

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY

12th Friday

- Parents' Club Catch Up 2pm
- Sec Valentine Day activities
- Primary Guitar Presentation 10.30am

15th - 19th

Gr P-6 Stomp Dance Lessons

15th Monday

Nominations for School Council close

17th Wednesday

School Photos

Yr 7 Open Water Learning Experience

18th Thursday

School Photos for Preps and Yr 7

19th Friday

- Pri Stomp Performance 6-7.15pm
- Whole School Assembly 10.15am

24th Wednesday

Sec Interschool Sport Swimming

23rd - 25th

Year 7 Camp

29th Friday

CSEF Applications Close

MARCH

4th Friday

Pri Relay for Life

7th - 11th

Year 8 Camp

8th Tuesday

Yr 7 Immunisations

14th Monday

Public Holiday - NO School

17th Thursday

Sec LMR Swimming

21st Monday

Sec Interschool Sport Tennis Volleyball

23rd Wednesday

- Sec Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Sec Interschool Sport Baseball

24th Thursday

- Pri Easter Hat Parade and Hunt
- Last day of Term 1 - early dismissal time of 2.30pm.

SEPTEMBER

12th Monday

Visiting Performance - Pass The Poetry Please

NOVEMBER

14th Monday

Visiting Performance - To Federation And Beyond



Merbein P-10 College
parents club
important communication

Parents Club Catch Up
Friday 12th Feb
2pm

Shade sails behind the Green Building

*You might be busy, but you might have awesome ideas.
You might work, but you have great connections.
You might never have been on a committee before, but we
make it easy by being relaxed.*

Everyone has something to offer.

*If you would like to be more involved in your child's school,
please come along!*

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr Graeme Cupper

INDUCTION/STUDENT OF THE MONTH ASSEMBLY

On Friday, 19th February, we will be holding an assembly to induct our Student Leaders for 2016 and take the opportunity to formally congratulate them and acknowledge the important role they play in ensuring our school is an inclusive and positive community to be part of. These Student Leaders consist of: The Student Representative Council (SRC) Executive, the House Leaders and the SRC Year Level Representatives. They will be presented with their badges of office at this assembly.

The Student-of-the-Month certificates will also be presented at this assembly. Parents are welcome to attend.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

I would like to remind parents that nominations for School Council close next Monday, 15th February. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies an election will be conducted. Nomination forms are available from the General Office.

Attached is information for Parents from the Department of Education.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS PARENT INFORMATION

What is a School Council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the School Council?

There are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed at the school.
- A mandated elected DET employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on School Councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on School Council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do

Consider standing for election to council this year

Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.

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 - 9.30am

Open Thursday 2.00 - 4.00pm

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



YEARS 5-10 MILDURA INTERSCHOOL CHESS TOURNAMENT

To be held on Wednesday, 16th March at the Trinity Lutheran College. Cost is \$10 entry per student. Students from Year 5-10 are invited. Practice sessions will be held on Monday lunchtimes in the Year 7 end of the Orange Building. See Mrs Fetherston if you are interested.

SCHOOL PHOTOS– Mr Rhodes

School Photo Days will be next Wednesday, 17th February and Thursday, 18th February. Most photos will be taken on the Wednesday. On Thursday, the Prep students and the Year 7 students will have their photos taken. Photo packs were sent home with each child this week.



- **Please check that your child's photo envelope has been returned with the correct payment enclosed.**
- **Please note that each child requires their own envelope.**

FAMILY PHOTOS – Mr Rhodes

If any families would like an additional family photo taken they will need to collect a special Family Envelope from the Green Building Office or the Main Office. Please note that photos taken for the Family Photo Group will be of children enrolled at this the school only.

