

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH

4th Friday

Relay for Life - Theme is Purple - 10.30am

7th - 11th

Year 8 Camp

7th Monday

Pri Book Club orders close

8th Tuesday

Yr 7 Immunisations

10th Thursday

Grade 2-4 Excursion

14th Monday

Public Holiday - NO School

16th Wednesday

Interschool Chess Tournament

17th Thursday

-Sec LMR Swimming

-Parents' Club AGM 2pm

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.

APRIL

11th Monday

First day of Term 2

MAY

Gr P-4 National Simultaneous Story telling

JUNE

16th - 19th

Mildura Eisteddfod Dances

AUGUST

20th - 26th

Book Week - Theme 'Australia Story Country'

SEPTEMBER

12th Monday

Visiting Performance - Pass The Poetry Please

NOVEMBER

14th Monday

Visiting Performance - To Federation And Beyond

2016 TERM DATES

Term 2: 11th April - 24th June

Term 3: 11th July - 16th September

Term 4: 3rd October - 20th December

SCHOOL RELAY FOR LIFE CHANGE OF TIME AND UPDATED DETAILS - Mr Rhodes

Tomorrow, Friday, 4th March the College will be conducting a 'Relay For Life' event between 10.30-11.10am. The reason for the change of time is the predicted hot weather.

The UV radiation levels will be lower at that time of day than in the afternoon. We expect all students to apply approved sunscreen on exposed parts of their skin before the event.

This school event will be held in memory of Giovanna Ienco (former student). Her mother Angela Ienco will open the event. All students are expected to bring a gold coin donation for Cancer Research. The plan is for ALL students to walk around a track at school. Students who participate and donate a gold coin will be rewarded with a Zooper Dooper ice pole after the event. During the event there will be music playing and announcers updating us on class progress. Class teachers will be recording the number of laps completed by each child.

The theme for the day is "Purple". Students are encouraged to wear the colour purple tomorrow.

PARENTS' CLUB EASTER RAFFLE - Kyra Fetherston

A book of raffle tickets for the Parents' Club Easter Raffle was sent home with the youngest child in every family. There are ten tickets in each book at a cost of 50c per ticket. Please ensure books and money are returned by Wednesday, 23rd March.

The raffle will be drawn on Thursday, 24th March (last day of Term 1).

Please send Easter Basket donations directly to your child's class teacher, as each class will then try to create the winning Easter Basket together with the donations they receive.

PRINTING CARDS - Mr Rhodes

Printing Cards were distributed to students in Year 4-10 today. Students will use these cards to access printers around the college. They will be using the cards on a regular basis at school.

Students should keep them in a safe place such as wallets or pencil cases. Any lost cards that need replacement must be purchased by the student.

The older students can also use their card for out-of-school ID.

PARENTS' CLUB FUNDRAISER - HOT CROSS BUNS

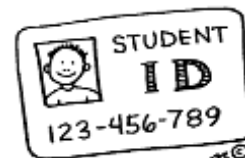
Parents' Club are selling hot cross buns to help raise funds for the school. An Order Form is attached to this newsletter. Orders need to be returned to the school with full payment by 15th March. Orders will be ready for collection on Wednesday, 23rd March.

MERBEIN P-10 COLLEGE PARENTS' CLUB AGM

Thursday, 17th March at 2pm. Location TBA.

Inquiries via Kyra Fetherston.

fetherston.kyra.j@edumail.vic.gov.au



SCHOOL PHOTOS – Mr Rhodes

Final proofs of the photos were sent today so we expect ordered photo booklets will be printed and sent to our school next week.

If you have not ordered a photo pack, but would like to do so you can access the Leading Image website to make your order.

MILDURA INTERSCHOOL CHESS TOURNAMENT -

Kyra Fetherston

To be held Wednesday, 16th March. Permission notes were sent home with students. Please return notes and money to the school office ASAP.

Chess practice will be held Monday lunchtime in the Yellow Building.

PLAY GROUP

If you are interested in coming along to a new playgroup held here at the Merbein P10 College, please contact the coordinator Danielle Mazza on 0437 077 689 or phone the school office for more 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.

ROTARY CLUB OF MERBEIN – ‘ROTARY YOUTH PROGRAM OF ENRICHMENT’

The Rotary Club of Merbein Inc. would like to invite applications from students from Merbein P-10 to take part in a Rotary Program (RYPEN) Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment, which Rotary District 9520 Team will be conducting for students from Sunraysia and the Riverland areas at Lake Cullulleraine from Friday 8th April to Sunday 10th April, 2016.

Students must be between 14 and 17 years of age.

The weekend long program will see students engaging with like-minded people, while having fun and learning new skills in areas such as problem solving and public speaking. On top of learning these skills, RYPEN will give students a chance to put these skills to practical use, through debate and physical activity.

The cost per student is \$200 of which the Rotary Club of Merbein is willing to assist financially, depending on the number of applicants.

Applications are now open and close today, 3rd March. More detail can be found at the following website: <https://ryla9520.org.au/rypen/>

For more information, please don't hesitate to contact members of the Rotary Club of Merbein Inc: Nicole Wright, Youth Director, 0423 946 618, Kay Wagner, President, 0498 252 580 or Brian Munro, Secretary, 5022 7091.

