Start to School Year

I continue to be impressed with our student body and the level of commitment and dedication the majority of our students display. Mildura Senior College prides itself on providing opportunities for students who are completing their final two years of schooling in whatever pathway they may be pursuing. Throughout this year we have seen a number of students in a broad range of pursuits being recognised at a state and even national level for their achievements. Some notable mentions include; Katerina Blekic who achieved state and national recognition for public speaking, Todd Linnett who won the VACC Automotive Design award for the second year running and finally Joel Schwarz who recently was awarded the Australian School based apprentice of the year.

Tertiary Placements for our 2013 Graduates

The College was delighted with the range and quality of the tertiary study offers received by our graduating students in 2013. 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 continued increase in first round offers to students from LaTrobe – Mildura. Lavina Hamilton and Linda Snoxall have done a great job supporting the application process and ensuring students are making informed choices.

DEAKIN - Trade Training Centre facility at Mildura Senior College

The major hub of the Mildura Trade Training Centre project is now complete and the DEAKIN Trade Training Centre facility located at Mildura Senior College has started running classes from the start of the 2014 academic year. This fantastic facility will allow students to follow vocational pathways on a school site and move seamlessly between those and other classes in their programs.

School Insurance

Students and parents are reminded that there is no DEECD Insurance for accidents or thefts at school. There are Insurance companies who provide such insurance but this is the responsibility of families not the school. Our advice is to encourage students that bring valuables to school to ensure they are locked securely in their lockers or handed in at the general office for safe keeping during the day.

Retiring Members

Our last meeting of College Council on Monday 10th February saw the retirement from Council of three Parent Representatives – Gary Leeson, Stephen Lay & Brenda Hornsby. We recognised their professionalism, care and background knowledge which has made a valuable contribution to the work of Council and the success of our school.

Annual General Meeting

The next meeting of College Council is our AGM which will be followed immediately by the general committee meeting for March. This meeting is on Monday 17th March at 5.30pm in the College Library.

Commencement Ceremony

Thursday 13th of February was our Commencement Ceremony which involved the investiture of our College Captains – Joel Knight and Adele McGaffin and Deputy Captains for 2014, Tyler Trevaskis and Gemma Lehmann. This Ceremony also saw the investiture of our Student Council and the presentation of awards to students in Year 11 2013. The following Scholarships were also presented:

- MSC Sports Award
- Australian Defence Force Long Tan Leadership & Teamwork Award
- Freeman Family Mathematics/Science Award
- Paige McCarthy-Beard Memorial Award
- Mildura Rotary Scholarships

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 has 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 programs.

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 mid-year to consider subject changes. Students will receive information about this process in Pathways class towards the end of the Semester.

Student Services Centre:
Students are reminded that the Student Services Centre is where they will find the Student Coordinator, 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.

Student Coordinators:
We have 5 Student Coordinators at the College. Families should have received an introduction letter from their student's allocated Coordinator.

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/ Student/Teacher Evenings

Commencement Ceremony:
Congratulations to all of the students who received awards at the Commencement Ceremony on the 13th of February. We hope you have continued success through 2014.

Belinda Hudak
Assistant Principal

Student Learning:
We have had a smooth start to the year in all classes. Parents are reminded that in the near future they will receive or be able to access the following documentation:
- Course Outlines for each subject – what students will be studying, how they will be assessed and when major assessments will occur
- Amount of work out of class students are expected to complete (homework, study and revision) in each subject
- Student Progress Statement (SPS) 1 – see information below

Staff Professional Development:
We used January 28, 29 and 30 to prepare for the start of the year as well as undertaking compulsory PD in areas such as Asthma and Anaphylaxis. College Council has approved May 13 and October 22 as well as other Pupil Free Days for 2014.

Student Progress Statement (SPS) 1 and Parent/Student (PST) Conference 1:
Our first PST was held on Monday February 24 from 4pm to 8pm. Parents were able to collect SPS 1 on this night from the foyer in the Library. Any uncollected SPS will be mailed home to parents.
If you were unable to attend the PST, please contact the relevant teacher and make an alternative time.

