



MILLER MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER 20 NOVEMBER, 2020

Volume 25

UPCOMING EVENTS

21.11.2020	Workshops Applications
23.11.2020	Years 7-9 Assessments
23.11.2020	Year 12 Sign out day
24.11.2020	Year 9 GALA day
24.11.2020	Support Faculty Orientation Day
25.11.2020	Peer Support Session
25.11.2020	Football United
25.11.2020	NRL School to Work
25.11.2020	Great Aussie Bush Camp
25.11.2020	SCEA for SALT Workshop
26.11.2020	Youth Frontiers Year 7
26.11.2020	KARI mentoring
26.11.2020	Great Aussie Bush Camp
26.11.2020	Year 12 USYD Activate
27.11.2020	Primary School Numeracy
27.11.2020	Great Aussie Bush Camp
27.11.2020	Zone Volleyball Trial Day
27.11.2020	White Card
30.11.2020	Year 10 Mock Interview
1.12.2020	Year 6 Orientation Day
2.12.2020	Football United
2.12.2020	NRL Work to School
2.12.2020	Peer Support Session
2.12.2020	School Swimming Carnival



Monday to Friday

Office Hours 8.30 am to 3.30 pm

Telephone (02) 9607 8669

Fax (02) 9607 9460

Email : Miller-
h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

A very important part of our school philosophy is having high expectations for all students. Our students talk of being respected and of having their strengths and abilities recognised.

Our programs focus on a child's strengths. We build in lots of opportunities for students to experience success. Being successful makes you feel happy and to build confidence. When you feel confident you are more likely to take risks, step out of your comfort zone and work on things you are not so strong at.

A key initiative to build on students' capacity and strengths to achieve their desired career pathways is "Giving Students the EDGE for Work" program which is part of our involvement in the Educational Pathways Policy Pilot, launched at our school last year by the NSW Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education, Dr Lee.

In understanding the desired learning outcomes, the EDGE acronym stands for Education, Department, Grooming and Employability skills. The EDGE workshops our Year 10 students attended were interactive, whilst providing access to professionals to address the gap between student perceptions and employer expectations. Workshops were also conducted by experts in hair care and make-up to create a professional look, using affordable products. A specialised stylist was on site to provide advice on appropriate clothing for interviews and how to shop on a budget.

It goes without saying, that as a school we are a culturally diverse group of students and teachers all with a rich, colourful heritage and history. *'Our diversity is our strength'* and each year we celebrate this uniqueness not only through cultural festivals, including the recent Hindu festival of Diwali, but also in what we have in common, including NAIDOC Week and Remembrance Day.

Thank you to Ms Lawrence, Ms Northcott, Ms Hughes, Mr Scott, Ms Dinapoli, Ms Elvidge, Mr Critcher and Ms Atkins and all the students involved for their passion and dedication in making our NAIDOC week such a meaningful celebration of the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In discussion with Ms Northcott, the Cupcake Drive raised over \$400.00 for the Westmead Children's Hospital Toy Appeal. This was a combined fundraising initiative by our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and SRC students. Well done to all!

Our Remembrance Day ceremony on Wednesday 11 November was a time to stop and recognise the supreme sacrifice of those men and woman who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts. Well done, Ms Atkins, Mr Thompson, Ms Northcott, Mr Critcher, Mr Nugent, Mr Wood, SRC students and Prefects for making the ceremony such a meaningful event, reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness for all Australians.

Our teachers look for children's strengths and interests, and use these as starting points for learning. This conveys high expectations to students to help them to believe in themselves and improve their self-esteem. "This work is important; I know you can do it; I won't give up on you; the harder you work the smarter you will get".

Take care,
Dr Ken Edge - Principal

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY



At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. On this day Miller Technology High School held a Remembrance Day assembly to acknowledge those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts. The ceremony included formal speeches and reflections by our Senior Prefect student body, formal wreath laying by our SRC students and the observance of a minutes silence at 11am by the entire school.

