



MILLER MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER 10 FEBRUARY 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

13 February to 17 February
Straight Sights Vision Testing

13 February
Whole School Assembly

14 February
UNSW Research Interviews
SRC Valentine's Day Fundraising

15 February
Secondary Volleyball Trials
Prefect Meeting

16 February
Parent's English Class
Souths Cares Program
UNSW Research Interviews

17 February
WSU Fast Forward Y12 Conference
UNSW Research Interviews
Bernera Zone Trial Day 2

20 February
Zone Rugby League Trial Day
Year Meetings

21 February
Ancient History Excursion
Women's Group
Photo Day Catch Up

22 February
Prefect Meeting

23 February
Parent's English Class
Souths Cares Program
Y7 STEAM Showcase
Harmony Week

24 February
Y7 Immunisation
Principal Prefect Morning Tea

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday

Office Hours: 8.30am to 3.30pm

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Volume 54

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with renewed enthusiasm and excitement that we welcomed staff and students to the 2023 academic year. I am certain that all students have been eagerly waiting to share their holiday adventures with their friends as well as catch-up with a favourite teacher to talk about newfound interests.

With the school again teeming with activity, it is also my great pleasure to welcome our new students, especially our Year 7 students and their families and students from the Intensive English Centre who have chosen to continue their education in the high school after graduating at the end of last term.

Despite the interruptions of COVID-19, by the end of 2022 we had much to celebrate. This was a testament to the professionalism and dedication of teaching and non-teaching staff who were united in their commitment to ensure that every Miller student was known, valued and cared for.

Welcome to New Staff

We now turn towards a new academic year - a year that lies before us much as a blank page would be full of possibility, potential and of course exploration.

However, while our teachers each day stand in front of their classes, and ask themselves, how will I take this group of students from where they are today to where they need to be, each new academic term also brings changes to staff.

At this time, I am delighted to welcome to Mr Yang and Mr Ayrton who will be joining the mathematics faculty. Ms Edwin, Ms Kourahanis and Mr Nugent to the HSIE faculty and Ms Fermanov to the EALD faculty. Ms Monaghan will be joining the TAS faculty and welcome to Ms Lewington and Ms Hunt to the Intensive English Centre.

I would also like to welcome Ms Sole as a new member of the High School administrative team.

Our new staff bring a blend of experience, enthusiasm, knowledge and classroom artistry to promote excellence in supporting each student to achieve their learning goals. When you see them in their professional capacity, stop, introduce yourself and have a chat about all those things that make our school so wonderful.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK CONTINUED

I am also delighted to welcome Mr McCoy back from extended leave and a big thank you to Ms Golightly for her perceptive and exceptional leadership as relieving Head Teacher PD/H/PE during 2022.

In an executive position change, Ms Vukic will be taking over as Head Teacher Administration from Ms Liu. The Head Teacher Administration position requires exceptional organisational skills and empathy in understanding the needs of others. A big thank you, Ms Liu, for doing such an exceptional job over the past 18 months.

Refurbishment of our Learning Environment

Last year when entering the school grounds, you could not help but have noticed the ongoing construction to enhance our learning environment and facilities. In a concentrated effort over the summer vacation, the refurbishment of Block A toilets and facilities were completed. The Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) after a site inspection, should also be accessible to PD/H/PE classes and students during break-times in week 4.

Improvements to our physical learning environment are continuing. Moving into the next phase the demolition and up-grade of Block C facilities (above the canteen) has commenced.

This means that both the girls and boys change rooms and facilities will not be accessible during recess and lunch break times for a major part of this term. During break times:

- Students in Years 8-10 will be able to access the demountable toilets between the Senior COLA and hall.
- Intensive English Centre and Year 7 students will utilise the refurbished A Block facility.
- In acknowledgment of their increased responsibility and maturity, students in Years 11 and 12 now have access to the D Block facilities during their break times.

During refurbishment of the C Block facilities, the canteen operations will not be affected. However, with the construction work taking place during school time, students need to follow teachers' instructions when entering and leaving the canteen area to ensure the safety of all.

Premier's Back to School NSW program to get your kids ready for back to school

As we prepare for another year of learning in 2023, you can now apply for the Premier's Back to School NSW program, offering \$150 worth of vouchers (3 x \$50 vouchers) to help pay for school supplies like school uniforms, shoes, bags, textbooks and stationery.

