

DATES TO REMEMBER

13th March, Fri

Pri Dress Up Day - Theme 'I want to be..'

16th March, Mon

Sec Immunisations

17th March, Tues

St Patricks Day - Green Canteen Food available

19th March, Thurs

Pri Partners in Print

20th March, Fri

Grade P-6 Assembly 2.45pm

25th March, Wed

Parent/Teacher Interviews 4-7pm

26th March, Thurs

27th March, Fri

-Pri Easter Hat Parade 9am

-Pri Class Easter Basket Competition

-Pri Easter Basket Raffle Drawn

-Sec Easter Basket Competition 11am

Last day of Term 1 - early dismissal 2.30pm

13th April, Mon

First Day of Term 2

23rd April, Thurs

Pri Grandparents Day

25th April, Sat

Anzac Day

9th June, Tues

Sec Immunisations

2015 TERM DATES

Term 2: 13th April to 26th June

Term 3: 13th July to 18th September

Term 4: 5th October to 18th December

MERBEIN P-10 FACEBOOK PAGE

Check the Facebook Page for updates about the school and upcoming events.

www.facebook.com/merbeinp10collegeparentsclub

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Reminder that the newsletter is uploaded to the school's website each week - merbeinp10.vic.edu.au.

SCHOOL BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

BSB - 063 714

Bank Acc Number - 10060535

Account Name - Merbein P-10 College

Official Account.

UNIFORM SHOP

Open Tuesday 8.30 - 10.00am

Open Thursday 2.00 - 4.00pm

If these times do not suit, please ring the school to make other arrangements.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr Graeme Cupper

SCHOOL COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

At last night's AGM, Mr Andrew Nemtsas was elected President for 2015. Mr Graeme Worthington has again accepted an invitation to be a co-opted community representative and was elected Vice President. Mr Greg Mann was elected treasurer.

I'm very pleased once again this year to have a very capable and committed council who will work hard to ensure Merbein P-10 continues to develop as an effective community school.

PARTNERS IN PRINT REPORT

On Tuesday night the Infant Staff hosted a Partners-in-Print Evening for parents of Grade P-1 children. The purpose of the program is to provide parents with reading strategies to use at home with their kids.

The session was well-attended and those parents will be able to use what they learnt at home when listening to their child's reading.

I would like to thank the Infant Team for all their planning and for running the evening. Thankyou also to Julie Zrna who addressed the parents at the start of the activity.

Julie is one of the original authors of the Partners in Print Program. Julie has also been presenting a Literacy Professional Development Course for teachers in this district. Our Infant Literacy Staff have been attending this course throughout this semester.



TRAFFIC SAFETY

A reminder to parents to please follow the traffic rules when dropping off or picking up children from along Commercial Street. It can become very busy and presents risks to the safety of both children and adults. Remember that the "kiss and drop" zone is a no parking area – you must not leave your car unattended in this area.

CAMPS

Two camps have recently been conducted, the Year 7 Grampians Adventure Camp and the Year 8 Surf Camp. Both were outstanding successes and it was very pleasing to receive positive comments from members of the public and camp staff about how well-mannered our students were. They also commended the students on their willingness to 'Have a Go'.

I would like to thank the staff, parents and volunteers who accompanied the students and ensured that the camps went safely and smoothly.

IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH	
Thursday 19 th	Primary Partners in Print
Friday 20 th	Interschool Basketball and Softball (Secondary)
Monday 23 rd	Interschool Tennis and Volleyball.
Wednesday 25 th	Parent/Teacher Interviews
Friday 27 th	Last day of school Term 1 Easter Basket Competition and Easter Raffle Drawn

IMPORTANT DATES IN APRIL	
Monday 13 th	First Day of Term
Thursday 23 rd	Grandparents day

ST PATRICKS DAY – GREEN CANTEEN FOOD

Next Tuesday 17th March our college will be celebrating St Patrick's Day by offering students added choices of food from the Canteen. Gemma and Kylie have put together some green food options for the Primary students that can be ordered with their lunch orders. For the Secondary students Gemma and Kylie will make some green pasta, green milk shakes and fruit smoothies and other assorted items such a green jelly slice. We hope you enjoy the green food if you choose to partake. Also on the menu will be the regular healthy food that is provided for our students at the Canteen. An order form can be collected from the Green & Orange Buildings as well as the Canteen.