IMPORTANT DATES

<u>FEBRUARY</u>	
Friday 12 th	Valentine Day activities
Wednesday 17 th	School Photo Day
Thursday 18 th	Prep/Yr 7/Absent Photos Days
Friday 19 th	-Primary Stomp Dance performance Evening -Whole School Assembly 10.15am
Tuesday 23 rd	Year 7 Camp departs - returns on Friday 25th Feb
Wednesday 24 th	Interschool Secondary Swimming Sports
<u>MARCH</u>	
Monday 7 th	Year 8 Camp Depart - Return Friday 11 th
Monday 14 th	Labour Day Holiday
Wednesday 16 th	School Assembly
Thursday 17 th	LMR Secondary Swimming Swan Hill
Monday 21 st	Sec interschool Volleyball and Tennis
Wednesday 23 rd	Sec Interschool Baseball
Thursday 24 th	-Last day of term early dismissal -Easter Raffle
Friday 25 th	Good Friday

MERBEIN P10 COLLEGE FACEBOOK PAGE

Visit our school's Facebook Page for photos and updates www.facebook.com/merbeinp10college.

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY - RESCHEDULED

The Whole School Assembly has been rescheduled for next, Friday 19th February in the School Gym. The Assembly will start at 10.15am. Parents are welcome to attend.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE/BUS PASS

Students or parents need to collect an application form from the school's main office if they wish to apply for the allowance in 2016.

STUDENT RECORDS

Reminder that it is important to notify the school of any changes to your child's address, phone, emergency phone numbers and medical records.

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. 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.

MERBEIN P-10 COLLEGE BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The Breakfast Program is being financially supported by the Merbein & District Community Bank & Merbein Development Association. The following organisations also provide volunteers to assist with the program; Merbein P10 College Parents' Club, the Board & Staff of the Merbein & District Community Bank, Merbein Development Association, Merbein Lions Club and Merbein Rotary. If you are able to volunteer to help in the Breakfast Program, please contact Haley at the Merbein & District Community Bank. The Breakfast Program is held in the school 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.

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.

STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is away from school, please send a note or email the following address:

Collihole.heather.h@edumail.vic.gov.au

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: \$125 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: \$225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

- **To be eligible parents must be concession card holders.**
- **Application Forms can be collected from the Main Office at the school.**
- **Parents must lodge the application form at the school by 29th February 2016.**

For more information, see:

www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

PRIMARY NEWS

LEVIES - PRIMARY PARENT PAYMENT 2016

Thank you to the parents who have paid their levies. If you have not paid your levies, please call into the school office and do so as soon as possible.

It is important to note that if you are eligible for the CSEF Funding, complete and submit the application form to the school before 29th February, the Excursion Levy part of your Primary Parent Payment will be covered by the CSEF Funding.

Read more information about the CSEF in the article above.

STRONG START TO THE YEAR

We have had a great start to the year. We are seeing lots of diaries and books coming back every day. Your child will keep improving in leaps and bounds when they have regular support at home every night with their reading.

Last week the teachers kept a checklist to see which students were consistently working well, organised and on time. The results were

outstanding. However there have been some students who struggled to do their best and make good choices. The Learning Centre Leaders will be contacting parents to help support these students to improve. Our goal is for all our students to consistently make good choices in class and in the yard.

GREEN BUILDING ASSEMBLY

The Green Learning Centre Assemblies are held every Thursday from 2.45pm. All parents and friends are welcome.

PICK UPS - GREEN BUILDING

Thankyou to parents for not coming into the Green Building at the end of the day. It has made the students routine of packing up and preparing for home much easier. Students will be dismissed from their classroom green door at the end of every day.

HATS

Students are required to wear a hat for all outdoor activities (NO caps).

LIBRARY TIMES

Library borrowing days for this term are as follows:

Grade 5-6 will borrow Mondays.

Grade P-4 will borrow Mondays & Tuesdays.

Please ensure your child returns their library books every week on their library days. Please note that every child will need to bring along a book bag to protect the books they borrow. These school books are valuable learning tools for our children and very expensive to replace, so **please be**

diligent in having your child return their library books every week. (Books can then be re-borrowed if they have not finished with them).

SEVERE FOOD ALLERGIES

There are students at the school with severe food allergies. Please remind your child that their food is not to be shared.