You can apply for, and access your vouchers in your MyServiceNSW account, in the Service NSW app, by calling Service NSW on 137788 or visiting your local Service Centre.

To be eligible, your child needs to be a NSW resident and enrolled in a NSW primary or secondary school in 2023.

Term 1 2023 COVID-smart measures in schools

While COVID-19 remains an unpredictable virus, NSW Health advice is that it continues to present a health risk to the community. Accordingly, our school will continue to implement baseline COVID-smart measures to help reduce the risk of transmission for students and staff members. Key COVID-smart measures include:

- Students need to stay at home if unwell. If COVID-19 symptoms occur, your child should undertake a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) and only attend school when symptom free.
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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK CONTINUED

- Students who believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 are strongly recommended to monitor for symptoms and test if they have any concerns, as well as wear a mask.
- Good hygiene practices including regular hand washing with soap and warm water and/or use of hand sanitises.

Welcome message to students

This year without a doubt, will again be an exceptionally busy one with opportunities and tasks that we will all need to tackle with determination, forward driven momentum and commitment. However, like riding a bike, it is impossible to maintain a balance in what we do in life while standing still.

Well, at Miller in 2023 we will definitely not be standing still. Even though there will be challenges, we will always be moving forward. We will be making progress by providing high quality educational experiences to enable each student to reach their academic potential and extra-curricular goals.

Further, in striving for innovation, while at the same time promoting life-long learning skills - the core foundation of education, Richard Carlson an American motivational speaker considered one of the foremost experts in happiness and stress reduction, encourages us not to 'sweat the small stuff'. In the larger scheme of things – this is absolutely correct.

However, I would like to use some poetic license and maintain we should 'sweat the small stuff', with a focus on the basics. If we take care of the smaller problems and hold true to our school's RISE core values of Respect, Inspire, Safe and Excel - then the bigger concerns will very often take care of themselves.

Therefore, as we begin the new academic year, I am expecting the entire student body to 'focus on the basics'.

Be punctual to school and class; smile; say thank you; wear your school uniform with pride and be the best you can possibly be.

Work hard; show sportsmanship; be kind to people; choose to see the wonders of the world and speak and be considerate of others.

Be honest; be honourable; make mistakes; learn from mistakes and make a difference by bringing energy, passion, and determination into everything you do!

In closing this on this fine summer day, there is no denying that over the past three years the global pandemic has changed the world, with still many ongoing challenges to be faced.

But one thing that has not changed, is that our future is full of endless possibilities. So, as we embark on a new academic year, I remain confident that with balanced commitment we will be moving in a positive direction with anticipation of great things to come.

All students deserve the best possible education and as a school and community we are well prepared to do so in 2023!

Please continue to check our various online communications, including the High School (<https://miller-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>) and Intensive English Centre (<https://milleriec.schools.nsw.gov.au/>) websites, MTHS Facebook page and School Stream. We are also contactable through our email - miller-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au or Miller IEC at miller-i.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

As usual, if you have any immediate needs or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the main High School office (Office Hours 8.30am-3.00pm).

Regards,

Dr Ken Edge
(Principal)

IMPORTANT REMINDER



Keeping your children safe when dropping off and picking up at school:

- Slow down to 40km/h in the school zone and stay aware of crossings.
- Always park legally around the school.
- Always keep your seatbelt buckled until the vehicle has stopped.
- It is safest for children to get in and out of the car through the footpath-side door.
- Manoeuvres such as U-turns and 3-point turns are dangerous during the busy school drop-off and pick-up times.
- Model safe and considerate behaviour for your child - they will learn from you.
- Always give way to pedestrians, particularly when entering and leaving driveways.
- Never double park - it puts children at risk.
- Never park in a 'No Stopping' or 'Bus Zone'.
- 'No Parking' is for drop-off and pick-up only.

Please park safely and legally, even if it means walking further to the school gate. Parking signs are planned with children's safety in mind.

LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL

Liverpool City Council Road Safety Initiative

* Penalties apply for parking illegally in school zones.

SCHOOL ZONE OFFENCES WHAT ARE **YOU** RISKING?*

FACT Children are small, harder to see, behave unpredictably and are extremely vulnerable. They need **YOU** to take extra care when driving and parking around school zones.