As a school community we would like to acknowledge and pay our respects to all the fallen servicemen and women who have gave their lives for Australians everywhere.

Special thanks also goes to our Senior Prefects, SRC members, Ms Atkins, Mr Nugent and Ms Northcott for their efforts on the day.

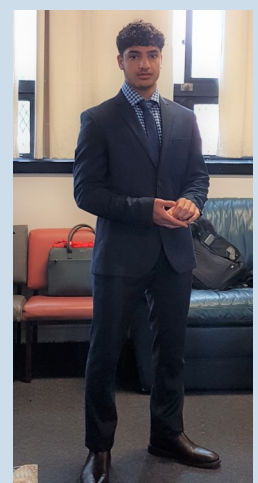
Ms H Vukic - HSIE Teacher



THE EDGE WORKSHOP

Year 10 students participated in their first face-to-face workshop, thanks to the EPPP pilot EDGE Workshops. The EDGE stands for Education, Department, Grooming and Employability Skills. Year 10 students learnt about job readiness and what employers are looking for. They got tips about personal branding, personal presentation and communication and how their social media profiles can impact on their careers. Students worked with industry professionals and learnt how to present their best selves in areas of hair, clothing, personal hygiene, and skin care/makeup.

Ms M Benitez - Careers



TREEHOUSE - FLASHBACKS

RECOVERY

Yara - I have learnt that despite my past, and the loss of my dad, my future is waiting for me.



Mahboba - It's easier for me to tell my trauma stories now. And I have discovered that I love theatre: acting and drama to tell our stories. I want this for my future!



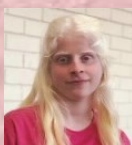
Sami - I understand my emotions better now. I know what to do when I feel angry.



Evana - For all the years I was afraid, I just kept all my trauma locked inside. Now I've started to heal.



Mariam - I choose to be resilient. Look at me!



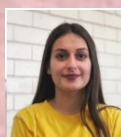
Tina - I feel happy to tell my story. I am so happy that I could share my story with all of you.



Yousif - I'm good at helping people who are sad.



Rood - I am beginning to believe that I am strong and valuable. My life is still hard but a bright future waits for me.



Danela - I've learned from this show that even if people are smiling on the outside, they often have sad stories.



Ephraim - I'm coming out of my shell. I love acting.

Benigne - My English is improving and I am so much more confident now.



Sham - I feel liberated! I am free! I have learnt how to handle my Flashbacks.



Thank you Treehouse Theatre.

On November 6th, at Seymour Centre, Sydney University, the final show of the magnificent "Flashbacks" was performed at 7pm. The cast received a standing ovation from the audience in recognition of the inspiring show, the honesty and courage of the performers, and the excellence of the production itself, including the wonderful acting of the cast.

The Cast was comprised of 12 Miller Technology High School and IEC students: young refugees from Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and Tanzania (Congolese refugees) from Miller Technology High School.

This show was the final of 5 at the Seymour Centre, and after each show, audience members commented on how deeply moved they had been, which expressed itself in both laughter and tears. As Fadi Yacoub from 3S2 in the IEC, commented "It was funny and emotional."

Two Year 10 classes, and Level 3 classes from the IEC had a delightful excursion to the Seymour Centre to support their fellow students by watching the show.

This is the 11th consecutive year that students from Miller Technology High School have performed in a Treehouse Theatre production. The purpose of the 4-month program, with students rehearsing on Sundays and during school holidays, is to help heal the trauma caused by being a refugee, and to educate the wider Australian public about that trauma.

So when a student tells their story, and the other cast members act it for them, an intangible but real magic happens on stage and curls its tendrils out into the hearts of the audience. In turn, the sympathy and joy felt by the audience return to the actors and create a connection which, although it will fade, will have changed all parties forever.

What an honour it is to be a part of this process, I feel! Others feel this too.

To quote Ms Thompson, Head Teacher of the IEC "I felt immensely privileged to witness the cast shape their narratives of resilience on stage." And as one of the performers, Shamiram Mikhael, concluded "Trauma is like a jail. When you speak the truth, you feel free."