The first SPS will inform parents about how well their daughter/ son has made the transition to Year 11 or Year 12 – essentially, how they have "settled" into the routine of MSC. The SPS will also show the contact email address for each teacher of your son/daughter. The next SPS (in April) will have a more academic focus, and will show information such as attendance and if all work has been completed by the student.

College Environment:
We have completed a number of projects over the holidays, including a new air conditioner in the canteen, exterior blinds in the Science Block and a new landscape in Deakin Avenue.

We have completed a number of projects over the holidays, including a new air conditioner in the canteen, exterior blinds in the Science Block and a new landscape in Deakin Avenue. All students are reminded that the Student Services Centre is where the range of courses on offer and the pathways to tertiary study will again be organised this year. It is important that students take the time to reflect on their new subjects.

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.

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.

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.

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

The following events may be of interest to you. See Lavinia Hamilton in the Careers Centre for more information:

College Captains, Vice Captain and other Members for 2014
College Captains: Joel Knight, Tyler Trevaskis, Adelle McCaffin.
Vice Captains: Gemma Lehmann

Other Members:
Olivia Ganz, Shene Stephens, Aimee Young, Caitlin MacGregor, Georgia Becker, Hannah Alessi, Hannah Dyson Berry, Liam Pain, Zac Gillard, Tashia Kite, Niek Wise, Allegra Bottrell, Isabelle Van, Vuuren, Madeline Barker, Jayden Byrne, Gary Millson, Holly Young, Tiana Sylvia, Michael Maunder, Letichia Piscioneri, Patrick McMahon, Patrick Horkings, Kristina Brooks. Louis Fasolino.

Marg Wilson
Student Wellbeing Coordinator

College News

Change of Subject – School Fee Statements
Students who have changed subjects will have their fees changed to reflect their new subjects. As these changes are made a new fee statement will be forwarded to the student's parent/guardian. Fee payments can made at Mildura Senior College's reception using the following methods of payment: cash, cheque and Eftpos. Alternatively payments may be made via Epay and individual Epay reference details are located on the bottom of the fee statement.

Student Coordinators
Tertiary Trips to Melbourne and Adelaide
Trips to Melbourne and Adelaide visiting universities and accommodation options will again be organised this year. This is an excellent opportunity for students to experience the university environment, the range of courses on offer and the pathways available. Year 12 students have a priority for these trips; however, the offer is also extended to Year 11 students if numbers allow.
When: Monday 12th May (leave at lunchtime) – Wednesday 14th May (return in the evening)

Approximate Cost: $200

More information will be available at a later date.

Yvonne Parker
Business Manager

Welcome to 2014 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. The College is in a partnership with TRISTAR and each Tuesday we have a doctor and a mental health practitioner on the premises. Referral to this service can be made through the Wellbeing Team. Parent permission is required for students to access this service.

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.

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Hi everyone. It is very important that students take the time to read notes published on the school intranet, on the school noticeboards – especially the noticeboard in the foyer of the library, in newsletters, bulletins and emails to access information that may be relevant to them. Don't miss out on events/information because you didn't know they were happening!

Career Centre

Mildura Senior College Newsletter
- 3 -
Mildura Senior College Newsletter
- 2 -
MedEntry are offering a scholarship which cuts 55% off the dates of earlier training sessions or they can purchase an (Mildura). Course cost around $270.00. This course will help MedEntry Practice Sessions in Mildura for Year 11 and Year 12 Students health sciences.

What is it? A series of three tests designed to assess general abstract non-verbal reasoning. These abilities are considered thinking and problem solving, understanding people and understanding the environment. What can you do? A chance to sit the UMAT if you are interested. What do you need to do? If so, you may need to sit the Undergraduate Medicine & Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT). Students wishing to apply for medicine, dentistry, optometry or veterinary should sit the UMAT in Year 12.

If you would like to make an appointment to see the careers advisor, just email Lavina Hamilton at hamilton@milson.vic.edu.au or go to the school’s UMAT Information Booklet will be available this month (March) on line.

South Australian Tertiary Information Sessions For Parents And Students

To get forms for the actual UMAT exam you need to access the ACER website http://umat.acer.edu.au. Registrations for the test will open in April. The UMAT Information Booklet will be available this month (March) on line.