PRIMARY ST PATRICK'S DAY CANTEEN

SPECIAL EXTRAS PRICE LIST

Tuesday 17th March

Green Spaghetti	\$3
Rainbow Jelly Cups	\$2
Rainbow Fruit Sticks	\$2
Jelly Slice	\$2
Green Milkshake	\$2

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School Photo Days were held in February. Any student who missed the Photo Day will have an opportunity to have their photo taken next Monday March 16th. If any parents did not order prints, but wish to they can do so by getting in touch with the photographers via their web page. Visit www.leadingimage.com.au/

PARENT/STUDENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

All of the teaching staff in the school should be available for these important meetings on Wednesday 25th March from 4-7pm.

Secondary students will be issued with an interim report on the evening that will indicate progress in each subject. This report is an important tool used in the communication process between families and the school with an aim to improving the educational outcomes for all students.

There are no booking sheets for the Secondary Interviews. The interviews are to be kept to a maximum of five minutes. In this short meeting parents can discuss their child's progress with the Subject Teacher and determine any future directions that may be needed to improve student work. If a longer appointment is required then this should be mutually arranged on the evening at the end of the five minute discussion.

Upon arrival at the Blue Building, parents will be given an information sheet which will show the parents the rooms where they can find their teachers and their child's interim report.

Primary Students will have received a letter outlining the booking process for interviews on this evening. The students are expected to come along with their parents where they will receive an Interim Report on their progress up to this point in the year. The duration of each of these interviews will also be five minutes. The interviews will take place in their child's class room.

There will be a crèche provided for short term care while parents are in the interviews. This will be located in the Orange Building in the Year 7 area.

MERBEIN P-10 COLLEGE BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The Program is being financially supported by the Merbein & District Community Bank & Merbein Development Association as well as Board & Staff of the Merbein & District Community Bank, Merbein Development Association & the Merbein Lions Club through volunteers.

The breakfast program is now being held in the cafeteria - all students are welcome to come along between 8.00am and 8.45am each morning if they would like a FREE tasty breakfast to kick-start their day's learning.

LIBRARY NEWS

Premiers' Reading Challenge 2015

This is the eleventh year of the Challenge and since 2005 it has helped inspire nearly two million students to read an incredible 34 million books. The Reading Challenge has begun for this year and will finish in September. Students in Grade P-2 who accept the Challenge need to read or 'experience' thirty books during this period. Students in Years 3-10 who accept the Challenge must read fifteen books during this period. If you are interested in accepting the Challenge, please come to the Senior Library to collect a Consent Form and have a chat about what is involved. Next Tuesday, 17th March, there will be a free Premiers' Reading Challenge Calendar in the Herald Sun Newspaper which will list key Challenge dates, literary events, fun facts, popular authors' birthdays, and tips for reading.

For more information on the Challenge visit:
www.education.vic.gov.au/prc

MERBEIN COMMUNITY BANK SCHOOL STUDENT BANKING PROGRAM

The weekly Merbein Community Bank – Bendigo Bank School Student Banking Program has commenced. If you wish to participate in this program, please send your child's banking passbook to the Green Building Office every Thursday morning and the Bank will collect, process and drop them back to the school before the end of the school day.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

The school prefers to send the weekly newsletter and other important information home via email as this is the most reliable method. Please send your email address to:

giddings.beth.l@edumail.vic.gov.au asking for the newsletter to be emailed to you.

Please note that those few students in Years 8/9/10 who still require a hardcopy of the newsletter, will need to collect their newsletter from the main office at the finish of their last class at the end of the day each Thursday.

