OUR VISION
'A dynamic learning environment where the whole community takes responsibility in preparing for the future'

RESPECT: for self, others and the environment
PERSISTENCE: doing your best all the time
CURIOSITY: an interest in the world and our learning

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon 18 Feb    School Photos
Tue 19 Feb    Senior Cricket
Wed 20 Feb    House Swimming Sports
Mon 25 Feb    School Council 7pm

PLEASE NOTE
FUTURE DISTRIBUTION OF THE PARENT NEWSLETTER
As from the week beginning 18 February 2013 the Parent Newsletter will be distributed to your email address that you have given to the school (please advise us if your email address has changed). It may also be accessed on our College Website: please click on: http://www.mansfieldsc.vic.edu.au/

If you do not have access to the internet or email, a hard copy may be picked up from the front general office counter.

YOUR SCHOOL CAPTAINS AND VICE CAPTAINS FOR 2013

In December last year students at MSC voted for Year 12 students Bree Phillips and Daniel Hunt as School Captains for 2013. Brendon McKenzie and Niamh Moore were voted in as Vice Captains. They are available and ready to help all students at the College.

CAPTAINS’ GOALS
- Encourage students to aim high
- Rubbish improvement
- Respect
- Fundraising for sister school in Venilale
- Sponsor Child in Africa

VICE CAPTAINS’ GOAL
- Identifying Bullying Issues Yrs7-9
- Yr 12’s speaking with Junior Students
- Implement VCE/Parent/Teacher/Student support night
- Support School Captains

L-R: Brendon McKenzie, Daniel Hunt, Bree Phillips, Niamh Moore
Welcome to the start of the 2013 school year. Particularly welcome to our new Year 7’s. Transition into a new school can be challenging, however, it is important to celebrate the opportunities that are created. We pride ourselves on our ability to cater well for all students, with an exceptional range of both vocational and academic pathways. I am excited as we prepare our students to engage with their future. Spend time with your children as they begin the next phase of their journey, listen well to their stories and seek clarity about their experiences. I trust that they will enjoy their time with us and grow into accomplished young adults.

**Staffing:** Welcome to new staff Erica Lowing (Indonesian), Michelle Comerford (English) and Sandy Mackinnon (Drama). Also welcome back to returning staff Meaghan Doeven and Vanya Foers (both PE and Health). Peter Baddeley is currently on leave from this school pending his resignation in August. He has left the College in a good position and I look forward to continuing the work he has begun. The timing and process for appointing a new Principal is driven by the Department of Education and until such time as this process has been concluded I will be the Acting Principal. I welcome Janessa Burkhardt as the Assistant Principal for this interim period.

**Industrial Action:** The current industrial negotiations with the State Government are progressing slowly. Currently impacting on students is a ban on work taking place outside of the agreed hours of attendance. Staff do not undertake industrial action lightly however, teachers across the state are frustrated at what seems to be disregard for the future of public education in Victoria. Parents need to be aware that teachers carrying out many of the activities that support and extend our students (for example; camps, excursions and after-hours tuition), do so with no remuneration and little recognition. It is some of these extra activities that will be impacted – the core work that occurs in classrooms will continue with our usual care and attention. I urge concerned parents to contact Bill Sykes, State Member for Benalla, to voice their concerns.

**Strategic Plan:** I look forward to working with our staff and students to implement the Strategic Plan 2013 – 2016. The plan was developed by Staff and School Council, with the support and guidance of an external reviewer. Critically, the review supports and re-invigorates the direction taken previously. As staff we will continue to strategically develop our skills with teaching and learning, focusing on developing a culture of excellence and seeking best possible outcomes for every student.

**VCE Results:** Congratulations to our 2012 VCE cohort. Of the forty-one VTAC applicants, thirty-seven students were given an offer to study at a tertiary institute. Thirty students will take up a University course, five will go to TAFE, one will do a course with a private provider and one will study interstate. I commend them on their perseverance and focus throughout the year, and wish them well in their future endeavours.

I welcome your feedback.
Tim Hall
Hall.timothy.w@edumail.vic.gov.au
**COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER HELP**

A BIG THANK YOU to the parents and community members who have already returned forms indicating what they can do to help our school and students. A database is being set up and we will be in contact soon.

The school is asking for a couple of hours a year from each parent, grandparent or community member to help with the ‘added extras’ such as general maintenance, assisting with camps, gardening and sewing costumes. There is a copy of the proforma in Parent Resources on our website.

Please return to the front office or send via email.

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**BONNIE DOON YOUTH GROUP**

The Bonnie Doon Youth Group kicks off again this Friday 8th Feb, 6-9pm at the Bonnie Doon Community Centre. We’re going fishing—bring along a rod if you’ve got one and we’re having a picnic by the lake.

New comers welcome 11-16yrs.

