PRINCIPAL’S PERSPECTIVE

GETTING TO KNOW YOU INTERVIEWS

It was great to see so many parents at the Parent Information Sharing sessions this week. It was a great opportunity for parents to meet their child’s teacher and tell them relevant information about their child that will assist them in the planning of the teaching and learning programs. The teachers found it very valuable to learn more about the students and to meet the parents. This leads to positive relationships and partnerships between home and school as we all work together for the education of our students.

FIRST AID OFFICER

This year at Milgate PS we have employed Esther Smith as our First Aid Officer. Esther is well trained in first aid and has a Health Sciences background as well as working in a number of roles in the health and disability sector.

The voluntary contribution paid by parents, which was included on the student fee letter for 2016, for the first aid assistant has enabled the school to employ Esther to care for our students when requiring first aid. Esther works from 10:30am – 2:30pm Monday to Friday so is here over the recess and lunch times as well as during the middle session. Her role also includes medications, managing allergies, plans, etc. We are very fortunate to be able to provide this added service to care for our students. Thank you to the parents who have paid the first aid officer voluntary contribution of $65 as this enables us to provide this valuable service.

ASBESTOS AUDITS IN SCHOOLS

As part of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s Health and Safety Management Plan, new labelling has been installed at our school. The labels remind people to contact school reception prior to undertaking any works at the school and to ensure they have up-to-date information from the school’s asbestos register.

Asbestos - which was used extensively in building materials in the past but is now banned in Australia - is considered safe unless damaged or in poor condition. The new labels form part of a comprehensive program to ensure Victorian government schools remain safe. Children’s safety is our number one priority. That is why we are taking this extra step as a precaution.

MILGATE MIXUPS

This week we started our ‘Milgate Mixups’ again for 2016. Milgate Mixups are groups with mixed age groups. All students across the school are divided into groups and in each group there are students from Foundation through to Year 6. Each group has a teacher allocated to their group and they remain in this group and with the same teacher throughout the year for these sessions. All teachers including class teachers, specialist teachers, Principal and Assistant Principal are responsible for a group. Milgate Mixups take place 2-4 times a term on a Monday afternoon instead of assembly. In line with positive psychology / education, Milgate Mixups provide opportunities for developing new relationships and to build a sense of community. It is about learning to work and cooperate with other students across the school in different year levels in a positive, exciting way. On Monday the students participated in ‘Getting to Know You’ games, heard some funny stories about each other and learnt about the likes and interests of those in their new 2016 group.

Yours sincerely,
Debbie Mierisch | Principal
Karlie Gooding | Assistant Principal
SCHOOL NEWS

POSITIVE EDUCATION
At Milgate PS we are in the process of starting to introduce positive education / psychology to staff and students. Last year the staff participated in professional learning and began using a few positive education / psychology principles with students such as gratitude and thinking about the things they are grateful for each day. Some classes had gratitude jars, gratitude journals and a range of other things. This year we are planning to build on this with the students. We are all on a learning journey together.

There has been a lot written about positive psychology / education. Positive Psychology is the scientific study of human flourishing, and an applied approach to optimal functioning. It has also been defined as the study of the strengths and virtues that enable individuals, communities and organisations to thrive.

Positive Psychology is grounded in the belief that people want to lead meaningful and fulfilling lives, to cultivate what is best within them, and to enhance their experiences of love, work, and play.

A website that has some good resources for parents is: http://wellbeingforkids.com.au/ It also has some useful Tip Sheets for parents under the resources section.

TRAFFIC SAFETY AROUND THE SCHOOL
We have received a number of concerns from parents in regard to members of our school community engaging in unsafe driving and parking practices on both Landscape Drive and Serpell Road. There are a number of parents who are not obeying the traffic signs. There are parking areas that are 3 minute parking before and after school, apparently some parents are parking in these areas much longer. There are also parents parking in Serpell Road opposite double and continuous lines, this is illegal. Double parking and U Turns are also happening which are both unsafe practices. The Manningham Council will be coming at various times before and after school so any parents who are parking illegally or engaging in unsafe practices will be fined. We know that pick up and drop off times around the school are very busy and we want to keep all of our students and community safe so we ask all parents to consider the safety of everyone – please drive and park legally and safely. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

The staff car park is for staff parking ONLY. For parents / grandparents who require a disabled car park, there are two disabled carparks located in Serpell Road at the back of the school and one in Landscape drive at the front of the school. The disabled car park in the staff car park is for parents of students with a disability.

When leaving the school grounds at the front of the school, parents and students are asked to use the main paved pathway near the main entrance and the zebra lines across the car park near the carpark gate.

