



MENTONE GIRLS' SECONDARY COLLEGE

Cnr. Balcombe & Charman Rds., Mentone. 3194

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NEWSLETTER

No. 07

15th May 2008

Dear Parents,

Open Night last Thursday was an amazing event, with over 1,000 visitors coming to see the College in action. The Open Afternoons on May 13th and May 15th showed the College in its normal functioning timetable, which many prospective families like to see as well.

In the next few weeks we have no public holidays or curriculum days, so it is most important that students stay focussed and complete all their work. As I have said before, time on task is a major influence on students' results. Of course, some students (and staff) may be unfortunate enough to miss school through illness, but I would ask parents not to take girls out for a day or week for family celebrations or holidays during term time.

House Music was held on Wednesday May 14th, with all houses well represented and in fine form. Congratulations to Mackellar House, very close winners on the night by one point from Melba.

Thank you to all the parents, students and teachers (including ex-member of staff, Joan Barnett) for the wonderful work done at the Working Bee. Mrs Louise Rieniets did a great job organising the day and I'm sure will be grateful for help at our next Working Bee in September.

Deborah M Lehner
Principal

2008 May Working Bee

A **big** thankyou to all families, staff and students who helped with the May 2008 Working Bee
Thanks to the following families: Muir, Tucker, Tonkin, Williams, Webb, Guyeth, Hackett, Grant, Syme, Deacon, Turner, Miler, McConchie, McManamny, McCarthy, and Brock.

Thanks to the following students: Ale Williams, Caitlin Webb, Amy Syme-Ross, and Olivia McConchie; thanks also to the siblings who worked hard all morning; Nicholas and Brittany. The following staff also assisted with the working bee: Simon Frazer, Heather Brown, Judy Lielnors, Deborah Lehner, Steve Williams, Martine McLeod, Gerry Vandenberg, James the gardener, Neville the cleaner, and Joan Barnett. (Apologies if I have missed someone – I have taken names from the sign-in sheet)

A great deal was achieved:

1. **Landscaping behind Reflective Learning Centre** – complete & looks great (just a little mulching needed)
2. **Relocation of Seating near oval** – complete
3. **Repaving in Canteen Quadrangle near BBQ** – postponed
4. **Mulching new garden beds near Music Centre** – complete
5. **Sweep leaf litter off new tennis court surface** – complete and the sand was spread evenly
6. **Sanding and re-staining seating in canteen quadrangle** - complete
7. **General Garden maintenance** – complete in most areas of the school
8. **Pruning** – the front corner looks fabulous: look at the hedge!!
9. **Weeding** – complete in most areas, especially around junior wing, admin entrance, gym & RLC
10. **Cleaning spoon drains** – future project

Other: Large carpet rolls removed from gym, old cupboard removed, large branches removed, old cement bike racks removed, canteen courtyard swept

The second working bee is planned for September – please contact Louise Rieniets if you have suggestions/ideas, or if would like to assist in some way.

Thanks again,

Louise Rieniets

Captain's Corner

Last Thursday MGSC was on show for Open Night. There was a fabulous turn out and it was lovely to see the young girls so excited about the College. Well done to all the students who volunteered around the College. The tour guides confidently showed parents and their daughters around, and some students sat in their classrooms helpfully showing off work that they are doing. I was quite proud of everyone, as they should be too. I was especially proud of the girls dissecting the frogs and fish in the science wing, they had to put up with people running away as soon as they stepped into the room. But apart from that, I think we might've impressed many people!

On other notes, the VCE Committee has been busy organising the formal. The theme 'Sunset Luau' was decided on, and now we are brainstorming ideas for decorations. We've only got 1 term to plan the whole formal, so the decisions must be made quickly and precisely. It's good to be able to do this with minimal input from the teachers, as it really makes our formal 'ours'.

Lauren Geschke
College Captain

College Matters

Open Night

There were record numbers in attendance for the Open Night last Thursday. It was wonderful to see so many positive aspects of the College on display. The student speakers, Aerobics Team and Concert Band all did themselves and the school proud with the fine performances. Following the session in the gymnasium, the guides and students who had come to work in the classroom display areas were also all great ambassadors for the College. Thank you to all students and dedicated teachers who worked so hard on the night.

Car Boot Sale

Don't forget to come along to the College this Sunday between 9.00am and 1.00pm to support the Parents and Friends Car Boot Sale. There will be lots of stalls selling all sorts of goodies and treasures. There will also be a BBQ, as well as coffee and soft drinks for sale.



