

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr Graeme Cupper

AWARDS PRESENTATION EVENING REPORT AND PHOTOS



DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER

18th Friday

Last Day of School - Clean-Up Day
Earlier Dismissal Time of 2.30pm.

NO OSHC on this day.

JANUARY 2016

19th Tuesday

Uniform Shop Open 9.00am-1.00pm.

21st Thursday

Uniform Shop Open 1.00pm-6.00pm.

27th Wednesday

Sec Book Collection Day 8.30-4.30

Uniform Shop Open 8.30am-4.30pm

28th Thursday

First day of Term 1 for students

FEBRUARY 2016

15th - 19th

Gr P-6 Stomp Dance Lessons

2016 TERM DATES

Term 1: 28th January - 24th March

(Teachers return 27th January)

Term 2: 11th April - 24th June

Term 3: 11th July - 16th September

Term 4: 3rd October - 20th December

Last Thursday evening the Merbein P-10 College Awards Evening was held in the Activity Centre. Awards presentations for both the Primary and Secondary Sections were combined and it proved to be a successful format.

I would like to congratulate all students who received certificates and awards for outstanding academic achievements and community contributions. I would also like to thank the large number of staff who planned, assisted and supported this event to ensure the ceremony went so smoothly.

Finally I would like to publically thank the many businesses, local service groups and local families who have generously sponsored many of the awards. Your support is greatly appreciated by the school and highly valued by the recipients of the awards.



PREP- GRADE 6 GRADUATION REPORT

Last Friday we held our annual Prep/ Grade 6 Graduation assembly. It was great to see many parents and family members in attendance to celebrate and acknowledge these two important educational milestones.



PROPOSED PRIMARY TEACHER CLASS ALLOCATIONS 2016

The planned 2016 class structures and allocated teachers are listed below. As you can see we are welcoming a new teacher, Janelle Costello to our school and welcoming back Josh Lee and Sue Gardiner.

I am also pleased to advise that Darin Lord and Bec Ogden will be working as Maths and Science Specialists next year. After initial training they will be working as mentors with teachers across all primary levels.

The current class teacher allocation plan is based on current expected enrolments but as is often the case, there may be some minor adjustments if student numbers change.

Parents are reminded that at Merbein P-10 we implement a 'Team-Based Approach' in each Unit (Learning Centre). This means your child is likely to be regularly working with a team of teachers rather than just the one class teacher. To support the effectiveness of the 'Team-Teaching Model', joint planning time will be provided within each team for teachers to ensure that students benefit from a consistent, well-planned approach to classroom teaching.

Learning Centre Leaders Prep-Yr 7: Rob Morgan, Wendy Finn

Primary Class Teachers

P/1	Tania Rivett	P/1	Rebekah McClure/ Rebecca Holy	1/2	Brioney Hall
2/3	Janelle Costello	2/3	Betty Colbert/ Hayley Breewel	Yr4	Josh Lee
Yr5	Sue Gardiner	Yr5	Darin Lord/ Rebecca Ogden	Yr6	Kerry Grimmer/ Josh Hudson
Literacy Specialist/Learning Centre Leader			Wendy Finn		
Maths/Science Specialist 0.5			Darin Lord		
Maths/Science Specialist 0.5			Rebecca Ogden		
Specialist	Rebecca Holy	Specialist	Jodie Atkinson		

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Tomorrow, Friday 18th December will be the last day of the 2015 school year. As this will be a tidying and clean-up day, students are strongly encouraged to bring some old clothes and gloves.

Clean-up activities will finish at 1.30pm at which time the lunch break will start. Parents are welcome to collect their children from 1.30pm onwards. School officially closes at 2.30 pm.

STAFFING

As this is the final newsletter for 2015 I would like to take this opportunity to farewell Mr Daniel Nemtsas and Ms Kelly Mangan. Daniel has been a member of the leadership team since Merbein P-10 was first established in January 2010. I wish him well as he takes up a position as the Principal of Cohuna Primary School. Kelly has been with us for three years and will be joining Glossop Primary School. On behalf of the Merbein P-10 community I would like to thank them for their contribution to our school.

I would also like to sincerely thank Ms Judy Donnelly and Mrs Katie Aarons who have capably filled fixed-term positions throughout 2015.

Thanks also to our School Councillors, Parents' Club, Teachers and Support Staff for a job well-done throughout 2015. I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of our Learning Centre Leaders and to especially express my appreciation to Mr Greg Rhodes and Mrs Sandra Luitjes. I am very fortunate to be able to work with such capable and professional leaders.

Finally, I wish staff and families a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.



