.

Ms Gayle Steinfort  
Acting Assistant Principal

**Shade structures**

In response to concerns about the lack of outdoor covered areas, three shade structures are being installed in the College grounds. One will be situated in the VCE courtyard, one at the edge of the oval and a larger one will be erected in the area between the canteen and the JLC. These projects have been on the list of proposed capital works for some time and it’s good news that we can finally undertake them.

Ms Bronwyn Moline  
Assistant Principal

**Semester 2 Examinations**

Semester 2 examinations will take place between Monday 9th and Friday 13th November. Year 11 exams run on all days. There will be no Year 11 classes during this time. Year 11 students will only be required at school when they have an exam. If any Year 11 students has a clash with a Unit 3/4 exam they must sit the Unit 3/4 exam. Their Year 11 exam will be rescheduled for another time.

Year 10 exams are scheduled for Wednesday 11th to Friday 13th November. There will be no Year 10 classes during this time. Year 10 students will only be required at school when they have an exam. Year 9 exams are scheduled for Thursday 12th and Friday 13th November. There will be no Year 9 classes during this time Year 9 students will only be required at school when they have an exam.

Students are free to make use of the library for private study at other times.

The actual examination timetable will be distributed to all students through their school email account. Students are encouraged to arrive early and to ensure they know the location of their exams. Full summer uniform is to be worn when at school. In the event that a student arrives to an exam in incorrect uniform they may be required to sit the exam at an alternative time.

If a student is unable to attend due to illness or any other reason, parents are asked to ring the absence line. Students will be required to sit the missed examination at another time.

Students are reminded that normal examination rules apply and include NO talking or communication between students in the examination room. In addition, MOBILE PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES MUST NOT BE TAKEN INTO THE EXAMINATION ROOM AND MUST BE LEFT IN LOCKED LOCKERS. In addition, bags must not be taken to the examination venue, but must be left in lockers.

These examinations are important for students as this type of assessment is a significant part of the overall grade in Year 12 subjects. They assist in developing the skills that are necessary to achieve the students’ best performance.

Mr David Russell  
Assistant Principal

**School Council Report**

It seems every time we meet we find that our girls continue to impress and amaze. Dominique Lonsdale is the latest to be acknowledged. I encourage you to visit http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/special-features/paper-cuts-2015-books-weve-got-you-covered/story-fni3wj64-1227528201989 to discover how Dominique won second prize for Paper Cuts 2015 - Book Trailers. For those considering sending your daughter(s) on future MGSC French trips, Dominique has uploaded a series of videos from the 2015 trip to YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfwQ92TT8UwoodNi6OAzAXA
Council thanked and congratulated Bronwyn Moline for the effort that she and her team put into the 60th MGSC anniversary and how successful it was. Past students were impressed with how our girls provided guided tours in a courteous and pleasant manner. One group of ladies made the journey from Perth.

As a Facilities Committee member it is pleasing to see Council approve a couple of important projects, including the installation of shade structures, and changes to pedestrian access through the front car park. Already identified as an area of concern, now a parent has reported it as an OH&S risk. Stay tuned for updates on these projects.

We discussed staff professional development and in particular, formative assessment verses summative assessment. Formative assessment is where ongoing assessment is performed whilst learning a new topic. It allows teachers to better gauge whether students are picking up a new topic being taught and therefore reach a better level of understanding. Summative assessment is done at the end of a topic e.g. test or project. Relying on summative assessment alone points to the obvious being, it’s too late.

Finally, we encourage parents to participate in the various events and working bees that the school hosts. It is a great way to meet other parents and see teachers and staff in another light.

Glenn Chadwick
School Council Member

International Students & English Language Centre

At the end of last term, we celebrated the Mid-Autumn festival by sharing a luncheon with students, staff and visitors in the ELC. This was an interesting cultural event because the students made mooncakes with Ms Roberts and Ms Erwin. Sarah Liu was the MC and announced all speakers after welcoming all; Boying Wu explained the importance of the festival in China; and Sarah Yu of 10F thanked Ms Hurwitz for all her support of the International Students in the Art domain and wished her well with the birth of her baby.

