College Principal’s Report

AUSTRALASIAN PROBLEM SOLVING MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIADS (APSMO)

In terms 2 and 3 students in the Year 7BS SEAL class took part in the Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiads (APSMO). Every year over 40,000 students in schools from all over Australia, New Zealand and neighbouring countries participate in the Olympiads. The Olympiads consist of five separate papers (in the form of challenging questions) which are held approximately one month apart, between May and September. Congratulations 7BS for participating enthusiastically in the Olympiads and in particular Evelyn Blagrove is to be commended for achieving a score in the top 25% of results.

AWARDS NIGHTS

This week we held our Middle Years Campus Awards Night and Senior Campus Awards Night and Graduation Ceremony. On behalf of the College we would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all Year 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 Award winners as well as those who excelled in their Year 12 studies.

In particular, we wish Anushka Sharma an extra congratulation for achieving the highest ATAR score for our College this year and therefore, earning herself the title of Mill Park Secondary College Dux for 2014.

Our Graduating Class of 2014 are an amazing group of young people and have made us very proud with their achievements. We wish them all the very best as they leave our College and head off into their bright futures.

To all the staff who supported and contributed to making the Awards Ceremonies a success we say thank you.

We are thrilled with this year’s VCE results. There were numerous outstanding performances and very stiff competition for the Dux.

We would also like to thank our amazingly talented, dedicated and passionate staff for their work this year. Their commitment to ensuring each of our students maximise their potential is outstanding. We congratulate the students and wish them every success in their future endeavours. We challenge the students undertaking Year 12 next year to outdo these results. The bar has been set higher!

STAFFING

A number of staff will sadly be leaving the College at the end of the year, either due to retirement or taking up positions at other Colleges. To the following people we say thank you for your contributions over the years and all the very best for 2015:

Georgios Zonnios
Diane Guillemain
Sev Bektash
Connie Aldemir

Cameron Ross
Jenny Davies
Steven Gray
Peita Fox

Vyvyan Stranieri
Sarah Wilson
Phil Harris
Matt Robinson.

Elif Yurtsever
Lauren Kyte
Donna Leggett
Tara Xuereb

Staff taking long term leave are:

Ajitha Roy
Jan Platek
Kerry Norton
Renee Langerak
Eugene Roizman
Cameron Senn-Sanger

Tracy Fisher
Jack Williams
Maree van Raay
Louise Oteri
Ken Ong
Melissa Whitaker

Margot Vigliotti
Dorothy Cheale
Renee Colbe
Kate Tassone
Karen Koutsodontis
Matthew McGovern

Anushka Sharma
BOOK COLLECTION DAY

Book Collection Day is on Tuesday 27 January 2015 at the Middle Years Campus library.

Times: 8:30am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5:00pm

Payment of Parent Supported Materials and Services can also be paid on this day.
Cash and credit card payments will be accepted. Payment can also be made via BPAY, please refer to your statement for your unique BPAY reference number.

BOXING DAY SALES

Next year we will be trialling a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program. Students will then be able to access the school network 24/7. There will be no need to purchase any software for the computer. Students can choose to bring their own device to school.

In introducing the program we have taken care to ensure that less expensive devices will be compatible. I will provide more details about this exciting change next year but thought that if you were taking advantage of the Boxing Day Sales and saw a red hot bargain you could pick up a compatible device.

The minimum specifications needed are included in this newsletter.

FORWARD PLANNING – THE START OF THE 2015 SCHOOL YEAR

As many families are planning their summer holidays it is important to note that ALL STUDENTS will commence on Thursday 29 January 2015.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We wish you all a wonderful festive season and a safe and restful holiday.

Trish Horner

EQUUS 2014 YEARBOOK

2014 Equus yearbook is available.

You can purchase your copy at the office for $20.00 or if you missed out on last years copy you can purchase both 2013 and 2014 for a combined price of $25.00.

Limited stock so get in fast!
stepUP is a uniquely Mill Park Secondary College program that runs at the end of term 4 each year. Its key focus is to transition Year 11s into 12, Year 10s into 11 and Year 9s into 10 for the following year. Each of the week-long programs focus on setting expectations and familiarising students with the key aspects of their learning for the following year. Another aspect of the program involves spending a day at La Trobe University. Mill Park Secondary College is proud of its partnership with the university. La Trobe University opened in 1967 with a specific brief of educating the young men and women of the northern suburbs of Melbourne. The College is delighted that an increasing proportion of our students are going to university. We are even more excited about an increasing number of our students gaining entry to La Trobe. Research conducted last year in Australia revealed that a person with a university degree will earn around one million dollars, or more, over a lifetime compared to someone who does not.

