

MILLER MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER 6 NOVEMBER, 2020

Volume 24

UPCOMING EVENTS

9.11.20	Settlement & Wellbeing Program
9.11.20	Years 7-9 Assessment week
9.11.20	NAIDOC Week
10.11.20	Wheelchair Roadshow
11.11.20	Football United
11.11.20	NRL School to Work
11.11.20	Peer Support Sessions
11.11.20	Remembrance Day
11.11.20	KARI mentoring
11.11.20	MTC Youth frontiers
13.11.20	Primary School Numeracy
13.11.20	Self Defence
17.11.20	Year 7 Swim School
18.11.20	Football United
18.11.20	NRL School to Work
18.11.20	Peer Support Session
18.11.20	Year 9 Swim School
18.11.20	Year 12 Graduation
19.11.20	MTC Youth frontiers
19.11.20	KARI mentoring
19.11.20	Year 8 Swim School
20.11.20	Primary School Numeracy
20.11.20	Self Defence
20.11.20	Year 12 Formal
20.11.20	Year 10 Swim School



Monday to Friday

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

In order for students to succeed, as a school we provide a strong, supportive learning environment both inside and outside of the classroom to keep students healthy, safe, engaged, challenged, and ready to learn. Outside of the classroom, the easing of the operational restrictions has allowed the recommencement of some extra-curricular activities supported by our business and community partners - with a COVID-19 safety plan in place.

The Australian Business and Community Network or ABCN is one of our long-standing community partners delivering programs including "Full Steam Ahead", Digital Future Thinkers, Digital GOALS, InterACT, Digital Focus1, Digital Aspirations and Innovate, to build student resilience, leadership, to deal with uncertainty, as well as insights into meaningful career pathways.

Further, in supporting young people, ABCN's Accelerate Program - Foundation Scholarship supports exceptional students facing challenges that may have impacted on their study or capacity to achieve desired tertiary pathways.

This year, there were 35 scholars selected across NSW schools by the scholarship selection committee - including representatives from multi-national corporations - Microsoft, Commonwealth Bank and KPMG.

I am delighted to announce that Rasha Alzahri and Evana Jibraeel as proud recipients of an ABCN Foundation Scholarship for 2021. The high quality of Yara Salman's application was also acknowledged and she will receive a Lenovo ThinkPad x 20 laptop to provide support in her educational endeavours.

One of our signature extra-curricular activities is our Tree-of-Life program. This week, under the direction of Ms O'Brien, Ms Monj, Ms Thompson and supported by the Treehouse Theatre, students from the High School and Intensive English Centre have been performing short impressionistic scenes, under the title of "Flashbacks" at the Seymour Centre in Sydney.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT CONTINUED

While the student's narratives are all very different, they have the same theme. That is, to raise our understanding of the refugee journey and the amazing contribution that they, and their families are making to the Australian community. The student's performances are even more amazing, as most have not had any formal drama or theatre training before their involvement in the Tree-of-Life theatre program.

I believe that these students are truly the voice of refugees all around the world that are seeking a safer place to live free from persecution.

The measure of a school is how it delivers each and every day for students to move forward and achieve their dreams. We may not always get it perfect, yet we are determined as a school to be responsive, continue to refine, reinvent and build programs that enhance the opportunities for all students.

We are always searching and being curious of what makes a great school for our students. Not happy to sit back and let others innovate we strive for excellence and innovation.

In a school that we are all proud of our teachers who are very passionate people who strive, day-to-day with the support of the non-teaching staff and the community to make livelier each student's passion, and as we endeavour to unlock what drives young people.

Miller teachers are a remarkable group of professionals who love what they teach, they love being a teacher, and they love the challenge of helping each of their students learn. One of these passionate professionals was Mr Hart who retired in 2018 after 19 years as an Industrial Arts teacher and after 34 years of service to public education.

Sadly last week we were informed by family, that after a long illness, he had passed away. While this is an emotional time and our thoughts are with family as they mourn their loss when I heard the news of Mr Hart's passing, there were many thoughts and memories that went through my mind, some that I would like to share with you.

In life, Mr Hart epitomised the richness of humanity and enveloped every situation. He was a craftsman, delivering his subject knowledge to students by custom-wrapping methods that worked for each one of those, often differing personalities.

With an artful display of genetically coded talent, rooted in a heart of pure gold, every mind was important and worthwhile of his time to search for just the right keys to open that mind. He was a character of immeasurable superiority; reaching out with unparalleled kindness and consideration to everyone he came across, and touched our hearts in so many different, and extremely valuable ways.

Mr Hart stood tall in spirit. He was, and always will be a timeless icon, enriching and guiding our lives.