This term we welcome three new students to our College: Leila Lu (ELC) and Cindy Gao in Year 9 and Melody Xiao in Year 10.

Ms Ekaterina Xanthopoulos
International Student Program and ELC Manager

Senior School News

Year 12 girls and Year 11 students studying a Unit 3/4 subject sat for October tests which should act as a great preparation for their end of year examinations. Not only were they able to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have acquired in a relevant manner, but also learnt valuable lessons in terms of time management.

Year 11 students are in the throes of deciding whether they wish to nominate for leadership positions next year. 2016 College Captain speeches will be held at the final Year 11 level assembly on Friday 23rd October.

Presentation Evening tickets are now available for parents who want to see their daughter graduate and receive a special farewell. Book your tickets at: http://tinyurl.com/qcpwyh

Year 11 exams start on 9th November and the Year 12 final VCAA examinations commence on 28th October. Please assist your daughter with the study timetable and revision.

Senior School Team

Middle School News

Students will be hearing reminders from their teachers that the final exams are less than six weeks away. To help minimise stress, students should begin their preparation by checking all previous tests for tricky parts of the subjects, asking for help to clarify these, making summaries and practising questions.

On 17th September, Middle School celebrated the quiet achievers. Year 9 and 10 students were nominated by their teachers. They received a certificate and enjoyed a special morning tea with their Student Managers.

The school has offered Kristine Sohn the wonderful opportunity of taking up the Kwong Lee Dow Scholarship should this be confirmed by Melbourne University. Each year our College has been lucky enough to have a recipient in Year 10 who has gone on to enjoy the benefits of this.

Year 9 Outdoor Education students were on camp this week and hopefully all had a wonderful time for their last camp for the year.

Middle School Team
Humanities

National History Challenge

This year, there were a record number of entries from students for the National History Challenge, showing that the study of history is alive and well at the College. Students from all year levels were invited to research a topic of their choice, in relation to the theme Leadership and Legacy. While there were many students who entered, from Year 7 to 10, there are a few special mentions that need to be made. Congratulations to Lauren Terry, Madeline Geist, Lucy Hutchins, Ashli Sali, and Namrata Kammar whose entries progressed to the Regional Finals.

Alice Horrigan, Bridget Gilmour, Lauren Bisignano, Jessica Hooper, Charli Kline, Issy Jacques and Madeleine Salisbury all had entries that progressed from Regional Finals to the State Finals. This showed that the external judges considered their entries to be interesting, well-crafted, historically accurate and detailed.

However, the biggest congratulations must go to Madi Lalor of Year 7, whose entry on Peter Lalor won the Year 7 and Democracy categories at the State Finals, with her also being named the Victorian Young Historian of the Year. Being named the Young Historian means that out of all entries from all year levels across the state, Madi’s entry was considered the most historically crafted and researched. It is an incredible achievement. Madi will be presenting her documentary at the National History Challenge Award Ceremony in late October, where she will also receive her awards.

Many thanks to the Humanities teachers for their support of this competition.

Ms Cat Jones

English

MGSC 2015 Public Speaking Competition

This month Year 7 to 10 English students are busy preparing and presenting speeches on issues of social significance. All girls develop skills and strategies for researching, structuring and delivering an oral presentation without props to engage and persuade their audience.

Public speaking skills and experience are a great asset and our program builds the knowledge and confidence to present in all academic, workplace and social situations. The girls’ presentations are varied and entertaining, and invariably the girls support their peers by being attentive, responsive audience members.

The class winners enter the year level finals, the winners of which receive a $50 book voucher and have their names inscribed on the perpetual MGSC Public Speaking trophy. Exceptional speakers will be invited to speak at future assemblies. We hope all students have practised their speeches at home.

Year 7 Incursion: Author and Speaker Boori Pryor

Last Monday Year 7s enjoyed a presentation by talented writer, speaker and indigenous comedian, Boori Pryor, author of novels including ‘My Girragundji’, which students have read this term. Boori Pryor explained the writing process and how to selectively use personal experience, while entertaining the students with comedic anecdotes, imitations and insights into indigenous relationships with nature. The girls enjoyed his witty rapid banter. Some may even take some tips from Boori Pryor to try comedic approaches in their upcoming speeches.