This year’s programs were a resounding success and included inspirational speakers, listening to the experiences of current university students, information about pathways into LaTrobe and the various courses. The importance of aspiration and goal-setting in life has been another key message. Next year’s 12s elected their College Captains, the Year 11s of 2015 hip hopped and zumba’d the afternoon away while the 10s of next year brought the house down with their bongo drums in what could arguably be a world record in the number of students participating in African fusion. A keynote address by Oscar Yildiz, the Chief Executive Officer of Bully Zero Australia Foundation, included a strong and timely reminder of the far-reaching consequences of cyber bullying.
Languages Excursion – Co.As.It

On Monday 17 November Miss McIlroy, Mrs Magdalani and Mrs Barnard took our SEAL and Extension classes on an excursion to Co.As.It in Carlton. The day was filled with many activities and students learned about the history and migration of the Italian people to Australia. Students also learned about the hardships that were faced by many migrants and how they overcame them and eventually added and enriched our culture in Australia.

Afterwards, everyone enjoyed lunch at the original ‘La Porchetta’ in the heart of Carlton and some yummy gelato. Our students were very well behaved and everyone had a wonderful time, including the teachers. Thank you to the support of the staff and to our students who appreciated the day out.

Mrs Barnard and Miss McIlroy.
STAYING SAFE AND HEALTHY OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Travelling safely in regional Victoria

- Check the Fire Danger Rating for your destination before you go and when you arrive, and listen to local radio for warnings and advice while you’re on the road.
- Download the FireReady app, bookmark emergency.vic.gov.au, and save the Victorian Bushfire Information Line number – 1800 240 667 – into your mobile phone. Make sure your mobile phone has a fully charged battery.
- Monitor weather conditions while you’re away by listening to local or ABC radio and talking to locals when you arrive about the fire risk.
- On Extreme or Severe Fire Danger Rating days, it’s safer to travel to cities and towns. Never travel into a high-risk area where a Code Red has been forecast.
- Be aware of grassfires. Grassfire can move at speeds of up to 25 km/hr and jump highways.
- Check weather conditions and your fire risk before leaving home because you may not get phone reception across regional Victoria.

Staying safe in the great outdoors

- Some parks may be closed on days of high fire danger. If you’re planning to visit parks or forests, visit www.parks.vic.gov.au or call 13 1963 for park closure information.
- Pack appropriate safety equipment including map, compass, first aid kit, and distress flares in case of emergency.
- Completing a Trip Intentions Form could save your life. If you are planning an extended trip, provide your family/friends with a map of where you are going, your vehicle registration and when you plan to return. For more information go to Let someone know before you go
- You can hire an Emergency Beacon (EPIRB) in case of emergency. For information on emergency distress beacons visit AMSA Beacons.

Campfires

- Approximately 10 per cent of fires in Victoria’s parks and forests are started by campfire escapes. Before you light a fire, check local fire restrictions and if a Total Fire Ban is in force by visiting: http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/
- Campfires must be lit in a 30 centimetre deep hole and cannot exceed one square metre in size. Extinguish your campfire with water, not soil. When it’s cool to touch, it’s safe to leave.

Staying safe on our waterways

- Families are encouraged to get out and enjoy our beautiful waterways this summer, but to do so safely.
- Be aware and prepared for the conditions. Check the weather conditions and monitor them while you are out on the water.
- Read safety signs located at the beach or inland waterway and ensure you understand the local hazards and dangers.
- Assess yours and your child’s abilities and whether your activities are appropriate for the conditions.
- Always swim at a patrolled beach between the red and yellow flags where our lifesavers can look out for you.
- Actively supervise children at all times. Ensure children under five are within arm's reach, and children under 10 are within your sight.
- Never swim alone. Too many drowning deaths occur when no one else is around to help.
- Think before jumping or diving from piers and jetties to minimise the risk of spinal cord injury. Water depths change daily as a result of the tides, sand movement and submerged debris such as shopping trolleys are unexpected hazards.
- Beware of blue-green algae, especially in mid-late summer. Avoid swimming in affected lakes as the algae is poisonous.
**Boating**

- Life jackets are compulsory.
- Check tide charts and weather for yachting, sea kayaking, kite boarding and other water sports at Marine Weather Conditions.
- Conduct a full safety check of your boat/watercraft before you leave.
- If you plan to kayak, check river levels before you leave and when you arrive.

