

International Student Program Newsletter

EDITION 1-, 2025

Mill Park Secondary College
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Mill Park Secondary College International Student Program 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE ISP COORDINATOR AND CAPTAINS

We are excited to launch the very first edition of our International Student Program Newsletter, a space created to share important updates, celebrate achievements, and showcase the cultures that make our international community so unique.

Each edition will include student stories, upcoming events, reflections, and tips to support international students and build stronger connections across the school.

Cultural Connect

Cultural Wordplay Club

In Term 2, our student-led Cultural Wordplay club was launched to build meaningful connections between international and local students through shared language and culture. This term we focused on **Vietnamese culture** and language.

Each session brought something new. From language mini-lessons and word games to conversations about different cities and historical places in Vietnam, students had the chance to engage with Vietnamese culture in meaningful and playful ways. One of the most exciting parts of the club was the sharing of traditional Vietnamese snacks and small souvenir.

“The international department had so much to offer in making our school more inclusive and multicultural. The way they embrace everyone, and anyone is a testament to their dedication to celebrating everyone’s culture!

I had so much fun learning Vietnamese and trying new foods!” -Miss Fe



Harmony Day

Harmony Day celebrates Australia's vibrant multiculturalism. This year, our school came alive with traditional dress, music, food, and storytelling. International students proudly represented their cultures through clothing, displays, and conversations, sharing personal stories. The day was filled with respect, curiosity, and connection.

"It wasn't just about showcasing where we're from. It was about being part of something bigger, where every voice and every background mattered. Alongside the fun, taking responsibility and stepping into an act of kindness, made the day feel even more meaningful"

-Shibaani and Rojan



Achievements and Awards

Whittlesea Division Badminton Competition

Earlier this term, our international students **Thuyet Chanh Nguyen** and **Jinxiang Luo** proudly represented Mill Park Secondary College in an inter school badminton tournament. Competing against schools from the Whittlesea division in games of badminton, they showed outstanding teamwork, adaptability, and determination. After a series of challenging matches, the team proceeded to the regional competition to the next round in August. Congratulations on your fantastic achievement!

"It was a pretty great experience for me. I felt a mix of excitement and nervousness at first, but once the game started, I loved how supportive my new teammates were and how quickly we learned to communicate despite different playing styles." -Chanh Nguyen



College Athletic Carnival

In Term 1, Mill Park Secondary College organized 2025 Athletics Carnival. Our international students embraced the opportunity to participate, challenge themselves, and represent our school with great energy and team spirit. They also achieved awards in first and second place in different activities.

Athletics Whittlesea Division

We're thrilled to share that one of our international students, **Tuyet Ngan Nguyen**, participated in the Athletics Whittlesea Division which took place on the 23rd of May. Tuyet Ngan achieved **3rd place in the 800m run** and an incredible **1st place in the 100m relay event**. Congratulations, Tuyet Ngan!



2025 Victorian Global learning Awards

It is our pleasure to introduce **Shibaani Thevanath**, our International Student Captain, as the recipient of the **2025 Victorian Global Learning Award** in the category of **Global Citizenship**.

Shibaani has led with maturity, insight, and passion, playing a pivotal role in promoting respect, inclusion, and cross-cultural understanding within our diverse school community. Through her ongoing commitment and care, Shibaani has helped build an environment where international students feel connected, engaged, and genuinely valued.

"Interacting with individuals from diverse backgrounds has enriched my appreciation for their unique experiences. Recognising and respecting cultural backgrounds fosters connections that improve quality of life"

-Shibaani



Campus Highlights

Career Expo

In Week 6 of Term 2, Mill Park Secondary College hosted its annual Careers Expo for Year 9–12 students. The event brought together a wide range of representatives.

Our international students participated with great enthusiasm, taking this opportunity to explore different career pathways and gain insights into the options available to them after high school. They asked thoughtful questions, collected resources, and spoke with professionals from various industries, showing genuine curiosity and commitment to planning their future in Australia.



Showcase Night

On the 1st of April, the International Student Program had a proud presence at the Showcase Evening and SEAL Information Night held at our Middle Years Campus.

It was a valuable opportunity for our ISP Team to engage with families and highlight the support, achievements, and diversity within our international student community. Our International Student Captains also played an important role on the night with welcoming families, answering questions, and offering helpful information about the program based on their own experiences. To make the evening even more special, the captains also prepared and served warm, delicious tea, helping to create a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.



"The people at the Careers Expo were really friendly and easy to talk to. They helped me understand my options and made it easier for me to choose subjects for next year"

Jinxiang , year 10

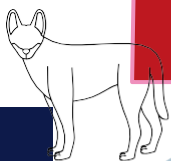


"I found the Career Expo Day to be a really valuable experience. I got the chance to speak to professionals who shared helpful advice and real-life experiences. I learned what skills and education are needed for certain careers and now I have a clearer idea of what steps I need to take to reach my goal." -komalpreet , year 12



English Language Centre

At the English Language Centre (ELC), we go beyond textbooks to help students improve their English skills through real-life experiences. Recently, ELC students have been studying the novel *Wardi* and learning about conservation efforts for dingoes in Victoria. On the 3rd of April, a trip to the Dingo Sanctuary and Research Centre in Toolern Vale gave students a hands-on opportunity to consolidate their classroom learning and deepen their understanding of the ecological importance of dingoes.



"I was surprised that the dingo's call is like a wolf's. I had assumed they were more solitary, but watching them interact, it was clear they have a complex social structure. I will never forget the moment when a dingo locked eyes with me." -Yulun



"I expected them to be wild and aggressive, but they were actually gentle. The visit helped me understand why they need to be protected. I will never forget how friendly and calm the dingoes were. It really changed how I see them." -Shaurya



Another enriching experience took place on the 26th of June, when ELC students visited Preston Market. This excursion allowed language learning to move into real-world contexts. Students practised vocabulary and communication related to transport, road safety, food, dining, and shopping. Through authentic interactions with the community, they not only strengthened their English skills but also built confidence in using the language outside the classroom.



That brings us to the end of the first edition of our International Student Newsletter. We hope it has given you a glimpse into the rich diversity, achievements, and experiences that shape our international community at school.

We look forward to sharing more stories, updates, and opportunities in our next edition, coming out in Term 3.

Thank you for reading, and see you next term!