



MENTONE GIRLS' SECONDARY COLLEGE

Cnr. Balcombe & Charman Rds., Mentone. 3194

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NEWSLETTER

No. 3

12th March, 2009

College Matters

Badge Conferring Assembly

It was great to see the large number of students receiving badges in recognition of their leadership position and their contribution to curricular and co-curricular programs. The assembly ran very smoothly and the girls are to be commended on their attentive behaviour while the guest speaker was giving her address and when the badges were being handed out. I was also pleased to see everyone in full school uniform. I now know that everyone has a blazer and I hope to see all girls wearing it to and from school, especially when we make our regular visits to Mentone station after school.

Mentone station vicinity

Unfortunately I have had a few more complaints from members of the public about the behaviour of some girls in the area around Mentone station. May I remind students:

- To leave space on the footpath for other pedestrians to get through (this includes considering where you are putting your bags)
- To not block entrances to shops
- To speak politely to other members of the public
- To only sit at café seats if you have purchased something from that café
- To cross the road at the marked crossings
- To cross the train tracks only when it's safe to do so

School Bags

Just a reminder that your daughter should have a MGSC school bag and she should not be bringing any other bag to school.

Sporting success

Congratulations to the girls who recently competed in the sailing and life saving competitions. The girls performed very well in both competitions and are to be congratulated on their achievements. Thanks to Mr Strong for his contribution to the girls' development in the sailing competition and to Mrs Bateman for her organisation of the life saving competition.

Additional sporting competitions

Every year students wish to participate in sports not traditionally organised by the PE and Sports staff at the college. Recently there has been some confusion as to whether the students can attend these competitions, as representatives of Mentone Girls' Secondary College, if a teacher from the college is not there to supervise them. I am in the process of devising a policy to clarify this matter and set out guidelines for staff, students and parents to ensure effective communication and appropriate student supervision. Details will be provided soon.

Bronwyn Moline
Assistant Principal

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School Council

We wish to advise that two parents in our school community have agreed to fill the casual vacancies on Council. We have included a little information supplied by our new parent members as follows:

Bede Doherty

I am originally a science/maths teacher from Westerford High school in Newlands (next to the rugby and cricket stadia) in Cape Town. Westerford's school uniform colours were almost identical to MGSC except that the girls wore a blue shirt and short socks. My wife taught there too (she had the teaching kitchen next door). I have 3 children, the youngest girl of whom is at MGSC. I then moved into IT and moved to Australia 10 years ago. I started an export business 6 years ago, concentrating on Asia. I have interests in politics, viticulture and winemaking, languages, travel (especially around Europe), education, radio (read the news on Vision Australia Radio), film (done some extra work on films) and climate change (member of Bayside Climate Change Lobby Group).

Bede Doherty

Gina van de Berg

My name is Gina van de Berg and I have a daughter in year 7 and was unsure of how to be involved in the school and felt the opportunity to be on the school council would fill this void. I work in a full time role as a Clinical Site Administrator at Dandenong Hospital. My main responsibility is implementing the curriculum for undergraduate medical students from Monash University. I have always held a strong interest in education and believe I can work cooperatively with others to help shape the future of the College.

Gina van de Berg

Captain's Corner

It seems like days since school has started. With all the extra-curricular activities that have been going on in the last few weeks, time has flown!

The Year 7 to Year 12 Fancy Dress has taken up our lunchtimes, not to mention the House Chorals that started on Friday last week. With all these activities, it's hard to stay focused, planning for what to wear at fancy dress, or what song to choose for my house to sing at House Music, has made it very hard to organise my studies and part time job AND have time to socialise and relax ! There is so much on! With the long weekend just over, it seems like a long haul until the next holidays. For all the girls who are finding this term stressful, hang in there. The holidays are soon approaching and with so many extra-curricular activities to join this term, time will fly. Hope all of you had a relaxed and peaceful long weekend.