**Staying healthy and safe in pools**

- Ensure children are actively supervised by an adult at all times when in the pool.
- Check and maintain pool and spa fences. Rust, missing bolts or screws and general wear and tear can make them less secure.
- Ensure there are no objects near the fence which make it easy for children to climb over.
- When kids aren’t feeling well, they can contaminate pool water, making others sick. Do not swim if you have diarrhoea.
- Avoid swallowing pool water.

**Resources**

- Find your nearest patrolled beach and its current conditions at: [www.beachsafe.org.au](http://www.beachsafe.org.au) or download the app for your smartphone.
- Find more information and download fact sheets about healthy swimming at: [Better Health Channel](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au),

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**BOOKSELLING DAY**

**Middle Years Campus Library**

**Tuesday 27 January 2015**

8:30am to 12:30pm
and 1:30pm to 5:00pm

**REMINDER for non collected parcels**

If you **have prepaid** your order and cannot collect it on the sell day please arrange for a family member /friend etc, to collect on your behalf. Any prepaid parcels returned to Campion may be charged an additional $5.95 by Campion on collection from the Retail store.

If you have **not prepaid** your order and do not collect it from the sell day, this parcel will not be available for collection as it will be returned to stock.
Under the BYOD Program, students in Years 7-12 can choose to bring their own computing device to school each day from Term 1, 2015. This personal computing device needs to meet Device Specifications that are recommended by the school and listed below.

The device specifications identify the minimum system requirements/hardware specifications for student devices and offer guidance on some suggested makes and models so that parents are fully informed about requirements.

While all devices meet the minimum system requirements/hardware specifications, the school strongly recommends that students choose a laptop device to ensure that their BYOD maximises their learning experiences.

Please Note: The MPSC wireless network only operates on the 802.11n 5GHz standard. Devices with 802.11a/b/g or 802.11n 2.4GHz only will not be able to connect.

BYOD Program – Minimum Requirements

| Form Factor            | Laptop, or convertible device:  
                         | A convertible device must have a physical keyboard attachment with separate keys for A – Z and 0 – 9 and which physically move when depressed. It must run one of the specified operating systems. |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Physical Dimensions    | Minimum laptop Screen Size: 9"  
                         | Maximum Screen Size: 15.8" |
| Operating System       | Microsoft Windows 7 or newer  
                         | Apple macOS X 10.6 or newer  
                         | Microsoft Windows RT  
                         | Android 4 or newer  
                         | Note 1: Android-based tablets will require two free apps installed to function at school  
                         | Note 2: Windows RT is untested but should be functional for the basic requirements of the BYOD program. |
| Wireless Capability    | Device must have 5GHz 802.11n support. This may be advertised as “Dual Band Wireless”, “802.11abgn”, “802.11agn”, “802.11ac” or “Gigabit Wireless”.  
                         | Note: Devices marketed as “802.11bgn” probably do not support the required standard. |
| Battery Life            | Advertised battery life of at least six hours |
| Additional Recommendations | Maximum weight: 2kg  
                         | Minimum RAM (Laptops): 4GB  
                         | Disk configuration (laptops): Solid State disk  
                         | Accidental loss and breakage insurance |

*Please take special note of the Wireless Compatibility requirements. This is the most difficult requirement to verify yourself for Windows laptops. If you are unsure, consider purchasing a recommended device.

Functional Specification

Additionally, the device must meet all of the following functional requirements pertaining to software:

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<tr>
<th>Operating System</th>
<th>As per the Hardware Specification, above</th>
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<tr>
<td>Connector</td>
<td>All devices will require a free Citrix software connector. Android devices will require free Drayn app to allow proxy authentication. Installation Instructions can be found on the Mill Park website.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Backup</td>
<td>Minimum a USB drive for data backup. Students must ensure that their files are regularly backed up.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Security Software</td>
<td>Windows laptops/tablets + Mac laptops require an up to date antivirus package. Free packages such as ClamXav 2 for Mac and Microsoft Security Essentials for Windows 7/8 can be used.</td>
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Mill Park Secondary College

Your uniform is on the move!
Last day of trading at your current store is **Thursday, December 18.**
Your uniform will be available online at www.psw.com.au or, as of **Monday, January 12,** at the new PSW South Morang store.

**PSW SOUTH MORANG**
Unit 4/5 Danaher Drive,
South Morang VIC 3752
E-mail: southmorang@psw.com.au

**TERM 4 & 1 TRADING HOURS**
Mon to Fri: 8:30am - 5:00pm
Sat: 9:00am - 1:00pm
Sun: CLOSED

**LAY-BY AVAILABLE WITH 20% DEPOSIT**

www.psw.com.au - Save Time, Shop Online!

Lay-bys available with a 20% deposit. Lay-bys must be collected by Friday 19 December, 2014. Offer not available online.