Student Pathways Program 2013

Term one passed by very quickly! We welcomed over 500 new students into our College and the overwhelming majority have made a very smooth and successful transition. We see the process of transition as continuous as it links to the goals aims and pathways of each individual student. Each student is allocated a Pathways class and teacher who have a primary responsibility for supporting their students in their transition into school, developing pathways plans and their successful transition beyond school. We hope that students make the most of these Pathways sessions and build a positive working relationship with their Pathways teachers.

Term 2 Focus

Term 2 is now in full swing and students and staff alike are very busy. Not only has the work kept coming but many, many students are taking the opportunity to get involved in the wide range of extracurricular activities on offer. It is vitally important that we assist students to manage and prioritise to ensure the main reason we are here – learning, remains the focus. Keeping up to date and good time management is the key to a successful term 2 for students.

Our School Values

Often at student assemblies I talk about the ‘values’ we focus on at Mildura Senior College and how they relate to students successfully completing their schooling. The values are; Independence, Responsibility, Resilience, Respect, Success.

The following is a summary of the message given:

1. Always stay informed and get the right information from the right people. If you don’t know… ask! Develop independence.
2. We have an environment that is different to most schools. You are granted freedoms and privileges that come with added responsibility.
3. Things will go wrong and during the year there are sure to be setbacks – use the support services around you and bounce back from these setbacks – you will need resilience.
4. Develop a strong and respectful relationship with your peers and teachers in all of your classes. These are the people you will rely on to help you through.
5. Have a goal in mind. To be motivated you need to know why you are doing something in the first place – only then will you achieve your success.

As mentioned earlier, the majority of our students made a fantastic start to 2013. We are confident that if students continue to develop our five values, with our support, they will give themselves every opportunity to achieve successful outcomes at Mildura Senior College.

Mildura Senior College

Clontarf Academy

After being with the Mildura Senior College Clontarf Academy from the outset, Glenn Joyce has decided not to continue working for Clontarf. Glenn made an outstanding contribution to the achievements of a large number of boys who undoubtedly would not have completed their education without his assistance. We would like to welcome Mick James who will take up the position of Clontarf Academy director this term.

Andrew Ough
Principal
Assistant Principal’s Report

Student Services Centre
Students are reminded that the Student Services Centre is where they will find the Student Coordinators, Attendance Officer and Transition & Pathways Coordinator. If students have questions about their program or completing their certificate, attendance queries or just need general help they should go to the Student Services Centre for advice.

Special Provision
Students with exceptional personal circumstances are reminded that they can apply for Special Provision. Students must see Tracy Marr (Transition and Pathways Coordinator) for further information as soon as possible.

Student Coordinators
The student coordinators are here to assist you. To speak with a student’s coordinator please call the College and ask for your Student Coordinator.

Reg Byrne Joanna Panagiotaros Jim Blue
Ineke Rogers Sharyn Byrne

Attendance Reminder
For students to achieve success in VCE/VCAL/VET programs attendance is vital. If a student misses more than 10 classes in any subject they are deemed at risk of not passing. A full version of the attendance policy can be found on page 111 of the College handbook, which is also available on the College Website.
For students who may have missed some classes Wednesday mornings is a great time to catch up on work and see teachers.

Student Safety
Students and Parents are reminded to take care when driving in and around the College. Ensure you look carefully when crossing the road and driving in pedestrian traffic areas.
Students who drive to school are reminded they should register their cars at the front office by filling out a Student Driver Form. Student drivers are also reminded that transporting other students in their vehicles is not permitted.

Parent Portal on the College Website:
The Parental Portal is active on our College Website and parents are reminded they can access the following information;
• Student Timetable
• Attendance Data
• Student Calendar
• Parent Messages
• Ability to book for Parent/Teacher Interview evenings (3-Way Conferences)

Belinda Hudak
Assistant Principal

3 Way Conferences:
Our first 3 Way Conference was held on Tuesday 26th February between 5pm and 8pm. The night was very well attended. It provided parents, students and teachers an opportunity to discuss student’s transition into Year 11 at Mildura Senior College or into Year 12. Discussed also were aspects of learning, assessment and the high expectations associated with senior schooling.

