Start to School Year
The start of the 2015 academic year at Mildura Senior College has gone very smoothly and we have begun the year with approximately 1000 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, including access to a refurbished Visual Arts Centre. 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.

Tertiary Placements for our 2014 Graduates
The College was delighted with the range and quality of the tertiary study offers received by our graduating students in 2014. Over 200 students received a first round offer. Many students received offers in both South Australia and Victoria and a significant number of students received scholarships to support their studies. We have also continued to see a good proportion of our students taking up a first round offer 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 program (The DEAKIN Trade Training Centre facility located at Mildura Senior College) is now in its second year of operation. This fantastic facility allows students to follow vocational pathways on a school site and move seamlessly between those and other classes in their programs. Additions to the program this year have been ‘block’ training on Wednesday mornings and VET Building & Construction has been added to the subject offering.

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 Front Office for safe keeping during the day.

Retiring Members
Our last meeting of College Council on Monday 9th February saw the retirement from Council of three Parent Representatives – Rod Matheson, Jillian Gardner and Tara Williams. 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 23rd March at 5.30pm in the College Library.

Commencement Ceremony
Thursday 12th of February was our Commencement Ceremony which involved the investiture of our College Captains; Patrick McMahon, Tiana Sylvia & Deputy Captains for 2015, Austen Keating and Vera Cheffers. This ceremony also saw the investiture of our Student Council and the presentation of Awards to students in Year 11 2014. The following Scholarships and Awards were also presented:

MSC Sports Award
Sheree Moore

Leadership & Teamwork Award
Vera Cheffers

Freeman Family Mathematics/Science Award
Courtney Chambers

Ted Lawton Environmental Award
Wade Edwards

Paige McCarthy-Beard Memorial Award
Jordan Jackson

La Trobe University Mildura Community Award
Dannielle Smith

PO Box 1436 Mildura, 3502  (P) 03 5021 2911  (F) 03 5023 2440  Email: mildura.senior.co@edumail.vic.gov.au
Principal Andrew Ough  Assistant Principal Belinda Hudak  Assistant Principal Mark Tracy

www.milsen.vic.edu.au
La Trobe University Mildura Business School Business Management Award
Benjamin Hall
La Trobe University Mildura Business School Accounting Award
Anthony Coluccio
Mildura Rotary Scholarships:
Irymple Secondary College - Samantha Leersen
Chaffey Secondary College - Hayley Mitchell
Merbein P-10 - Abbey Lovell
Henderson College - Savannah Knott
Trinity Lutheran College - Benjamin Miller
Mildura Senior College - Madeline Barker
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
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.
Student Coordinators
We have 5 Student Coordinators and families have received letters introducing them to their student's Coordinator. To speak with a Coordinator please call the College.

Reg Byrne   Joanna Panagiotaros   Jim Blue
Ineke Rogers   Barb Kelly

Tri-Star Medical Services on Site
We have a Doctor (General Practitioner) as well as a Mental Health Nurse available on site each week. Students who would like to make appointments should see the Wellbeing Team. Parents can also make appointments for their students by contacting the front office. Hours are 9am – 3:30pm.

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
• Ability to book for Parent/Teacher Interview evenings (Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences)
Over the coming months we will provide helpful hints on using our new system COMPASS.
If parents have any questions or queries, please contact the College on 5021 2911 and select ‘option 5’ for assistance.

To Approve Your Child’s Non-attendance
• Parents have the opportunity to approve past and future non-attendance via the parent portal on the College website.
• If there is an issue or query with a non-attendance and you do not approve the date/s or lesson/s, please email the subject teacher direct or email attendanceofficer@milsen.vic.edu.au for further information.
• It is important you call the College for anything that requires our attention. Your non-attendance approval will not automatically alert the student coordinator or our welfare team.

Student Drivers
If students are driving independently to school they should register their car with the Front Office. There is a short form to fill out that indicates who the car belongs to in case of an emergency or accident.
Students Drivers are reminded they are not permitted to transport other students during the school day. This includes lunch and recess time.

Wellbeing
Adolescence can be a challenging time for young people and their families. Please find below a list of resources you may find useful:

Care for you as a Parent: http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/parenting_teenagers_looking_after_yourself.html/context/1142

It’s still important to look after yourself as a parent.