Rosemary Sheppard
College Vice Captain

Entertainment Books

The College is again selling Entertainment Books during 2009. Books sell for \$65 each and contain thousands of dollars worth of special and discount offers for Fine Dining Restaurants, Cafes, Informal Dining and Take Away Food. There are also offers for Arts, Leisure and Sporting Attractions including cinemas, theatre and tourist attractions such as the Melbourne Aquarium. \$13 from every book sold is returned to the College to support our fundraising efforts. Entertainment Books are available for purchase from the General Office.

Simon Frazer
Assistant Principal

Middle School

The Night of the Eminent Australian:

Last Monday 2nd March, was the 'Night of the Eminent Australian'. This evening gave us a chance to honour many selfless and successful Australians as well as expressing creativity, and just generally having an enjoyable time. All of the Year 9 students were expected to participate not only on the evening, but also prior to the event. The night turned out to be very rewarding as we showcased our innovative displays and learnt many interesting facts. There were quizzes, posters, different types of food, word searches, movies, music and so much more. We were all very impressed with the number

of parents and relatives who came to support not only their children, but the rest of the year level as well. Teachers were also highly supportive and seemed to be quite proud of the girls' accomplishments. Despite the humidity released from copious amounts of bodies in the classrooms, everyone was keen to get involved in the interactive activities, and to ask questions about our eminent Australians. It really made the evening worthwhile to see parents discovering facts from their daughters that were unknown to them before. A special thanks to the teachers who contributed consistently to help make this night possible. I advise future Year 9 students to get heavily involved in this project, to ensure that they will have a fantastic night to remember for a very long time.

Isabelle Kiss 9E

Year 10 Work Experience

All students in Year 10 are reminded to complete the online Occupational Health and Safety module in preparation for Work Experience in Term 3 this year. Work Experience forms also need to be completed and brought to school as soon as possible. If any students in Year 10 are having difficulty finding a Work Experience placement they should see Mr Thomson.

Middle School Team

Junior School

Parent Information Night

It was terrific to see so many Year 7 parents at our Parent Information Night in February. It was a great opportunity for you to meet your daughters' form teachers and ask any questions you may have. It was also really good to be able to obtain fellow parent's emails and meet other parents. Hopefully you will take up the opportunity of joining the Parents and Friends committee.

Year 7 & 12 Fancy Dress

Unfortunately due to the ongoing bush fire situation, we had to cancel our Year 7 camp to Arrabri Lodge in Warburton again. Although it was very disappointing, each Year 7 class has been extremely busy working with Year 12 girls to make up a dance to present on Tuesday 17th March at

the annual Year 7 & 12 Fancy Dress night. Every Year 12 girl has very fond memories of this event and they were very keen to get started with the dance. It also means that year 7 girls get to know each other a bit better as well as a group of Year 12 girls. The theme is '**Evolution of Dance**' and we are looking forward to seeing some great outfits and some great dance moves on the night.

Junior School Team

Swimming Sports

On Wednesday 26th February the annual Swimming Carnival for Mentone Girls' Secondary College was held at the East Bentleigh pool. The day was uncharacteristically overcast given the recent extended run of sunshine and energy sapping temperatures. In keeping with the prevailing weather pattern, the clouds did not shed any tears and the grey skies and relative coolness spared the students some of the scorching conditions we have experienced in previous years.

It's been a recent trend for students to display more patriotic fervour, both in their cheering and choice of attire. 2009 can be seen though as almost a seminal year in this regard. There was barely a student spotted whose allegiance to House was not proudly displayed. The pool deck and surrounding viewing areas were lit up by the radiant brilliance of buttercup, canary and gold and softened by the mellower custard and lemony shades of Melba's yellow. It was adorned by Mackellar's passionate purple hues ranging from violet through to the more understated shades of lilac and lavender. The Jackson girls sported an array of leg gear in the darker bottle green creations to the more effulgent lime and tamer lighter varieties of the colour. Meanwhile the Kenny fans wore everything from stunning electric and navy to a splash of baby powder blue in a celebration of house affiliation.