Our next 3 Way Conference is on Tuesday 14th of May (5-7pm).

Student Forums
During Term 1, two student forums were held. The Student Forums are about Student Voice and students having the opportunity to give feedback and help shape some of the things that happen around the college. The focus for the first Forum was feedback for the start of the year. The resounding response was about the start of the year with Year 11s having their own first day, followed by the Year 12s was a great success for students. From this session students put forward some great ideas for the refinement of the program for 2014. During the first and the second forums, the importance of students taking responsibilities for their actions was brought up. In addition, some great structural ideas for around the college have been taken on board. Students send a representative from each Pathways class to the forum, and have the opportunity to present their thoughts and ideas through with them.

College Grounds
Over the holidays work was continued to ensure that the college is a safe and inviting environment for students and staff alike. Thank you to Peter and Michael for their continued hard work in this area. The new shade sail structure in the Quadrangle will enable everyone the shade and quite area for discussions and also keeping the table tennis players well covered.

Sandy Gunn
Acting Assistant Principal

College Notices:
Polynesian students
There was a meeting for all Polynesian students and parents on Tuesday April 23rd from 7-8pm in the school canteen. This was an ideal opportunity for families to meet with coordinators and discuss progress of the students as well as give the College feedback on how we can improve the outcomes for all Polynesian students. A light supper was provided and we also hope to organise cultural events throughout Term two.

Jim Blue
Student Coordinator

News from the Careers Centre:
I conduct career interviews throughout terms 1, 2 and 3 with year 12 students from the seventeen Managed Individual Pathways groups (now called PATHWAYS). I book in students from a pathway group at any time although any student can come in and make their own appointments to see me to discuss tertiary education possibilities. If your son or daughter would like to see me, they can come to the careers centre and make an appointment, or email me at: hamiltonl@milsen.vic.edu.au
It is really important that students regularly access and read the school bulletin on the school intranet, to ensure that they don't miss out on information sessions that may help them decide on their future pathways.

Career Notices and Career News items are posted on the Career noticeboard in the foyer of the library and on noticeboards in the Student Centre. So try to take advantage of career opportunities available to you by regularly reading these notices.

Tertiary Applications

An important focus of the Pathways program in Term three will be tertiary applications. All Year 12 students who are considering applying for University and TAFE courses will receive time and assistance in their Pathways classes with this process, including online applications (completed in August/Sept.). Pathway teachers and the five Student Coordinators and I will be available during this time to help students with their applications.

Note: VTAC guides and SATAC guides will arrive in the school in late July. Students will tick what guides they need from Victoria and South Australia. A small number of UAC (NSW), QTAC (QLD), and TISC (WA) guides will arrive in the careers centre as well. Students wishing to apply interstate can borrow these.

Students will receive a copy of the Careers Calendar in their Pathways class in Week one of Term two. This calendar has all the important dates to complete applications through both VTAC (Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre) and SATAC (South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre).

Year 12 Applying For UNI Information Evening

For first-time year 12 parents (accompanied by their son/daughter) WILL be held on: Monday evening July 18th in the school Library from 7.30 – 8.30 pm.

Delivered by the tertiary career advisor, Lavina Hamilton.

The evening is directed at those parents and students who have not had a family member who has been through the application process before. I will cover how to make an application through VTAC and SATAC – the name of the Victorian and South Australian Tertiary Admission Centres, How to fill in and make a Special Entry Access Scheme application for financially, medically or non-English background, or difficult circumstances, Accommodation applications and Scholarships applications. Briefly cover the VTAC scholarship application process.