BRAIN FOOD

Each child is encouraged to bring some 'brain food' to have every morning. Studies have shown that small amounts of healthy food continually throughout the day, helps with concentration and energy. Examples are: dried fruit, crackers, grapes, carrots, celery, cheese, plain popcorn. No nuts please. (Not roll ups, or chips)

WATER BOTTLES

Every student needs to bring along a plastic sport bottle of water (not soft drink or cordial or fruit drink, just water) to school every day to sit on their desks during class. Studies have proven that the brain does not function well if dehydrated. So it is best practice to drink plenty of water throughout the day.

NB: We have the refrigerated water fountain at school where the children can refill their bottles during the day.

BEFORE SCHOOL TIMES

The doors of the Green Learning Centre open at 8.40am. Students who arrive at school before 8.40am are encouraged to either go to the Breakfast Club in our college canteen or to sit at the tables behind the Green Learning Centre until the Learning Centre doors open and students can then take their bags to their lockers. A teacher is on duty from 8.40am in the front yard. Please remind your child of their two options if they are at school before 8.40am. Please note also that there is no play before 8.40pm.

LAST WEEK'S GREEN BUILDING WEEKLY AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the following Grade P-3 Award Winners. Jaylen Crouch, Millie Ernesti, Kenzie Arnold, Sammy Murphy, Eleanor Saleta, Jasper Demarkow, Wylie Smith, Daniel Szombathy, Seth Arnold, Taylor Lewis, Christian Isaacs, Olivia Corrie, Ashana Sleader, Cara Graham, Emily Wilkinson and Curtis Crabtree.



GRADE 5-6 NEWS

Student Representative Council Election -

Congratulations to the students who presented speeches as part of the SRC Election Process, to their peers earlier today. Thank you to the families that came along to support their child. The successful students will be awarded their badges at the Whole School Assembly next week.

Unit Inquiry - Students will be investigating natural disasters, specifically bushfires, drought and earthquakes over the next four weeks as part of their Inquiry Unit. Please encourage your child by discussing their learning.

Student Electives – These will commence tomorrow with students participating in Drawing, Mask Design and Coding.

Grade 5-6 Weekly Award Winners – Photo below of last week's award winners. Awards were presented at the Grade 5-6 weekly assembly. Congratulations and well done!



MERBEIN P-10 COLLEGE OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) is currently taking enrolments for 2016. Days are filling fast. Cheryll Hodge is our school's OSHC coordinator and can be contacted on 0428 258035 if you have any queries.

GUITAR PROGRAM PRESENTATION

The Guitar teachers have prepared a 15 minute presentation to show students and parents what is available for students who choose to have the optional guitar program available to Primary students in Grades 1-6 at the school this year. It will be held at 10.30am in the Orange Building, tomorrow, Friday 12th February.



If you are interested in your child receiving guitar lessons at school, please phone the Guitar Teacher, Iwan Soebardi directly in 04189 19220 or email iwansoebardi@gmail.com for more information.

PRIMARY STOMP DANCE PERFORMANCE

A Primary Stomp Dance Performance by our students will be held in the college gym on Friday evening, 19th February, starting at 5pm with a BYO picnic tea and an opportunity to have an informal tour of the Orange and Green Building Learning Centres. The performance will begin at 6pm, finishing at 6.45pm followed by a half hour disco. The night will conclude at 7.15pm. All our primary families are invited to attend.



The Student Representative Council (SRC) will be selling ice creams and drinks on the evening.

Please check that your child has either paid the school levy or paid the \$10 cost of this fantastic program.

MERBEIN COMMUNITY BANK SCHOOL STUDENT BANKING PROGRAM

If you wish your child to participate in this program, send your child's bank book along to the Green Building Office every Thursday morning. The Bank will collect and process your child's banking and then drop the bank book back to the school before the end of the school day.

SECONDARY NEWS

SWIM SPORTS UPDATE – Mr Rhodes

The Annual Secondary Swim Sports were held today Thursday, 11th February. It was a warm day at the beginning. At the time of printing no results were available. Please watch this space next week for the day's accounts of events and photos.