PRIMARY NOVEMBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH AWARD WINNERS - Photo above

The Primary November Student of the Month Award Winners were presented with their awards at last Friday's Special Assembly. Congratulations and well done to the following award winners.

P1A	Liam Hansford	P1B	Alana Young
12A	Sapphire Dodds	23A	Lola Colling
23B	Shakiera Faux	4A	Shayde Szombathy
4B	Tiarna Corrie	56A	Katelyn Hancock
56A	MacKenzee Ogden		

SUMMER SAFETY MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR FAMILIES & CHILDREN

As we break for summer, it is timely to consider the dangers of warmer weather and its impact on children. Cars heat up very quickly. Even on a mild day the temperature inside a car can become dangerously hot.

Keep safe these summer months and remember not to leave children in the car at any time.

UNIFORM SHOP - HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

The Uniform Shop will be open on the following days during the January holidays.

Tuesday, 19th January from 9.00am-1.00pm.

Thursday, 21st January 1.00pm-6.00pm.

Wednesday, 27th January - 8.30am-4.30pm.

SCHOOL BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

BSB - 063 714

Bank Acc Number - 10060535

Account Name - Merbein P-10 College Official Account.

YEAR 7 UNIFORM PACKAGE INITIATIVE 2016 A STATE SCHOOL'S RELIEF PROGRAM

Every Year 7 government school student enrolled in 2016 who is a recipient of the Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) automatically qualifies for a free uniform pack to the approximate value of \$225.

The 2015 CSEF recipients can apply for a pack from 1st December 2015 from the school office.

Included in the Uniform Pack are basic items.

Jumper x 1, PE shirt x 1, PE shorts x 1.

For girls a dress (or shorts or trousers) x 1 and a shirt x 1 (long or short sleeve).

For boys a shirt x 1 (long or short sleeve) and shorts or trousers x 1.

When a family application has been approved a voucher will be sent to the school and then given to the family. The voucher is valid for 75 days only. Parents who missed this year's CSEF applications or were ineligible in 2015, can apply in 2016.

Notification about applications will be advertised very early next year via the school newsletters.

For more information about the CSEF Application visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef.

PRIMARY NEWS

PREP AND GRADE 6 GRADUATION CEREMONY ASSEMBLY REPORT

We have enjoyed a wonderful year here at Merbein P-10. Last Friday we celebrated the end of the year at a special Primary Assembly where monthly awards were presented and a ceremony was held to acknowledge the completion of our Preps' first year of school and to acknowledge the Graduation of our Grade 6 as they complete their final year of Primary School. We are very proud of all our students. Thankyou to the parents and families for coming along to support them on this special occasion. Grade 6 photo below.



END OF YEAR

Thank you to all the parents and families for your support throughout the year. It has been a very busy last couple of weeks. We wish you a merry Christmas and safe holiday and look forward to seeing everyone in the new school year.

PARENTS' CLUB THANKYOU

A very big thank you to the Parents' Club for all their efforts to put together the Christmas Raffle, which was once again so successful this year. We really appreciate all these dedicated parents do to help the school, so thank you for all the support you've given, right throughout the year.

MERBEIN LIBRARY

A list of Library Holiday Activity Days and times is posted in the Community section of this newsletter. We encourage families to use their facilities and enjoy the activities over the holidays with your children so that they can continue to read and enjoy books.

There will be NO OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE (OSHC) TOMORROW, the last day of term, Friday 18th December. Cheryll Hodge can be contacted on 0428 258035 if you have any queries.

GUITAR LESSONS 2016

Expressions of Interest are requested for the 2016 Guitar Program (Primary Grades 1-6 only). To register your interest, please collect an 'Expression of Interest' form from the main office. Alternatively you can call or text the Guitar Teacher, Iwan Soebardi directly by phone 04189 19220 or email iwansoebardi@gmail.com.



DRUM LESSONS - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Expressions of Interest are being sought for any students interested in Drum Lessons.

This year Luke McCarthy has had a very successful time teaching students here at the school. He is looking to continue in 2016 and is seeking interest. He is contactable on 0417 897 906 for more information.

LAST WEEK'S GREEN BUILDING WEEKLY AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the following Grade P-3 Award Winners. Shakiera Faux, Will Martin, Eleanor Saleta, Seth Arnold, Sarnie Cramp, Daniel Szombathy, Jesse Philippe, Max Kassulke, Clayton Hosking, Nina Smith and Lola Colling.