There are some simple tips that may improve communication between young people and parents.


Our service is open Monday to Friday, 9.00am - 5.00pm. We welcome people to access headspace Mildura through a variety of ways including dropping in, making a phone call, email or fax. Referrals can be made by the young person or from a family member, GP, teacher, or someone close to you. If you are making a referral to Headspace Mildura on behalf of a young person we do ask that they are aware you are doing so.

Parenting support: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/contact/Pages/parentline.aspx?Redirect=1

Parentline provides parents and carers the opportunity to talk with professional counsellors about any parenting issues or concerns you may have regarding your child from birth to eighteen.
Students by:

It is clear that many students have made a solid start to the year showing student progress in the 3 Key Areas. Parents have also had the opportunity to attend two Parent/Student/Teacher (PST) Conferences during the year.

Whilst information has been mailed home regarding the SLP’s, I provide the following as a reminder:

- The SLP is a cumulative reporting system that monitors student learning every 3 weeks.
- Students will be rated on 3 Key Performance Areas – Work Completion, Demonstrated Understanding and Work Habits.
- Students will be rated on 3 levels – Above, At and Below.
- Students will receive a PDF of their SLP via email.
- Parents can view a copy of the SLP via the MSC Parent Portal, as well as receiving copies of SLP 1, 3 and 5 in the mail.
- The SLP will show the % attendance rate for each subject. A minimum of 90% attendance is required.
- The SLP will also indicate if the student is at risk of failing a subject or subject/s.
- The SLP should be used as the main discussion point at Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences during the year.
- The email address of each class teacher and the Student Coordinator will appear on the SLP – parents can use this to contact staff if they have concerns.

Parents should attend the next PST and/or contact the class teacher or Pathways Teacher if the student:

- receives one or more “Below” rankings in a subject,
- the performance of the student is declining (for example, ratings drop from “At” to “Below”), and/or
- ratings remain at “Below” for consecutive SLP’s.

It is clear that many students have made a solid start to the year in terms of their learning and establishing a routine, but it is important that improvement is a key focus. Parents can assist students by:

- Attending PST Conferences
- Responding to phone calls, emails and letters from the college
- Providing a quiet work/study area
- Restricting “screen time” – internet, television, phone
- Ensuring a balance between school work and leisure
- Monitoring attendance, either via the SLP or the Parent Portal
- Supervising homework and revision to see how much work is being done

- Ensuring student has plenty of rest
- Monitoring diet – avoid junk food
- Checking the college website for news and information
- Discussing SLP results – focus on improvement strategies
- Encouraging students to attend Homework Club
- Encouraging the productive use of Wednesday mornings

**Communication**

Please remember that the College provides communication to parents in a number of ways. These include:

- Parent Portal (access Student Reports, Attendance data, Timetables, Dates of Major Events, etc.)
- College website (access Key Dates and other information)
- Email – Information such as Career News
- Newsletter – general information about College Operations
- Text Messages – regarding attendance and other important reminders such as PST Conferences
- Phone Calls – regarding student progress and wellbeing issues
- Sign at front gate – upcoming major events
- Notices home – such as a Pupil Free Day

**Operational Reminders**

As we are an Asthma Friendly School, students should not be bringing aerosol deodorants to school or using these in confined spaces such as corridors. Asthmatics can have a severe reaction to these deodorants.

- Year 12 students cannot access local shops during their “frees”.
- Students must ensure their locker is secure at all times using the lock provided. Students should not swap or share lockers. The College will not accept responsibility for damage to or theft of valuables such as mobile phones and calculators.
- DEECD guidelines do not allow students to leave school early to commence part-time work. Students undertaking an SBA are exception to this.
- Any student who leaves the College grounds (e.g. for a medical appointment) and will miss a class or classes is required to sign out/sign in at the Student Services Centre. Any absence from class will remain as “unexplained” until a parent phone call or note verifies the reason for the absence. Parents collecting students for appointments must use the office as the “pick up” point rather than 14th St or Deakin Avenue which are high traffic areas.
- Under no circumstances should students invite or encourage “friends” or “cousins” to visit them on school grounds during school hours. Such actions constitute trespass and Police will be called if the trespasser poses any threat to student/teacher safety, or if their actions are on-going.

