

# MANSFIELD SECONDARY COLLEGE

# Newsletter

## CALENDAR

### TERM 4

#### Week 3

**Thu 19/10** - Year 9 Flourish Girl Program

**Thu 19/10** - Yr 7 & 8 Hume Region Boys Basketball

#### Week 4

**Mon 23/10 - Fri 27/10** - Yr 8 Rubicon Camp

**Mon 23/10 - Fri 27/10** - Smile Squad van onsite

**Mon 23/10** - Yr 7, 8, 9 & 10 Hume Region Girls

Basketball

**Wed 25/10** - Uniform Shop open (12:40pm - 1:30pm)

#### Week 5

**Mon 30/10 - Fri 3/11** - Smile Squad van onsite

**Wed 1/11** - Uniform Shop open (12:40pm - 1:30pm)

**Thu 2/11** - Year 9 Melbourne History Excursion

#### Week 6

**Mon 6/11** - Curriculum Day - No students at school

**Tue 7/11** - Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

**Wed 8/11** - Uniform Shop open (12:40pm - 1:30pm)

#### Week 7

**Mon 13/11 - Fri 17/11** - Smile Squad van onsite

**Wed 15/11** - Uniform Shop open (12:40pm - 1:30pm)

#### Week 8

**Mon 20/11 - Fri 24/11** - Smile Squad van onsite

**Mon 20/11 - Fri 24/11** - Year 10 & 11 Headstart Program

**Wed 22/11** - Uniform Shop open (12:40pm - 1:30pm)

**Fri 24/11** - Year 12 Graduation at The Sebel

#### Week 9

**Mon 27/11 - Fri 1/12** - Smile Squad van onsite

**Mon 27/11 - Fri 1/12** - Year 10 & 11 Headstart Program

Program

**Wed 29/11** - Uniform Shop open (12:40pm - 1:30pm)

#### Week 10

**Mon 4/12 - Fri 8/12** - Year 10 & 11 Headstart Program

**Wed 6/12** - Uniform Shop open (12:40pm - 1:30pm)

**Fri 8/12** - Last day for Year 10 & 11 students

#### Week 11

**Mon 11/12 - Fri 15/12** - Senior School Induction Week

**Mon 11/12 - Thu 14/12** - Year 8 Surf Camp

**Wed 13/12 - Fri 15/12** - Year 7 Camp

**Wed 13/12** - Uniform shop open (12:40pm - 1:30pm)

## From The Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to Term Four. This term is characterised by transitions. We acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of our school leavers at one end of the journey and welcome our new contingent of Year 7 students for transition experiences at the other. It is a significant time of opportunity and challenge for us all.



### Information nights:

I draw to your attention the range of information nights occurring to support students and parents in their processes for 2024.

The Year 7 Information Night was held on Tuesday 10th October, with key themes around growth and support. If you were unable to attend, then please reach out to Michelle Comerford, Year 7 Coordinator. If you are yet to collect an enrolment pack, please contact the School Office.

Year 8 and 9 students also have had significant information sessions, primarily related to subject selection processes for elective subjects in 2024. I encourage you to download the curriculum handbook from the website and to have a look at the opportunities for next year. If you have any questions, please reach out to Nigel Kain, Curriculum Coordinator. The information night associated with subject selections was conducted Tuesday 17th October with forms due back Friday 20th October.

### Dolly's Dream:

We were able to have a presenter from Dolly's Dream come to work with our students in Year 7-10 during Week One of this term. The main theme discussed was managing bullying, and, whilst our data shows our school to be a generally safe place for young people, it is through our regular teaching of pro-social behaviours that we achieve this. Well done to the Wellbeing Team for organising the event and a big thank you to the Bonnie Doon Youth Service for funding such a great program for our students. For more information about Dolly's Dream, please visit: <https://dollysdream.org.au/>

### Final days for Year 12 students:

The Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) has both an academic stream and an applied learning stream. Students studying the applied learning stream finish with a VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM) certificate.

VCE VM is geared towards students heading straight to industry and/or TAFE education. It provides an opportunity to learn about work-related and job-ready skills. Our VCE VM students have worked hard to complete their competencies for each unit studied.