Ms Nola Rees
Head of English and Literacy

Science

Year 9 Science - STEM robotics

On the 17th and 18th of September, Monash University students came to MGSC to give Year 9 students a hands-on experience of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). In groups, students used Lego Mindstorms to program their LEGO robot to complete tasks, like make a Mexican wave. Students also completed surveys about STEM, and were encouraged to think about a career in engineering. Everyone enjoyed the class and thanks to Kellen Huang (past student) and the other uni students for the experience.

Grace Carroll, Year 9
Media

Year 11 Media students were given the opportunity to sit in a studio audience to see how a live show operates. Their experience involved seeing the control rooms as well as the specialist roles perform their duties before their eyes. This included the camera operators (including one female), the warm-up man getting them cheering in and out of commercial breaks, and finding out the secrets of live television, which included using pre-recorded interviews that they could edit before going to air.

Year 11 and 12 Media students had their major productions in video, photography and online/print and radio on display for the annual Malcolm Awards Arts Show last night, and all day today in the Media/Arts building.

Ms Lisa Blumenstein

Sport

Beachside Athletics

What a day at Sandringham Athletics Club! With one of the first sunny Spring days of 2015, Melbourne produced a fine day for field and track events at the Beachside Athletics Carnival on 11th September. Drawing tough competitors from Albert Park College, Cheltenham SC, Glen Eira College, Mac.Robertson Girls’ HS, and Yavneh College, Mentone Girls’ SC had incredible success throughout the day with 33 of our 43 competitors making it through to the Southern Metro Regionals on Thursday 8th October. With star athletes such as Zoe Cunningham, Kisarna Berntsen, Teiki Waata, Bianca Lawrence, Taylah Nelson, Millie Belleville, Sarah Mathews and Lucy Burgess, MGSC had 51 first and second place finishes out of a possible 67. A big thank you to all our athletes for representing their school with such pride, to Ms Parker and Ms Miliken for their assistance on the day, and to all parents and grandparents who came to watch their daughters. Go Mentone!

Mr Anthony Bruhn
Carnivals Coordinator

Cheerleading & Dance Championships

On Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September, the MGSC Cheerleading and Lyrical Dance teams competed at the AASCF Victorian State Championships. Both teams were up against some really tough competition. The Lyrical Dance team placed 3rd in a section of 12 elite dance schools. The Cheerleading team came 1st and also won the Grand Champion Banner for the highest scoring scholastic team of the day. Well done to both teams. It was a lovely way to finish off the season this year.

Ms Courtney Anderson

Food Technology

The first week back of Term 4 has been busy in Food Technology. The Year 9 International Food classes were busy designing meals from around the world. Kym Estadilla, Sarah Yu and Cindy Gao all worked hard to produce this excellent meal. Well done to all of the students who pushed their limits and experimented with new ingredients and cooking techniques.

Ms Lizzy Ingold
Maths

ICAS Maths Competition

Earlier this year we had 388 Year 7-10 students sit the ICAS Maths Competition. They performed impressively with 15 Distinctions, 50 Credits and 50 Merits being awarded. Detailed student reports are currently being distributed to every participating student, along with related certificates.

The following students who obtained Distinctions will receive their certificates during our College Assembly on 6th November:

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<th>Year 7</th>
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<td>Joanna Angeletos</td>
<td>Chloe Macaulay</td>
<td>Tracey Tra</td>
<td>Lucia Pugh</td>
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<td>Ashli Sali</td>
<td>Harhini Sundaram</td>
<td>Sheena Hodgens</td>
<td>Pari Wadhwa</td>
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<td>Sophie Gibbins</td>
<td>Gabriella Hall</td>
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<td>Kristine (Seo-Yeon) Sohn</td>
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<td>Alexandra Dodds</td>
<td>Elisa Maier</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Natalie Hooper</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Skvortsova</td>
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We congratulate the students who were involved in this important activity which is a great way to challenge themselves and practise exam style test conditions.