PRIMARY NEWS

GRADE P-6 DRESS UP DAY TOMORROW

With the theme 'When I Grow Up I Want To Be.' This day is supported by Childhood Cancer Research, so we are asking for a **gold coin**

donation. Students from Grade P-6 are invited to dress up. We will have a parade at 9.05pm just after marking the roll.

GRADE P-6 ASSEMBLY – MONTHLY AWARDS PRESENTATION

Next Friday, the Primary Section will hold an Assembly in the Gym at 2.45pm where Student of the Month Awards and reports will be presented. All parents are welcome to attend.

GRADE P-6 TERM 1 OVERVIEW IN ART

Students from Grade P-6 have enjoyed art this term. Grade P-2 students have been focussing on their cutting and pasting skills, Grade 3-4 learning about colours and using different techniques, creating Jim Dines Hearts. The Grade 5-6 students have been looking at and creating Pop Art. Next term we will be focussing on sculpturing.



GRADE P-6 EASTER HAT PARADE

The P-6 students will be making Easter Hats during class at school. There will be an Easter Hat Parade approximately 9am on Friday 27th March. Parents are welcome to stay for the parade.

GRADE P-6 EASTER CLASS COMPETITION

This year the Primary Class Groups are having a competition to bring as many Easter Eggs as possible to make a Class Easter Basket. The Classroom Teacher, with the students, will design an impressive Easter Basket to be judged. The winning grade will get to keep their eggs. The Secondary Classes do this and it has been very successful and lots of fun. So please send along eggs to your child's classroom. The Class Egg Baskets will be judged directly following the Easter Hat Parade Friday 27th March. The raffle for the Primary Class Easter Baskets will then be drawn.

EASTER RAFFLE TICKETS

An Easter Raffle Book went home with every family. Please support the school by selling as many tickets as possible and returning the sold ticket butts along with the money to school by Tuesday, 24th March. Extra raffle ticket books are available from the school's main office. The Primary Class Easter Baskets will be the prizes for the Easter Raffle this year.

GREEN NEWS – Grade 2-3 Beetles & Grade P-1 Bugs

Prep Health Assessments – The School Nurse, Denise Pragt will be visiting us next Tuesday and Thursday to do the Health Assessments. There are still a number of parents who have not returned their child's form. Please check that your Prep child's form has been returned. It was sent home in a large white envelope earlier in the term.

Partners in Print Report – Wendy Finn

What a wonderful evening on Tuesday night with our parents, students, parent helpers and teachers celebrating together how children learn to read and ways to support reading and writing at home. Julie Zrna, the co-author of the Partners in Print Program gave us an interesting and informative talk on students' reading. The Partners in Print Program is also available in the USA and Spain (in Spanish). The second co-author, Anne Robinson, will speak to us at our next Partners in Print evening, Thursday 19th March. Both ladies have an excellent knowledge of how children learn to read.

If you were unable to attend our first Partners in Print evening, don't miss next Thursday night's session. All Grade P-1 parents/guardians are welcome to join us with their child for the second evening, as we look into more ways to support your child's reading and love of books at home. Are you using the right prompts? (Saying 'sound it out' is not the best way to help your child.) Are you making the most of authentic, real-life ways for your child to read and write? We want your child to be the best reader and writer they can be. Just like when they started talking, they were supported by family and friends to improve through practice and praise. The learning of reading and writing needs support, practice, praise and guidance. A very big thankyou to the wonderful presenters – Michelle Nokes, Kelly McConnell, Tess Muggeridge, Romelia Allan and Tracy Price.

Next Thursday please come with your child in their pyjamas at 5.30 for sandwiches. They can have their tea and be ready for bed as soon as they get home. The session will begin at 5.45pm.

MERBEIN P-10 COLLEGE OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Cheryll Hodge is our school's OSHC coordinator and can be contacted on 0428 258035 if you have any queries.

