KEY DATES

February 13th  Parent/Student/Teacher (PST 1) Conferences 5.00pm to 7.30pm
February 14th - 15th  SRC Camp
March 1st  School Photos
March 2nd  Commencement Ceremony
March 3rd  SLP 1 (Student Progress Report 1) available to Parents via Compass Parent Portal
March 10th  School Photos Catch Up Day
March 13th  LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY
March 24th  SLP 2 (Student Progress Report 2) available to Parents via Compass Parent Portal
March 27th  Parent/Student/Teacher (PST 2) Conferences 5.00pm to 7.30pm
March 31st  End Term 1 - classes end at 2.30pm

PRINCIPAL’S WELCOME

Welcome to Mildura Senior College 2017
Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2017. 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.
- All areas of student support will have an increase in resourcing to ensure students are monitored and supported along their learning journey and given every opportunity to succeed.
**Staffing for 2017**
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**
Belinda Hudak
Tracy Marr

**Business Manager**
Yvonne Edwards

**Sub-School Leaders;**
Reg Byrne
Joanna Panagiotaros
Ineke Rogers
Jim Blue
Andrew Banks
Graeme Smyth
Deanne Marr
Marg Wilson

**Student Wellbeing Coordinator**
Martha Maiorana

**VETiS Coordinator**
Linda Snoxall

**Careers & Tertiary Advisor**
Lavina Hamilton

**Student Activities Coordinator**
Lachlan Lean

**Sport Coordinator**
Emma Broadbent

Additions to our staff for the start of 2017 include:
Phillip Donald (ICT)
Tess Danielle (Arts/Community Services)
Candice Burley (English/VCAL Literacy)
Wendy Kelly (Mathematics)
Louise Barry (Mathematics)
Isabel Dawson (Office Administration Trainee)
Keren Ablett (Integration Aide)
Dale Hudak (Instrumental Music Teacher - Percussion)
Penn Farmer (Instrumental Music Teacher - Guitar)

**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 2017**
We would like to congratulate our nominated and elected student leaders for 2017. 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 2017** - Amelia Power & Christian Jackson  
**Deputy Captains for 2017** - Emma Golding & Atticus Banks

**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 2017. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at the College if I can assist in any way.

Andrew Ough  
Principal
ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS’ WELCOME

A warm welcome to all students and parents, in particular the more than 550 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 2017:

- 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.

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.

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) (This is an opportunity for parents to meet teachers and gain assistance to access the Parent Portal.)

Reports

Parents should have received 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 (Compass)

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.

Belinda Hudak and Tracy Marr
Assistant Principal Team
Mildura Senior College Council

Notice of Election

(And call for nominations – Date: 06/02/17)

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:  
- Sunita Kalkal
- Maddalena Chislett
- Mark Jenkins

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

- Parent Members: Three (2 years)

Nomination forms can now be obtained from the college and must be lodged by 4.00pm on Friday 3rd March 2017.

If an election is to be conducted for membership vacancies the ballot will occur, closing by:

Wednesday 15th March 2017

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 17th, 2017.

Andrew Ough  
Executive Officer
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