Date Change Alert For South Australian Tertiary Information Sessions to be Held in May

I made an error in the previous newsletter about the date of the Parents Information Evening - run by the two South Australian universities – Flinders and the University of South Australia (Adelaide University no longer sends a representative). The agreed on date is Wednesday, 29 May in the MSC school Gym (red brick building situated at the back of the school) from 7.30 – 8.30 pm. Parents are invited to come along prepared to ask questions about their programs, scholarships and accommodation. The following morning, Thursday 30th May, the two universities will be running a student only information session which runs from 9.30 am to 11.00 am for Mildura Senior College students, and other district schools.

Victorian Tertiary University Expo for Parents of Year 12 Students

On Monday, 29th July there is a parent information ‘supermarket session’ (not an information session) run by Victorian institutions in the Mildura Senior College Gym from 6.30 – 7.30 pm. Parents – accompanied by their son or daughter - will be able to ask questions and collect guides from the 20 Victorian Universities, Tafes and Private Colleges and get any questions they may have, answered by a university representative. NB: The three South Australian universities attend this session as well.

Year 12 Student Victorian Tertiary Information Session

The next morning Tuesday, 31st of July, Year 12 students applying for Victorian courses will be required to attend an information session in the school gym which will run from 9.10 am – 10.35 am. Students will find out how to make a Victorian course application, information about university life and things like scholarships and accommodation options.

Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test

Practice weekend workshop for year 12 and year 11 students. COST: $270.00

Year 11 and Year 12 students wishing to attend the practice UMAT session to be held at St Joseph’s College on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd of June, need to come to the careers centre and collect the application form and information letter. This weekend session is run by a company called MedEntry.

Note: Some students will have already attended a workshop in Melbourne run earlier in the year, so they do not need to enrol.

NB: Please be aware that this weekend course is NOT registration from Victoria and South Australia. A small number of UAC (NSW), QTAC (QLD), and TISC (WA) guides will arrive in the careers centre as well. Students wishing to apply interstate can borrow these.

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Note: Some students will have already attended a workshop in Melbourne run earlier in the year, so they do not need to enrol.

NB: Please be aware that this weekend course is NOT registration for the UMAT exam. You need to apply through ACER and you need to apply to sit the test by Friday, 1st June at 5.00 pm on the ACER website: http://umat.acer.edu.au. COST: in 2012 was $210.00. There was a concession card fee of $110.00 in 2012 for families on Health Care Cards.

UMAT (Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test)
A reminder that students undertaking the UMAT test will sit this test on Wednesday the 31st of July in the Mildura Senior College Hall. Students will receive their UMAT number 2 weeks prior to the test – they will need to print their Admissions Ticket after receiving the email - to sit the test and take along suitable identification such as passport, driver’s license, photo bearing learner’s permit or a certified letter of identification from the school or workplace.

Scholarship Opportunities
www.chancesforchildren.com.au provides an excellent resource to look for scholarships. Over 10,000 scholarships have been categorised to assist students to find funds that they can apply for to help them move away from the local area to study.

Chances for Children Tertiary Education Funding- Each application is assessed on its individual merits. There are no set criteria to determine the amount of funding awarded; each is decided on a case by case basis considering the specific needs of each applicant in respect of their financial and social circumstances.

Applications can be made for tertiary studies (or for the cost of studying in Year 11 and 12). Each tertiary recipient is assessed on their individual circumstances, and Chances aims to ‘Make up the difference’ in their gap of income versus expenditure on the student’s budget.

Chances aims to support tertiary recipients for a minimum of two years, after which time it is expected that they will have settled into university life and be able to financially support themselves. That being said, in exceptional circumstances, assistance may be extended to ensure the student continues to achieve in their course.

Round one has opened in March and applications for Funding Round 1 2013 will close on Friday, 19th April.

Please post the completed application to:
Vicki Dane – Manager
(Emailed or faxed applications will not be accepted)
Chances for Children
PO Box 1870
MILDURA VIC 3502

Don’t forget that students and/or parents can make appointments to see me for careers and tertiary advice at any stage between the hours of 8.30 am and 4.30 pm. They can either come in and make an appointment, or by phoning the school on 5021 2911.

