NEWS FOR PARENTS

Key Dates: (These will also be available on the College Website)
February 8  College Council Meeting
February 8-11  VCAL Senior Day Trips to Sextons
February 9  School Photos
February 15  Parent/Student/Teacher (PST) Conferences 5pm to 8pm
February 15-18  VCAL Intermediate Day Trips to Sextons
February 16-17  SRC Camp
February 16  Adelaide Uni Parent Info Session – 7.15pm
February 25  Commencement Ceremony

PRINCIPAL’S WELCOME
Welcome to 2016
Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2016. As we have approximately 550 new enrolments, many parents may not be aware that this Newsletter is published and distributed by mail at least twice per term. We mail all newsletters to ensure parents receive them. Please inform the office if your address changes.

This year will also be an exciting year for the following reasons:

- We will continue to grow access and subject range at the Mildura Region Trade Training Centre; Deakin site, which is located at Mildura Senior College. This will give students from our College and across the district access to, 'state of the art' trades training facility as part of their school program.

- We will be continuing our focus on staff and leadership development to ensure students continue to have access to high quality teaching & learning.

- We will be continuing a 'Bring your own device’ (BYOD) program so that students and families will have a level of choice when it comes to electronic devices to assist student learning. This will be supplemented by an extensive level of ICT resource throughout the College and a new web-based intranet system called Compass.

- All areas of student support will have an increase in resourcing ensure students are monitored and supported along their learning journey and given every opportunity to succeed.

Staffing for 2016
The following is a list of staff with key positions of responsibility in the College. Parents may find this list useful in contacting the College:

**Principal**
Andrew Ough

**Assistant Principals**
Mark Tracy
Belinda Hudak
Deanne Marr (Acting Terms 1-3)

**Business Manager**
Yvonne Parker

**Sub-School Leaders**
Reg Byrne
Joanna Panagiotaros
Ineke Rogers
Jim Blue
Lucinda Gadsden
Graeme Smyth
Craig Irvin
Marg Wilson

**Student Wellbeing Coordinator**
Martha Maiorana

**VCAL Coordinator**
Kelly Morrison

**VETiS Coordinator**
Linda Snoxall

**Careers & Tertiary Advisor**
Lavina Hamilton

**Student Activities Coordinator**
Tania Edgar

**Sport Coordinator**
Emma Broadbent
Additions to our staff for the start of 2016 include:

Rob Sinclair VET Automotive & Metals
Heather Laity VCE Mathematics & VCAL Numeracy
Andrew McCormick VCE English & VCAL Literacy
Grant Forrest Mildura English Language Centre
Tess Daniele Mildura English Language Centre
Carma Donehue VCE Psychology & Health/Human Development

Start of the School Year
It is very important that students get off to a smooth start to the year. Research confirms that students who feel connected and at ease with their environment will have a better opportunity for success. Teachers have been asked to place particular emphasis on establishing strong working relationships within classrooms early in the year. This is one of the reasons we have made the decision to start the Year 11 students one day earlier than our Year 12s.

A number of important events such as our Student Council Leadership Camp and our Commencement of the Academic Year Ceremony are soon to occur. All these events establish our expectations for the year with students and build positive relationships. (See the Calendar for specific dates).

Student Leaders for 2016
We would like to congratulate our nominated and elected student leaders for 2016. We place a great emphasis on student leadership within the college, and with what I have witnessed so far we have an outstanding group of young adults this year to provide that leadership.

College Captains for 2016
Madeline Hogan & Daniel Williams

Deputy Captains for 2016
Sophie Chislett & Connor Turlan

College Council Elections
Please find attached to this newsletter, details of the election of Parent Representatives for the next two school years.

Student Injury Personal Accident Protection
Parents should be aware that the College does not provide comprehensive insurance cover for students. Parents requiring information about student insurance regarding accidents or personal items bought to school are advised to contact an insurance retailer.

I look forward to working with you towards a successful 2016. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at the College if I can assist in any way.

Andrew Ough
Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S WELCOME

A warm welcome to all students and parents, in particular the more than 500 students and their families who are new to our learning community.

We would like to wish everyone all the best with their studies. We are confident that you will adapt to the new routine/s at our College. Your time here is a great opportunity to prepare yourself for life beyond secondary schooling.

To those students who are returning, build on your progress from last year and make the most of the opportunities that Year 12 provides. Time passes very quickly in Year 12 and students must ensure that they are up to date at all times.

We have very high expectations of our students and these will be outlined in coming newsletters and at assemblies.

We hope you all have a great start to the year!
Student Pathways, Transition and Well-Being
As a quick reference guide, parents and students are reminded that the following points will ensure a smooth start for students in 2016:

- The College has a minimum attendance requirement of 90% for all classes, including Pathways. Rolls are marked each lesson and parents will receive an SMS notifying them of an unexplained absence.
- Students must bring correct materials to all classes – this includes appropriate footwear for practical classes.
- Students should not access their lockers between classes – this is disruptive and wastes time.
- The College has very high expectations of student behavior – first impressions count!
- Mobile phones are permitted at the College, but as a courtesy, these must be turned off and be out of sight during class time.
- Access to local shops during the school day is permitted at lunch and recess only, students are not permitted to stay at the shop after their purchase.
- Smoking is not permitted on College grounds or in the vicinity of the College. This rule is strictly enforced.

