Start to School Year

The start of the 2013 academic year at Mildura Senior College has gone very smoothly so far and we have begun the year with approximately 900 students. Staff have focused on ensuring students feel settled and are to be commended on the calm and orderly environment we have established. An extensive building and maintenance program has seen the development of improved student and teaching spaces and resources throughout the school. I could not be happier with the approach of students and teachers in their classes to date. Term one is extremely short with only nine weeks in total so a focused start is essential.

Staffing changes

One of our Assistant Principals, Mr Mark Tracy, has taken up an acting Principal Position at Donald High School until Semester 2. Also, one of our Student Coordinators Barb Kelly has taken leave until Term 4 this year - we have made the following staffing changes to our Leadership profile to accommodate this. Acting Assistant Principal – Sandy Gunn (Semester 1) Acting Student Coordinator – Ineke Rogers (Terms 1-3) Acting Student Coordinator – Sharyn Byrne (Semester 1)

We also welcome the following new & returning staff in 2013

Kate Bourchier Biology
Tracy Schmidt English/Humanities
Ron Brown Technology
Kim Woolley VCAL/Technology
Emma Broadbent O&ES
Bec Miller English
Shane Rimon ES – Classroom Support
Jena Craig-Brown Arts/VCAL
Clare Taylor Instrumental Music
Karl Sloane Teacher – Voice

Tertiary Placements

The college was delighted with the range and quality of the tertiary study offers received by our graduating students in 2012. Over 200 students received a first round offer. Many students received offers in both South Australia and Victoria and the number of students who received scholarships to support their studies, was higher than other years. We have also seen a small increase in first round offers to students from LaTrobe – Mildura. Lavina Hamilton and Linda Snxall have done a great job supporting the application process and ensuring students are making informed choices.

Trade Training Centre Project

Construction of the major hub of the Trades Training Centre is progressing well and the completion date of mid-September is still seen as achievable by the construction company. Whilst the building continues to move forward significant work needs to be done early this year to establish all of the required processes and protocols for student access to programs and what they will look like.

School Insurance

Students and parents are reminded that there is no DEECD Insurance for accidents or thefts at school. There are Insurance Company’s who provide such insurance but this is the responsibility of families not the school. Our advice is to encourage students not bring valuables to school.

Retiring Members

Our last meeting of college council in February saw the retirement from council of three Parent Representatives - Kiran McDonald, Michael Treeby and Lisa Cochrane. We recognized their professionalism, care and background knowledge which has made a valuable contribution to the work of council and the success of our school.

College Council Election

As the number of nominations equaled the number of vacancies the following parents have been elected to council for the next 2 Years: Tara Williams, Jillian Gardner and Rod Matheson.
Annual General Meeting
The next meeting of College Council is our AGM which will be followed by the first meeting of the new council. This meeting is on Monday 18th March at 8:30pm in the Library.

Commencement Ceremony
Thursday 14th of February was our Commencement Ceremony which involved the investiture of our College Captains – Raquel Ban & Michael Hoare and their deputies, Katerina Blikic & Ryan Lesson. This ceremony also saw the investiture of our Student Council and the presentation of awards to students in Year 11 2012. The following Scholarships were also presented:

• MSc Sports Award – Dylan Murphy & Tahlia Meyer
• Australian Defence Force Long Tan Leadership & Teamwork Award – Chelsea Griffiths

Ted Lawton Environmental Science Award – Tyson McLean
Freeman Family Mathematics/Science Award – Kate Hammonston
Paige McCarthy-Beard Memorial Award – Aidan De Been Hall

Mildura Rotary Scholarships:
• Irymple Secondary College – Amanda Simmons
• Chaffey Secondary College – Sam Hansen
• Morarbin P-10 College – Sarah Donnersfeld

Henderson College – Lupi iulupa Hlahfo

Trinity Lutheran College – Brandon Dolc

Mildura Senior College – Leesa Gregurek

As well, we also had an acknowledgement of students joining us this year on student Exchange.