Education Perfect Maths Championship

We wish to acknowledge the efforts of the following students who competed in the online 2015 Education Perfect Maths Championships. MGSC finished in the top 1% of 877 schools globally and 2nd of 161 mid-sized schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gemma Maguire</th>
<th>Silver (top 5%)</th>
<th>Michelle Taneja</th>
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<tr>
<td>Katrina Oyarzun</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>Holly Sheehan</td>
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<td>Daniella Abdulsamad</td>
<td>Bronze (top 10%)</td>
<td>Sarah Pontifex</td>
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<td>Chloe Corcoran</td>
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<td>Sophie Gibbins</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Amelia Neal</td>
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<td>Nitya Shenvi</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Keely Mcrae</td>
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<td>Megan Taylor</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Isaree Dittawattanapong</td>
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<td>Molly Warner</td>
<td>Credit (top 20%)</td>
<td>Alexandra Dodds</td>
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<td>Yuxin Tian</td>
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<td>Brianna Gendall</td>
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<td>Lauren Terry</td>
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<td>Chloe King</td>
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Awards will be presented to students in the College Assembly on Friday 6th November. Well done.

Less than 45 school days until the end of the year, so do your best and remember... “Maths makes a real difference.”

Maths Domain Team

Dance Fundraiser Concert

Madeline Limnyo, Grace Sheridan and Kimberly Sheridan are all members of the Australian IDO Dance Team and are competing in Germany later this year in the IDO World Championships for Showdance and TapDance. They have a fundraising concert on Sunday the 25th October at 2pm and 5pm at Parkdale College Theatre, Warren Road, Mordialloc. Tickets are $50 and can be purchased by calling Lisa-Maree Amos on 0433 836 587, or through this website http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=163006. The website has all the info and some photos. All profits from these ticket sales pay for food and accommodation costs in Germany at the athletes village.

Lisa-Maree Amos (mother of Grace & Kimberly Sheridan)
THE MANY FACES OF INDEPENDENCE
By Michael Grose

Adults are the gatekeepers for children’s independence. And of course, independence takes many guises including:

1. Self-helps skills
   The starting point for independence building is giving kids the skills, know-how and confidence to look after their own wellbeing and welfare. This is shown in the many everyday situations where parents model, teach and provide opportunities for children to look after themselves. Including toddlers undressing themselves, primary aged children preparing their own snacks, and teenagers organising their own transport to school and after school activities. Kids develop real confidence from being able to look after themselves and others.

2. Autonomy to make choices and mistakes
   Without realising it, as parents we frequently make choices on our children’s behalf. We choose the food they eat; the games they play; their leisure activities and often the clothes they wear. When families are large (four or more children) parents usually give their children more space to make their own decisions as well as opportunities to learn from their poor choices. This may mean that children choose healthy interests and pursuits that parents are unfamiliar with, or even swim against the tide of their parents’ wishes. In small families parents often know so much about minutiae of children’s lives that inevitably we tend to impose greater well-intentioned control over children’s decisions.

3. Freedom to explore the neighbourhood
   On a recent trip to Italy I was struck by how much freedom to wander their neighbourhoods Italian children had. It was a throwback to the type of childhood that many of today’s parents experienced, where we had the opportunity to navigate our neighbourhoods on our own without having to check in with our parents all the time.

4. Freedom to explore unpredictable and potentially risky environments
   Independence is also built when children spend time in unpredictable, potentially risky environments such as the bush or new environments beyond their neighbourhood. There may be some risk involved but this is where real learning lies for children and young people. Eliminate the risk and you eliminate the learning.

5. Taking responsibility for your own problems and actions
   There’s no doubt many kids are adept at shifting their problems and responsibilities to adults. One of my children would always blame me when they were late for school. Even though the child in question had an alarm clock and was more than capable of using it, any lack of punctuality was somehow shifted to me. Go figure! Independence comes when children take ownership of their responsibilities rather than using someone else as a scapegoat.