No Parking (KISS & RIDE)
You have 2 minutes to drop-off or pick-up and must stay within 3 metres of your vehicle.

PENALTY
\$201
+ 2 DEMERIT POINTS

No Stopping
You are not permitted to stop on a length of road with a no stopping sign.

PENALTY
\$362
+ 2 DEMERIT POINTS

Bus Zone
You must not stop your vehicle in a Bus Zone unless you are driving a public bus.

PENALTY
\$362
+ 2 DEMERIT POINTS

Mobile Phone Use
Do not use a hand held mobile phone while driving.

PENALTY
\$481
+ 2 DEMERIT POINTS

School Zone Speeding Offences
40km/h is the speed limit. Children are vulnerable in school zones.

MIN. PENALTY
\$211
+ 2 DEMERIT POINTS

Pedestrian Crossings
Do not stop or park on or near a marked crossing.

PENALTY
\$481
+ 2 DEMERIT POINTS

Driveways
Do not stop on or across a driveway.

PENALTY
\$362
+ 2 DEMERIT POINTS

Intersections
Do not stop within 10 metres of an intersection.

PENALTY
\$481
+ 2 DEMERIT POINTS

Parallel Parking
Do not park too close to double barrier or dividing centre line.

PENALTY
\$362
+ 2 DEMERIT POINTS

Double Parking
Do not double park in a school zone.

PENALTY
\$362
+ 2 DEMERIT POINTS

Footpath and Nature Strip
Do not stop on a footpath, nature strip or obstruct ramp or path access.

PENALTY
\$362
+ 2 DEMERIT POINTS

LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL
*Fines current as of 1 July 2022. Fines and demerit points are subject to change.



Don't DOUBLE PARK

Penalty: \$362* and
2 demerit points

LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL

Liverpool City Council Road Safety Initiative * Penalty applies in school zones. Minimum fine, subject to change

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Students in year 7, 8 and 9 are encouraged to participate in the 2023 Premier's Reading Challenge. The rules have become more flexible to enable more students to become involved and to complete the PRC. It officially starts on February 27 and finishes August 18. Students can start reading now and wait until February 27 to commence filling in their individual reading log online. All students have access to the PRC website which can be located via the student portal. Detailed information outlining the rules can be found there.

The requirement is to read twenty books and ten of these must come from the prescribed list of PRC titles for Years 7-9. Ten books can be the student's personal choice and not from the PRC prescribed list. If students are unable to read titles from the Years 7-9 list they are able to read books from the K-Year 6 PRC reading list. This adjustment encourages EALD and IEC students who otherwise may not have the reading skills or confidence to complete the challenge. I will need to be notified if students are reading from the K-Year 6 list so that this adjustment is officially recognised by the PRC team who oversee the PRC.



You can also find PRC books at your local council library. Membership is free and you will have access to all branch libraries located within your council area e.g. Liverpool.

Ms Bifulco - Teacher/Librarian

ELEVATE COACHING

On Friday February 3, the new Year 11 cohort participated in a study skills session run by Elevate Coaching, to better prepare them for the challenges of the HSC. Working in their English cohorts, students discussed and practiced strategies for managing stress, organising their time and developing effective study habits.

Individually and in groups, students worked on building a variety of habits and skills. They filled in mock planners, experimented with using a syllabus as a scaffold, and practiced cutting down their notes to key 'trigger words', designed to maximise their ability to learn, recall and apply important information. Many students found that the use of colour-coding and mind-mapping in their notes helped them to clearly lay out and connect important concepts. Others found the emphasis on 'training' with practice papers was a helpful connection to their experiences with sport and music.

Elevate's coaches Amy, Akshay, Liv, Sandra and Krishna were all highly-accomplished, motivated university students with recent experience of the HSC. Their passion and energy was clearly infectious!

At the end of the workshop, every student was asked for feedback on the value of the program. 96% of participating students reported that they found the session valuable, and 100% indicated they would recommend the workshops to their peers. Some great examples of student's feedback:

- I would rate at 10, definitely.
- Very enjoyable and interesting.
- It was so helpful.
- A good indicator of what things are useful for studying.
- Overall great, good explanations and well said.

We look forward to running follow-up workshops for interested students, to continue to ensure that we provide a supportive and rigorous academic environment here at Miller.