This night was a wonderful celebration of student success and I thank all of the staff who were involved for their work in organizing the event.

Andrew Ough
Principal

Assistant Principal's Report

Transition and Enrolments:
The Transition team have been working hard to ensure that students have had a smooth start to the year. We have had over 25 new enrolments this year and we have assisted over 100 students to alter their program.

Subject Changes: are now complete and it is very important that students are focused on achieving their best in their subjects. Year 11 students will have an opportunity at midyear to consider special school arrangements. Students must see Tracy Marr (Transition and Pathways Coordinator) for further information as soon as possible.

Parent Portal on the College Website:
The Parent 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)

Commencement Ceremony:
Congratulations to all of the students who received awards at the Commencement Ceremony on the 14th of February. We hope you have continued success through 2013.

Belinda Hudak
Assistant Principal

It has been a great start to the 2013 year for students and staff alike. Our staggered start, with one day of Year 11s followed by our Year 12s starting the next day was a great success. I would like to extend a huge Thank You to our Supportive Friends students, our 20 Year 12 students who completed a day’s training in peer support at the end of 2012. Their attendance at the first day of Year 11s was greatly appreciated by staff and students. They attended the morning’s sessions and assisted the Pathways Teachers in helping the new students learn about the College and transition successfully to their new learning environment. Thank you to each of the 20 students for your commitment and enthusiasm for helping make it a smooth transition for our New Year 11 cohort.

On the first day of all students attending, we had a guest speaker who spoke to both Year levels about finding the best in themselves. Nathan Hulls was introduced to us through our LaTrobe University partnership and his attendance at the College was appreciated.

Students were engaged by Nathan’s story and his discussions of finding their inner strength and working to not be the best in the world but the best they can be.

Over the holiday period there was an enormous amount of work completed on our canteen to provide our canteen staff with a more workable space, to provide our College community with continued great food and service. Additional work was also completed on the Gymnasium to improve the acoustics of the space. Continued work is always being completed to maintain our grounds and facilities to provide an environment for productive teaching and learning.

Our teaching staff has begun the year with the always enthusiastic attitude to provide our students with the learning experiences that are positive and productive. We are always striving to improve our teaching and learning practices and have a plan for the academic year working on all areas of improving student outcomes.

We are reminding all students that the College will be closed for the holiday period from Tuesday 26th February until Monday 18th March inclusive. It is essential that students prepare for the holiday period and ensure they are prepared for their return. Some students have asked to have their books delivered to their home for the holidays and this will be arranged. Some students may have text books that they no longer require. The office will co-ordinate the sale of these books to students who have moved into new subjects if required. When the books are collected the staff will ask that you complete a form with bank account details so that the funds can be paid directly to your account when sold.

Corliss McIBain
Business Manager

Student Wellbeing:
Welcome to 2013 from the Wellbeing team at the College. This team is led by Margaret Wilson and consists of Colin Cole, the school chaplain, Roz Devilee, the school nurse and Martha Maiorana, a youth worker. We welcome contact from you.

There’s no getting around change— love it or hate it, it’s part of life. But some transitions result in more emotional upheaval than others. It is well known that, “School transitions can have a big impact on young people.” This is largely due to the potential for these changes to create situations of social isolation, especially if friends move in different directions or for those who struggle with the structure and routines of new schools.

Other young people are faced with changing family circumstances such as new babies, parents separating or the death of loved ones, at the same time.

While some take the upheaval in their stride, others find these new circumstances daunting or downright scary.

Some of the difficulties during periods of transition include low self-esteem, time management issues or fears about new social situations, particularly where older students are involved.

Some struggle with disruption to their familiar routines or changes in the relationships with their friends.

Others might have problems coping with the pressures of school work.

Young people going through this can experience frustration and become anxious or disruptive to those around them.

These problems may begin when the change happens but sometimes they take time to develop.

