



# MENTONE GIRLS' SECONDARY COLLEGE

*Cnr. Balcombe & Charman Rds., Mentone. 3194*

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## NEWSLETTER

**No. 19**

**27<sup>th</sup> November, 2008**

Dear Parents,

On Friday this week two teachers and a group of students leave for Vietnam to undertake a very full few weeks of discovery and community work with World Challenge. We wish them all the very best for their trip.

Congratulations to Tayla Tobin of 7B who was named Victorian Age Group Diver of the year 2007-2008 by Diving Victoria. Tayla is off to Canberra next week to the Pacific School Games representing Victoria, best wishes and good diving Tayla !

In the next weeks we will be running Orientation programs for students as they move up to the next level. VCE students in 2009 will have a 3 day orientation and will be given homework to complete over the break in preparation for their classes. Domain Heads have been asked to ensure that meaningful work is provided right to the end of the year for students in Years 7-10.

Tonight is Presentation Night, when we celebrate the students' achievements for the year. Girls at all levels will receive awards for excellence in both academic and co-curricular areas. A lot of effort has gone into the preparation of musical items by a number of our ensembles, and an excerpt from "The Wizard of Oz" will be performed. Our guest speaker is Felicity Nagorka, an ex-student and celebrated lawyer.

I would like to thank the many sponsors of awards at Presentation Night. Their contributions make it possible to give students a tangible reward for their hard work.

Congratulations to all students receiving awards, and good luck to our Year 12 2008 – this is their last farewell !

Deborah M Lehner  
Principal

### Junior School

#### Orientation Days

On Tuesday 9 December all of the Grade 6 girls who are coming to MGSC next year will be spending the day with us. The current Year 7 girls will be doing a transition to Year 8 on that day.

We are asking all Year 8 girls to stay home on that day and a letter will be sent home shortly.

The Year 8 girls going into Year 9 will be participating in a transition day for Year 9 on Wednesday 3 December.

Year 7s have been busy making welcome boxes in Maths for the Grade 6 girls and have put a great deal of effort into decorating them. They have also been writing welcome letters to them in English. The boxes and letters will be given to the Grade 6 girls on Orientation Day.

#### Booklists

Year 8 booklists will be given to the Year 7 girls this week. If they are lost, a copy can be obtained from Mountain Books in Mentone or on the Mountain Books website.

#### Verbal Combat Incursion

The Year 8 girls recently watched a play by Brainstorm Productions on the different types of bullying. Exclusion, spreading rumours, verbal harassment, responsibility and cyber bullying were some of the issues covered in the play. Afterwards, a discussion was held with the girls on the effects of bullying on victims, and the legal ramifications on the perpetrators. Follow up discussions were also held in English classes.

A fortnight ago, the Year 8 girls listened to a talk by Cheltenham police on the dangers of sending and receiving messages, videos and photos on mobile phones and the internet.

The message that was constantly stressed to the girls was that if the girls keep or send photos or inappropriate messages on phones or the internet, not only is it condoning harassment, but it is illegal and can affect future travel plans or job prospects.

### **School Bags**

Just a reminder that all girls should own and bring to school a MGSC school bag. We are noticing girls bringing Country Road bags and various coloured bags to school. Could you please make sure your daughter brings the correct school bag to school.

Junior School Team

## **Middle School**

### **Exams**

This week has been a challenging one for all middle school students as they have sat their end of year exams. This experience is a very worthwhile one as it enables the students to learn about exam preparation and protocol. Being organised is the key when revising as it enables us to plan in an orderly fashion and keep calm at the same time. The behaviour in the exams has been very pleasing overall, but it is absolutely essential that all girls appreciate the correct etiquette under exam conditions. We hope this week has been an experience the students can take with them in the future.

### **End of year arrangements for Year 10**

All Year 10 students have received a pink end-of-year details proforma which, when filled in and returned, will allow them to finish their school year on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December. This form needs to be completed and returned to Mrs Wainwright in the Middle School office before the 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be a farewell Barbecue for the year 10's on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Year 10 into Year 11 Orientation will also occur on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

### **End of year arrangements for Year 9**

All Year 9 students will have received a letter on white paper outlining the final weeks of school for the Year 9's. The letter also had a calculator order form attached, and even though it is on the book list, early purchase will enable the students to learn about this new technology.