Judy Lielnors
Acting Assistant Principal

Senior School

Unit One and Unit Three exams are fast approaching.

In preparation for the students doing the GAT, there will be a GAT familiarisation on Friday 23rd May for the Year 11s and Friday 30th May for the Year 12s. The girls will be given tips for approaching this test. The GAT is sat by every student taking a Unit 3-4 subject this year. This includes students doing final year VET subjects which have an external final exam and students studying languages or dance at 3-4 level outside school. Year 12 students who sat the GAT in Year 11 must again sit the exam this year.

Year 11 exams commence on Monday 2nd June and will run until Friday 6th June. There will be no Year 11 classes during this week and students are only required at school for exams or for their Year 12 lessons.

Unit 3 exams will be held for Accounting, Biology, Psychology, Physics and Chemistry on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th June. There will be no Year 12 classes on these two days but Year 11 classes will be held. Year 11 students doing Unit 3 Biology or Psychology exams on these days should attend their Year 11 classes in the afternoon.

Uniform should be worn by Year 11 and 12 students on these days.

The GAT will be held on Friday 13th June which is otherwise a student free day at school. Uniform is not required for the GAT.

Please refer to your daughter's VCE Exam Navigator for details of exam time and what it is advised to take into Unit 3 exams and the GAT.

Should your daughter suffer an illness or personal difficulties during the exam period, please contact the Senior School Office as soon as possible on 95815231, for advice on the best way to proceed. In general, it is important for a student to sit her exam if at all possible. Applications for a Derived Exam Score can be made if supported by independent professional advice, however the outcome of the application cannot be guaranteed.

Year 11 students who wish to apply for a change of subject for semester 2 must have their application submitted by Friday 30th May. Students will be informed whether it has been possible to make the change during the week ending 13th June.

Normal classes resume for the start of Unit 2 & 4 on Monday 16th June.

We wish the girls all the best at this time.

Senior School Team

Middle School

Year 9 Camps

The Year 9's all returned safely from their various camps, and whilst weary, they had lots of stories, photographs, new friendships and wonderful memories to keep. The teachers on each camp were very proud of the students' excellent behaviour, as is the expectation at Mentone Girls'. Today, the 2 Camp Project tasks were submitted to their teachers for assessment. The students will be completing a self assessment sheet, which will be in their end of semester reports. A big thank you to all the staff who assisted with the camps.

Attendance

Overall, Middle School students have pleasing attendance records. As the weather becomes cooler, it is very important to keep warm and healthy to maintain regular attendance. A phone message to the Middle School office will enable an absence to become explained.

Lateness has become a concern this term. Remember, an unexplained late arrival results in a lunchtime detention on the day. If your daughter does not attend this detention, then an after school detention will occur on Friday until 4.15pm. The number of Middle School students at these detentions is on the rise. Arriving at school on time is the responsibility of the student.

Homework Haven

Parents of Middle School students are reminded that the College offers an ideal opportunity for their daughters to complete work in a supportive environment. The Homework Haven is situated in the Reflective Learning Centre and takes place every Tuesday between 3.30 and 4.30. VCE leaders manage the Haven and act as peer tutors during the sessions. A teacher is present and acts in a supervisory role. Refreshments are served.

We request parents of Year 9 and 10 students to encourage their daughters to attend these sessions and look forward to their participation. They will be made most welcome.

Mid Year Examinations

As June exams are only several weeks away, the expectation is that all Middle School students have set up a regular study routine. These exams enable students to become familiar with the exam process, as well as learning how to revise work from semester one.

The Year 10 exams are scheduled on Wednesday 4th, Thursday 5th and Friday 6th June, whilst the Year 9 exams are on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th June. Students are only required at school for exams. Uniform must be worn by Year 9 and 10 students attending for exams.

Year 10 Examinations - All Year 10 exams are 70 minutes in total, the first 10 minutes being for reading and then 60 minutes writing time.

Date	Time	Subject
Wed 4 th June	P 1	English
	P 2	Humanities
	P 3	Bus Management Unit 1
Thur 5 th June	P 1	Biology Unit 1
	P 2	Mathematics
	P 3	Science
	P 4	Health and Human Development Unit 1
Fri 6 th June	P 1	LoTE

Year 9 Examinations -: LAS and MAI are both 120 minutes long including reading time. LoTE is 1 period in length.