Parents - if you have not already done so, please supply the College with a current email address and mobile phone number and always keep this updated.

BYOD
Students who bring their own ICT device will have the opportunity to do so during a scheduled rollout commencing Feb 3rd. Students can see the Help Desk for support and set up. Students can print a new Timetable from the College Intranet from any computer at any time.

Student Support
The Student Services Centre is a great place for students to get help and assistance, Sub School Leaders (formerly Student Coordinators), administration and course support and the Attendance Officer can all be found there.

We will continue our partnership with TriStar Medical Group this year and appointments can be made through the Wellbeing Team for the GP and Mental Health Nurse.

2016 Daily Start and Finish Times

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Classes Start</th>
<th>Classes Finish</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>9am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>3.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>9am</td>
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Tips for Success
Students can ensure a smooth start to the year by following these tips:

- Enter all due dates/important dates on a calendar.
- Familiarize yourself with the rules as quickly as possible.
- Arrive punctually to class with the correct materials.
- Settle into a routine of homework, revision and study as soon as possible.
- Keep up to date with all classwork.
- Hand work in on time.
- Ask for help.

Attend Parent Student Teacher Conference (PST) on February 15.

Reports
Parents will receive information about our reporting system very soon. Parents will receive regular updates (every 4 weeks) on Student progress via the mail and through our Parent Portal, as well as contact details for class teachers, Pathways Teachers and Sub-School Leaders.

Parent Portal
With this mail out, parents will receive information regarding access to and use of our Parent Portal. This portal will provide parents with access to a range of information, including student attendance information, timetables and reports. If there are any issues accessing the portal, please contact the College.

Mark Tracy, Belinda Hudak, Deanne Marr (Acting) Assistant Principal Team
STUDENT SPECIAL PROVISION

Any student whose learning and assessment programs are affected by illness, impairment or personal circumstances may be eligible for Special Provision in 2016.

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

Marg Wilson
Leading Teacher - Student Wellbeing

PARENT/STUDENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE (PST)

Our first Parent/Student/Teacher Conference (PST) will be held on Monday February 15th from 5pm to 8pm.

For this PST, appointments are not necessary, but interviews should be limited to 5 minutes. It is an ideal opportunity to "meet the teachers" and gain an insight into the expectations, style of learning and study routines associated with senior schooling.

Students are welcome to attend with their parent/s. Upon arrival, parents should make their way to the Library to collect information, including a map showing rooms and the location of teachers. Parents are reminded that all 2016 PST dates are available on our Compass calendar and College website.

We look forward to seeing you there.

WELLBEING TEAM

Welcome to 2016 from the Wellbeing Team at Mildura Senior College.

Our staff that are part of the Wellbeing team are

Martha Maiorana       Student Wellbeing Co-Ordinator       maioranam@milsen.vic.edu.au
Roz Devilee           School Nurse (Available Mondays/Tuesdays) devilee@milsen.vic.edu.au
Marg Wilson           Leading Teach Student Wellbeing       wilsonm@milsen.vic.edu.au
Colin Cole            College Chaplain                       colec@milsen.vic.edu.au

Please contact us at the College on 03 5021 2911 or on the above emails if you have any concerns or information for us about your son/daughter.
KOORIE GIRLS ACADEMY/CLONTARF FOUNDATION

The Koorie Girls Academy and the Clontarf Foundation would like to welcome all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, parents and carers to Mildura Senior College.

We look forward to supporting the students in achieving their dreams. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the College:

Victoria Van Schie  Coordinator  Koorie Girl's Academy
Nathan Murphy  Mentor  Clontarf Foundation

Year 12 Rugby Jumpers

Year 12 students have the opportunity to purchase a Year 12 Rugby Jumper for 2016.

The orders are made through Sportzprint. We do recommend that the students go down to Sportzprint to try on the garments before making the order, as once embroidered, returns cannot be accepted.

If they can't make it down to Sportzprint to try on, they can order online up until the cut off date. There is a measurement chart provided, but we can take no responsibility if the wrong size is ordered.

The closing date for this is February 5th. The students need to have their order in and paid for by this date. There will be no orders accepted after this date. We are only doing the one and only order.
Mildura Senior College Council

Notice of Election

(And call for nominations – Date: 5th February 2016)

Our College Council has a total of fifteen (15) members:

- Six (6) elected parents
- Four (4) co-opted community members
- Four (4) DEECD employees (teachers), and
- The Principal

This year the following councillors will have completed their respective terms in office:

**Parent Members:**  
Barbara Chaplin  
Philip Hand  
Stephen Lay

The membership categories and number of positions available for election are as follows:

- **Parent Members**  
  Three (2 years)

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Nomination forms can now be obtained from the college and must be lodged by 4.00pm on Friday 26th February 2016.

If an election is to be conducted for membership vacancies the ballot will occur, closing by;  
Wednesday 9th March 2016

Following the close of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the college. If an election is necessary, ballot papers will be sent out by mail.

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies a note to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted.

The poll will be declared on Friday March 11th, 2016.

Andrew Ough  
Executive Officer