Create your future

RESPECT ACHIEVEMENT RESPONSIBILITY ENJOYMENT
Together, we engage, educate and celebrate excellence, developing students who are respectful and responsible

College Principal’s Report

A FANTASTIC START TO 2015
2015 has started with an air of excitement, energy and commitment to excellence.

INTRODUCING THE NEW PRINCIPAL TEAM

DEPARTMENT CHANGE OF NAME
Parents are advised the department is now known as the Department of Education and Training (DET).

MAXIMISING LEARNING TIME
We were thrilled with the results of the graduating class of 2014 and congratulate them on their success in creating a bright future. It is a goal of the College that all students complete 6 years of secondary schooling. Our particular focus this year is maximising learning time and insisting on and supporting high achievement. You can help us by reinforcing this at home and also supporting students to arrive at school on time, ready to learn, every day.

WHO’s WHO
I would like to congratulate Geoff Matheson and Andrew Keating on their appointment to the Leadership Team. Andrew will lead Senior Curriculum Innovation and Geoff will join the Teaching and Learning Coaching team with a particular focus on classroom support. I also thank Bill van Driel who has stepped up to an acting role as Middle Years Campus Student Manager and Melissa Stephens will continue her Coaching role as well as leading Middle Years Curriculum Innovation.

A warm welcome is extended to our new staff: Tel Ellison (Maths), Sarah Forbes (Maths / Science), Cassandra Futzer (LOTE / English), Katharine Grounds (PE), Abbie Jewell (Dance), Kane Ord (English / Philosophy), Juan Ospina Leon (Maths / Economics), Michael Palmer (Maths / Science), Robert Parente (Maths), Jennifer Richards (Maths / Science), Neil Robertson (Maths / Science), Jesse Roth-Barton (Chemistry), Alison Tandy (Maths / Science), Jarayed Garlick (Laboratory Assistant), and Adele Rogers (AFL Trainee).

We also welcome back Jaclyn Curnow and Jayne Mitchell from long term leave.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2015
The School Council elections are open for nominations as of Monday 9 February 2015. There are 4 Parent and 3 DET vacancies to be filled. Information about the election process, a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations schedule is included in this newsletter. Nomination forms are available from both General Offices and close at 4:00pm on Monday 16 February 2015.

STANDING COMMITTEES
If you don’t want to join the School Council, but still want to contribute to the College’s future direction, please consider joining one of the School Council’s standing committees. Members meet twice a term on a Tuesday night and all recommendations made by the committees are taken to School Council. Being a member of a committee also enables greater understanding of how the school operates and how decisions are made.

The standing committees are: Education; Student Engagement & Well Being; Resources; Community and Finance.

It is vitally important that we have parent input. If you are interested in joining one of the committees or have any questions, please contact Joanne Armarego on 9407 9700 or armarego.joanne.r@edumail.vic.gov.au.
SCHOOL PHOTOS
Middle Years & Senior Campus school photos were held on Wednesday and Thursday. There is a follow up photo day for any students who missed out; this will be held on Friday 13 February 2015 at both Campuses.

EVERY DAY COUNTS!
The school must be notified of reasons for absence.
Refer to the tables below for Approved and Unapproved reasons for absence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPROVED REASONS FOR ABSENCE</th>
<th>UNAPPROVED REASONS FOR ABSENCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Illness</td>
<td>Driving lessons</td>
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<td>Personal issues (without further explanation)</td>
<td>Family commitments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Job interview</td>
<td>Car or bike breakdowns</td>
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<td>Medical / dental appointments (which cannot be arranged out of class time)</td>
<td>Sleeping in or missing the bus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Court appointments</td>
<td>SAC / SAT preparation or completion of work due in other subjects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Court counselling</td>
<td>Part time work commitments or Centrelink appointments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College / State / National representation in sport</td>
<td>Licence testing</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Supporting upset friends or timetable mix ups</td>
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EVERY DAY COUNTS WHEN CHILDREN ARE LEARNING TO COUNT
Following is an article that was published in the Herald Sun on Monday 2 February 2015, it was written by Senator Scott Ryan, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education and Training.

Too many students are missing too many classes. If a parent was told their child has a 90 per cent school attendance rate, they probably wouldn’t be too worried. A few days off school with a tummy ache, a few days off school to catch up on sleep, a few days off school to visit relatives — what’s the big deal?