How parents can help reduce the stress of transitions:
• Be alert to how they are handling the change and whether they are experiencing difficulty.
• Be supportive and offer encouragement.
• Foster understanding of the new environment.
• Encourage them to do their homework so they don’t fall behind.
• Be available if they have questions.
• Encourage them to speak to student support services.

Margaret Wilson
Student Wellbeing Coordinator

College Notices:

Telephone Problems:
The College’s main telephone number 5021 2911 has a technical fault and has been investigated since Friday 8th February.

We apologise for the inconvenience and hope to have the fault rectified as soon as possible. If you are having difficulty getting through and the matter is urgent please email the College or phone the following: 5021 3851, 5021 1852, 5022 1205

Family statements
Please find enclosed with this newsletter your family invoice/statements for your student. As Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on Tuesday 26th February, the college office will be open on that evening until 8pm for payment of fees etc. Voluntary levies will remain on the statements until the end of the school year but parents are reminded that these are optional. Payments are also able to be paid via BPAY. The reference number is included on the family statement.

Change of Subjects
As a number of students have changed subjects over the past week, some students may now have new text books that they no longer require. The office will co-ordinate the sale of these books to students who have moved into new subjects if required. When the books are collected the staff will ask that you complete a form with bank account details so that the funds can be paid directly to your account when sold.

Corliss McIBain
Business Manager
Hi everyone. There are lots of things happening in the area of careers at the moment. It is very important that students take the time to read notices published on the school intranet, on the school noticeboards – especially the noticeboard in the foyer of the library, in newsletters, bulletins and emails in order to receive information that may be relevant to them. Don’t miss out on events/information because you didn’t know they were happening!

The following events may be of interest to you. 

See Lavina Hamilton in the Careers Centre for more information:

**The Age VCE And Careers Expo 2013 –**

*20 FREE 3 day pass tickets*! Tickets are valid for the four days of the Expo. Collect them from Lavina Hamilton at the Careers Centre. Also collect a brochure outlining the seminar program for each day and an exhibitor list of names.

**Web Address:** vceandcareers.com.au

or contact resources for courses on (03) 9596 8881

Thursday 2 May, Friday, 3 May, Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th May, 10 am to 4 pm Caulfield Racecourse, Station Street, Caulfield.

The Age VCE and Careers Expo brings together over 170 organisations providing VCE, tertiary course, career, study skills and management, fashion, horticulture, hospitality, IT, music, nursing, tourism, trades, visual merchandising to youth work to name a few.

**Note:** If you are experiencing difficult financial circumstances you need to sit the UMAT and ATAR. The UMAT test date for 2013 is Wednesday 31st July; registrations open in April. The UMAT® Information booklet will be available **ONLY** on line in late March. In the meantime, the UMAT 2013 Information booklet and other information are at http://umatweb.acer.edu.au

**Practice Sessions in Mildura for Year 11 and Year 12 Students**

When are the practice sessions being held in Mildura by a company called MedEntry? Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd June - at La Trobe University Mildura Campus, Cost $199.00. This course will help students prepare to sit the actual UMAT test which is on the Wednesday 31st of July on the UMAT Senior College Hall.

Students wishing to attend an earlier training weekend can access the MedEntry website www.medentry.edu.au and access dates of earlier training sessions or purchase training packages. Note: (The cost of such sessions held in Melbourne are much more than that offered in Mildura.)

**South Australian Tertiary Information Sessions For Parents And Students**

Once again representatives from Flinders and UNISA will visit our school to provide students with information about courses at their university.

This year the dates are:

**Parent information session:** Wednesday 1st May, 7.30pm – 9:00pm in the School Gym. Closer to the time an information sheet will be sent home with students as a reminder.

**Year 12 student information session:** Thursday 2nd May, 9.00am – 10.30am School Gym. If your son or daughter is interested in applying for courses in South Australia in Aug/Sept. or thinking of going on the tertiary trip to South Australia on Sunday 19th May – Tuesday 21st May, this is a valuable information session for them.