Thanks to all those responsible for the show, to Dr Edge and the Miller Technology High School staff and students who offered their hearts as audience members. Together we witnessed that freedom.

Ms Ruth Hartcher-O'Brien - Artistic Director

TREEHOUSE THEATRE FLASHBACKS

"LIFE IS A JOURNEY" or EVERY MILE HAS A MEMORY

BY : Evana Jibraeel

The 4th November was the first day that we went to the Seymour Centre to share our true experiences and stories for the world to see and hear. The bus dropped us off near the University of Sydney which is also near the theatre. It was 7:50 am. I asked Miss O'Brien for a tour as it was my first time ever entering a university. As we were walking into the university I was so surprised that there were multiple different buildings for each specific course and the buildings are given names such as the Quadrangle. That's the building behind us in the picture below. It is a building that has been there for 54 years, considered to be "the first building for Australia's first university". It is where many University of Sydney students take classes and do their exams.

After visiting the University of Sydney, we went to the theatre for the rehearsals before our two shows on Thursday and our three shows on Friday. In total there were five shows. The rehearsal on Wednesday 4th November went adequately, even though we only had a short period of time to put, run and practice the whole show together. We were working as ONE team. We were so close to each other and very friendly to each other. Without the teamwork we could never have done the show. The first show was on Thursday at 10:00 am. We performed in front of high school students, doing the whole show in front of an audience for the first time. I think it went extremely well. Then we had a break for an hour before our second show which was at 12pm. After the break we performed for the Miller IEC students and the show went even better. We got a lot of positive feedback from both shows' audiences.

On Friday 6th November, we arrived at the theatre at 9am. We had our third show at 10:00am so in the meantime we rested and discussed how to improve from our previous performances. In the third show the audience were primary school students, they were very mature for their ages. They gave us the most beautiful feedback on our show. One young girl said, "I'm so lucky to be born here in Australia. I haven't left my country but now I understand that what you all went through is hard. For me, it is really amazing how strong and amazing you are to tell these uneasy stories to us to educate us. Thank you so much for this beautiful show."

After we finished our third show we rested in the green room and had very delicious food. Thanks to Tracey for buying all our meals for three days.

After we ate and rested, we started getting ready for our fourth show. We performed in front of Miller students (Year 10 Magenta and Yellow class). The feedback from these students was very kind and positive and we also got beautiful feedback from Mr Nugent and Miss Vukic about how they were proud of all of us, they were so amazed by all of us and how far we have come. It was a small audience due to COVID-19, but even with such a small audience we were able to educate and share our true personal stories with them. The fifth and final show was at 7pm and we were going to perform in front of parents, teachers and other adults. The audience this time was much bigger than the last four shows. All the adults were very into the show, they were laughing, then in tears, and then happy again. There were a lot of mixed emotions in the theatre. They were very supportive and gave very heartwarming feedback. One person said, "I love how they all are connected to each other and they all help each other. When someone is crying, everyone hugs that person. I have never seen a group of young people supporting each other that way." Words are not enough to describe the beautiful moments in all of the show and especially that night.

In Treehouse Theatre, I have met and connected with new people with different experiences. It helps me to share my feelings to be open and not just keep them inside until they eat me alive. At first it hurt, we all cried, I felt the pain again and every time we were acting we felt it again. After the fifth show it was easier because we controlled it, that's because we had put our true stories into words and action.

Doing the Treehouse Theatre program I was born again. I'm born stronger, more confident now. I controlled my fears and I controlled my story. It touched me to never give up. The Treehouse Theatre program did shape a part of me which was invisible.

I had so many different emotions - I felt amazed, happy, lucky, confident, relieved and grateful for this journey. The three days were the best three days in my whole life. I'm very thankful to Miss O'Brien, Miss Catherine, Miss Monjo, Mr Kains and Mr Isaac. Without these teachers none of these experiences would actually happen. Thank you so much Miss O'Brien and Miss Catherine for giving students like us this amazing program which is "Treehouse Theatre".