But what if they were told that if their child stays home one in every 10 school days? By the start of Year 10 that means they will have missed a full year of school. Most parents would react with horror at the idea of missing a whole year of school. And rightly so.

While school attendance is primarily the responsibility of state governments and our schools, as students head back to the classroom, the Australian Government is keen to impress on parents the importance of sending their children to school each and every day. In Victoria, 178 schools had average school attendance rates below 90 per cent in 2013. Around Australia, almost one in five Australian schools has an average attendance rate of 90 per cent or less.

Too many students are missing too many classes. This creates problems for teachers, who are forced to spend time playing “catch up” to bring absent students up-to-date. It creates issues for other students who sit down to finish a group project only to find one or two members of their group are constantly missing. But most of all, it creates serious difficulties for the student who is missing.

A student’s level of school attendance has a major influence on their academic achievement. Studies have shown the more a student misses school, the lower a student’s NAPLAN test score. NAPLAN is not an end in itself, it is the way we measure whether students are learning how to read, write and do maths. These are essential skills necessary for further learning and the basic skills needed in a workplace. The implications of missing school are grave and long-term: fewer employment opportunities and lower wages throughout life.

Unfortunately, research has also shown that students who miss lots of school tend to have things in common. They are more likely to come from disadvantaged backgrounds, they are more likely to have parents with a low level of education and they are more likely to be indigenous.

While government and school principals have a role to play in promoting school attendance, the prime responsibility is for parents to ensure their child attends every day they can, to ensure they are not left behind.

Parents need to impress on their child the importance of attending school every single day.

Parents should also talk to their child’s teacher if there are barriers in getting their child to school or if there are other factors that make school attendance a problem.

A day off here and there might not seem important, but the effect of absence accumulates over time. Whether on the couch at home or hanging around at a shopping centre, the more school students miss, the more their academic achievement decreases.

In 2015, the number one lesson for all parents needs to be: children who attend school every day will be more successful adults. Every day matters.
IMPORTANT REMINDERS
At this time of year it is important to remind you of the following information

- **VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL**
  All visitors, including Parents / Carers, must report to the General Office upon arrival. All official visitors are signed in and carry a Visitor’s Pass. Parents / Carers are not permitted to walk around the school unaccompanied.

- **SCHOOL ZONES**
  Parents, carers and visitors are reminded of the importance of road safety around schools. School Speed Zones will be enforced from the commencement of the school year and parents / guardians / visitors are requested to abide the speed limit in the designated school speed zones during the specified times (8.00 - 9.30 am and 2.30 - 4.00 pm).

- **SAFETY FIRST**
  In the interest of students’ safety, the staff car parks at each Campus are FOR STAFF ONLY. Parents / guardians / friends dropping off or picking up students are asked to park their car in nearby streets and not in the Staff Car Park.

- **ACCIDENT INSURANCE**
  The Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and carers are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Student accident insurance policies are available from some commercial insurers. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance.

- **LEAVE VALUABLES AT HOME**
  The Department does not hold insurance nor does it accept responsibility for private property brought to school by students, staff and visitors. Personal property is often brought to school by students. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. Students are discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

- **STUDENT TRAVEL CONCESSIONS**
  All students requiring a Student Pass are required to obtain a 2015 Public Transport Victoria Student Concession Card as proof of their concession entitlement. Further information and the Application Form can be obtained from: train stations, Public Transport Victoria (PTV) hubs, PTV Call Centre (Ph: 1800 800 007) or online at www.ptv.vic.gov.au

- **THREE BIG CHANGES TO THE VACCINE PROGRAM**
  In 2015 three major changes to the vaccine program will impact on parents of secondary school students:
  1. The Whittlesea Council’s immunisation service may contact you about the secondary school vaccine program. Schools have been authorised to provide parent contact details to local councils for this purpose. Contact the school nurse, Cathy Cranfield on 9407 9700 by 28 February 2015 if you do not want your contact details given to the Whittlesea Council.
  2. In 2015 only, the vaccine that protects against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough will be offered to all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. From 2016, this vaccine will be offered to Year 7 students only. This will provide earlier protection from these diseases.
  3. The time-limited human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine program for Year 9 boys was completed in December 2014. HPV vaccine will continue to be offered to all students (both male and female) in Year 7 from 2015.