**Upcoming Sports Dates:**

Welcome to another “Jam Packed” year of sport at Mildura Senior College. As usual, most of the Suncare Sports Competitions will be scheduled early in the year to try to relieve the pressure during exam times later in the year.

The first few sports dates to be aware of will be:

**Interschool Swimming:** 26th Feb. Starting at 10am due to the industrial action (was previously a night event).

**Cricket for Boys and Girls:** Thursday 28th Feb here at the Senior College.

**Lawn Bowls (in Bendigo):** Friday 8th March.

**Chess:** Wednesday 14th March at Trinity Lutheran College.

**Volleyball and Tennis:** Tuesday 19th March.

**Baseball and Softball:** Wednesday 20th March.

If your child wishes to represent the school in any sport this year, they will need to pay the one off ‘Sports Levy’ of $50 for the whole year. This covers the cost of travel, uniforms, equipment and replacement teachers for both local events and regional events should they win through to the next round.

If you could assist in any of these events, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school or at stepheng@milsen.vic.edu.au

**Community Notices:**

Tickets are now on sale for the inaugural Sunraysia Rotary Charity Ball, to be held on Saturday 16th March 2013 at Club Da Vinci, Mildura. Tickets include a 3-course meal with full table service, wines/beers, and fabulous entertainment provided by local dance band, Grab Ya Cat – no matter your age, you will not be able to resist the urge to get up and dance when this band starts to play. There will be an auction on the night, raffles throughout the evening and lots of prizes to be won.

All proceeds raised from this ball will be donated to the Sunraysia Autism Spectrum Support Group, ensuring that all funds raised go back to our local community. Kristen Veltmeyer, an experienced learning support and Special Needs teacher and Autism Spectrum Support Group, will be a guest speaker at the Ball, and will also be conducting educational workshops throughout our community during her stay in Mildura.

Get a group of ten friends together to form a table at this exciting event. Dress is Formal or Black tie. Tickets are $100 per person, and are available from Hammerton’s Jewellers in the Langtree Mall in Mildura, Char-Flair Hair & Beauty in Wentworth or Carla Jane’s boutique in Langtree Avenue, Mildura.

**Glen Stephen**  
School Sports Coordinator
Inaugural Sunraysia Rotary Charity Ball 2013
supporting Sunraysia Autism Spectrum Support Group

Clubs Da Vinci
Saturday March 16 • 6pm for 6.30pm start
Entertainment
Grab Ya Cat • Charity Auction
Tickets $100
Inclusive of 3 course meal, wines, beer, & soft drink. Spirits at bar prices.
Dress Formal / Black Tie
Ticket purchase outlets:
Hammerton’s Jewellers: 53 Langtree Ave, Mildura.
Carla Jane Boutique: 37 Langtree Ave, Mildura
Char-Flair Hair and Beauty: Wentworth Place
For further information:
Fiona Weir: 0428 250 604 or Julie Blore: 0427 273 585

Proudly sponsored by:
SASSG

Commencement Ceremony
MSC Calendar 2013

February
26  3 Way Conference
27   Girls cricket

March
6   Year 12 Cosi Performance
9   Girls & Boys football
10  Boys & Girls Soccer
15  SRC Shave for a Cure
18  College Council
19  Tennis & Volleyball
21  Baseball & Softball
28  End of Term 1

April
15  Term 2 begins
18  College Council
22  Anzac Day

May
2-3  Year 12 Chemistry Trip
6   Girls & Boys football
9   Boys & Girls Soccer
10  Market Day
14  3 Way Conference
15  College Council
19  End of Semester 1
20  Queens Birthday
22  Year 12 Ball
25  Report writing Day
28  Start of Semester 2

June
7   End of Semester 1
10  Year 12 Ball
14  GAT
17  Start of Semester 2

July

August

September

October

November

December