Girls showcased feathers, faux fur, fairy skirts, silk, velvet, butterfly wings, glossy capes, polka dot stickers and formal accoutrements in a valiant attempt to carry off the coveted fashions on the 'field' award. The teachers also entered into the spirit of

the occasion with Mrs Steinfort again wearing her customary farrago of purple pieces, the younger teachers showing creativity in their choice of garment and Mrs Merrick painting a flamboyant heart on her cheek to signify her support for Melba.

Mr Wallis constantly implored the girls to cheer for their houses and his urgings were usually followed by a cacophony of sound which reverberated around the bleachers. It rose in intensity as the carnival reached its climax.

The competition was spirited and some fresh talent emerged in the junior ranks among the new arrivals at the college. The only dampener was that some events were poorly patronised, notably in the relays. One would hope this trend could be reversed during the athletics sports. Nonetheless the senior girls were enthusiastic in competing in what for them will be their last swimming sports. Some struggled to swim the length of the pool with alacrity yet showed their mettle by chalking up points for their respective Houses with their participation where there was a shortfall.

The staff relay is always a highlight and this year the students were no match for the accomplished teachers. In a starburst of strokes, Mr Howells, Ms Meyer, Mr Trigellis-Smith making his long-awaited debut in this format and the new assistant principal Ms Moline, left their younger opponents in their wake.

Jackson seemed prominent in the names of winners being announced. Their fans sensing that the silverware was within their grasp, cheered with gusto and impressive volume during the final events.

Students not competing in the mainstream program enjoyed the novelty events; the shrill screams emanating from the small pool bore testimony to this.

The Year 12 girls sizzled sausages, the aroma of the meat appealed to the hungry hordes, while the SRC sold ice creams. The scrumptious chocolate was eventually replaced by a ravishing rainbow flavour and the money raised was to go to the bushfire appeal.

Thanks must be extended to Mr Shillabeer who organised and convened the day and to all, including student helpers, who played

their part in ensuring that it was an enjoyable and successful day. Some parents also attended to help cheer for their daughters as they proudly competed for their House.

Ms Anne Gamble

Careers

WANT TO FIND OUT ABOUT COURSES AND CAREERS?

'The Age' **VCE and Careers Expo** will have over 150 exhibitors and 120 seminars on VCE subjects, study skills, tertiary courses and career advice. **When:** 24-26 April; **Where:** Caulfield Racecourse; **Cost:** \$10 (incl seminars and copy of 'Age'); **Info:** www.education.theage.com.au

DO YOU WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MONASH UNIVERSITY?

If you answered, 'Yes', then the '**At Monash' Seminar Series** is for you. This is an excellent series of free seminars for students and parents about Monash courses and graduate outcomes, commencing with:

Science on Tuesday 31 March

Arts & Humanities on Wednesday 1 April (both at the **Clayton campus**, commencing at 6.30pm).

Each Seminar program will consist of a faculty overview where academic speakers will give an overview of courses offered by the faculties represented at the event. Topics covered will include course lengths, contact hours, new courses on offer and research trends. Current Monash University students will provide a personal account of their experience within the faculty. This will include course expectations, revelations about student life and career aspirations. Monash University graduates will provide information on their working life/career and the most rewarding outcomes since graduating and entering the workforce. A questions section will allow the audience to ask panel members specific questions. At the end of the seminar the relevant faculty will make course literature available and answer any remaining questions.

The next seminar in the series is in May; you will be advised of dates as they get closer. For **more information** and to **book online**, and to obtain details about **other sessions**, go to:

www.monash.edu/au/study/events/atmonash

Phone Info: 9903 4758; **Email:** valerie.foster@adm.monash.edu.au.

WANT TO FIND OUT ABOUT MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY?

An information session for prospective students/families is being held on **Wednesday 25 March** at Mentone Grammar, 63 Venice St in Thorold Hall. Find out about the **Melbourne Model**, courses, admissions, scholarships, career outcomes, **Access Melbourne** (special entry scheme), accommodation and overseas exchange.

