

MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Newsletter No : 17

DATE: 25 October 2018

We value being: **RESPECTFUL** **SAFE** & **RESPONSIBLE**

Child Safe: Mildura Specialist School is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and has a zero tolerance for child abuse.



Striving for Independence

DATES TO REMEMBER

25 & 26 October—Cricket Carnival for Upper Middle and Later Years students.

1 November—“One Song”

6 November—Public Holiday

21 December—Last day of Term

Principal's Report

Awards: Congratulations to our award winners this fortnight.

I would particularly like to celebrate the nomination of two students in the District Careers Award ceremony at the Mercy Centre last Thursday night. This is the first time our students received nominations and I congratulate both Sanchia Pearce Davies and Andrew Papillo on their excellent work.

Ali Gercovich, from Lower Murray Water, attended assembly this week to present awards to students for their work learning about water as a valuable resource. The awards encourage students in their learning and they look forward to the recognition.

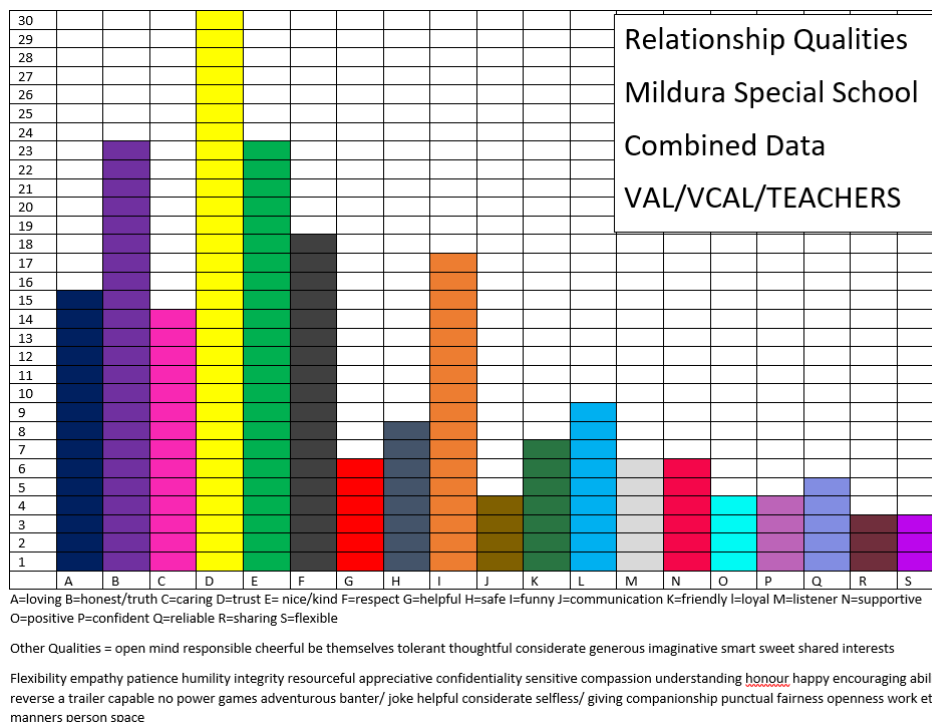
Many students received awards for their work exhibited at the Mildura Show. Students and staff work extremely hard at this time to meet deadlines for exhibits. It is a lot of fun and rewarding to see works on public display.

Friday is 'World Teachers Day'. I am sure you can think of a teacher in your life who made a difference. It is an opportunity to talk to your child about being grateful and thanking those who help them in their day. I am certainly grateful to our staff for their commitment to ongoing learning and planning to improve education for the students they teach. Tuesday was Occupational Therapy Day and we are fortunate to have therapists to guide the work of our teachers in their programming.

Curriculum: Students in Later Years have been working on their values topic during Personal Development. Learning about values involved exploration of what each meant and looking at examples to establish common understanding of each.

The graph shows Kaitlyn's collated data on the student's ratings of values. Interestingly they found Trust was the most highly rated value for both staff and students. Trust helps build relationships and develop confidence in self and others. Take a closer look and see how you might rate values and perhaps do a quick quiz at home.

Pizza Café: Another fabulous night was enjoyed by a full house at our annual Pizza Café fundraiser held on Tuesday night. Organised each year by Cathie Toma, the night is always a success with great food, lively atmosphere and an auction and raffle. Our local businesses are so generous to help us develop and improve our facilities and Joseph at Pizza Café generously sponsors this opportunity each year. If you ordered take away pizzas on the night or attended, Thank you. Cathie's team included Ali and Jarrod Gercovich Cheryl Davidson, Mark Tregeagle as MC and Sharyn Morris, Jodie Gibson, Ani Chiswell and David Wright on the night. Tense Veneri from Barry Plant Real Estate was amazing in an entertaining and lively auction. To all who attended to make the night a success, thank you and see you next year.