To learn more about the changes, the diseases, the vaccines, or how you can prepare your child for vaccination go to www.immunehero.health.vic.gov.au

- **IMMUNISATION DATE FOR 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Vaccines</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4 March</td>
<td>Yr 7 Girls &amp; Boys (HPV1)</td>
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<td>Yr 7 8 &amp; 9 Boys (Boostrix)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22 April</td>
<td>Yr 10 Girls &amp; Boys (Boostrix)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 30 April</td>
<td>Yr 7 Girls &amp; Boys (HPV2)</td>
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<td>Yr 9 Boys (HPV2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 24 August</td>
<td>Yr 7 Girls &amp; Boys (HPV3)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Yr 7 Girls &amp; Boys (Chickenpox)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**ADJUSTING TO THE FIRST WEEKS OF SCHOOL**
Back-to-school can be a very emotional time for students. For students new to the school, adjusting to a new environment, new people and adapting to a new routine can be overwhelming. You can help by talking about the positive aspects of school. Tell stories about your happy, funny and enjoyable experiences at school. Talk to older siblings about the ways they can help so they don’t tell scary stories.

Some students may be anxious about what to expect at school. If so, one way of helping them is to talk through their fears:
- Set aside time to talk about school and take an interest in what they have been doing.
- Listen carefully to any worries they might have, but build on their positive experiences.
- Keep a regular routine at home to keep stress to a minimum.
- Use school newsletters and information to make sure your child knows what is happening and is informed and prepared about any changes to their routine.
- Keep positive as most problems will resolve themselves.

**PARENT PLANNER**
Also in this bumper issue of the newsletter is a parent planner for the term to keep you up to date on the myriad of activities the students are involved in.
BULLY STOPPERS: Being Cool Online

Students achieve their best at school in safe and supportive environments, where they are free from bullying and disruptive behavior. We put a big emphasis on making sure we provide a great environment for our students – one that promotes tolerance and is inclusive, harmonious and free from bullying.

We can work towards this goal through education in the classroom, intervention in the playground and a focus on promoting positive behavior.

However, with the rise of social media, bullying now occurs online, as well as in person. Cyberbullying is just as harmful as face-to-face bullying, and online actions can have real life consequences.

Cyberbullying is an increasing issue in the wider community – and the best way to tackle it is for schools, students and parents to work in partnership.

Mill Park Secondary College is supporting the Victorian Government’s Bully Stoppers campaign – which has just launched a new series of tools and resources for parents and students to support students in preventing cyberbullying and how to practice Netiquette. Available from 10 February, students in Years 3 – 12 are encouraged to participate in an online quiz hosted on the Bully Stoppers website, where they will learn more about how to be good net citizens and go into the draw to win an iPad as well as other prizes for our school.

These resources, called Bully Stoppers: Being Cool Online, are available on the Bully Stoppers website, at www.education.vic.gov.au/bullystoppers - visit the site to find out more.

SAFETY IN OUR DRIVEWAYS

The risk of children being killed or injured in driveways returns to high levels as Victorian children return to school. An average of seven children die from being accidentally run over in Australian driveways each year with a further 14 seriously injured. Most incidents occur in the child's own home during the hectic morning and afternoon school run periods.

Sadly, the driver is usually a parent, relative or family friend and in the majority of cases, the driver simply didn't know the child was outside or close to the vehicle. Kidsafe has launched a community awareness program which includes safety fact sheets and a video featuring former AFL player and media personality Ryan 'Fitzy' Fitzgerald.

The program focuses on three simple messages: Supervise, Separate, See.

- Supervise: Never let young children play unsupervised, especially near parked cars or driveways. Even when waving goodbye, hold your child's hand.
- Separate: Always separate play areas from driveways and ensure gates to driveways are secure.
- See: All cars have blind spots. Reversing sensors and cameras can assist, but should not be relied on to keep children safe. Get into the habit of walking around the car before driving when you know young children are at home.

For more information, see: http://www.kidsafevic.com.au/road-safety/driveway-safety

We work in partnership with you to create bright futures for our students.

Trish Horner
College Principal

HOMEWORK CLUB 2015

Homework Club is held in both Campus libraries each week after school.

- Senior Campus Thursday 3:02pm – 4:30pm
- Middle Years Campus Wednesday 3:02pm – 4:00pm

Teachers are on hand to assist students and afternoon tea (toast, snacks, cordial) is served.