Date	Time	Subject
Wed 4 th June	9.00 -11.00am	LAS
Thur 5 th June	9.00-11.00am	MAI
Fri 6 th June	Period 1	LoTE

Middle School Team

Junior School

Year Level Assembly

We would like to congratulate Jessica Ivanoff (8B), Ashlea Ketis (8B), Ravina Perera (8F) and Eleanor Flemming (8F). They did a sterling job in planning and running a very successful Year Level Assembly on Wednesday 7th May.

At the assembly, Maddie Christo and Isabelle Kiss (8F) spoke confidently about the success of the Aerobics Team, and our Well Being Leaders, Rebel Gordon (8G) and Vanessa Stephens (8B) made the Junior School students aware of the Kindness Box and the importance of treating each other with kindness. Olivia Bridger sang "I Can Hear the Bells" very well and had the audience listening attentively. Nikki Hiremath and Dianna Daou once again entertained us, this time with the song "Tattoo". Congratulations!

Open Night

Three of our Year 7 girls prepared and delivered speeches to nearly 1,000 visitors in our gymnasium last Thursday evening. They clearly outlined our camp program, the Swimming and Athletic Carnivals and the fun of the Year 7/12 Fancy Dress. A tremendous amount of organisation and confidence was shown. A super effort was made by Mimi Giordano (7D), Amber Swales (7F) and Natasha Lim (7H). Well done!

Head Lice

Could we please remind every family to check hair for hair lice on a regular basis?

Much to many parents' annoyance, the head louse is a tiny, wingless parasitic insect that lives among human hairs and feeds on extremely small

amounts of blood drawn from the scalp. Although they may sound gross, lice are a very common problem. Lice aren't dangerous and they don't spread disease, but they are contagious and can just be downright annoying. Their bites may cause your child's scalp to become itchy and inflamed and persistent scratching may lead to skin irritation and even infection.

Many head lice infections cause no symptoms, and probably less than half cause itch, so you have to LOOK to find out if your daughter has head lice. Do not rely on itching and scratching.

Junior School Team

Entertainment Books

The College is again selling Entertainment Books during 2008. Books sell for \$65 each and contain thousands of dollars worth of specials 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.



SRC

Year 10 student leaders wanted for all girl school conference

The Victorian Girls' School Association is holding a conference in August, which focuses on the theme "*The Sky Isn't the Limit*". If you would like to have a fun-packed day meeting Year 10's from the other eight State girls' schools in Victoria, then this is for you. The conference will run workshops and fun activities, such as martial arts, belly dancing and creative arts and you will receive a show bag packed full of random goodies.

If you know of any companies that are willing to donate products for show bags, it would be greatly appreciated. Show bags will be handed out to the attending students on the day of the conference and even the smallest donations would be greatly appreciated. Targeted at Year 10 students, these show bags are a great opportunity for Free Advertising and a way of helping to make a fabulous day even better. If you are interested in attending the conference or require more information, please see Ms Liakos in Staffroom B or Louise Mapleston and Megan Kruse in 10D.

Sport

State Swimming



A number of our swimmers recently competed in the State Swimming Championships. The students who participated did very well to advance to this level of competition in the first place, but some of our girls also performed outstandingly well on the day in elite company.

Highlights are as follows:

Under 13 Freestyle Relay (1st).

The members of this team were:

Ruby Greig-Hurtig, Evelyn Clark, Georgia Scott and Hannah Weeks.

Under 14 Medley Relay (3rd)

Under 16 Diving Clare Tytler (4th)

Under 21 50 metres Breastroke Monique Mac (5th)

Under 15 Freestyle Relay (6th)

Under 21 Freestyle Relay (6th)

Under 14 Freestyle Relay (8th)

Under 14 Butterfly Stephanie Van de Water (8th)

Well done to all the girls who tried so valiantly on the day and were fine ambassadors for the College. Thank you especially to Georgia Byrne, who stepped in at the last minute to cover for a student in the Under 15 relay team. Mr David Shillabeer and Mr Luke de Munk must also be thanked for supporting and encouraging these girls through the various stages of competition.

Sorry

Apologies are extended to Ashleigh Whittaker, due to an oversight caused by computer error, which registered the wrong student as overall athletics champion for the under 15 age group. Not only was Ashleigh champion, but she also broke four records during the House Athletics Carnival. The records were for the following events: 100 metres, 200 metres, long jump and triple jump. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement, Ashleigh, and we know you'll represent the College with distinction in inter-school events.