Call me to book in!
0438 751 172
Josette Bradley
Project Mentor

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**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

Information & Application Forms have been given out to all Year 7 students. Thank you to those who have responded so quickly. Learning an instrument is worthwhile both academically and socially and the school encourages students to 'have a go'.

Continuence Forms are available for students going on this year. Please return ASAP so lessons can start next week. Note there are no hire fees for 2013.

Choir will be starting soon and Band next term.

Guitar lessons with Paul Riley have started. Drum lessons will not be starting until Term 2.

Congratulations to Emily Woodward for achieving excellent results in her grade 4 A.M.E.B. Flute exam last December.

Any queries or confusion please don't hesitate to contact Jan White during school hours.

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**CANTENN MENU**

Please note there are some price increases on the canteen menu. Could students please check the various signs in the canteen area and around the school before ordering. Thank You

Debbie Martin
I would like to thank Lisa Lang for visiting the Textiles TTX85 class in Semester 2 of 2012 and helping inspire students with her dressmaking skills. Lisa helped Brooke Van Winden make a beautiful western shirt and brought in some of the garments she makes for Western Pleasure Riding events to show the class—even leather chaps.

I would also like to thank all the people that have donated fabrics for use in the textiles department. Your generous donations allow students to gain experience with different fabrics and make a wide variety of items. Carolyn Hill

Students raised money from this class and sent $1,000 to an orphanage in Thailand. This letter was sent to Willa Reynolds Yr 10 last year who instigated the idea, and Wendy Fraser, MSC Business Manager. It is worth your time to read:

Dear Wendy and Willa,

Thank you so much for collecting so much money for us. Half of it will be used for covering our living costs (food and bills) and with the other we will do and buy special things.

1. We have 10 ducks, but 8 are boys and only 2 girls and all brothers and sisters. I already bought 5 girls that we can breed properly. Our girls (Cinderella and Snow white) already sit on their nest and each has more than 10 eggs! We let them have ducklings this time, that we get more girls, but in future I will use or sell half of the eggs. This breed lays 100 eggs a year, so this should be a good investment. The ducks are also very funny and entertaining and the children have lots of fun with them. They named them: Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, Dora and Jemima. One duck boy will have to provide the Christmas dinner, but the kids asked us that they can eat duck meat, they really like the taste. We have one who thinks that he is a rooster and doesn't mate and only runs away and fights with other roosters and causes trouble, so he will be killed then. We can't keep them all, but with more girls we have to kill or sell less of them, which feels good. They live around 5-7 years, so they can have a good and long live (they run around the pond and the fields) and give us lots of eggs.

2. We will buy more bicycles for the kids and the volunteers. Bente, Sebastian and Nicolas need a bike and we also need a proper one for the volunteers. If they use my bike, they often make me flat tires and instead of going immediately to a shop, they ride it home and break everything and it costs 120 instead of 10 B! Plus we have to walk 3 km to the next bike shop. And I can't send the kids to nursery! Dominic also has constantly punctures, because he rides like a stunt man and we need at least one back up bike. We are hunting already in town at the bike shops for sturdy ones at a good price. Chocolate also wants to learn to ride and already found a suitable children bike for this purpose.

3. I will buy them shoes! They lose at least one pair a week and some of the school uniform shoes are also broken and need to be replaced.

4. We will paint the walls and tile the floor of the children bathroom. My brother-in-law will do that for us. I collected broken tiles from the roadside and we already renovated the old bathroom like this and it looks nice. The children bathroom is so small, so would have to cut all tiles anyway. We also have to make a new drain, because the shower water has worked itself somehow under the house. The kids also flooded me regularly the house from there, by forgetting under ware on the floor, which close then the drain. Felix, Chocolate etc have peed so often on the rough concrete floor, that it smelled so much, that we had to close it and couldn't use the bathroom anymore. I also want to make a tap for washing hands and brushing teeth, not only a shower.

5. I will buy a DVD burner for my computer that I can burn my cooking DVDs and sell them together with my book at the borderline shop and in Chiang Mai. This should also bring us regular income.

6. I need to buy new mattresses for 2 volunteer rooms. I am getting more and more volunteers and they help me and also bring us money for the living costs. I just got a cheap bed and also have to have one welded, which was donated to us.

7. I will replace some blankets, which are not warm anymore or have been peed on too often. It is getting cold now and we also use them as washable mattresses on top of the sleeping mats. We also need 3 new mosquito nets.

8. I will buy some smaller personal Christmas presents for them and bake lots of biscuits (Gluten-free ones for Felix) for them.

Thank you so much again!!! When we have Wifi we can maybe find a way to chat or “Skype” that you can see the kids live. I send some photos now, and will take some more soon, also of the things I bought!

All the best Sabine, Elisabeth, Bente, Dominic, Charlotte, Sebastian, Nicolas, Chocolate, Sophie and Felix