In order to grant children and young people the type of independence outlined parents need to be brave rather than fearful; work hard to develop the skills and know-how kids’ independence requires; and be willing to give kids the encouragement and support they need to step out of their comfort zones when independence seems too hard.

Brighton District Cricket Club is currently seeking girls/women 14 years + to join the fun and come and play women’s cricket in one of our two teams.
We play a variety of Twenty20 and one day games on Saturday/Sunday and on both Turf and Synthetic pitches. We cater for all ages and abilities and boast excellent coaching with international and highly accredited coaches.
We can be contacted at: bdcc secretary@gmail.com , http//www. brightondistrictcc.com, Find us on Facebook or Follow us on Twitter @bdcc
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**Remember:**

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE – EVERY DAY COUNTS**

1. **MONDAY, OCTOBER 5**
   - Year 9 Outdoor Education Camp (one class)

2. **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6**
   - Handball/touch rugby comp (selected students)
   - College Council

3. **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7**
   - College Assembly
   - Dodgeball/lawn bowls comps (selected students)
   - Celebration Assembly P1; Gym
   - 7-11pm Valedictory Dinner; The Bayview Eden Melbourne

4. **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8**
   - 7pm Grade 6 Transition & Information Evening; LT & JLC
   - Past Students' 15 & 20 year reunion; VCE Centre

5. **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9**
   - College Council

6. **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10**
   - Celebration Assembly P1; Gym
   - 7-11pm Valedictory Dinner; The Bayview Eden Melbourne

7. **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11**
   - Handball/touch rugby comp (selected students)
   - College Council

8. **MONDAY, OCTOBER 12**
   - Year 9 Outdoor Education Camp (one class)

9. **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13**
   - Handball/touch rugby comp (selected students)
   - College Council

10. **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14**
    - Handball/touch rugby comp (selected students)
    - College Council

11. **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15**
    - Grade 6 Music Information Evening #2

12. **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16**
    - Year 12 Exams

13. **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17**
    - Year 12 Exams

14. **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18**
    - Year 12 Exams

15. **MONDAY, OCTOBER 19**
    - College Assembly
    - Year 9 Outdoor Education Camp (one class)

16. **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20**
    - College Assembly
    - Dodgeball/lawn bowls comps (selected students)
    - Celebration Assembly P1; Gym
    - 7-11pm Valedictory Dinner; The Bayview Eden Melbourne

17. **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21**
    - College Assembly
    - dodgeball/lawn bowls comps (selected students)
    - Celebration Assembly P1; Gym
    - 7-11pm Valedictory Dinner; The Bayview Eden Melbourne

18. **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22**
    - Year 12 Exams

19. **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23**
    - Year 12 Exams

20. **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24**
    - Year 12 Exams

21. **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25**
    - Year 12 Exams

22. **MONDAY, OCTOBER 26**
    - College Council

23. **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27**
    - College Council

24. **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28**
    - College Council

25. **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29**
    - 9OE Kayaking; 37 Jetty rd, Sandringham

26. **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30**
    - Year 12 Exams

27. **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31**
    - Year 12 Exams

28. **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31**
    - Year 12 Exams
### KEY DATES | NOVEMBER 2015

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| 2 | Report Writing Day (Pupil Free) | 3 | Melbourne Cup Day (Pupil Free) | 4 | ELC Sovereign Hill Excursion (selected students) | 5 | **1**
| 6 | **2** | 7 | College Assembly | 8 | **3** | **4** |
| **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** |
| 11 | International students - Divali morning tea; Conference Room | **12** | NEWSLETTER #18 | **13** | Yr 9 Exams | **14** |
| **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** | **17** | **18** |
| 18 | 2016 Yr 11 Orientation Day | **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23** |
| **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23** | **24** | **25** |
| 24 | Presentation Evening; Robert Blackwood Hall | **26** | NEWSLETTER #19 | **27** | **28** | **29** |
| **25** | **26** | **27** | **28** | **29** | **30** | **HEADSTART WEEK 2** |

**MENTONE GIRLS’ SC NEWSLETTER**
Edition 16 | 15 October 2015