Careers

Want to find out about medical science?

Ever wondered what happens after you have a blood or other medical test - where your blood goes, how it is examined and a diagnosis made? Here's your chance to find out with a **behind the scenes tour**. Years 10-12 students interested in a career in medical science can find out what happens by visiting a laboratory where third year

RMIT Laboratory Medicine students complete their professional practice (incl. major teaching hospitals). If you are interested in the laboratory investigation, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of disease and want to learn more about the role of the medical scientist, then register at

www.rmit.edu.au/medical-sciences/lab-visits;

Tour Dates: 7-11 July; **Registration closes** 13 June. **Further Information:** Merilyn Lennox, 9925 7075, Merilyn.lennox@rmit.edu.au

Careers in Sports Medicine and Science (CISM) Seminar

If you are interested in a career in sports medicine and science, CISM 2008 is for you. Seven practitioners (doctor, physiotherapist, sports scientist, dietician, psychologist, podiatrist, osteopath) will present their profession and educational pathways. Universities will provide information on course entry and their institution (Bond, ACU, Ballarat, Canberra, Deakin, La Trobe, Melbourne, Monash, RMIT and Victoria universities). **When:** 9am-1pm, Sun 1 June; **Where:** Sports House, 375 Albert Rd, South Melbourne; **Cost:** \$35 (one parent @ \$20);

Registration: www.smavic.org;

Info: 9674 8707, Jennifer@vic.sma.org.au.

Greg Feben
Student Pathways



Brighton Primary School
Wilson Street, Brighton 3186
Monday 19th May, 2008
10:00am – 1:00pm

The Wellbeing Expo aims to inform Bayside families of youth & family services available in the local area. Representatives from a number of different services will be on hand to showcase the free/low cost/fee for service programs on offer.

For further information,
contact 9592 0177 / 0402 140 184



Parents Victoria Online Conference 2008

26 May to 1 June

** School leaders and teachers are invited to inform parents of this no-cost opportunity for discussion and debate.*

PARENTS of primary and secondary students, in all locations, are warmly invited to take part in the second online conference to be held by Parents Victoria.

The conference will be held non-stop on the internet from 6am Monday 26 May to midnight Sunday 1 June. No special software is needed, other than an internet-connected computer and a browser. The online discussions will be very easy to join in, and guidelines about how to participate will be provided. **You don't need to be a member of Parents Victoria to take part.** Join in for all days, just some days, or even a few hours, depending on your lifestyle and other commitments.

Prizes for participation

An interactive whiteboard will be won by the Victorian government school with the greatest participation on Day 3 (Wednesday 28 May). Another whiteboard will be won by the Parents Victoria member school with the greatest participation throughout the entire conference.

Register online at no cost

The Parents Victoria Online Conference 2008 website will open from 6am on 26 May at: <http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv/> but please register yourself online first at <http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv08.htm>

The conference will feature seven 'live' daily online discussions, each of them hosted, for several hours each day, by a member of Parents Victoria, expert staff from the Department for Education and Early Childhood Development or the Victorian Parents Council. Each 24-hour period will focus on a topic that is currently of concern to parents. There will also be one continuous online discussion that will last all week on the topic: **'If you could improve one thing about your child's school, what would it be?'**

The conference program

MONDAY 26 MAY: 'Does your school effectively engage your student? If yes, how? If not, why not?'

Hosted by Margaret Pledger, Parents Victoria from 10am to 11am, 2pm to 3pm and 9pm to 10pm.

TUESDAY 27 MAY: 'Out of School Hours Care – Does it meet your family's needs?'

Hosted by Gail McHardy, Parents Victoria from 10am to 11.30am and 8.30pm to 10pm

WEDNESDAY 28 MAY: 'The Ultranet – What do you know about it and how do you hope it will improve communication with your child's school?'

Hosted by Karenina Fromhold and Rachel Crellin, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development from 9.30am to 11am & 1.30pm to 3.00pm

THURSDAY 29 MAY: 'Should canteens sell only healthy food? How does your canteen rate?'

Hosted by Sharron Healy, Parents Victoria, from 10am to 11.30am and 8.30pm to 10pm

FRIDAY 30 MAY: 'What do you think could be done to improve family/school partnerships? Do you have examples of good practice?'