Everyone reacts in different ways, with some finding such news very difficult to understand or in same way a reminder of another sad event in our life. While we should not hesitate to seek help for ourselves, if there are concerns about the wellbeing of a family member, colleague or friend, counsellor support is available anytime and anonymously by contacting Head Space (headspace.org.au) or the Kids Helpline (1800 55 1800).

We all face tough challenges in life. Some become quite difficult to overcome, especially when the odds are stacked against us. However, going against the odds is something we are all capable of doing. To overcome challenges, develop that "never quit" attitude in life. You'll be surprised at the hurdles you can jump. Motivate yourself. Say "yes, I can."

Take care,

Dr Ken Edge
(Principal)

24/7 Support Lines

If you or someone close to you is experiencing distress or is in immediate danger dial 000

lifeline
13 11 14

beyondblue
1300 22 4636

mensline
1300 78 99 78

kids helpline
1800 55 1800

**suicide call
back service**
1300 659 467

qlife
3pm-midnight
1800 184 527

MESSAGE FROM MR BRUNTON

The COVID class of 2020

What a year this has been for our graduating class of 2020. I have been their Deputy Principal since they started in their transition phase in year 6 in 2014. In the last 6 years I have watched these students work and play together and develop into outstanding young citizens. In the time that we have worked together they have risen to overcome many adversities and they have tackled all challenges head on. The most admirable quality that Year 12 2020 possess is their ability to support each other. Sometimes in life adversity will bring out the very best in the human spirit and this year group has demonstrated this beyond comparison. 2020 has been a challenging year for everyone but especially for a group of young people attempting to complete one of the most significant milestones in their young lives.

I truly believe that this year 12 group will come out of this experience more resilient than ever and be ready to tackle the challenges that life will present to them.

Our final year celebrations have been memorable with all students being involved in celebrating the conclusion of 13 years of compulsory education. We all look forward to acknowledging the success of our year 12 students at graduation and then celebrating at the formal. It will be interesting to see what directions the students in our Class of 2020 take. One thing is certain, their memory and achievements will last a lifetime.

I sincerely wish all year 12 the very best in all their future endeavours.

Mr John Brunton - Deputy Principal



PRIMARY SCHOOL TRANSITION

Every year we go out to all three feeder primary schools which include Miller, Cartwright, and Busby. This year we were met by unexpected challenges on a global level which impacted on the way we would normally go out and operate our MTHS Transition Road Show. This year Mr Gutierrez initiated an online version of the MTHS Road Show through several transition videos which has been distributed to all three Primary School Google Classrooms.

This term, we have visited both Miller and Cartwright Public Schools. Mr Gutierrez was accompanied by Dr Edge, Mr Brunton, Ms Gulic and the Year 7 SRC representatives. During our visit, the Year 6 students participated in initiative games (Mr Gutierrez), a creative numeracy lesson (Ms Abu Swireh), they were updated on Project Based Learning (Mr Brunton), and also updated on the new Orientation Day guidelines and school expectations (Dr Edge). A great team effort by everyone in the transition team!

We look forward to visiting Busby in the next fortnight.

A reminder that Orientation Day for Year 6 students is December 1st 2020.

Mr Gutierrez - Year 7 Advisor 2021



LIBRARY NEWS

Library
News



Each year since 1946, the CBCA (Children's Book Council of Australia) has presented annual book awards to promote children's books of high literary and artistic quality. It's mission is to showcase Australian writers and illustrators and to foster a love of reading among young people. The creators are recognised for their outstanding contribution to Australian children's literature. Each year, a list of notables is compiled, followed by a shortlist and finally a winner and 2 Honours awards in each category. There are 6 categories of awards for book of the year. These categories are: Older Readers, Younger Readers, Early Childhood, Picture Book, Eve Pownall (non-fiction) and New Illustrator. You can see the winners displayed in the picture below. The awards for 2020 were announced during Book Week (17-23 October). "This Is How We Change The Ending" by Vikki Wakefield is the winner for the 2020 Older Readers award which is suitable for secondary school students.

You can find more information about CBCA and the book awards on their website Cbca.org.au

Mrs I Bifulco - Librarian



YEAR 9 HEALTHY LIFESTYLES EXPO

As conclusion to the Year 9 PDHPE Healthy Lifestyle unit of work, students presented an expo stall, based on the work they completed during Term 3. Students were tasked with the roles of collating information, creating posters or advertising material, handouts and information cards and shopping or equipment lists for all necessary materials.