For further information and to register see www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/meetmelbourne;

Info: 1800 801 662.

DO CAREERS AT THE ZOO INTEREST YOU?

Programs available during school holidays: **'Careers at the Zoo'** will provide opportunities for students to meet Zoo employees in a range of departments, explore the educational and career paths in the zoo industry and give you skills to help land the job of your dreams. **When:** 9.30am-2.45pm, April 8, 9, 16, 17, 23 and 24; **Where:** Werribee Open Range Zoo; **Cost:** \$39.50 includes admission, safari tour, morning tea; **Info:** www.zoo.org.au/learning.

'Keeper for a Day' - spend a day in the holidays working with zookeepers. **When:** 7, 8, 15, 16 April; 30 June, 1, 7, 8 July; 22, 23, 29, 30 Sept; **Where:** Healesville Sanctuary; **Bookings:** 5957 2818; **See:** www.zoo.org.au/Learning/Programs/Student_Conferences/Careers; **Cost:** \$99

VETERINARY SCIENCE OPEN DAY 2009
Sunday 22 March, 10am - 4pm

This is an opportunity for future students and the community to go behind the scenes at our state-of-the-art Veterinary Clinic and Hospital. You will have the chance to speak to veterinary staff, meet current students and take a tour of our outstanding facilities. Career and Course advice lectures for Year 10 and above will be held at 10:30 am, 11:30 am, 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm. Individual course and career counselling is also available throughout the day. Veterinary Science students will be manning stall displays for student Special Interest Groups that centre around wildlife, sheep, cattle, horses, dogs and cats, to name a few.

Specialist animal groups will also attend the open day to share information about their interests. **Venue:** The Veterinary Clinic and Hospital, 250 Princes Highway Werribee, Victoria (Melway 206 REF G5). **Enquiries:** Telephone: 03 8344 7357 Email them via: <http://vet-unimelb.custhelp.com> www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/ Students can register their attendance at: <http://www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/openday/openday2009reg.html>

Greg Feben
Student Pathways

Mordialloc Neighbourhood House

Computers from Woe to Go

An easy to understand introduction to computers for use at home.

Must have own computer at home. Topics covered include:

Choosing and buying a computer. How to understand the jargon.

Protecting your computer from virus and other malicious software.

Email, email accounts and other subscriptions.

Internet service providers, dial up or broadband.

Internet: the why, what, where and how of navigating and searching for information.

TUESDAY MARCH 10 – MARCH 31 (4 weeks)

6:30pm – 8:30pm

Cost: \$70:00

For bookings and more information, please phone **9587 4534**

Scintillating Stitches

A friendly supportive group where you have the opportunity to learn

a variety of crafts such as: stretch and conventional sewing, battenburg lace making, cross stitch, quilting, curtains, costumes, knitting and crochet.

BYO sewing machine, sewing kit, patterns and materials.

MORDIALLOC NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Friday: 12:30 – 3:00pm

March 13 – April 3 (4 weeks)

Limited childcare available. Bookings essential. Cost: \$60.00

Please phone: 9587 4534

Mordi Food & Wine Festival

Sarah Rzek (9F) & Laura Holland-Braddick (11C)
are performing
at the Mordi Food and Wine Festival
on Sunday 15th March at 12 noon.
They will be on the street stage (Nepean Hwy side).
Come along and support them.

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange, an Australian not-for-profit organisation specialising in international student exchange programs, is seeking volunteer host families for high school students scheduled to arrive in Australia in July 2009 from Germany, Italy, France, Holland, Austria, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark Finland, Japan, Brazil, Canada and the USA. Host families can choose from students staying for a range of either 3, 5 or 10 months and they all attend local high schools whilst they are in Australia. The main purpose of cultural exchange is to challenge youth towards international understanding and tolerance, encourage further learning, self knowledge and awareness - invaluable characteristics in today's world. We organise all the flights, school enrolment, transportation, insurances and support systems. Just imagine your son or daughter having a brother or sister for a few months from another country. It's a great opportunity for Australian students to learn that there is a world of variety and opportunity waiting for them - different languages, foods, sports, customs, and perhaps an overseas visit to look forward to later on.