Special thanks to Miss Tracey, production manager and responsible for backstage plus lights.

I also would like to thank Gia Huy Tiet for organising all of the sound effects.

I would like to say with honour and pride that I'm finally "Free" from the terrifying past and I'm ready for whatever the future brings. I hope this program goes on forever in school.

MTC YOUTH FRONTIERS - YEAR 8

GIRLS PROGRAM

The Year 8 MTC Youth Frontiers Girls Program was launched at Miller Technology High School in Term One 2020. This program connects students aged 12–16 with adult volunteer mentors and aims to help students develop:

- Self-esteem & confidence
- Conflict resolution skills
- Communication, teamwork & leadership skills
- School & community connectedness
- A vision for their future

Despite being heavily impacted due to Covid-19 the MTC Australia Facilitator Ms Danielle Thielle managed to keep this youth mentoring program operational in a variety of formats to maintain student engagement and connectedness.

Now that the NSW Department of Education has eased restrictions the MTC Youth Frontiers program is now back in full swing and it operates at MTHS on a weekly basis.

The Year 8 girls decided to continue with the Year 7 Project Based Learning theme of homelessness. Under the guidance of the MTC Mentors students are creating resources to support local homeless women. Over the last few sessions, the girls have started compiling a Service Directory to support women currently residing in local refuges.

During Week 5, the girls had an amazing time creating their own hand-made bath products using a variety of literacy and numeracy skills during the production process.

These beautifully scented items will be packaged with other personal-care items and donated as Pamper Packs for local women that normally could not purchase non-essential items such as these.

There are currently 14 participants in the Year 8 Program which operates every Thursday morning in the School Library. The program is fully funded by MTC Australia and is offered at no cost to all participants.

Ms T Porter

Girls Program Co-ordinator



NAIDOC WEEK - 2020

The theme for NAIDOC Week 2020 is 'Always Was, Always Will Be', recognising that First Nations peoples have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years. NAIDOC Week is a time to reflect and to celebrate the rich histories, cultures and achievements of Australia's First Nation Peoples.

The Miller Technology High School community celebrated NAIDOC Week both inside and outside the classroom. Our NAIDOC Week celebrations began with a whole school assembly, where Sally McPherson delivered her personalised Acknowledgement of Country, and Ms Northcott shared the stirring story of her mother-in-law who was part of the Stolen Generations. On Tuesday, the SRC and student volunteers sold cupcakes decorated with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag colours to raise money for The Children's Hospital at Westmead toy drive. On Wednesday, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students created a NAIDOC Week themed rice art mural out on the quad, drawing the attention and admiration of our school community. On Thursday, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students invited a student buddy along to a day of jewellery and basket weaving. On Friday, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students finished off the week with a celebration luncheon.

Thank you to all of the teachers, staff, and students who participated in the celebrations across the school.

Always was, always will be.

Ms Emily Hughes
Aboriginal Education Coordinator



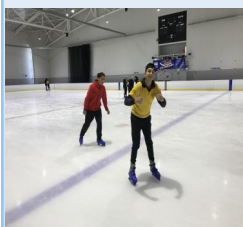
ALWAYS WAS, ALWAYS WILL BE



YEAR 9 & 10 SPORT

"Our year 9 & 10 students have been lapping it up during sport every Wednesday afternoon. Pictured here are our amazing students that chose Ice Skating and Boys Futsal. It's been great to get back into the Miller and Liverpool community and reconnect with the Liverpool Catholic Club and the Michael Wenden Centre. We look forward to a fun second half of the term and an exciting 2021 filled with many sporting opportunities for our talented students."

Mr D Bourke - PDHPE Teacher



SELF DEFENCE - IEC

This Term 2J have been attending a Self Defense lesson run by CORE. 2J have been learning Karate, Boxing and staying safe. The students have loved the opportunity to learn new skills and develop confidence. The focus of the workshop is to stay calm and safe in all situations.