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Principal's Award

Congratulations to all Award winners this fortnight.



SWPBS—School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

Students in Room Two are learning about being responsible. They are gaining more independence following both their visual schedules and staff instructions when they complete a number of tasks during the school day. These tasks include helping each other in the Kitchen Garden, keeping their work area tidy when working at their tables and sitting as a group for circle time.



Art & Music Awards



ABSTRACT WORK FROM UPPER MIDDLE YEARS!

For the past two weeks, Upper Middle Years students have been exploring some techniques for making abstract paintings. Starting with random bold black lines painted around and across their sheet of paper, students filled spaces in between with white paint. Working quickly, acci-

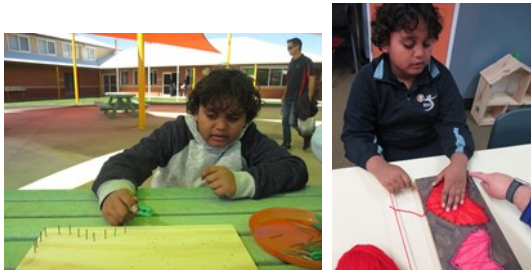


dental blends with the still wet black paint produced a variety of grey shades, which took on an energetic feel across the whole image. This was followed by a dash of colour to highlight areas in the grey and give a sparkle to the overall work. Finally a layer of varnish was applied across the entire dry surface to bring back the shine of life into each student's piece.

This project has been so successful that extra Art Awards needed to be presented! Well done to Benjamin (22), Justin (23), Andie (24) and Dwayne (25) for producing such eye catching paintings!

NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

The Early Years' students have begun learning about Celebrations this term. They are enjoying a number of different activities in their classes. In Room 2 we started by celebrating our achievements at the Mildura Show. Please remember hats and drink bottles for Term Four.



Deshawn creating his string art which he received First Place.



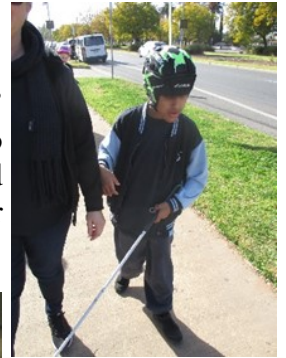
Sarah decorated a gingerbread man and received a Second Place ribbon.

This week, Lower Middle students participated in a range of arts and craft activities to prepare for the Mildura Show exhibits. Student also engaged in work related to what people do or how they prepare for the Mildura Show or Halloween. Students have been revisiting the wearing of hats as part of being SunSmart. Lower Middles students have also been using their communication devices outside their classrooms as a part of speech team's initiative to encourage awareness of devices around the school.



NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

This term we will be concentrating our learning on the following themes 'Our Body' and 'Celebrations'. It would be wonderful if families could send along a baby photo of their child for us to talk about during our literacy sessions. Students worked hard to complete some wonderful art for the Mildura Show and the Lower Murray Water Competition.



Students from Lower Middles, Upper Middles and Later Years have been participating in the Victoria Cricket Woolworths Cricket Blast Program. A specialist coach has been running separate clinics for each section of the school. The program lasts for 4 weeks and includes some students participating in the Country Care All Abilities Cricket Carnival on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 October. Thank you to Mrs Patterson for organising the Clinic and the School's participation in the Cricket Carnival.



Sunraysia Careers Network held the Student Excellence Awards last Wednesday.

The awards recognise students who work to the highest standard in their Vocational studies. It was a full-house with families, school staff and sponsors attending. This year was the first time students from Mildura Specialist School received a nomination for these prestigious awards.

Andrew Papillo and Sanchia Pearce-Davies were nominated in the VCAL Foundation – Additional support. They attended an interview with a panel of industry and educational representatives then attended the Awards night where they were presented with their Certificates. We congratulate them both on their achievement.



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Fruit

Fruit is good for us because it has vitamins and minerals – tiny ingredients that our bodies need to keep us happy and healthy.

Different fruits have different vitamins and minerals, especially fruits of different colours, so it's important to eat a variety of colours every day. Can you name a fruit for each colour of the rainbow?

Fruit also contains fiber, something that keeps us feeling full, and helps move food through our bodies after we've eaten it.

Fruit tastes good at any time of the day. You could have it at breakfast, at recess, with your lunch, when you get home from school, or for dessert – the possibilities are endless. What's your favorite fruit? When did you last eat it?