Lavina Hamilton
Careers & Tertiary Advice Co-ordinator

Tell Me About The Tafe Option –

TAFE is Technical and Further Education, offering certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas, a number of degrees and apprenticeships/pre-apprenticeships. Courses are vocationally based, leading to employment or further education. Requirements for entry are generally less demanding than university. Some advantages of studying at TAFE are: small classes, usually low cost, courses are generally quite short, a broad range of programs, huge range of options from agriculture, building, business, childcare, conservation, design, engineering, event management, fashion, horticulture, hospitality, IT, music, nursing, tourism, trades, visual merchandising to youth work to name a few. For more information about courses call the TAFE Course Line on 13 1823 or see www.sunitafe.edu.au. The local TAFE in Mildura offers a wide range of courses – See www.sunitafe.edu.au

Students With Medical Conditions

Please help us to care for your teenager.

If your child has been diagnosed with a serious medical condition such as Diabetes, Epilepsy or a Severe Allergy, the college requires you to provide a ‘Medical Condition Management Plan’. If the school has already been notified of such conditions, you will receive correspondence and forms to be completed and returned to the office as soon as possible.

If you have not received any correspondence and your child has a medical condition that you would like to discuss, please contact the college office on 5211.2111.

Please be aware that as a duty of care, the College will call an ambulance at the parent/ guardians cost at any time we are concerned for a students’ health, unless otherwise stipulated by a Doctor or the Management. For the reason strongly urge you to subscribe to Ambulance Victoria. The ambulance service is free if a student has a current Health Care Card.

SRC Camp

On Tuesday 18th February, the bus left for Cowra Station with 27 of the 28 SRC Students on board, along with Sue Wilmann and Doug Shephard as the support crew.

The weather was beautiful, which meant everyone was full of energy and ready to have some fun. Once the camp was set up, the students attempted the challenge of moving people, using 5 4cmx4cmx44cm squares of carpet from point A to point B. Everyone had to be in contact with a carpet at all times, without anyone touching the ground.

How do you do it?? You get up close and personal!! You put 5 people on 2 pieces of carpet, and hope that you have good balance and small feet. Many methods were tried, and as frustration and tiredness set in, silly mistakes were made. Unfortunately no team experienced success, but each team got close.

Paper planes were made with limited materials and no talking – the best way to get some peace and quiet for 10 minutes!!! The competition was held outside with a bit of a tailwind, which only two teams were able to take advantage of, with the winning plane flying like a javelin through the air.

Everyone was excited about the evening activity – How to Host a Murder. The scene was a roaring 20’s opening of a nightclub with everyone dressed up as their allocated character. After a lot of wheeling and dealing, the making of deals, and our evening meal, two of the characters were killed off. This led the mad scramble to find the clues to as why these people died and who killed them. And it was time to see who had gathered the most information throughout the evening and could smoke out the killer. Nobody was able to name both killers and motives – even those who were the actual killers. By then it was time to wind down and fall into our beds.

Wednesday morning saw a very productive meeting with the whole year planned out. In regards to the events being run, and what we will be doing for them. It was then time again to try to achieve the goal of one team using the mats to get themselves across. After 45 minutes, the team that had gotten the closest were still 28 SRC Students on the ground.

Wednesday afternoon saw a very successful meeting with the whole year planned out. In regards to the events being run, and what we will be doing for them. It was then time again to try to achieve the goal of one team using the mats to get themselves across. After 45 minutes, the team that had gotten the closest were still 28 SRC Students on the ground.

Overall a great time was had to all. Congratulations to the students on their great attitude, positivity and willing to try anything once. They have formed strong bonds and good friendships that will help see a successful year had by all.

A big thank you to Sue Wilmann and Doug Shephard who have assisted on camp by being involved in the activities and providing the assistance when needed.

See photos on next page...
SRC Camp

SRC Camp

SRC Camp

SRC Camp
MSC Calendar 2014

February
24 Parent/Student/Teacher (PST) Conferences 5pm-8pm and SPS 1 (Progress Report) collection

March
10 SRC Shave For a Cure
14 Labour Day Holiday
14 SRC Shave For a Cure

April
4 End of Term One - 2.30pm dismissal
22 Term Two commences - 9am start (Tuesday)