YEAR 7 IMMUNISATIONS– Mr Rhodes

The first round of school immunisations will take place on Tuesday 8th March. All year 7 students have been given Immunisation Cards. The school Immunisation Program is an important health initiative in all Australian schools. The immunisations help protect students now and in future years from potentially devastating diseases and viruses. All students should return their completed cards to the general office ASAP.

ENGLISH NEWS

Writing - All students have now completed a narrative for the school's 'Write On' Writing Competition and have commenced writing their second entry for the competition. This second piece is a persuasive piece and is based on a prompt provided to them in class. For example, the Year 10 prompt is 'should personal dreams be pursued at all costs?' For this second writing task, students have been given the opportunity to select what format they wish to use to present their arguments. This means students are able to produce a piece of work in the format in which they are most confident. We have students working hard on essays, formal letters, speeches, blogs and editorials. We encourage you to have a chat with your child about the prompt they are using and perhaps share some ideas and tips of persuasion.

Essential English Skills Text Books - A reminder that we will start using these within the next week so it is important that your child has their own copy. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's English teacher should you need to discuss how we can assist you if there is an issue with obtaining the text.

New Unit Work - Finally, students will soon be starting new units of work once 'Write On' has drawn to a close. Some classes will be commencing a text study which means your child will be reading and studying a novel. This may require some reading homework with the expectation being that students finish reading the novel promptly in order to participate in classwork and assessment tasks based on the novel. **Please check with your child if they should be reading a class novel at home.** If not, then they should be reading for their own enjoyment, a novel borrowed from the school's library. We really appreciate your support with encouraging your child to develop positive reading habits.

SUN SMART - Mr Rhodes

All students have had our Sun Smart Policy explained at a whole school assembly. The policy is attached to this newsletter. The key message is that students need to take measures to protect themselves against over exposure to the sun's rays. At this time of the year the UV levels are regularly above safe levels between 9.30am-5.20pm each day whether the temperature is hot or cool. Each day students receive information about temperature and UV levels in the Daily Bulletin.

Please ensure you supply your child with appropriate sunscreen. Students can safely lock their sunscreen in their lockers and use when required.

OPEN WATER LEARNING EXPERIENCE - YEAR 7

Reminder to parents that all Year 7's will be participating in the Open Water Learning Experience conducted by Life Saving Victoria next Wednesday, 17th February. Your child will:

- Gain knowledge to keep safe when they are in and around water, particularly open water environments. Practical strategies will be delivered such as identifying dangers (ie rip currents) and reading key safety signs.
- They will learn to be everyday lifesavers. They will learn the emergency response sequence DRABCD. They will engage in real life scenarios and be given the appropriate skills for the situation.

Please check that your child's note has been returned, so they don't miss out on this valuable experience.

Below is a list of items your child will be required to take with them:

Rash Vest/T-shirt/Long Sleeved Shirt (NO tank tops)	
Snacks	Bathers/wetsuit
Shorts	Enclosed Shoes
Towel	Broad Brimmed Hat (Preferably no caps)
Water Bottle	SPF 30+ Sunscreen

VALENTINES DAY - Mr Rhodes

The Secondary Student Representative Council Executive (SRC) have organised the Annual Valentine's Day Stall. Secondary students were able to purchase relatively inexpensive mementos as gifts to acknowledge friendships with other students in the school. The funds raised from the stall will go towards some of the SRC school based projects. The items purchased will be distributed to students tomorrow Friday, 12th February.

LOCKS ON LOCKERS - Mr Rhodes

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 supply and use a lock on their lockers. It is strongly advised for all other students to use a lock on their lockers also, to ensure security.

SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS (SWPBIS)

- Mr Rhodes

The 2016 Term 1 focus for SWPBIS is centred around students being punctual for classes, with correct equipment and completing good quality work.

It is pleasing to note that our students had a 98% success rate over the whole school on these key indicators. We will be acknowledging the students who were excellent in these areas and working to improve the students that let themselves down in these first two weeks of term.