GRADE P-3 AWARDS WINNERS LAST WEEK

Douglas Allan, Clare Araipu, Mason Arnold, Riley Nokes, Jazmine Kettle, Aleisha Moore, Miles Fetherston, Alana Young, Jarleal Wightman, Maddy I'Anson, Ashley Araipu, Layla Connors and Chris Bizimana.



SECONDARY NEWS

REPRESENTING OUR SCHOOL - Mr Rhodes

I had the pleasure to be invited to join the Year 7 Camp to the Grampians this year. On return from the Year 7 Camp, I heard all about the Year 8 camp experiences and I thought it important to share some feedback concerning the camps.

Year 7 - While walking up to the Pinnacle at the Grampians, one of our groups passed another school group of students and teachers. On our return walk one of the other school's teachers commented on how well behaved our students were and asked whether we were from an exclusive private school.

The instructors of the activities from both the Year 7 and 8 Camps commented on the excellent behaviour of our students. The way they listened and the way they were willing to try everything and encourage their class mates.

The manager of the Norval School Camp Site also said how he looks forward to our students coming each year because he is aware of how well behaved and respectful they are.

These are welcome pieces of feedback and I think it is important to share them with the school community.

LOCKS ON LOCKERS

All students are responsible for the security of their own equipment at school. We have supplied lockable lockers and have cameras set up at most locker locations. If a student has a BYOD computer or Ipad they MUST use a lock on their lockers.

It is also strongly advised that all students use a lock on their lockers to ensure security.

SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS (SWPBIS)

Our second focus for SWPBIS in 2015 has centred around the QUALITY of student work. Over the past three weeks teachers have become very routine in the checking of students work during class to ensure the best quality work is completed.

The next focus will be determined tonight at the SWPBIS meeting. Our SWPBIS group is currently made up of teachers only. We are hoping that some parents and students will join the group to add their input. SWPBIS is an important tool which is contributing to our excellent school culture and student behaviour. We expect these steps will result in excellent student academic outcomes.

SECONDARY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Next Thursday March 19th there will be an assembly at 10.10am to celebrate the achievements of many of our students in the secondary section.

Year 7 and 8 Camp reports will be heard.

Students of the Month Awards will be acknowledged along with all the students who were nominated by teachers.

UNIFORM

It is fantastic to see almost all students in correct uniform. It is expected that all students wear full uniform at all times. If for some reason a student is unable to wear their uniform for a short period of time a signed note should be provided by parents/guardians. It is important to note the Black Shorts or Long Casual Pants are acceptable for uniform, BUT leggings ARE NOT uniform and are not to be worn at school unless they are changed into for Sports/PE classes, then changed 'out of' after these classes.

YEAR 10 INFORMATION

The school website contains a Year 10 Page with links to information documents including the Graduation Policy and Transition Key Dates. If you have any queries about either of these events please refer to the Year 10 Page or contact Mr Dreyer by phone or email.

YEAR 10 EVENTS IN TERM 3

18 th August	Subject Selections for the Senior College will be due
24 th August	Snow Trip departs in the evening
4 th September	Work Experience. To reduce their workload at this time it is recommended that students arrange their Work Experience Placements by the end of Term 2.

YEAR 10 SNOW TRIP

There are still approximately ten places left on the Snow Trip. Numbers will be finalised in the coming weeks at which point we will begin having regular meetings and sending information and medical forms home. A reminder that all outstanding camp fees need to be paid for students to attend the Snow Trip. Year 9 students are able to apply to fill any remaining places on the Snow Trip.

MATHEMATICS - Duane Ebbels

Mr Ebbels would like to remind parents that all students from Years 7-10 are required to complete homework tasks for Mathematics. It is especially important for those in Year 10 as homework is one of the mandatory requirements students are to complete to in order to obtain a satisfactory grade in Mathematics which in turn is directly related to graduation eligibility at the end of the year.

Students must satisfactorily complete and submit 80% of their homework in order to satisfactorily pass the subject.