All students welcome!

Bronwen Quayle
College Librarian
IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING STUDENT HEALTH

If a student is unwell every attempt will be made to contact parents, guardians or emergency contacts. In the event of serious injury or illness where a nominated person cannot be contacted, a decision will be made in the best interest of the student.

This is why it is vitally important that student records are maintained with medical conditions, allergies and special requests. If your child requires medication at school this should be monitored through sickbay.

IMMUNISATION DATES:

**SENIOR CAMPUS**
- Wednesday 22 April  Yr 10 Girls & Boys (Boostrix)

**MIDDLE YEARS CAMPUS**
- Tuesday 4 March  Yr 7 Girls & Boys (HPV1)
- Yr 7 & 9 Boys (Boostrix)
- Thursday 30 April  Yr 7 Girls & Boys (HPV2)
- Yr 9 Boys (HPV2)
- Monday 24 August  Yr 7 Girls & Boys (HPV3)
- Yr 7 Girls & Boys (Chickenpox)

By now all Year 7, 9 and 10 students will have received their immunisation cards, spare cards are available at the General Office. **All cards must be returned signed even if the student isn’t being vaccinated.**

ANAPHYLAXIS
Anaphylaxis (a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening) affects a number of students at the College.

If you have a child with this condition and not alerted the College it is imperative you do so immediately. Parents who have received forms to be filled out can you please return them so we can update our records.

One of the most common allergens are nuts and eggs and we ask that parents make their children aware of this condition, and to be careful when sharing food with other students.

If you have any concerns or queries regarding this condition please don’t hesitate to contact the College.

Asthma affects approximately one-fifth of our student population. These students are encouraged to use their medication accordingly under the family doctor’s instruction, i.e. before sport if needed and students should have access to this medication at all times. Ventolin inhalers and spacers can be obtained at various locations around the school.

On Thursday 3rd April the Athletics Carnival will be taking place. Students should wear appropriate clothing, a hat and apply sunscreen regularly to avoid the pain and danger of sunburn.

The PE curriculum offers a wide variety of sports and students are expected to participate. In the interest of dental safety a mouthguard should be worn when involved in sporting activities.

HEAD LICE
While children are at school many families will have contact with head lice. Head lice are small wingless, blood-sucking insects. Their colour varies from whitish-brown to reddish-brown. Head lice only survive on humans. If isolated from the head, they will die very quickly usually within 24 hours.

People get head lice from direct hair to hair contact with another person who had head lice. This can happen when people play, cuddle or work closely together. Head lice do not have wings or jumping legs so they cannot fly or jump from head to head. They can only crawl. Many lice do not cause an itch so you have to look carefully to find them; it is a good idea to check your child’s hair periodically.

**Treatment**
A lotion can be used to treat head lice. This can be purchased at a Pharmacy. Another method is by using conditioner. According to the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, children with head lice can be readmitted to school after treatment has commenced.


INFECTIOUS DISEASES
If your child has been diagnosed with an Infectious Disease (e.g. Measles, Chicken Pox, etc) please ensure they have a clearance from the doctor before returning to school.

If you have any concerns regarding your child’s health or safety don’t hesitate to call the School Nurse, Cathy Cranfield, between 8:30am and 3:10pm.

Cathy Cranfield
School Nurse
WELCOME

It is with great pride that I write my first report as Senior Campus Principal of Mill Park Secondary College. As a former student of the College, it is certainly humbling to take on this position. I was in the very first cohort of students to attend and graduate from the College, and my work as a teacher and Principal within this school is aimed at making sure that every student receives the same outstanding educational experience that I did. I take great pride in the great achievements of our students who have contributed to making our College great, and the outstanding teachers who work tirelessly to support, challenge and extend our students.

Since the first graduating class in 1997, the College has seen over 5000 students graduate and go on to have success in careers as diverse as accountancy, building, teaching, IT and law. A number of former students of the College have returned as teachers, as teaching is one of the most popular careers for MPSC graduates, which says a lot about the College itself. Our College graduates have also had a big impact on building the community in this area, from the many graduates that own and manage small businesses, to the two former students currently serving as City of Whittlesea Councillors.

My message to all of our students is to take pride in being a student of Mill Park Secondary College, and aim to add your name to our very long list of graduates and high achievers.