FORM TEACHERS AND LEARNING CENTRE LEADERS 2016– Mr Rhodes

Below is a list of our Form Teachers and Learning Centre Leaders. Your child's Form Teachers and Learning Centre Leaders are both important points of contact at school. If you wish to contact a teacher directly, please forward your email address to one of your child's Form Teachers or Learning Centre Leaders via the school email address merbein.p10@edumail.vic.gov.au and it will then be forwarded on to your child's class teacher if required.

Year 8-10 Learning Centre Leaders			
Liz Rankin, Chris Blackie and Chris Bettison			
Year 8-10 Form Teachers			
8A	Mr B Hill	8B	Mr Johnson
8C	Ms Williams	8D	Ms Donnelly
9A	Mrs Byrne	9B	Mrs James and Mrs McPhee
9C	Mr Bennett		
10A	Mr Voege	10B	Mrs Dawson
10C	Mr Hankinson	10D	Mrs Smith and Dunbar
10E	Mr Willison		
Year 7 Learning Centre Leader			
Mr Morgan			
Year 7 Form Teachers			
7A	Mr Petrie	7B	Mr Arney
7C	Ms Hibberd	7D	Mr Hudson

COMMUNITY NEWS

MERBEIN JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

The club is looking for someone or a couple of people to take on the role of coach/co-ordinator of their Auskick program.

Role involves taking the training sessions, starting early May 2016 and running them for ten weeks. Program support materials and coaching support from junior coaches will be provided. No prior experience required, just a desire to have fun and encourage kids to have a go.

If you are interested please contact Graeme Dunne – President on 0407 235 751 or Geoff Stevens – Director of Coaching on 0407 502 465.

2016 TOUR DE MURRAY

Family Fun Day to be held 6th March at the Mildura Lawn Tennis Club. Ride it. Run it. Walk it. Entry fee includes BBQ lunch and refreshments. For more details visit www.chancesforchildren.com.au

JUNIOR GOLF PROGRAM TERM 1– MILDURA GOLF RESORT

Mondays 4.15-5.15pm (February 1st – March 14th)
Wednesdays 4.15-5.15pm for Handicap Golfers (February 3rd – March 16th)

Saturdays 9am-10am (February 6th – March 19th)
Cost \$59 per term. All clinics conducted by PGA Professional Brendan Rowse. Phone the Resort for an application form or for more information.

ON TOUR TENNIS – MILDURA LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Coaching for all levels and ages Monday to Friday.
3-5yrs 2.30pm Mondays and Thursdays only.
5-7yrs 4-4.30pm 8-10yrs 4.30-5.15pm
10yrs+ 5.15-6pm 12 yrs+ 6-7pm.

Private lessons are available on request. If you are interested. contact Dean Kyle on phone 0414826318 or email ontourtennis1@gmail.com

“CALL ME DAD” CAN A VIOLENT MAN CHANGE ?

SCHS and the Men's Behaviour Change Program Invites you to join them in the 80 minute screening of “Call Me Dad”, followed by a Discussion Panel. Held the Mercy Theatre Mildura on 25th February from 6.30–8-30pm (doors open at 6pm).

Light supper provided/tea and coffee.

Register at www.eventbrite.com.au or contact Lisa or Sam on 50225444 for further information.

HOOK IN 2 HOCKEY 2016

This is a five week Hockey Skill Development Program run at the Sunraysia Hockey Turf , Eleventh St , Mildura. Cost is \$50 per child. This fee includes a stick, ball, shinguards and playing singlet. The 2016 program will be starting soon in February.

For more information contact Jodie Morvell - Coordinator phone 0409 835470 or email jmorvell@bigpond.com

Sunraysia Hockey - www.sunraysiahockey.com

MERBEIN GOLF CLUB LADIES NIGHT

FUNDRAISER

The Merbein Golf Club is having a Party Plan Pamper Night Fundraiser at 355 McEdward Street, Cabarita on 26th February at 7pm. Tickets are \$10 each, includes a glass of champagne, nibbles and some pampering from head to foot by the party planners in attendance. To book your tickets contact the Merbein Golf Club on 50256421 or purchase on the night.