Remember that I am available to meet with both students and parents if you require assistance with Careers or Tertiary Advice. Ring 5021 2911 and ask to speak to Lavina in the Careers Centre. If you want School to Work information ask to speak to Linda Snoxall in the Careers Centre.

Lavina Hamilton
Careers/Pathways Coordinator

Melbourne & Adelaide Tertiary Trips

Program
Mildura Senior College is organising to take 50 students to a number of Tertiary institutions and a variety of halls of residences in both Melbourne and Adelaide. Students will receive information about courses and accommodation at the following universities/colleges. Travel will be by coach and back.

Melbourne: Victoria University, University of Melbourne, RMIT, Latrobe University, Monash University and Deakin University.

Adelaide: Aquinas, Flinders University, Magill, St Ann’s, University SA City West, University SA City East and Adelaide University.

Dates:
Departing Sunday May 19th
Returning Tuesday May 21st

Cost:
Melbourne – Approximately $220
Adelaide – Approximately $200

Payments:
Deposits of $50 can be made as of Monday April 22nd. Full payments must be made in full to the college office by Wednesday 15th May 2013.

Staffing:
Melbourne - Jim Blue is in charge of this trip.
Adelaide - Joanna Panagiotaros is in charge of this trip.

Students can express an interest at the front office and collect appropriate forms which include itinerary and medical forms.

Jim Blue
Joanna Panagiotaros
Student Coordinators

VCAL

I am so IMPRESSED with the many benevolent local shopkeepers who have generously donated products to help encourage our VCAL students to continue doing well. Many VCAL students received vouchers from Amazing Cakes, Hudaks Bakery, Banjos Bakery, 48 Flavours Ice Creamery, Lido Hair and Beauty and Adra Sunrayas for a desk. Awards and certificates were given to students who had Exemplary Behaviour, Finished All Work and Volunteered for extra work that helped to fulfil their learning outcomes.

The VCAL certificate encourages hands on, real world learning. Students in Personal Development had a pizza lunch with Peter Detarczynski and Tense Vereri who shared with them their journey in the workforce and what personal attributes they as employers valued. Students valued the stories and learnt many important points they will keep in mind, including:

1. Have honesty and integrity and be the best that you can be.
2. Have the right attitude.
3. Ask yourself why you want this job.
4. Punctuality – be the first to be there, the last to leave. Don’t worry about overtime.
5. How do you present yourself the minute you walk in that door?
6. Don’t act, be enthusiastic.
7. Give respect to get respect.
8. Don’t look for pats on the shoulder.
9. You shouldn’t have to ask for a raise. If you are doing a terrific job, the boss will be asking themself “What do I have to do to keep you there?”
10. The most popular response for summarising the meeting was:

Do your best, don’t be afraid to work hard and start from the bottom

Wendy Yeung
VCAL Teacher
Congratulations

The Lions Youth of the Year Quest aims to select an outstanding Young individual to be an Australian Ambassador with the opportunity to travel overseas under the auspices of Lions Clubs International. Through all levels of participation the Quest seeks to assist Secondary school students in developing citizenship and leadership qualities as they prepare for entry to the workforce or higher education. Initial competition in the quest commences at club level and successful participants will progress through to Zone, Regional, District and State finals. Given our geographical proximity to Adelaide, Mildura has been bracketed within the ‘state’ area of South Australia / Northern Territory.

The competition level is high; competitors are expected to undergo a lengthy private interview before a panel, during which they speak about themselves and their involvement with their local community and wider afield, and respond to a range of questions on issues concerning their local region, the country and globe. During the actual public phases of the competition, entrants are expected to publically present a five minute prepared speech based on a selection from a pre-set list of topics, having already made two impromptu responses of up to two minutes to random questions on a contemporary issue. Needless to say, the quality of young person who typically enters such a competition is, in a word, exceptional.