SECONDARY NEWS

PYGMALION PERFORMANCE REPORT – Mrs McPhee

Congratulations to all the cast and crew of 'Pygmalion' whose performance was outstanding. This group of Year 10 students have worked diligently over a number of months, rehearsing at lunchtimes in order to get this performance ready. Special thanks to the students who joined the cast at the last minute, Miss Williams and the SRC for their donation, Ms. Byrne and the Year 9 Home Economics students who supplied the delicious slices, Harper Dwyer for creating the posters and programme, Miss Donnelly and Mrs Gratton for all their help backstage and last but not least the students, parents and staff who made time to attend the performance at this busy time of year. We were very appreciative of your support.



2016 SENIOR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC) LEADERS

Our senior SRC leaders were given the opportunity this year to speak to all the classes. It was a great experience for all the students and the speakers definitely improved their speeches by the time they made their way to the last class. They realised that they have areas to improve upon and are keen to do more public speaking in the future.

We are pleased to announce that Alex Pallot is our new 2016 president, supported by Jama Sefer as Vice President and Josh May as Secretary. To arrive at this decision, the votes were tallied and the three students with the most votes were revealed to the SRC executive. From here the 2015 executive committee had a discussion and subsequently voted on who they thought would best fulfil each of the main roles. Our student body and our executive committee made a great decision and each of these young people will do a great job in representing and leading our school.

The remainder of the SRC committee are Ashlee Wakefield, Logan Dunne, Ashlee Battin, Jack Smith, Tauini Miki, Zain Neil-Brennan, Gemma Young, Bree and Jasmyrn Sharp.

Congratulations to these students on their efforts.

COMMUNITY NEWS

MRCC SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12 to 16 YEARS

11 January \$15	Putt Putt & Aqua Coaster
12 January \$15	Laserforce
13 January Free	Mildura Waves
14 January \$15	Movies & Pizza
15 January \$15	House of Bounce
18 January \$15	Cupcakes & Nail Art
19 January \$15	Inflatable World @ Lifestyle Plus
20 January \$15	Lawn Bowls & Ten Pin Bowling
21 January Free	Merbein Pool
22 January Free	Freestyle Art

Don't miss out. Registration is essential. Closing date will be Tuesday, 22nd December, 2015 at 5pm. Registration forms are available by contacting youthservices@mildura.vic.gov.au or www.mildura.vic.gov.au/youth

For further information contact Mildura Rural City Council Youth Services on 5018 8280.

HEADSPACE MILDURA

Sexual Health Month, an important issue for young people. Check it out on Facebook. Headspace closes from 24th December to 4th January. Headspace buildings can be found at 2/215 Pine Ave Mildura. Phone 50212400 for more information.

2016 BENDIGO AND ADELAIDE BANK SCHOLARSHIPS FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL STUDENTS

To be eligible, the following criteria must be met.

- Australian citizen or permanent resident from a rural or regional location.
- First year undergraduate in 2016.
- Studying full-time in 2016 in an approved Australian course.
- Graduated from Secondary School in either 2015 or in 2014.
- Able to demonstrate the economic or social disadvantage hindering further study.
- Outstanding academic achievement and community involvement.

Applications open 1st December 2015 and close 25th January 2016. Visit bendigobank.com.au/scholarships for more information or contact Community Enterprise Foundation on 1300304541.

WEP - WORLD EDUCATION PROGRAM AUSTRALIA

WEP is looking for volunteer host families to welcome exchange students arriving soon. Go online to see student profiles or contact WEP as soon as possible info@wep.org.au wep.org.au/hosting 1300884733.

LIBRARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Merbein Library – 0350188361

12 th January at 11am	Wild Animal Masks
13 th January at 11am	Lego Fun (Free session)
14 th January at 11am	Milk Jug Monsters
19 th January at 11am	Boats
20 th January at 11am	Lego Fun (Free session)
21 st January at 11am	Lucky Ducks

Mildura Library – 0350188350

12 th January at 10.30am	Hat-tastic
2.30pm	Monster Float
13 th January at 2.30pm	Lego Fun (Free session)
14 th January at 10.30am	Star Wars Cushion Cover
2.30pm	Elsa
19 th January at 10.30am	Elsa
2.30pm	Star Wars Cushion Cover
21 st January at 10.30am	Monster Float
2.30pm	Hat-tastic

ENROL NOW FOR VICSWIM PROGRAMS

VicSwim is running Learn to Swim programs for children aged 4+ at local pools this summer.

Five day programs will run at these three local pools on the following dates and times in January:

Merbein	Monday 4–Friday 8	1pm–5.30pm
Red Cliffs	Monday 11–Friday 15	10am–2.30pm
Irymple	Monday 18–Friday 22	10am–2pm

For more information or to enrol your child please call VicSwim on (03) 9271 3800 or go to www.vicswim.com.au