**Local Residents**

As our College is located in a residential area, students and parents are reminded that residents are entitled to their privacy. Our Code of Conduct identifies the out of bounds areas and the consequences for loitering near, trespassing on and littering properties owned by local residents to date, students have been considerate in this regard, but it is important to be mindful of others.

**Parents – Traffic Safety**

Parents are reminded to take care when “dropping off” students at the start of the school day or “picking up” students when classes finish. Both Deakin Avenue and 14th Street are very busy during these times and there have already been a number of minor accidents and “near misses”.

Parents are reminded that classes start at 9am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and on Wednesdays at 10.55am. Students arriving after these times without a valid reason will be marked as late.
Student Information

Student Special Provision
Any student who’s learning and assessment programs are affected by illness, impairment or personal circumstances may be eligible for Special Provision in 2015.

Special Provision is available for both Year 11 and 12 students. Please contact Tracy Marr ASAP if you think you may be eligible for Special Provision.

Tracy Marr
Pathways and Transition Coordinator

Subject Changes/Fee Payments
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 be made at Mildura Senior College's reception using the following methods of payment; cash, cheque and Eftpos. Alternatively payments may be made via Bpay and individual Bpay reference details are located on the bottom of the fee statement. A fee statement will be mailed home to all families during Week 1 of Term 2.

Please contact our Business Manager, Yvonne Parker if you require any further information.

Tertiary trips to Melbourne and Adelaide
We will be running trips to both Melbourne and Adelaide visiting Universities and student accommodation in Term Two.

Year 12 students will have priority, but Year 11 students may have the opportunity to attend if numbers allow it

Places available for each trip:
Melbourne – 50 students
Adelaide – 45 students

Those figures do not include staff
Date - Wednesday 20th May – Friday 22nd May
Cost - Melbourne - $220, Adelaide - $200 (based on last year’s costs)

More information will be distributed to students later this term.

Joanna Panagiotaros

Homework Club
Students and Parents are reminded that here is a Homework Club every Wednesday and Thursday from 3.30pm to 6pm in the College Library.

The sessions are supervised by teachers and provide students with a quiet work area to complete/finish off class work or to study/revise for upcoming assessments.

To date, the numbers of students attending have been very pleasing.

Attending sessions such as these will go a long way towards ensuring that students keep up to date and that they are better prepared for major assessments.

SRC Report
The SRC has started off with a real rush again this year. The Year 11’s were voted in with the largest number of Year 11’s standing for the final fourteen positions in the first three days of school. The current Year 12 SRC students also attended on the first day of school with the Year 11’s to assist them with the settling in process and to help them find their way around the school.

On Friday 13th February we ran our first event for the year selling and delivering red roses and chocolates to students around the school. We topped off the day with a BBQ at lunchtime with all funds raised going to Chances for Children. Approximately $500.00 was raised.

On Tuesday 17th February, we left during Pathways for Cowra Station where we spent the next twenty four hours getting to know each other, along with planning all of the up and coming events for the year. A big thank you to Craig Irvin and Belinda Pantarotto for coming along and supporting us. A thank you goes to Andrew Ough, Belinda Hudak and Mark Tracy for joining us for dinner on Tuesday night.

Our next event is Shave for a Cure on Friday 13th March at lunchtime, with three brave students shaving their heads – Lorianne Lowerson, Dylan Watson and Indi Wilkie. A BBQ will also be ran to help raise funds for these three students.

The following Friday will see the SRC run the annual SRC students vs Staff Tug of War competition at lunchtime, with it then being opened up to other groups of students to compete against each other. There will be homemade lasagne, vegetable lasagne and spaghetti bolognais available along with the drinks and chocolates. All money raised will go to support the local charity CHALLIS.

We will then finish the term off by going down to the Special Development School in the last week to run an Easter egg hunt for their junior students.