VET SPORT AND RECREATION PROGRAM

Congratulations to the Year 12 VET Sport and Recreation class who successfully convened the College Swimming Carnival on Friday 30 January. This was an excellent example of the practical, real life experience that VET students receive when studying a Vocational subject. Hands on project learning at its best! The students had a very short timeframe to prepare the event, but all reports said they did an outstanding job.

If you or your child has an interest in a VET subject, please contact Helen Burnett our VET Coordinator or a member of the Careers Team.

YEAR 12 2014 – DESTINATIONS

In the last newsletter of 2014, we celebrated the success of our graduating class and highlighted some of the outstanding results received. Now nearly all of the VTAC applications have been processed and we are looking at our Year 12 destinations. Once again we have seen an improvement in the percentage of our students attending University, TAFE and further training after Year 12. In following weeks we will publish the full destination data once it becomes available.

UNI BRIDGES

Our first group of Year 12’s involved in the Uni Bridges program graduated in 2014 and had excellent outcomes. Many students followed the Health Sciences focus of the program and ended up in Health Sciences and Nursing courses at University. We also had some students offered places in Game Design, Culinary Management and Paramedicine degrees. Well done to all.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Uni Bridges program you can contact Kate Clinton.

SRC 2015 CAPTAINS

Congratulations to the following students, they will receive their Captain’s badges in the coming weeks.

College Captains:        Liam Gallagher and Krystina Jovanovska
Vice Captains:           Reegan Quick and Marvad Ahad
Year 11 Captains:        Andrejan Jankoski and Iman El-Mohammad
Subject Captains:        Science:  Jasmine Pignatelli
                          Maths:    Zaynah Ali
                          English:  Madeleine Bux
                          Performing Arts: Draven Potoi
                          Sports:   Matthew Treweek Arnold
                          Technology: Jancko Steinkamp
                          Visual Arts: Abier Barakat
                          Library:  Marklee Magatse
                          Humanities: Ruth Bennet

Colin Burke
Campus Principal
Welcome all students and parents to the Middle Years Campus. I would like to particularly welcome all of the new Year 7 students and their families to our wonderful College as well as a number of new Year 8 & 9 students.

I am very excited to commence as the new Middle Years Campus Principal this year along with Mr Simon McRae as Assistant Principal.

Firstly, a big thank you to all families who have made sure their students have the correct uniform items. I understand that there have been some issues with back orders of uniforms still not being delivered as yet. However, nearly all students are wearing the uniform and they look amazing. I have declared war on ‘Factory Pants’ and ‘Leggings’ and I am pleased to report that students are adhering to this message. If students still do not have all uniform items they must bring a parent note to school, hand this in at the General Office and obtain a uniform pass from the Student Kiosk in the foyer.

Student participation at the College Swimming Carnival last week was outstanding. Below are just a few images to give you an idea of the great ‘House Spirit’ and participation that was demonstrated by all involved. Mr David Maltby (Leading Teacher for PE & Sports) has provided a more detailed report further in this edition of the newsletter.

This week the Year 8 and 9 Student Captains were selected. Each candidate was required to present to their peers at a Year Level Assembly.

Congratulations to the successful candidates who I very much look forward to working closely with throughout this year. Please see the next page for the article by Ms. Liz Ring (MYC Student Leadership Co-ordinator) for results.

A reminder that students should aim to arrive at the Middle Years Campus no later than 8.40am which is when the locker bell goes. All MYC students are required to attend a Home Group meeting every morning from 8.47am – 8.55am.

Karen Eastlake
Campus Principal
YEAR LEVEL CAPTAINS AND CAMPUS CAPTAINS
Student Leadership is always taken very seriously at Mill Park Secondary College and we have had some excellent leaders in the past. The 2015 batch of applicants for the positions of Campus Captain and Year Level Captain have been particularly outstanding. We had such difficulty in making any decisions due to the overwhelming number of applications and the quality of the applicants, that students aiming for the prestigious position of Campus Captain found themselves part of a three stage process.

In order to separate applicants, students submitted a written application, had an interview with Mr McRae and myself, and presented speeches to their year level at an assembly.

We would like to congratulate everyone who applied for a leadership position in the College and would like to encourage our new Year 7s to also apply. The Mill Park Student Representative Council of 2015 are going to be an outstanding group of students with whom I look forward to working with.