To enquire, call Southern Cross Cultural Exchange now toll free on 1800 500 501, visit www.scce.com.au or email scceast@scce.com.au

Kind regards and thank you

Robert Lindsay

SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Tel: +61 (0)3 9775 4711 Fax: +61 (0)3 9775 4971

Toll Free: 1800 500 501



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Microsoft® Office Provide students at home with the same tools that they use at school and parents use at work - from word processing to classroom presentations and animated Web design! Microsoft Office Pro Plus provides a suite of products including Microsoft Office Communicator and Microsoft Office Publisher 2007 for creating great class projects - providing students with new ways of learning to expand their horizons.

\$127.50 Ex GST Estimated Retail Price \$799

Host Families wishing to host an Exchange Student

Should you and your family wish to host an Exchange Student from Italy, Germany, Belgium, France, Holland, Brazil or Japan for any length of time and can afford to provide her or him with their meal and a bed, please contact their coordinator, Klaus Schumann, on (03)97584279. Look forward to speaking with you.

Yours sincerely,

Klaus Schumann

WEP Community Coordinator

EBM Insurance Brokers

Affordable Accident Protection for Your Children

No parent or guardian likes to dwell on the prospect of accidents or injuries to their child, but the reality is that accidents do happen and families often struggle to cope with the financial pressures that follow.

Accidents don't discriminate on the basis of age, location or school, and sadly injuries to school-aged children can place enormous financial stress on their families, and can also have wider effects too. When this happens, parents and guardians need a helping hand.

And all too often, parents are surprised to learn just how little cover, if any, their children have when they are at school or at play.

StudentCover is student accident insurance that provides protection for your children 24 hours a day, even days a week, anywhere in the world*. The cover applies whether they are at school or not, and includes almost every sport*. (*some conditions apply)

The annual cost of a StudentCover policy is just \$29.00.

How to apply

StudentCover is only available online - making it quick and easy to protect your child or children. To apply online simply go to www.studentcover.com.au and click **APPLY NOW**.

Key Dates 2009

MARCH	
Monday 16 th	Immunisations Years 7 and 10
Tuesday 17 th	Year 7 and 12 Fancy Dress Ball College Council 7.30pm
Thursday 19 th	Leadership Training - College & Form Captains and Domain Leaders
Friday 20 th	Leadership training – Student Representative Council
Monday 23 rd	Year 8AB Cranbourne Gardens Excursion
Tuesday 24 th	Year 8CD Cranbourne Gardens Excursion Parents & Friends Association AGM 7.30pm
Wednesday 25 th	House Assembly Reports distributed
Thursday 26 th	Year 8EF Cranbourne Gardens Excursion Parent Forum in AR2 – 2.15 – 3.25pm
Friday 27 th	Year 8GH Cranbourne Gardens Excursion
Tuesday 31 st	Business Management Market Day
APRIL	
Wednesday 1 st	Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews 3.00 – 6.00 pm
Friday 3rd	Last day Term 1 finish at 2.15pm Happy Holidays

Term 2	
Thursday 23 rd	House Athletics
Friday 24 th	College Assembly
Monday 27 th - Friday MAY 8th	Year 9 Classes City Experience Camps
Thursday 7 th May	Open Night 7.00pm
Monday 11 th	Year 7 Immunisations
Tuesday 12 th	Open Afternoon 2.00pm
Tuesday 12 th - Thursday 14 th	NAPLAN - Years 7 and 9
Thursday 14 th	Open Afternoon 2.00pm
Monday 18 th	Year 9ABCD Shrine Excursion
Tuesday 19 th	College Council 7.30 pm
Wednesday 20 th	Year 8 Leadership Conference House Music Competition 7.30pm
Friday 22 nd	Year 9EFGH Shrine Excursion