The academic stream of VCE is geared primarily towards students wanting to attend university. Most students undertaking VCE complete examinations and attain an Australian Tertiary Entrance Rank (ATAR). Some of our students have already obtained early entry offers into Universities including: the Australian National University, Melbourne University and Swinburne University. Year 12 students had their last day on Monday 16th October, with their English exam scheduled for Tuesday 24th October. We wish these students all the best in their preparation!

### Did you know?:

We have several staff involved in marking VCE exams. Significantly, the proportion of staff who do so at our school is higher than most - this year we have two exam markers on staff, but there is a team of us who have all marked exams in various years. Whilst it is a big commitment for our staff, it means that they are best placed to support our students with exact information about what examiners are looking for.

### Student Anxiety:

With the examination period commencing, I have included below two references that parents might like to investigate in order to support their young people. All the best to parents as well as students - it is a difficult period for everyone concerned in the educational partnership.

Kind regards  
**Timothy Hall**

## Additional Support

### **Reachout:**

Preparing for exams can be stressful – and not just for your teenager, but for every member of the family. To help create a positive environment, there are practical ways you can help your teenager feel ready for their exams – and minimise the tension in your household.

1. Focus On The Basics
2. Create Study Goals – and Prioritise
3. Identify Exam Stress Early
4. Communicate
5. Look After Yourself – And Be Positive (And Resilient)

<https://parents.au.reachout.com/common-concerns/everyday-issues/5-ways-parents-can-help-teenagers-study-for-exams>

### **Parenting Ideas:**

Mental health tips for teenagers

By Dr Jodi Richardson

Tips for parents to promote flourishing mental health habits in young people.

For the first time in 15 years, thousands of Australian teenagers named mental health as one of the top three national issues in the 2016 Mission Australia Youth Survey. Personally, they're concerned about coping with stress, school, body image and depression.

First and foremost, we want to help protect our young people from mental illness, but we also want to know that they can recognise when they need help, and ask for it.

If we can equip our young people with the knowledge and skills to protect their own mental health, in doing so, they're better prepared to support friends who turn to them for help too.

The following tips help promote flourishing mental health in secondary school kids:

1. Help them find a sport or physical activity they love
2. Make sure they get plenty of face time
3. Work with your teen to set screen time limits
4. Teenagers need plenty of sleep
5. Help your teenager develop mindfulness skills

<https://www.parentingideas.com.au/>

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## Term 4 Sport News

Welcome back to school everybody, again it's a busy term for our School Sports program.

On 5th October we had the Hume Athletic event at Albury which numerous schools were forced to cancel due to the extreme weather. Winners from the Southern Ranges event had their results sent into Regional HQ to see if they qualified for the upcoming state carnival. A big congratulations to Ashton Dean who was our only successful entrant for the U17 boys 100m. Of course, the state competition will have the best athletes from around the state battling for National duties.

Congratulations also to Ella Mercieca who has made the Vic Country U15 basketball team. Fantastic effort Ella to progress to such a level.

On 19th October the Year 7/8 boys basketball team will head with Mr Owens and Mr Kain to take on the best Region basketball teams in Shepparton as will the girls Year 7/8/Intermediate sides on 23rd October. These sides progressed from the Round Robin stage and now have a chance to head off to state level if they win, later in year. Good luck to those teams and ensure your Compass acceptance is in!

November 22nd will see the Round Robin event run as a school sports day with students from Years 7-9 competing in different events all day. It's a festive event so if you're at a loose end, why not come and have a look.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the fields of dreams!

**Christian Thomson**

Sports Coordinator



## School for Student Leadership 2024 - Year 9 students

Once again, Mansfield Secondary College has been successful in our application to send six students to the School for Student Leadership (SSL) in 2024.

For the second year in a row, our selected students will be attending the Snowy River Campus at Marlo in eastern Victoria in Term 3 next year. The programme will run for 8 weeks and is residential, with a family visit weekend taking place during the term.

The process in the coming weeks is that our current Year 8 students will be informed of this wonderful opportunity via a year level assembly. The 2023 SSL students who attended the same location in Term 1 will assist in the presentation. An application and interview process will follow soon after and successful students will be informed by the end of the school year.

There is a cost for a student to attend the programme. The SSL has reduced the contribution to \$800 for a full program and \$400 for eligible Health Care Card holders. You are invited to speak to Anna Francis, our school's Business Manager, if meeting the cost of your child attending would be a challenge.