Mr Ebbels will be making himself available to all students from Year 7-10 each Tuesday straight after school for one hour. Students can bring their homework or classwork along and get some help completing it.

YEAR 8 SURF CAMP REPORT - Liz Rankin

What an adventure this year's camp was! We headed off with forty two students to Ocean Grove for a week at the Beach. We arrived to some fantastic weather and were able to quickly get all the tents up. A long walk along the beach had the students excited and ready for our next day's activities.

Days 2 and 3 greeted us with more great weather and all the students were able to participate in Surfing, Body Boarding, Kayaking, Beach Games and Coastal Awareness Activities as well as Stand-Up Paddle Boarding in the early evenings. Some of us were surprised at how cold the evenings were and how friendly the local wild life, particularly possums were.

Late on Day 3 we were hit with gale force winds which made sleeping very difficult. There were a few casualties when it came to tents and marquees, and we all had a very restless night's sleep. The wind kept up its ferocious pace during Day 4 but this didn't deter us from shopping or from hopping back in the water for another round of Surfing, Body Boarding and Kayaking in the afternoon. Day 5 saw us up early to pack up our tents and begin the long journey home. We jumped on the bus just as the rain set in and headed for McDonalds. After a quick lunch we were on the road again and homeward bound. We arrived back, very weary but having had a great time. All the students who attended should be congratulated on their efforts. All the instructors praised the students on their listening skills, manners and tenacity in what were at times very difficult conditions.

A big thank-you to Mr Greg Geyer and Mr Brock Munn who took a week out of their lives and jobs to come and help prepare yummy food for us for the week. Their help was very much appreciated. Thanks also to all the staff that helped out over the week and in the weeks leading up to camp. Chris Bettison, Scott Johnson, Jess Williams and Ilario Cavallo were amazing, albeit somewhat exhausted by Friday!

IMMUNISATIONS

On Monday most of the Year 7 students will receive their second immunisation. Students in Year's 8,9 & 10 who missed their immunisation in February will also have an opportunity to catch up, on this important health procedure this Monday. The immunisation cards for the students in Yrs 8,9 & 10 who missed were distributed today. These need to be returned by Monday March 16th.

COMMUNITY NEWS

AUSKICK MERBEIN 2015 SEASON START

Training will commence May 5th at 4.30pm, Kenny Park Merbein.

Boys and girls are welcome to come along.

Training/game days will alternate between Tuesday at 4.30pm and Sunday at 10am to give parents an option. A schedule of dates is available upon request and at the training sessions. For further information contact the Merbein Co-ordinator Brad Martin on 0418 136 432.

<http://aflauskick.com.au/register/>

SCHOOL HOLIDAY Activities FOR YEARS 7-12

30th March	Cinema and Pizza	Cost \$15
31st March	Traditional Martial Arts Session	Cost \$15
1st April	Indoor team activities	No Cost
2nd April	Movie at Ouyen's Historic Roxy Theatre	Cost \$15
7th April	Laserforce	Cost \$15
8th April	Perry Sand Hills	No Cost
9th April	Mosaic Workshop at the Scout Hall	No Cost
10th April	Pool Party at the Waves	No Cost

For more information email

youthservices@mildura.vic.gov.au or visit

www.mildura.vic.gov.au/youth

RHEE TAEKWON-DO OPEN DAY

All members, family and friends are invited to the 'Open Day' tonight from 6-7pm in the Merbein P-10 College Gym.

MERBEIN JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

REGISTRATIONS OPEN 2015

Auskick for U10, U12, U13, U14½ and U16.

Registration Forms will be available at training nights, or contact numbers below.