Hosted by Jo Silver, Victorian Parents Council, from 9.30am to 11.30am & 1.30pm to 2.30pm

SATURDAY 31 MAY: 'Binge drinking and drugs – What can be done to keep our children safe?'

Hosted by Elaine Crowle, Parents Victoria, from 11am to 12.30pm and 2.30 to 4pm

SUNDAY 1 JUNE: 'Bullying - What is the best advice you could give to the parent of a child who is being bullied?'

Hosted by Leanne McCurdy, Parents Victoria, from 2pm to 3.30pm and 7pm to 8.30pm

I look forward to meeting all of you online soon, to discuss these important issues. The more of you join in, the more successful this e-vent will be.

For more information, contact: Debra Brydon, Online Conference Manager

Email: brydon@cybertext.net.au



The **Parents** Jury's campaign for
**Improved
food labelling
systems**

Apr-May 08

Understanding Food Labels Helps Families Make Healthy Choices

Buying healthy and enjoyable food for your child's lunch box can be tricky at the best of times, but having to interpret nutrition information panels and health claims can make it an even more complicated task for parents.

Food manufacturers use packaging as an opportunity to promote the benefits of their product but may not tell the whole story about what the food contains, such as high fat, sugar or sodium (salt) levels. Parents are often left feeling confused about what is really healthy for their child.

Advocacy group The Parents Jury's campaign for Improved Food Labelling Systems informs and empowers Australian parents to learn about the types of information that appear on food packaging, to understand labelling regulations, and to practice reading food labels at home with their families.

It is important that parents are able to trust the nutrition information they find on food packaging because Nutrition Information Panels, nutrition claims and endorsement 'stamps' all influence the purchases that parents make on behalf of their children, for better or worse.

The Parents Jury's campaign advocacy kit contains information about the different types of information that appear on food packaging such as ingredients lists, Nutrition Information Panels and nutrition claims. It teaches parents how to interpret food labels and to read between the lines of potentially misleading claims and endorsements. The kit also contains lots of handy tips, resources and Internet links to help parents and children make ongoing healthy food choices.

To get involved with The Parents Jury's campaign for Improved Food Labelling Systems, visit <http://www.parentsjury.org.au>, or email enquiries@parentsjury.org.au.

The Parents Jury is supported by Diabetes Australia - Vic, WA and QLD, The Cancer Council Australia and its member bodies, The Australian and New Zealand Obesity Society and VicHealth.

Membership of The Parents Jury is free and open to all Australian parents, grandparents and guardians of children aged under 18 years.



Key Dates 2008

Thursday 15 th	National Testing-Numeracy Open Afternoon 2.10-3.20pm State Senior Volleyball
Friday 16 th	Immunisations years 7, 9& 10 Year 12 Exam Preparation Session Year 11 PE Cheltenham PS Periods 1 & 3
Sunday 18th	PFA CAR BOOT SALE 9.00am -1.00pm
Monday 19 th	Inter-House Cross Country lunchtime and period 4 State Senior Tennis
Tuesday 20 th	Year 10 OED Kayaking P3 and lunchtime Production musical rehearsal 3.30-5.00pm College Council 7.30pm
Wednesday 21 st	Intermediate Round Robin SRC Planning Day Pascoe Vale GSC Debating 7.00pm Vocal Night 7.30pm
Thursday 22 nd	State Intermediate Volleyball Staff L2L PD 3.40-4.40pm
Friday 23 rd	Year 9 OED Sailing 10.30-12.30 State Intermediate Tennis Year 11 PE Cheltenham P.S. P1 & 3 Gat Familiarisation P4
Tuesday 27 th	Booklegger visit – Library
Wednesday 28 th	Beachside Cross Country Year 10 Music Concert 5.30pm
Friday 30 th	GAT Familiarisation P4
Saturday 31 st	State Aerobics Final
June Sunday 1 st	Production rehearsal 10.00am-4.00pm
Monday 2 nd - Friday 6 th	Year 9,10 &11 exams
Tuesday 3 rd	Year 7 Round Robin Production rehearsal 3.30-5.00pm
Wednesday 4 th	Year 8 Band Concert 5.30pm
Thursday 5 th	Production – musical rehearsal 3.30-5.00pm Year 7 Band Night
Friday 6 th	Year 8 Round Robin
Monday 9th	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY

**PLEASE NOTE:
Change of Date**