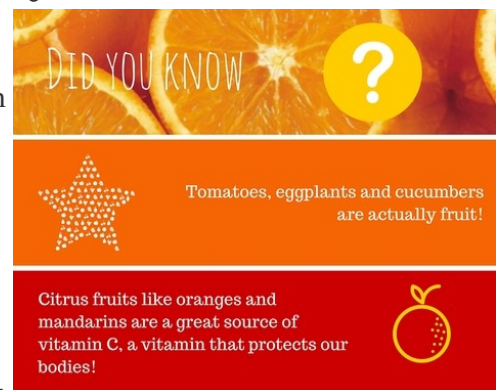
Fun ways to include fruit every day:

Make a fruit salad with a grown up that contains one fruit of each colour

Make some yummy **Frozen Fruit Bites**

Sources:

National Health and Medical Research Council 2013, *Australian Dietary Guidelines Summary*, accessed 4 August 2015, www.eatforhealth.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/the_guidelines/n55a_australian_dietary_guidelines_summary_131014.pdf



Benefits of Creative Play

Play in my day was much different to what it is now. In this time with technology being so popular it's important to find the balance. When is it okay for your child to just sit and play video games or watch TV and when should they be outside playing? Elements of play are important for every child and creative play is underestimated and gets lost amongst the hype of computer games. Creativity involves tapping into the imagination and thinking outside the box. Through imaginative play, kids explore new ideas and interests. They mimic the world around them, as well as the world that exists in their fantasies. It helps them relate to others, improving sociability, establish new friendships and strengthen existing relationships.

Darren Jones – Student Wellbeing Coordinator

SCHOOL REMINDER

EXCURSIONS

All excursions can be paid by instalments, either at the school office or online through the school account. See above for details for the school bank account. Please ensure all relevant forms are signed and returned with payment before the due date.

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSION FUNDS (CSEF)

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) commenced in 2015. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card (Centrelink Card/Health Care Card) or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply for CSEF. \$125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students, and \$225 per year is paid for eligible secondary school students. A special consideration eligibility category also exists. Payments are made directly to the school. CSEF applications forms are available at the front office.

PAYMENTS

School fees, camps, excursion and cooking costs etc. can be paid to our Bank Account details are

Commonwealth Bank
BSB: 063 557
Account No: 10080861

Please enter the name of student and activity you are paying for.
Thankyou

MEDICAL

At Mildura Specialist School we have children who are at risk of an anaphylactic reaction to **nuts, eggs, seafood and kiwi fruit** in the school. Please be mindful of this when preparing your child's lunch or snacks.



HEADLICE



As a school community, we share the responsibility to control and manage head lice infections. Head lice have been around for many thousands of years and cannot be eradicated. Supporting each other to minimize their spread is vital.

It is important to check your child's head regularly with conditioner and comb even when you don't think your child has head lice.

MEDICATION

In the interests of safe practice, medication must be brought to the office in its original packaging by an adult and paper work completed to authorise school personnel to administer it.

Please note: Students are not to transport medication to school.

CANTEEN NEWS

The canteen will operate each Friday; orders must be completed and returned to school no later than Tuesday morning of that week.

Order forms are available to download and print from the MSS website.

All lunch orders must be in on Tuesday mornings.



UNIFORMS

Our school uniforms are supplied by LASER SIGN & PRINT and are available from 3 Andriske Crt Mildura. Contact person is Darran Seaman, phone: 03 5021 1129 mob: 0429 437 858

For all other enquiries for uniforms please contact the school.

PARENT/GUARDIAN/CARER CONCERNS

If you have a concern with any aspect of your child's education, please contact the Office (5021 3311). They will:

1. Put you in touch with the appropriate person
2. Help organise a meeting with the appropriate person.

It is important that your concerns are addressed as quickly as possible.

SCHOOL REMINDERS

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Parents/Carers please take note of Parent Pick Up times.

Early Years and Lower Middle Years: 2:40—2.50 PM

Upper Middle Years and Later Years. 2.50—3.00PM

This is to help ease congestion on Deakin Ave and for safety of cars and students.

STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is sick or absent, you are required to notify the school as soon as possible **on the day of absence**. Notifying the school of your child's absence either prior to, or on the day that they will be away, helps ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and will fulfil your legal responsibility.

If your child is absent on a particular day and you have not contacted the school to explain why, the absence will be marked as unexplained.

Please notify the school by one of the following means:

- Phone: 03 5021 3311
 - Medical Certificate
 - Appointment notification
 - A signed and dated note with student's full name
-

SAME DAY NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT ABSENCES

New Education Department Attendance Guidelines

Schools need to know when and why a child is absent and you need to know if your child isn't at school. From the end of Term 2 2018, all Victorian government schools are required to contact parents/carers as soon as practicable on the same day of an unexplained student absence. If your child is absent on a particular day and you have not contacted the school to explain why, the absence will be marked as unexplained.

This system also promotes daily school attendance. Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education, they learn new things every day – missing school puts them behind.

What is your responsibility?