It is my role to oversee the provision of information to students and parents, plus the application and interview processes for the 2024 Term programme. Once the successful students have been finalised, I will work to assist with the following steps:

- Completion of all forms and submission to the campus.
- Awareness of dates in particular arrival and departure, parent visiting and liaison teacher visits.
- Equipment and gear.
- Transport arrangements.

The SSL will conduct a community information evening in the term prior to participation. This will take place via video technology. It will be conducted by a member of the leadership team from the Snowy River Campus in about week 5 or 6 of Term 2, 2024.

You are welcome to contact me via my email [Jennifer.Wenlock@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jennifer.Wenlock@education.vic.gov.au) if you have any questions.

**Jen Wenlock**

Year 9 Coordinator

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## Clay Target - Practice Session

On Saturday 7th of October, eight students from Mansfield Secondary College participated in a Field and Game practice session at the Mansfield Clay Target Club. John Desmond and Ken Skinner organised the practice to help students improve their technique for the Annual Clay Target Championships. The students were able to practice with clay targets flying at different angles, heights and speeds. The Mansfield Clay Target Club provided 25 clays for each student. John and Ken gave the students valuable advice and tips to improve their shooting. Thanks to the support of the Mansfield Clay Target Club and the help of Ken and John, students from Mansfield Secondary College were able to shoot well in the Annual Clay Target Championships.

Written by: Connor Gibney-Schelfout



## Annual Clay Target Championships

On Monday 9th October, we had 10 students travel to the Field and Game Range at Benalla to compete in the Annual Clay Target Championships. After a great practice session over the weekend at the Mansfield Clay Target Club, most of our students were certainly shooting better than they did at Echuca last term. In particular, after round 1, Henry Gove, Noah Pigdon, Ethan Pigdon and Tyler Polkinghorne all shot 6 out of 10. Being our best performing students after round 1, they became our nominated number 1 team and went on to finish third overall for the championship – well done boys!

**Mark Howlett**

PE Teacher



## Our Young Artists Shine at the North-East Battle of the Bands

The North-East Battle of the Bands was held at the Delatite Hotel on Sunday 15th October. Playing to a packed out venue the event was a true showcase of young musical talent, and our students proved to be stars in the making. We are thrilled to share the exciting news of our students' outstanding performances!

In the solo artist category, we had three out of the four contenders: Astrid Singleton, Archie Dunn and Judah Kelleher. Their performances were remarkable and the audience was treated to an incredible display of talent. After a tough competition, it was Judah Kelleher who emerged victorious, winning the solo category with his captivating song 'Phantasmagoric'.

But the accolades didn't end there! We also had two bands enter the competition:

'Small Town Gods' - Archie Dunn, Reiley Gibney-Schelfhout, Jacob Casey, Louie Reeder

'Blue Curtain' - Ashlyn Riley, Molly Dunn, Judah Kelleher, Harry Dunsmore, Seth Jackson

These bands brought a contagious energy to the stage, and their music reverberated through the venue. The competition in the band category was fierce with ten bands entering, coming from all over the North-East. In the end it was 'Blue Curtain' who stood out with their performances of: 'I Wanna Break Free' by Queen, 'A Touch of Destination' their own original composition, and 'The Chain' by Fleetwood Mac, and took home the title of the best band.

The victory for 'Blue Curtain' and Judah Kelleher is especially exciting because it means they will now advance to the North-East Grand Final to be held in Benalla on January the 20th. We wish them the best of luck in the final round and are confident they will represent Mansfield with excellence.

This success is a testament to the incredible talent that our school and community nurtures and fosters. Our students' performances not only made our school community proud but also serves as an example of the incredible potential within our youth. We are truly fortunate to have such gifted young artists among us.

We would like to extend our gratitude to our dedicated music team: Paul Riley, Jane Hampson, and Phil Bohun, who are influential in inspiring and mentoring our young people. Their dedication and passion for music education have undoubtedly played a significant role in our students' success.

A special thanks to Mansfield Shire Council and The Delatite Hotel for hosting this fantastic event. Their support of the local music scene and the nurturing of young talent is invaluable in our community.

Congratulations to Judah Kelleher, 'Blue Curtain', and all the talented artists who represented our community so wonderfully. You are all shining stars, and we can't wait to see where your musical journeys take you!