During these weeks, attendance continues to be compulsory as students will be involved in a number of very important sessions: Exam feedback; Year 10 2009 Transition Day Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December; The Year 10 program officially runs from Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December to

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December; During this time, students will be moving out of the RLC and attending core studies of Maths, English, Humanities and Science; They will be in their 2009 form groups completing essential preparatory work essential for next year; Students will complete a compulsory occupational Health and Safety module necessary to be eligible for Work Experience next year; Peer Support for some students will take place Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December; Final confirmation of elective choices and consultation will occur during this time; Book lists will be distributed; Semester 2 Reports will be distributed on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December (the last day). If students are ill, the usual procedure of a phone call to the Middle School office will be required.

### **Homework Haven**

A big thank you to Mrs Cohen, who ran weekly sessions for students, enabling them to work after school in a positive environment. This program has been utilised by a number of Year 9 students.

### **Form Groups 2009**

The Year 9 Student Managers are working diligently to ensure that students are with at least one friend from their lists for form groups in 2009. Whilst this is an important process, the Year 9's also need to remember that in the Reflective Learning Centre students are encouraged to broaden their friendship groups and develop their skills in cooperative team work. Students are also working in chosen electives and, again, this is a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends.

### **Farewell Year 10's 2008**

After 2 years in the Middle School our Year 10's are leaving us and moving up to Senior School. We wish them all the very best as they enter a whole new phase in their schooling. We hope we can recognise them in their maroon jumpers.

Middle School Team

## **Senior School**



The Year 11 and 12 exams come to a close tomorrow. We very much look forward to seeing all our Year 12s again as they bid goodbye to the College at Presentation Night. This is our last time to see our girls in school uniform, the last time as a group, the last time singing the school song together. Many of our Year 12s are receiving awards and performing

for the college audience on this, our most formal night of the year. We hope to see you all there!

Year 11s begin their 3-day orientation on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November. The girls have received their timetables for these three days. Please note that the girls are not required at school except for the specified classes. Your daughter has a permission form which we ask you to consider signing, allowing her to leave the school grounds during times she is not required in school. If the form is not returned signed she will be able to do private study at school.

During Orientation girls will receive holiday homework for each of the subjects being studied next year. The English books will be on sale at lunchtime on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> to enable them to get an early start on English text reading. Please support a good start to your daughter's final year by encouraging her to complete all holiday work by the return to school next year. Some students are also checking the brochures on commercial summer holiday programs with a view to improving their preparation for one or more subjects in 2009.

On the final day of Orientation, Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November the booklist will be available and students will receive final course confirmation of their 2009 subjects. We ask that 2009 school fees are finalised by this date.

Senior School Team

### World Challenge - Vietnam



As you receive this edition the two Vietnam teams will just about be winging their way to Ho Chi Minh City for the start of 4 weeks of the World Challenge program.

At this stage I would like to thank those who have assisted the groups to raise money for their self funded trip. Many have purchased their fundraising products at school sport days, barbeques, Parent Teacher days and music concerts including the Wizard Of Oz. We have had the support of many parents who have assisted the girls with their fundraising too. Finally we had fantastic sponsorship and support from Baker's Delight, Mentone. Whenever we have approached them, they have cheerfully offered assistance. Thankyou, Baker's Delight. See you all in 2009.

Judy Firestone and Vietnam Challenge Teams.

## SRC

Congratulations to the following Year 11 girls (Year 12 2009) who have been elected as SRC members for next year: Samantha Sleep, Danielle Everest, Ruby-Jean Jenkins, Matia Kuzma Floyd, Emily McDermott, Daniel Rancie, Brianna Reynolds and Rosie Sheppard.

### World Vision Cake Stall

The 7B and 7G cake stall last Thursday was a great success, raising \$102.00 for the school's sponsor child, Josephine.

All the girls put in an immense amount of effort in baking cakes, biscuits and slices for the day, even with only one days notice for some.

There were many different sweets on sale at lunchtime and I am sure they were thoroughly enjoyed.

Thankyou to the SRC representatives who organised the stall and gave up their time to sell the generously donated baked goods.

Stephanie Garra Year 7B

## Music



### Music Enrolments for 2009:

All students and parents are reminded that the enrolments into the Music Program for 2009 close on December 4<sup>th</sup>. I have received a number of enrolments (almost 200) but am still waiting to hear from many of you. Please fill out the Blue Form and make your payment at the Office as soon as possible, as staffing for next year is done using these figures and we need to finalise them. You will not be guaranteed your place with your teacher if your forms are late.