The SRC Members for 2015 are:
Captains
Patrick McMahon
Tiana Sylvia
Vice Captains
Austen Keating
Vera Cheffers

SRC Members
Isabelle Van Vuuren
Taylor Hand
Ehlana Mackay
Madeleine Barker
Madeleine Hogan
Holly Young
Patrick Hortkins
Daniel Williams
Hannah Harvie
Indi Wilkie
Brad Versteeg
Tyler Woods
Cassidy Mahoney

Tania Edgar
SRC Coordinator

Chaplaincy Service 2015
Mildura Senior College has had a very long association with Chaplaincy and has enjoyed the extremely vital support of a Chaplain as key member of our wellbeing team. The Chaplaincy Service at Mildura Senior College will continue to be provided by Mr Colin Cole who is full time and available during school hours.

The Chaplaincy service aims to support the emotional wellbeing of students by providing pastoral care services and strategies that support the emotional wellbeing of the broader school community.

School Environment
During the holiday break, works were undertaken to refurbish our old Technology teaching spaces. These are now much improved and provide a great learning environment for Art, Visual Communication and Design, Studio Art and Media students. S4 was also refurbished to become another Science Room.

During the Term 1 holidays, the old Art Rooms (A2 and A3) will be refurbished to improve the current teaching spaces for subjects such as Mathematics and English.

Mark Tracy
Assistant Principal

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The Chaplaincy service aims to support the emotional wellbeing of students by providing pastoral care services and strategies that support the emotional wellbeing of the broader school community.
Due to Department of Education changes to the National School Chaplaincy Program in 2015, all families must now give consent to receive Chaplaincy services. All students will be given information about the Chaplaincy Program in their pathways classes and as they can be deemed ‘mature minors’ are able to sign their own consent. Any parent or caregiver who does not wish for their student to access the Chaplaincy Service is requested to write to the College stating this is the case.

Further information about the Chaplaincy Service can be found on the College website or by calling the College.

2015 Debutante Balls
Planning is underway for the 2015 Debutante Balls. They will be held over 5 weekends within the month of August. 80 girls and their partners have now registered. Practices will start on the 26th April, we look forward to seeing you all there.

Colin Cole

Sports Report

Boys Cricket
The boys played a fantastic game on the Mildura Senior College oval on the 23rd February, great teamwork and sportsmanship shown throughout the day. In particular Bryson Lush and Kye Grimmer really stood up and displayed OUTSTANDING leadership. Riley Anderson's 65 was a deciding factor in the win against St Joseph’s. Great work all round.

A great group of young men who will be a pleasure to take to the next round.

Results
MSC 7/180 (20 overs) def Coomealla all out 80.
Best: K. Grimmer 36 no; B. Lush 25; B. Brinsmead 3/7
St Joes 6/108 (20 overs) defeated by MSC 4/109 (16.2 overs)
Best: R. Anderson 65; B. Lush 32.

Kevin Maunder

Community Notices

Medical Students interested in High School Tutoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Area of Interest</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bec – Y3</td>
<td>Y11, Y12 - English, Italian, Maths (Methods), Chemistry, Physical Education (theory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susanne – Y3</td>
<td>Y11, Y12 – English, Maths, Gen Science, French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callie – Y3</td>
<td>Y11, Y12 – Maths, Chemistry, Biology, Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily – Y3</td>
<td>Y12 - Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yael – Y4</td>
<td>Clarinet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ella – Y4</td>
<td>Y7-10 Maths, Science, English. Y11-12 English, Biology (VCE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reece – Y4</td>
<td>Y7-10 (core subjects) Y11-12 chemistry, maths methods and further maths</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parents should contact Kris Pinney at the School of Rural Health on 50225500 during office hours and she can provide the relevant student’s contact details.
**Chances for Children funding round is NOW OPEN – Closing April 24th 2015.**

Application forms (which includes eligibility guidelines) are available for download at www.chancesforchildren.com.au.

Please feel free to contact any of the Chances team in Swan Hill (50 324479) or Mildura/Robinvale/N.S.W. (50217480) if you have any questions or queries.

The chances team ask for your support to spread the word that the Chances funding Round is NOW OPEN – and invite you to forward this email to any networks, colleagues or friends who may be interested in knowing more about Chances.