Elizabeth Ring
Student Leadership Co-ordinator

Campus Captains: Benjamin Nicholls and Katerina Terolli
Campus Vice Captains: Francesco Quagliarella and Emily Stojanov
Year 8 Captains: Ethan Heeney-Solar and Riya Gupta
Year 7 Captains: TBA
Student Representative Council: Bryanna Tanti, Madison Lee, Seonaid McCormack, Maree Jarvis, Jack Hoar, Samuel Leong, Aisha Noorani, Belle Kong, Panagiota Iliadis, Noah El-Mohammed, Rohan Singh, Muhammed Dirani

NEWS FROM THE MYC LIBRARY
Welcome back to the new school year. Our Library goal is to ensure that all members of the school community have equitable access to information and the resources. The MYC Library is a learner oriented centre that supports the AusVELS curriculum. We assist students in researching various topics providing learning opportunities for individual students and classes. It is well known that school libraries have a positive impact on student achievement. Here at MPSC, teachers, librarians, IT specialists and administrators work together to provide opportunities for the social, cultural, and educational growth of our students. Our school library also serves as a place for students to work independently and study, use computers, audiovisual equipment and complete research assignments. The Library initiates several programs throughout the year including: Book Week activities, Library Monitor training, Premier’s Reading Challenge and renowned author visits.

Two areas are available for class bookings and an extra lounge/classroom, serves as a silent Reading Room and a Discussion Room. Theme and artwork displays are an ongoing activity in the Library. We are open every day, before and after school, recess and lunchtimes. There is a large collection of fiction and non-fiction books available for our young readers to enjoy and a variety of table games to compete and play. We are looking forward to a happy and productive year ahead.

Library volunteers needed!
If you would like to learn new skills and work in a friendly stimulating environment, the Library is looking for volunteers. No prior experience required. Duties include book covering, shelving and general office duties. If you would like to support your child’s school by offering a few hours per week, please ring Stella or Denise in the Library on 9407 9712.

Regards
from the Library team
The 2015 school year started off with a thunderous roar and bright splashes of red, yellow, green and blue at the MYC Swimming Carnival held on Friday 30 January at the Coburg Olympic Swimming pool. With last year’s winner Eaglet looking to regain the House Swimming Title, many eager competitors from Redleap, Whernside and Studley had other plans in mind. The carnival was a huge success with many competitors earning points for their respective houses through their attendance, by participating in both official swimming events, novelty events and through the support and encouragement of others in their houses.

The 2015 House Swimming title was awarded to REDLEAP who finished on 600pts, followed by 2014 winners Eaglet on 582pts, Studley on 542pts and Whernside 448pts.

It is also important to note that 2015 winners Redleap also had the greater number of competitors who attended that carnival which contributed largely to them winning the title this year.

The success of the carnival would not have been possible without the contribution of all students and staff at Mill Park SC. A huge thank you to Mr Rogers’ Year 12 VET Sport and Recreation students who were responsible for officiating all official swimming and novelty events throughout the day and special thanks also to the Physical Education Team for their fabulous planning, organisation and convening of such a successful event for the College.

Mr David Maltby
College Physical Education / Health, Sport and Activities.
**Mill Park Secondary College**  
**School Council Elections 2015**

**What is a school council and what does it do?**
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

**Who is on the school council?**
There are three possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected Parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

- **A mandated elected DET employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- **An optional Community member category.** Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

**Why is Parent membership so important?**
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

**How can you become involved?**
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider:
- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

**Do I need special experience to be on school council?**
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

**What do you need to do to stand for election?**
The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

**REMEMBER**
- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the Principal for further information.
An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Mill Park Secondary College.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4:00pm on Monday 16 February 2015.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY</th>
<th>TERM OF OFFICE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015 to and</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>DET employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015 to and</td>
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<td>inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017.</td>
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If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Trish Horner
College Principal
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SAT</th>
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<td>19/01</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>YELLOW</strong>: Australia Day Holiday</td>
<td><strong>GREEN</strong>: Book Selling Day</td>
<td><strong>GREEN</strong>: Students Return Getting Started</td>
<td><strong>GREEN</strong>: MYC Swimming Carnival</td>
<td><strong>YELLOW</strong>: Office Opens</td>
<td><strong>GREEN</strong>: 01/02</td>
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