Looking forward to a year filled with Musical Activities in 2009.

Susanna Rummel

## Uniform Shop

We urgently need good quality Second Hand Uniforms for sale to our new students for 2009. Goods can be left at the General Office, clearly labelled with name, address & telephone number. Please make sure items are clean and in good resalable condition.

# Maths

## Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians Stage Two

The second stage of the Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians – “The Enrichment Stage” was held during Term 3. Students from Junior and Middle school participated in the competition and were challenged with eight to twelve problems that were to be completed during the term. Before attempting the problems students worked through a booklet of student notes. There were outstanding achievements this year by the following students:

### High Distinction

Monisha Thandu Year 10

### Distinctions

Suelyn Van Den Helm Year 9

Linda Han Year 10

Shwetha Ravichandran Year 7

### Credits

Silvie Bui Hoang Year 7

Jennifer Ngan Year 8

Iman Tran Year 7

Varsha Nayak Year 7

These students displayed excellent algebraic knowledge and a high standard of problem solving skills. Congratulations to all students who participated.

The Mathematics Faculty will again be running The Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians Competition in 2009 for our talented Mathematics students in years 7 to 10.

We encourage all students who participated this year to take part in the competition in 2009!

Helen Perks Mathematics Domain Leader

Martine McLeod Numeracy Coordinator



## Head Start Programs

- Edassist Summer School Lectures for students enrolling In Mathematical Methods Units 1, 2, 3 & 4, Specialist Mathematics Units 3 & 4 and Further Mathematics Units 3 & 4 in 2009 are being held at the University of Melbourne in January.
- TSSM Lectures for students enrolling In Mathematical Methods CAS Units 3 & 4 and Further Mathematics Units 3 & 4, Specialist Mathematics Units 3 & 4 and Mathematical Methods CAS Units 1 & 2.
- The School for Excellence Head start Programs – The University of Melbourne Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January

These programs are designed to provide students studying Mathematics Units 1 and 2 or Units 3 and 4 in 2009 with a significant start into the new curriculum. Sessions involve students in intensive discussion and problem solving, including sample exam questions and worked solutions.

For further information and/or application forms see Mrs Perks (staffroom A) or phone 9581 5200

## Host Families for our South African Student for 2008

This year we enjoyed the company of Jasmine Ngcobo from Letsibogo Girls' High School in Soweto, South Africa. Jasmine has had a wonderful year thanks to the host families who welcomed her into their homes during the year. She has studied very hard and also been very actively involved in several Co-Curricula programs as well. She was an active and enthusiastic member of the Senior Netball team, the Magazine Committee and also took part in the House Chorals. Some other highlights of the year for her have been visiting Tasmania, the VCE Formal, learning to swim and to ride a bike.

We will all miss her dearly when she departs on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Next year we will have another student, from the same school and we are desperately seeking host families to accommodate her for a whole term or part of a term in 2008.

If you are able to assist please contact Judy Lielnors on 9581-5200 as soon as possible.

# Key Dates 2008

Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 7 & 8 State Volleyball <b>Presentation Night Robert Blackwood Hall Monash University 8.00pm</b>
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Report Writing Day (Students not required at school) Year 8 Tennis State Final
	Vietnam trip leaves
<b>December</b>	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	State Year 7 Volleyball
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 10 Racism Excursion State Year 7 Cricket Semi-Final Meeting Japan Trip 2009, 7.00pm <b>PFA End of Year Dinner</b>
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	State Year 8 Cricket Semi-Final <b>Year 8-9 &amp; 9-10 Orientation Day</b>
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	State Year 7 Cricket Final Year 10 OED Mountain Bike Riding Excursion- all day Peer Support Training
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Peer Support Training Year 7 Tennis and Year 8 Cricket State Final Year 10-11 Orientation Day Yr 9 OED Surfing all day Last day Year 10
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Yr 6-7 and 7-8 Orientation Day</b> College Council 7.30pm
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Report Verification Day 2.30pm dismissal</b>
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 8 Maths Incursion
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Unit 3 & 4 VCE results
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Report distribution</b> <b>Last Day for Students – Happy Holidays</b>
<b>February 2009</b>	<b>Monday February 2<sup>nd</sup> First Day for Students</b>