Many Thanks
AVOID ALCOHOL & DRUGS

Some people make the mistake of thinking that taking drugs can help them cope in tough times. Drugs, including alcohol, can contribute to, or trigger, mental health problems in people. Mental illnesses linked to drug use include anxiety, depression, paranoia, panic attacks, and psychosis. And if you’re drinking a lot or taking drugs when you’re trying to study, you’ll be more tired and less focussed which could lead to an increase in stress when it comes to exam time.

EXERCISE YOUR MOOD

Physical exercise is good for our mental health and for our brains. When you’re feeling down the last thing you might feel like doing is exercising but studies have suggested that any activity, from walking around the block to yoga to cycling, could contribute to improving the symptoms of depression and anxiety and can help you feel less stressed.

POSITIVE SELF TALK

The way that we talk to ourselves, that voice inside of our head, has a huge impact on our outlook, our motivation and dedication to ourselves and our lives. It might not feel like it, but with practice you can change your self-talk. Positive self-talk is any thought you think, or any speech you say to yourself that uplifts your social, moral, spiritual wellbeing and results in improvement. Positive self-talk can be used for greater confidence, adopting a healthier lifestyle and reducing stress, and can be a very effective way to prepare yourself for a big test or exam.

USE RELAXATION TECHNIQUES TO MANAGE STRESS

There are many different relaxation techniques you can use to overcome stress. When you feel like everything is getting too much, remember to breathe deeply. Breathe through your nose for 5 seconds in, 5 seconds out and you will find your body calms down and relaxes. This can be very helpful to calm your nerves before an exam. Check out the web and app based program Smiling Mind for help with breathing and other relaxation techniques: smilingmind.com.au

EATING

Some studies suggest that what you eat affects your mood. A good balanced diet will make sure you have all the essential nutrients needed for your brain to function well, helping to keep you both physically and mentally healthy. You might have noticed that your mood can affect your appetite and food intake. Maintaining a healthy diet and regular food intake can be a way to look after yourself even at times you don’t feel like it. It’s easy to get tired when you’re studying a lot, but eating junk and drinking caffeine will actually make it harder to concentrate and more difficult to get good sleep.

GET SOME SLEEP

A good night’s sleep is vital for our mental and emotional wellbeing. Sleep disruptions can increase negative thinking and heighten our stress levels. Try to maintain a regular sleep and wake schedule, use the bedroom for its core purposes and avoid using distracting devices such as a television or a computer when you are in bed.

CONNECT WITH OTHERS

We are social creatures, and our social relationships are really important to our general wellbeing. It is okay to take time out for yourself, but don’t stay shut in. Keep your social relations strong when you are feeling stressed out, overwhelmed or depressed, as your friends and family might really be able to help you through these times.

HELP SEEKING

A problem can sometimes be too hard to solve alone – or with friends and family – so it’s important to seek professional help. You can see your family doctor, psychiatrist, nurse, occupational therapist, psychologist, social worker or counsellor. At school you could also talk to a trusted teacher, the Student Wellbeing Coordinator or school counsellor who can provide advice or direct you to the right person if you need further help. Be honest to yourself about when you may need support and don’t be afraid to find someone to talk to – it might feel scary at the start but it gets easier over time.

TAKE TIME TO STUDY

The exam period can be a particularly stressful time, but setting time aside to make sure you fit your study in can help reduce your stress and anxiety. To reduce exam pressure, think about doing things like plan to have a good balance between social life and study time; plan rewards for after exams; study actively and do past exam papers; develop a study routine at home.

AVOID ALCOHOL & DRUGS

Some people make the mistake of thinking that taking drugs can help them cope in tough times. Drugs, including alcohol, can contribute to, or trigger, mental health problems in people. Mental illnesses linked to drug use include anxiety, depression, paranoia, panic attacks, and psychosis. And if you’re drinking a lot or taking drugs when you’re trying to study, you’ll be more tired and less focussed which could lead to an increase in stress when it comes to exam time.

If you are in need of help, visit headspace.org.au
Log on to eheadspace.org.au for online support and counselling
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 College Council Meeting</td>
<td>13 Term 2 starts 9.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 SLP 3</td>
<td>27 College Council Meetings 5.30pm to 7.30pm - Appointments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Term 1 Ends 2.30pm</td>
<td>11 Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 Student Free Day</td>
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