Student Vice Captain Katerina Blekic, representing Irymple Lions Club, entered this year. Katerina’s commitments to charity and civic programs of the region include her ongoing involvement with the Air Force Cadets; she currently holding the rank of Cadet Sergeant. Last year, Katerina was among those who raised the flag at the start of the school’s Centenary Memorial Service for past staff and student military service personnel.

During the recent Easter holidays, Katerina travelled to Victor Harbor in South Australia to compete at the state level. After an extremely tight contest, which saw Katerina’s speech attracting a standing ovation, the judging came down to the impromptus. Mildura Senior College is proud to say that Katerina has been successful in becoming the 2013 State Champion for South Australia / Northern Territory.

Katerina will proceed to compete at the National Final to be held at the Multiple District Convention in Canberra on April 27th. We commend Katerina on her wonderful achievement and wish her the best of luck.

Katerina’s Speech

Imagine that all you ever wanted to do was to serve and defend your country, in combat. But there was only one thing stopping you. Your gender. Your dream was taken away, not because you weren’t capable, but because you were a female. It isn’t a question of, Should we let women fight in combat roles but rather a question of why haven’t we already allowed women to do so?

Good afternoon judges, lions, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Katerina Blekic and I am a Cadet Acting Sergeant with the Australian Air Force Cadets, 623 SQN. I believe women SHOULD be allowed to fight in combat roles, if they meet the physical fitness standards, and are mentally and physiologically fit.

There are very few jobs that are as physically and mentally demanding as being a combat solider or officer within the Australian Defence Force. You need to be physically and mentally capable as well as being able to, think fast on your feet and make the right decisions under the toughest of circumstances.

Combat soldiers and officers are not the only ones in the line of fire. What about our female police officers, paramedics and fire fighters; who are constantly putting their lives at risk, on a daily basis.

They attend a scene, just like our soldiers, not knowing what they will be confronted with.

Some people only dream about a career in a combat role. It is a job that only a few are cut out for, you need to be resourceful and willing to meet challenges head on. In combat you depend on the men and women standing next to you, just as they depend on you.

When people talk about combat or the frontline, what do they really mean? Captain Rachael Brennan a Divisional officer at the Australian Defence Force Academy said, “In Afghanistan, everything is the front line. You are exposed to a lot of threats and maybe it’s not understood what our jobs really are. We do have to fire weapons and can find ourselves in direct combat unexpectedly. There are women already in combat, but it is not widely known”

Does this not show the mental, physical and moral fitness we would expect of our combat personnel?

I understand that society does not want to see a solider die, no matter what gender. There are many people who believe that women should be, only housewives and mothers, not soldiers.

I believe that this is right. Competence is the condition of being capable. Courage and competence have NO gender. The Anzac’s fought for our freedom and rights, our rights. Rights for all of us. So shouldn’t we give women that same right? If women are capable, Why take the opportunity away from them? Women can and will defend their country with just as much courage and pride.

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Ladies and Gentlemen

Courage, Pride and Honour make no discrimination.

I believe, neither should we.

Mildura Senior College Newsletter
VCAL Students

VCAL is supposed to be hands on and in Senior they are meant to be independent and able to develop their own activities and carry them out. On a very warm day in February, Mildura Senior College Senior VCAL students showed their skills by successfully running an hour and half session with Year 7 students from Irymple Secondary College with no instruction from teachers. Deanne Marr, one of Mildura Senior College’s Senior Personal Development teachers, was in charge of assisting the development of this program, and students corresponded with Irymple Secondary College to organise it. Another Senior VCAL teacher, Larisha Rowney, drove them to the school and let them loose to run it! What Larisha witnessed was five groups of students take charge and organise 130 Year 7’s into six different activities and successfully engage them. Students set up six very different stations, with activities aimed at creating team work and encouraging ‘having a go’. One activity involved batons and passing them around without dropping them as a team, starting again if you dropped one. Another had students linking hands and attempting to move a hula hoop around the group without breaking the links. Whilst these students were at Irymple, Deanne also had another senior class organised at the swimming sports at Waves where student roles included organising participants into events and recording results. A very successful day which showed the skills of VCAL students and the amazing abilities they are developing here at Mildura Senior College.