Graeme Dunne (President): 0407 325 751

Geoff Stevens (Vice President): 0407 502 465

Brad Martin (Auskick): 0418 136 432

Training NIGHTS

U/14.5's & U/16's Training

Tuesday 4.30-6pm & Thursday 4.30-6pm

U/10's, U/12's, U/13's & Auskick Training

U/13's Tuesday - March 3rd - 4.30-6pm

U/12's Tuesday - April 14th - 4.30-6pm

U/10's Tuesday - April 14th - 4.30-6pm

Auskick Tuesday - 5th May

Registration Online -

<http://aflauskick.com.au/register>

Held - Merbein Football Ground-Kenny Park

THE ROTARY CLUB OF MERBEIN INC.
PRESENTS OUTDOOR CINEMA EVENING (FREE
ENTRY)
PADDINGTON



Date: Friday 27th March 2015
Time: Food from 6.30 pm ~ Movie 8.30 pm
Venue: Kenny Park (Croquet area)
Food available: Sausage Sizzle, Pancakes,
Soft Drinks & Coffee. Bring your picnic rug and
chairs and relax and enjoy!
Please note: Strictly Alcohol Free Event
The Rotary Club of Merbein Inc., celebrating fifty
years of service to the Merbein and wider
community. Further information contact Leon
Wagner 0427 252 586. Special Acknowledgment to
Chris Mitchell & Staff at Cinema Deakin for their
expertise and assistance.

MERBEIN SOCCER REGISTRATION DAY
REGISTRATION DAY

Held Sunday 15th March at Kenny Park Reserve
Merbein.
This will be for all divisions in the club including
Sub Juniors (Under 6s through to Under 10s),
Under 12s to Under 16s, Women's, Reserves and
Seniors. Registration costs for 2015 are as follows;

- Sub Juniors - \$150
- Juniors - \$180
- Senior Women - \$220
- Senior Men - \$265

There will be a sausage sizzle on the day.
The day will commence at 12.30pm and our Senior
and Reserve teams will be playing a practice match
at approximately 1.30 pm.

MILDURA ARTS CENTRE GALLERY : WWI &
ANZAC DAY CENTENARY EXHIBITIONS

From February to May 2015, the MAC Gallery
Exhibition Program will be dedicated to
commemorating the WWI and ANZAC Day
Centenary. For further information, please contact
Luci Marcuzzo or Heather Lee on (03) 5018 8330
or email gallery@mildura.vic.gov.au.

MINIBALL REGISTRATION

To be held Saturday 21st March 2015 at the Mildura
Hot House Stadium. Grade P-1 9.30am, Grade 2-4
10.30am.

Miniball is an introduction and skills based
Basketball Program for primary school aged
children. Miniball caters for all girls and boys who
are currently attending a primary school from
Grade P- 4.

Cost : \$45 per player – Registration and \$5 weekly
game fee.

For more information phone Fiona 0474057126
after 6pm. Email alcheringabb@gmail.com

NICHOLS POINT SOCCER CLUB JUNIOR
REGISTRATION DAY

Nichols Point Soccer Club will be holding the Junior
Registration Day on Wednesday 18th March.
Children from as young as five are invited to join.
There will be a BBQ & Drinks for the whole family
commencing at the end of the first training session,
5pm and it will be staggered over the three training
time slots.

Registration Cost: Sub Junior 5-11 years \$125.00.
Juniors 12-18 years \$165.00.

Please register your child online before this night if
possible by ringing Donna Fisher 0437101756 or
email Fisher.donna@outlook.com

SCHOOL HOLIDAY BASKETBALL CAMP

Held @ The Toyota Hothouse, 1st and 2nd April for
Boys & Girls aged 5–12 from 10am–3pm. All
children to bring a basketball, lunch & drink bottle.
Please call 5023 2241 for more details or forms can
be downloaded at www.mildurabasketball.com.au.

RE-ACT THEATRE MILDURA

Inviting performers aged 8-19yrs. Information
session to be held Monday 9th March at Henderson
College Stadium from 4-5pm. For more information
contact by email barrow.glen@bigpond.com
or visit

<https://www.facebook.com/reactproductions>

POMONA SCHOOL CAR BOOT SALE

22nd March from 10am-2pm on the School Oval.
Free entry. BBQ & drinks available \$10per 3m site.
For bookings call 0400240673 or email
dilovell73@gmail.com