You are legally required to ensure your child attends school every day or you must provide an explanation for their absence. You should let the school know in advance of any upcoming absences or let them know in the morning if your child won't be at school. In order for schools to implement the same day notification requirement, it's essential that you provide the school with your most up-to-date contact details.

Generally one notification will be sent per family. Should there be circumstances that require both parents and carers to be notified, please contact the school to make the necessary arrangements.

What is the school's responsibility?

The school must notify you of an unexplained absence in relation to your child as soon as practicable on the same day.

We will let you know by phone. If you can't be reached because the school does not have your correct contact details (i.e. changed phone number, SMS/email failure notification received etc.), the school will attempt to make contact with any emergency contact/s nominated on your child's file held by the school. Where possible, this contact will be made on the same day of the unexplained absence.

WORLD TEACHER DAY

I am sure you can think of a teacher in your life who made a difference. It is an opportunity to talk to your child about being grateful and thanking those who help them in their day. I am certainly grateful to our staff for their commitment to ongoing learning and planning to improve education for the students they teach.



Great teachers make a difference

#WorldTeachersDay #TeacherDifference aitsl.edu.au/wtd

Occupational Therapy News

"In occupational therapy, occupations refer to the everyday activities that people do as individuals, in families and with communities to occupy time and bring meaning and purpose to life. Occupations include things people need to, want to and are expected to do." (WFOT – World Federation of Occupational Therapists).

Occupational therapists work with people of all ages and abilities to do the things they need and want to in all aspects of life, such as taking care of oneself and others, working, volunteering, and participating in hobbies, interests and social events. Occupational therapists call these things "occupations".

Megan assisted by **Cathie** provide Occupational Therapy services at school. Examples of areas we work on at school are:

- Fine motor skills
- Dressing independently
- Managing toileting independently.
- Building independence at mealtimes
- Sensory programs to support learning in the classroom.
- Managing mobility using a wheelchair.



CELEBRATE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DURING

OT WEEK

21-27 OCTOBER 2018

Occupational
Therapy AUSTRALIA



**REACH YOUR
POTENTIAL**
21-27 OCTOBER 2018
#OTWEEK2018

COMMUNITY NEWS

Kids Art Club – Kids Communicating Through Art

In our new Art Club kids aged 5-10 will work with experienced artist and facilitator Kate Cotching to use art as a way of communicating and connecting with others.

Sessions will start with a warm up art game, followed by a short activity to promote communication. The second half of the session will allow kids to explore their own amazing ideas. At the end of the session grown ups will be invited in for a special viewing and a discussion of the art the kids have made that day.

Sessions start Friday 2nd November and run for 7 Fridays through to Friday 14th December from 4-5pm at the beautiful Merbein studio at 198 Third St Merbein.

Cost is \$185 for 7 sessions. Limited spots available!

Book on

<https://www.sunraysiaartsandlearning.com.au/enrolments/registration/> or 0420939229 or enquiries@sunraysiaartsandlearning.com.au



WITH ONE VOICE

Would you like to be inspired, unleash your creative potential and improve your well-being? Then a With One Voice choir is for you!

Singing is the language of the heart. For centuries, song has played a key role in community, culture and story-telling. Yet how many of us dare to sing these days, apart from in the shower?

Every week Creativity Australia's *With One Voice* choirs inspire diverse people from more than 40 nationalities, for kids and adults to sing side by side.

There are no auditions and no singing experience is necessary. age, race, religion, disability and disadvantage fade away. Families, professionals, students, seniors, migrants, refugees...everyone is welcome.

With One Voice choirs are led by professional conductors and meet weekly followed by supper.

Choir is a great place to find your voice, find friends, de-stress, build well-being and confidence, learn new skills and connect to your community.

Simply come along and you will be warmly welcomed.

0499837122

withonevoicemildura@gmail.com

www.creativityaustralia.org.au/choirs/mildura

Facebook – With One Voice Mildura

With One Voice Mildura

When: Fridays 6-7.30pm

**Info Night - Friday 12th
October 2018**

**Where: Sunraysia
Community Health
Services Activity Room
137 Thirteenth St Mildura**

**Conductor: Catherine
Threlfall
Supper included**

Creativity Australia is a not for profit
registered charity.
Join us in Song!



Arrowsmith Young program

**"What is the Arrowsmith
Young program
and how might it help
someone you love
who has a learning disability?"**

**Come along to Life Skills
on Pine,
110 Pine Avenue, Mildura,
Thursday 25th October,
2018, 7-9 pm.**

**This amazing program has
helped thousands in
120 centres across 8 different
countries.**

**Come along and see what it
is**

**all about and if and how we
might be able to help
get this program happening
here in Sunraysia.**

**Book via Eventbrite, or text
msg 0428 952 408".**