On the day, all Year 9 expo stalls were set up, with all 4 classes exhibiting their knowledge and hard work. This again proved an amazing way for students to take ownership of their learning, gain 21st century skills and key organisation abilities while working in groups. A big thank you and congratulations to the hard work from all students and staff involved, and to Dr Edge and the staff that were able to attend. Hopefully by 2021 and with the easing of Covid restrictions, parents and guests will be able to attend.

Mr A McCoy - Head Teacher PDHPE



SRC - LUNCH

It is with a profound sense of gratitude that Miller Technology High School thanks the outgoing SRC students for their service to the student body. As members of the 2019-2020 Student Representative Council, students were celebrated with a school luncheon to say thank you.

At Miller Technology High School, student voice and student leadership are intrinsic components of our school's ethos of fostering respectful, inspirational, safe and excellent students. The Student Representative Council is a council formed of students who are committed to serving their peers and the school community.

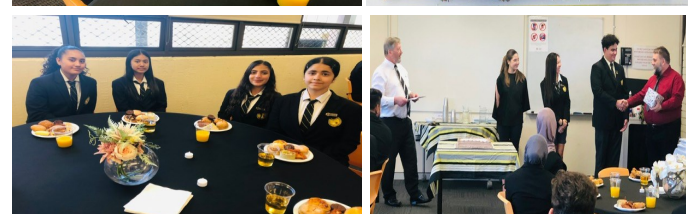
Over the course of the students' term as members of the Student Representative Council, they have been involved in fundraising, organisation of various school events, consultation regarding the implementation of Positive Behaviour for Learning, contributed to a charitable drive for the RSPCA, assisting with the Welcome program, and organising and participating in formal school assemblies.

In being a part of the Student Representative Council, these students have acted as role models to their peers and actively supported a range of school programmes and events. We sincerely thank each of our outgoing SRC members for their contribution to student life at Miller Technology High School and for building on proud legacy of student leadership at our school.

The school would also like to offer an immense thank you to Mr T Podolsak for his contributions and role in running the Student Representative Council for the past few years. Without dedicated staff such roles and advocacy for our students would not be possible.

In saying this, Miller Technology High School also extends a warm welcome to the incoming cohort of students who will now take part in the Student Representative Council. The school community looks forward to the year ahead and all that will be achieved.

Ms H. Vukic



Congratulations!



WELLBEING REPORT

Miller Technology High School is well and truly back into routine with Term 4 starting off well. Our students have done a great job settling back into school and are working well.

I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our wonderful staff and students for their resilience and positivity during some truly difficult times this year.

Despite COVID 19 meaning some big changes for our school community, our staff and students have continued to work together to deliver great lessons and engage in some fantastic learning.

During these unprecedented times, the Wellbeing Team at Miller Technology High School have continued to support students through a variety of initiatives including: year adviser lessons, counselling support, Links to Learning, Youth Frontiers and online mentoring programs through ABCN.

We have celebrated our year 12 students and wish them luck in the coming weeks with their exams coming to an end and their Graduation fast approaching. We are extremely proud of the way they have dealt with the challenges of 2020 with resilience and determination.

As we continue with the remainder of term 4, we have some exciting initiatives planned to reward and inspire our students as they continue to embody our school's values of RESPECT, INSPIRE, SAFE and EXCEL.

Ms Natali Gulic - Head Teacher Wellbeing



YEAR 10 - INDIGO

Year 10 Indigo students took their fascination with the world of cinema to the fields! Wanting to understand more about how various camera shots and angles are used to engage and manipulate viewers, Indigo students took the role of amateur filmmakers, composing interesting frames for many given scenarios to produce the desired effects.

Letting their creativity and imagination run wild, they were proud of what they had produced. Film analysis does not have to be dull when it can be studied through collaboration, strategic planning and lots of giggles in the warm August sun.

Mr Xuelin Sun - EAL/D Teacher



The DEAR READING PROGRAM

The Drop Everything And Read Program has been successful in providing students the opportunity to read aloud to teachers in a safe learning environment. DEAR has been run by Ms Bifulco the School Librarian and with the help of the English Teachers. Students are withdrawn from class and provided a quiet space in the Library to read with Ms Bifulco in small groups once a fortnight with all English classes from years 7, 9 and 10 participating. The students involved have stated that until now they have really appreciated the chance to work on their reading in an environment that is comfortable and safe. As you can see in the images, we have had some wonderful results, with students being extremely engaged and entertained while reading.