For safety reasons, students and parents / guardians are asked to keep to the designated paths and not to walk behind cars - this is not a safe practice as a car could be driving or reversing out. Thank you for your assistance with this. We want everyone to keep safe.

Any parents concerned about parking or traffic issues around the school are welcome to contact Manningham City Council directly on 9840 9333.

SPORTS NEWS
Templestowe District Swimming | Fri 12 Feb
Congratulations to all our students that competed at the Templestowe District Swimming Championships at Aquarena. All our Milgate students performed extremely well and in particular well done to the following students who were successful in making it through to the Manningham Division Swimming:

- Alyssa G ~ 10yr Girls 50m Backstroke
- Tayla Mc ~ 11yr Girls 50m Backstroke
- Nathan W ~ 11yr Boys 50m Freestyle, 50m Breaststroke, Freestyle Relay & Medley Relay
- Isaac L ~ 12yr Boys 50m Freestyle, 50m Breaststroke, Freestyle Relay & Medley Relay
- Jack D ~ 11yr Boys 50m Freestyle Relay
- Cooper C ~ 11yr Boys 50m Freestyle Relay
- Kalan F ~ 11yr Boys 50m Freestyle Relay
- George C-J ~ 12yr Boys 50m Freestyle Relay & Medley Relay
- Evan C ~ 11yr Boys 50m Freestyle Relay & Medley Relay
- Ethan Y ~ 12yr Boys 50m Freestyle Relay

Good luck to the above students and we look forward to hearing how you performed at the Manningham Division Swimming Championships.

House Swimming Sports | Friday 4 March
This event is for all our Year 3 – 6 students and runs from 10:30am – 3:00pm at the Nunawading Pool. Parents are welcome to attend and your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Tennis Lessons
Thank you to Currawong Tennis Club for donating the use of their facilities for the Milgate tennis try-outs earlier this week. If your child is interested in tennis lessons, then contact Gary Pitts, Currawong Tennis Club, Cnr Reynolds & Springvale Rd, East Doncaster. M: 0404 028 104 or 9848 5060.
SCHOOL NEWS

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL
This year, the Junior School Council has undergone some improvements. The School Leaders are leading a fantastic group of over 70 excited, eager and committed students from Years 1 - 6, who want to bring about some positive change to our school. The purpose of the Junior School Council is to:
- involve students in the decision making process of school activities and to give them the opportunity to put their ideas into action
- provide students with the opportunity to become effective leaders and build on their skills, and
- promote a commitment to the school and our community

Meetings are on Wednesday’s at lunchtime and rotate between the whole JSC group and the Senior Leaders. JSC meetings give students the opportunity to share ideas and concerns from their classes and allow the students to discuss ways of solving them.

We will continue to fundraise for our chosen charities and also want to focus on our school community more. Look out for more information about JSC and to hear about the action we are taking!

MUSICAL INSPIRATION
The instrumental music program at Milgate Primary School was very successful in 2015 and we look forward to continuing this year. Congratulations to all the students that performed in our end of year recitals, well done!

We've had many new enrolments already and are now filling up timetables for Term 1. If you are interested in instrumental music lessons for your child, enrolment forms are available in Compass | School Documentation. If you have any further questions please email Dean at: musical.inspiration@bigpond.com.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED
Please contact the Office or email us if you're interested or want to know more about any of these volunteer roles:
Email: milgate.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Lost Property
This involves sorting through the lost property items, returning named items to students in their classroom and sorting unnamed items of clothing. How often you want to do this is really up to you and what time you can spare.

CSEF APPLICATIONS
Eligible parents / carers may claim the CSEF (Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund) amount of $125 per year if they meet the following criteria:
- Have a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card or be a temporary foster parent, and
- Have a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school
  - on the first day of Term one
  - on the first day of Term two

Forms must be submitted before Mon 29 Feb 2016.
Forms are available at the office and parents must produce their relevant card with the application.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE
Student accident insurance, ambulance cover arrangements and private property brought to schools
Parents are reminded that the Department of Education does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students.
Parents and guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs.
Private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors is not insured and the Department of Education does not hold insurance for personal property brought to school and has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property, students and staff are encouraged not to bring particularly valuable items to school.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD
Any relevant material is posted on our noticeboard [located outside the Art room] as a service to our school community.
Recent articles include:
- Our Lady of the Pines | Community Fete [Sun 20 Mar 11am – 4pm]
- Girl Guides | Be a guide for a day 5 Mar 10am – 1pm
- SealPony Soccer | Sundays [Ages 5 – 10]