Larisha Rowney
VCAL Teacher and Coordinator

Shave For A Cure

Shave for a cure, held on Friday the 15th of March was a great success! We had 5 brave, young students who went out on their own, raised money and then proceeded to have their heads shaved by a friend on the stage under the COLA. The SRC held a big barbeque for all those who attended and created an atmosphere perfect for those eager to lose some locks. We would like to thank Steph Rochester, Ben Stevens, Zach Stanbrough, Kaine Mazza and Sam Razis for raising a combined $3000 for the leukaemia foundation of Australia. We would also like to thank Nicole Turner from Price line for coming down and shaving Steph’s hair. Steph has also donated her hair to Pantene and their program Beautiful Locks who will make a wig for a cancer patient. Thank you all so much!

Ben Mahoney

SRC Camp

On the 19th and the 20th of February all the Year 11 and Year 12 SRC students travelled out to Cowra Station in buses driven by our lovely teachers Tania Edgar, Dougie Sheperd and Sue Willman. We all arrived safely, ’shot gunned’ our rooms and helped unpack ALL the food. Whilst these students were at Irymple, Deanne also had another senior class organised at the swimming sports at Waves where student roles included organising participants into events and recording results. A very successful day which showed the skills of VCAL students and the amazing abilities they are developing here at Mildura Senior College.
Valentine’s Day Tug of War

SRC reports:

On the 22nd March the SRC held a Staff VS SRC Student tug of war competition. Overall the event was successful with a large number of both staff and students participating. There was no clear winner on the day, with the female SRC students beating the female staff, but the male staff were too strong for the SRC boys. After the Staff VS SRC Student competition, it was opened up to the rest of the school and a lot of people participated which was great to see.

There was spaghetti, chocolates, soft drinks and spiders on offer, in particular the spaghetti was very popular as it was a cooler day which made the spiders slightly more unsuccessful than expected. In total we raised approximately $100 which is going to the English Language School.

By Eliza Weaver.

On February 15th the Senior College SRC held their annual event for St Valentine Day. We raised $600 for the Bush fire affected Primary School Dunalley in Tasmania. We sold red roses and chocolates which were delivered to students in class. We also held a BBQ to help raise funds after a small set back at lunch time - the BBQ had no gas. Overall it was a very successful day that everyone enjoyed.

By Ryan Leeson and Maddie Barnes.

Tania Edgar
SRC Coordinator

Congratulations

Congratulations to Nathan Beasy (Year 12) for placing 1st in the 200m sprint of the State Schools single touring kayak division, held on the Maribyrnong River in Essendon on the 23rd of March. The competition was from both public and private schools, and this was Nathan’s first win at this level. Nathan plans to also take part in the 500km River Canoe Marathon later this year.

Community Notices

WENTWORTH DISTRICT FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB Inc.

Attention Under 18 Footballers

The Wentworth District Football Netball Club, Senior and Reserves Premiers 2012, requires Under 18 players for the 2013 season.

We can offer:
- Regular game time
- Regular training sessions at Gol Gol Oval
- Transport available
- Subsidised Membership
- Phone or SMS
- Roger Bath 0408 210 304
- David Swain 0407 834 044

Top: Sopany Mak, Meg Downs, Brooke Phipps and Aleara Smith
Below: Maddie Ryan and Amy Mann

Year 11 Water Colour Paintings
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<th>April</th>
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<td>Term 2 begins</td>
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<td>College Council</td>
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<td>Boys &amp; Girls Soccer</td>
<td>Queens Birthday</td>
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<td>UNISA &amp; Flinders Information Morning for Students</td>
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