Mr T Mai - Rel Head Teacher



BARISTA TRAINING

An insight to training to be a future barista. As coffee culture is taking the world by storm, students are choosing to pursue a career in Hospitality – Multiskilling. There are a lot of insights to Hospitality Operations but here is one aspect that students enjoy the most. This is to prepare and serve espresso coffees. Students want to learn about the whole process of coffee making and improve their current barista skills. At Miller Technology High School we are privileged to own a “Hot Shot Cafe” where our students are given this opportunity to train as a future Barista.

Ms A Singh - Teacher TAS



WORK STUDIES

Year 11 Work Studies class took part in the Advanced Manufacturing Careers Program over three weeks organised by Western Sydney Business Connection to increase awareness of career pathways and mentor young people to become job ready. On 14th October - Students had virtual immersion tours of the workplaces, on 21st October - Students had Live Q&A Zoom meetings with employers and on 29th October - Students did hands on activities in class and materials were provided by Wizard Laser. The whole class was immersed in the activity and competed with each other to be the first to create the car.

Ms G Kaur - Transition Adviser



9 SCIENCE BLUE AND 9 SCIENCE YELLOW

9 Science Blue and 9 Science Yellow completing a "Flame Test" to test out which metals are in the powdered solutions. Students enjoyed the experiment and understood that chemical reactions can change colour!

Ms Brooke Alessi - Science Teacher



INTENSIVE ENGLISH CENTRE

CORE COMMUNITY SERVICES

CORE Community Services are delivering a Settlement and Wellbeing Program to students in 3S2 during their Health Studies class. This program has been a great success so far and students have provided positive feedback regarding the usefulness and enjoyment of the workshops. It is great to see the students in this learning environment! **Ms V Rauth - Teacher**



CAREERS

ATAR Enquiry Centre

UAC is once again operating its ATAR Enquiry Centre for students who have queries about the calculation of their ATAR. Days are as follows:

- Fri 18 December, 8.30am–6pm
- Sat 19 December, 8.30am–4.30pm
- Mon 21 December, 8.30am–4.30pm
- Tue 22 December, 8.30am–4.30pm

Offer rounds for Year 12 students

The most important offer rounds for Year 12 students are:

- December Round 2 – Wednesday 23 December
- January Round 1 – Friday 8 January 2021.

Fee reduction on Diploma and enabling courses at the University of Wollongong

Students who are accepted into a UOW Diploma, or the University Entrance Certificate (UEC) enabling course are now eligible for a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP). Tuition fees are significantly reduced compared to the equivalent full-fee place at UOW. Students will also be able to access HECS-HELP to assist with the payment of tuition fees. Contact the UOW Future Students Team on 1300 367 869.

1 on 1 Creative Careers Advice for Students

The Creative Careers & Pathways Advisors team at JMC Academy are available for 1 on1 sessions with high-school students (Yrs 9-11), parents and Career Advisors/Practitioners, to discuss pathways into one of JMC's many Diplomas and Degrees, that can help set students on the right path. For more info:

<https://www.jmccademy.edu.au/teachers/creative-scope/creative-careers-advice>

NSW Police Recruitment Information & PCT Practice Session - **COMING SOON**

MacArthur Girls High School, Parramatta

Note: You must be 18 years of age to attend this event
Saturday 14 November 2020

Time: 9.00am - 12.00pm (times may be subject to change)

Tickets available 8.00am 6 November 2020

https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/recruitment/news/information_sessions

New Unique Student Identifier (USI)

The Australian Government is extending the Unique Student Identifier (USI) to all higher education students, starting in 2021. The USI is 10-digit number students will use throughout their education journey.

The USI will be introduced with students who are commencing their studies in 2021.

<https://www.usi.gov.au/students>

Defence Information Sessions

[Women in Defence Virtual Info](#) 9 November

[Trade Careers Virtual Info Session](#) 9 November

[Sydney: Navy Careers Info Session](#) 10 November

[Indigenous Careers Virtual Info Session](#) 10 November

[Defence Careers Virtual Info Session](#) 11 November

[Air Force Careers Virtual Info Session](#) 11 November

[ADFA Virtual Info Session](#) 12 November

[Army Officer Virtual Info Session](#) 12 November

[Army Reserve Virtual Info Session](#) 12 November

See all your options on the calendar here:

<https://www.facebook.com/DefenceJobsAustralia/events>

INTENSIVE ENGLISH CENTRE

THE DAY OF THE GIRL

On Friday 30th October the girls in 3S and 3S1 had a guest speaker attend the school and talk to them about 'The day of the girl'. The girls listened intently to the speaker who addressed issues of social injustice and importance of being a girl and the power in your own voice.



The girls shared some fantastic ideas and wrote letters to themselves to open at a future date for all they will achieve.

Maryam said "It is important to be a girl and to use your voice for new ideas".

Ms N Greentree - IEC