Manwel said " It is so fun, the punching and kicking" - **Ms Nicole Greentree - IEC**



TRANSITION ADVISER

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

<https://myfuture.edu.au/assist-your-child>

The above given link will assist parents and children learn how to use myfuture for career and transition planning and find the tools and resources available to help your child explore career pathways, and tools to develop self-knowledge to help with career decision-making.

Thought this was interesting and could be a visual way of understanding different career pathways

<https://myfuture.edu.au/docs/default-source/school-to-work-pathways-infographics/booklet-school-to-work-pathways-infographics.pdf>

There's no right or wrong way to get into the job you love!

Ms Anjani Singh



CAREERS

HSC Results – Students Online <https://studentonline.nesa.nsw.edu.au/>

Students Online is your source for information about your study from Year 10 to the HSC.

2020 HSC students

- HSC results release is 18 December 2020
- HSC Results Services are available from 21 December 2020
- Your personalised HSC written examination timetable is now available
- Assessment ranks available – from 4pm, 11 November to 30 November 2020
- Remember to check your name - Your name shown in Students Online is what you see on your certificates - If it needs changing – see your school ASAP

Update your email address in the Personal Details section to a non-school email you can easily access

2020 Year 10 and Year 11 students

- Year 11 Results Release – 13 November 2020

Year 10 Results Release – 4 December 2020

Let's Chat from UAC - Offers and preferences

Answering all your questions regarding offers and preferences. Keep watching to have your question answered (timestamps below).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P53LgxdVLs>

UAC Let's Chat Video Playlist on Nearly Every Topic for Uni

Introducing **Let's Chat**, a series of short videos about applying to uni through UAC: from the application basics to the ins and outs of early offers, changing course preferences and what students can do if they've been disadvantaged during their final years of school.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1s0OQdLq16Ee3mwajbhfhA/videos>

ACU Pathways into teaching

If you're worried that you won't be eligible for your preferred university course, don't panic. ACU offers admission pathways into our teaching courses, providing you with alternative options if you didn't get the score you need, haven't done the prerequisites, or don't meet some other requirement.

[Read more about some of the most common admission pathways to get into your dream course](#)

UOW - All you need to start at the Liverpool Campus

2 December. 12.00 to 5.30pm

Got an offer to UOW South Western Sydney, and want to check out the campus and meet the staff and students? Not sure what course you want to apply for and need some advice or tips on how to apply? Thinking about what your ATAR will be and have questions? Whatever your story, let us help.

<http://mkto.uow.edu.au/UOWStartsHere-SWS2020.html>

Mariane Benitez

Careers Adviser & NESA Coordinator



ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION AND CAREERS

Kari scholarships are now open for students entering years 10, 11 and 12 in 2021. Applications close at 4:30PM on MONDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2020. Please see Shane Scott or Ms Hughes for your application form. Applications can be sent via email.

NRL and Western Sydney University:

Unlocking Careers in Sport. This is a virtual event for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students to explore the wide variety in the sports industry.

Wednesday 2nd December 2020

9:30am to 1:00pm

Online Virtual Event

Year 11 and 12 students welcomed 😊 ***Students also receive a free WSU hoodie if they attend the online event***

To register please see Ms Hughes or Shane Scott or register online with WSU.

Yarramundi Lecture

The Yarramundi Lecture provides a forum for the discussion of issues of local and national importance. It has become central to the University's longstanding commitment to its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

This year's event will be held online, on 8 December 2020, 6.30 – 8.00pm. If you are interested in attending, please see Ms Hughes or register online through WSU.

Walanga Muru- Macquarie University provides Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander year 11 students the opportunity to enrol in a university unit while still in high school.

- This Critical Thinking Unit (PHIL1037) covers the fundamentals of critical thinking and reasoning.
- Students will study by correspondence from Feb to June 2021

Ms E Hughes

English/HSIE Teacher

Aboriginal Education Coordinator