**Janessa Burkhardt**  
Assistant Principal



**2024 YEAR 7  
ENROLMENTS**

Submit your enrolment paperwork by  
Friday 27th October



Expressions of Interest Now Open

**2024 Mt Buller  
Annex**

Places are limited

A big thank you to the Bonnie Doon Youth Service for partnering with MSC and funding the Dolly's Dream workshops that were provided to Year 7, 8, 9 & 10 students on Thursday 5th October.

The workshops included messages about bullying and cyberbullying, mental health and importantly, how to report or remove unwanted material from the internet.

*Library News*  
*Term 4*

We have some great new books available for students to borrow. We are also encouraging students to review a book to win a prize!

**Borderland - Graham Akhurst**



Borderland is a heart-pounding story that follows Jono, a city-born Indigenous teenager, on an epic quest to find himself in the face of unbelievable challenges. Brace yourself for a fresh, mind-bending tale exploring Indigenous identity, the impact of colonization, and what happens when you take a stand.

**The Lost Library - Rebecca Stead & Wendy Mass**



When a mysterious little free library appears overnight in the small town of Martinville, 11 year old Evan plucks two old books from it's shelves, not suspecting that life is about to change. The Lost Library is a timeless story about choosing the life you want and the power of a good book.



*Review a book and win*

We love to hear what the students think of our books at MSC and all feedback helps us, as well as helps other students pick a new book to read. All students who review a book go in the draw to win a PRIZE at the end of term. Ask our friendly librarians for more information.

**The Smile Squad Dental Van is now onsite and will begin treatment with students.**

**If you are yet to complete a consent form and you would like your child to be seen, please contact the School Office.**

**FREE DENTAL**  
COMING SOON TO THIS SCHOOL

The Smile Squad will soon visit this school to provide all students with free, high quality dental care.  
[www.smilesquad.vic.gov.au](http://www.smilesquad.vic.gov.au)






## WORKSHOP Developing characters in your writing

- with Sue McDonald

**FREE!**

**Monday 23 October**  
3:45 - 5:30 pm  
**Mansfield Library**

Book at the library or online at  
[mansfieldreadersandwriters.com](http://mansfieldreadersandwriters.com)



Are you a young writer? Would you like to bring your characters to life? Learn how to get your characters leaping off the page!

**Children's Week**  
21-29 October 2023



[childrens-week.org.au](http://childrens-week.org.au)

**Children's Week 2023**  
21-29 October



## Make a Nature Zine! - with Andrea Rowe

**FREE!**

**Wednesday 25 October**  
3:45 - 5:30 pm  
**Mansfield Library**



Book at the library or online at  
[mansfieldreadersandwriters.com](http://mansfieldreadersandwriters.com)



A zine workshop taps into self-expression and helps you capture the story of you! Andrea Rowe is the perfect person to help you tap into zine-making!

**Children's Week**  
21-29 October 2023



[childrens-week.org.au](http://childrens-week.org.au)

**Children's Week 2023**  
21-29 October



## Sunday Skating story time

- with Andrea Rowe

**FREE!**

**Thursday 26 October**  
3:45 - 5:30 pm

Delatite Hotel Function Room

Book at the library or online at  
[mansfieldreadersandwriters.com](http://mansfieldreadersandwriters.com)



A kids and family event, with story sharing and activities based on Andrea Rowe's new book Sunday Skating. A fun event for the whole family!

**Children's Week**  
21-29 October 2023



[childrens-week.org.au](http://childrens-week.org.au)

**Children's Week 2023**  
21-29 October



**MANSFIELD  
RIDEATHON**



**Fri Nov 3**  
Breakfast on the Lawn  
7-9am rock up



**Fri Nov 3**  
Tour of Mansfield Autism Farm  
Bookings essential



**Tue Nov 14**  
High Country Movie Night  
Dream Horse Guest Speaker Sophie Fox  
Tickets on sale now - limited numbers



**Sat Nov 18**  
High Country Dance  
Whiskey Dram - hard folk rock  
Tickets on sale now - limited numbers

**EVENTS 2023**



All proceeds support  
Mansfield Autism  
Statewide Services

**BOOK NOW**

<https://mansfieldrideathon.org.au/>  
03 5775 2876