Mr D Charlier - English Teacher

CAREERS

Courses & Workshops for Students

TAFE NSW | Fee-free* TAFE is a joint initiative of the Australian and NSW Governments providing tuition-free training places for people wanting to train, re-train or upskill. Fee-free* TAFE is available for people who enrol after 1 Dec 2022 and commence their course between 1 Jan 2023 and 31 Dec 2023. <https://www.tafensw.edu.au/fee-free-short-courses> * Eligibility criteria apply for selected certificates and diplomas.

TAFE NSW | You don't need an ATAR to study a degree with TAFE NSW Study A Bachelor degree, post graduate or higher education qualification with TAFE NSW, and graduate with strong theoretical knowledge, practical experience and industry connections that will give your students a head start in their career. Applications are closing soon, find out more: <https://www.tafensw.edu.au/degrees>

MedEntry | UCAT Prep By Dr Ray, Gastroenterologist at Monash Health. 3 Day Workshop which covers all 5 UCAT subtests, interviews, entry process etc. Formal Instruction & Group Learning. The program has been carefully crafted to cover the strategies for UCAT success, in a fun, engaging and interactive environment. Over 3,000 Five Star Reviews. www.MedEntry.edu.au

TAFE NSW Students dreaming of a future in fashion? Powerhouse Paramatta are offering FREE workshops led by critically acclaimed Fashion Designer Jordon Gogos. Recommended for high school aged students yr 7 – yr12, workshops held every Saturday in February - places are strictly limited, bookings essential: <http://bit.ly/3ZYUhx5>

Engineers Australia | Autumn School of Engineering 2023 A 5-day intensive program for Years 11 & 12 from Mon 17-Fri 21 April 2023. Visit 10 sites including 5 University campuses; Meet more than 100 Engineers and Engineering Students; visualise the amazing opportunities that lie ahead for you in Engineering – the practical application of Maths & Science! A small number of positions are left – EOI click here: <https://forms.gle/xZypfQW4eEnHtQku9>

Information Sessions for Students & Parents

NSW Mining Careers Dinners 2023 Dates & Locations A free event for students in Years 10-12, their parents/carers & careers advisers. 6pm - 8:30pm. NSW Mining Careers Dinners connect students with employers and education providers in the minerals and resources sector across NSW. Register your interest at 1FAIpQLSfnxjMK1Lq1tuTg1bgbWs-mf7dRy2nB9Lr1W_DYLO3Lrtu8YfA/viewform

TAFE NSW | Information sessions Students can join TAFE NSW online or at their nearest participating campus, to discover how TAFE NSW can help them get the skills they need for the job they want. Registrations are mandatory <https://www.tafensw.edu.au/information-sessions>

ACU | Guided Visits Come to see what ACU has to offer across ACU's NSW and ACT campuses, from nursing laboratories to physiotherapy simulation rooms, moot courts and so much more. There are limited spots so register now to join an exclusive guided visit hosted by one of ACU's experienced student ambassadors. Register at acu.edu.au/campus-tours

Western Sydney University Discover Western Webinars are back in 2023 commencing in February. Learn about the range of study options Western offers with a focus on a specific area of study across the series. Each webinar will include virtual access into the facilities on campus. Register now: https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/future/student-life/events/western-webinars?cid=em:EGMT-CAA-news-DWW-AOS-Feb-hyperlink_Jan23

Resources for Students

BARCATS | Free Training in Hospitality Barcats is a hospitality community platform with a dedicated Under 18 site. We realise that providing free training and other handy tips related to hospitality jobs will often overcome nerves in students finding their first job and help develop life-long skills. Head to our site: barcats.com.au for free online training as well as zero cost training options throughout the year.

JMC | Game Design Work Experience Program JMC Academy are accepting applications for their 4 day (29th May - 2nd June) work experience program for Year 10 and 11 students. Students must have a genuine interest in working in game design and provide supporting evidence of their interest. Applications close Fri 31st March. Students can apply through <https://www.jmcacademy.edu.au/news-and-events/events/game-design-work-experience-2023/>

Scholarships, Early Entry, Alternative Pathways

Western Sydney University Western offers \$25 million in scholarships every year. Prospective students can find out what scholarships are available to them, what they need to demonstrate in their application, and how they can put forward the best application. Check here for more information and important dates: https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/future/why-western/scholarships?cid=em:EGMT-CAA-news-Scholar-page-hyperlink_Jan23