IMPORTANT DATES – PLEASE NOTE CHANGES

<u>MARCH</u>	
Monday 7 th	Year 8 Camp Depart - Return Friday 11 th
Thursday 10 th	Grade 2-4 Excursion
Monday 14 th	Labour Day Holiday No School
Tuesday 15 th	Indigenous Cultural Awareness Camp
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	-School Assembly -Last day of term early dismissal -Class Easter Basket Competitions and Raffle
Friday 25 th	Good Friday – NO school

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE/BUS PASS – Mr Rhodes

The Department of Education have a policy that provides free bus travel to eligible students. The key criteria states that the student's normal place of residence must be more than 4.8km from their nearest school travelling via the most direct route. The Conveyance Allowance Applications completed by families at the beginning of the year are entered into a Data System that is then accessed and assessed in Melbourne. The decision about eligibility for the Conveyance Allowance is determined by the Family Payments Section of the Department of Education.

Aside from the Conveyance Allowance our college also has two contract buses to service some of the areas to the west of Merbein. No bus pass is required to access these two buses, although the same eligibility criteria is used to determine students that are able to access the use of the bus. If you have any questions about the Conveyance Allowance Guidelines or procedures please contact Mr Greg Rhodes at school.

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

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.

MERBEIN P10 COLLEGE FACEBOOK PAGE

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

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.

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.

GRADE 2/3 JELLYFISH ROOM PHOTOS

Jellyfish Room, sharing their “Me Bags” They have done a wonderful job of speaking and listening and enjoyed sharing things from home that are meaningful to them.



PRIMARY NEWS

NEMO LITERACY NEWS

The Nemo Literacy Group had fun blowing bubbles and then writing about it. We now have a class book about Bubbles.



RELAY FOR LIFE

All students in both Primary and Secondary Sections are asked to **wear purple to school tomorrow, 4th March and bring a gold coin donation** for Cancer Research.

DRINK BOTTLES

Students are asked to send an individual water bottle with a pop top to school every day.

BOOK CLUB

Orders for Book Club close Monday, 7th March.

GRADE P-2 ART NEWS - Jodie Atkinson

This Term in Art, the Grades P-2 students have been focussing on their fine motor skills. This week they have been concentrating on their cutting skills. Students worked on their cutting skills, then put them into practise by cutting out paper to put on their classroom mascots.

Lots of fabulous cutting and the classroom mascots are beautifully coloured. Fantastic group work Grade P-2.



CLASS EASTER BASKET COMPETITION

This year there will be a competition between each class from Grade P-6 and Year 7-10 to make their own class Easter Basket. The best class basket from the primary and secondary section will be kept by that class to eat. The remainder of the Class Easter Baskets will be raffled.



Students are asked to send in donations of Easter chocolates to make their Class Easter Basket.

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.

DRUM PROGRAM PRESENTATION

If you are interested in your child receiving drum lessons at school, please phone the Drum Teacher, Luke McCarthy directly on 0417 897 906 for more information.



GRADE 5-6 NEWS

Teacher Changes - Mr Chivers will be teaching in the Grade 5-6 Unit next week while Ms Ogden and Mr Lord are participating in Professional Development.

Reading Homework - Students will need to have read for a minimum of twenty nights this term, to participate in the End of Term Reward. Please encourage your child to complete their Reading Log and return it to school weekly.

Weekly Awards - Congratulations to last week's Grade 5-6 Assembly Award recipients. Photo below.



LAST WEEK'S GREEN BUILDING WEEKLY AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the following Grade P-4 Award Winners.

L-R Johnothon Powell, Ruby Dunn, Douglas Allan, Liam Hancock, Taylor Hopkins, Jerri Liddicoat, Alana Teasdale, Kaitlin Sheather, Sapphire Dodds, Renisha Fuamatu, Chloe Moore, Sammy Murphy, Noah Philippe.



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 school before the end of the school day.

SECONDARY NEWS

STUDENT INTERIM REPORTS/PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS – Mr Rhodes

In the week starting 14th March, all secondary teachers will be completing Interim Student Reports. The reports indicate student progress in some important areas including effort, work completion and student behaviour. These reports will be available for collection on Wednesday evening, 23rd March between 4-6.45pm. Most teachers will be available at these times to talk with parents about their child's progress and discuss areas for improvement if required. The secondary teachers will have tables and waiting areas set up in the Blue Building. No appointments are necessary as the interviews are to take no more than five minutes. If a longer interview is required a subsequent meeting will be made for another time. It is strongly advised that the students accompany their parents so they can listen to the teachers and can help their parents locate their teachers. If parents wish to speak with their child's teachers but are unable to attend on this evening they should contact their Learning Centre Leader or Greg Rhodes to arrange an alternate meeting time.

SUN SMART– Mr Rhodes

All students have had our Sun Smart Policy explained at a whole school assembly. The policy was attached to a previous 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. On days of extreme heat or UV radiation students are encouraged to stay indoors. They must stay out of direct sunlight during times of high UV radiation. Please ensure you supply your child with appropriate sunscreen. Students can safely lock their sunscreen in their lockers and use when required.

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.

NEW NETBOOK COMPUTERS – Mr Rhodes

The college has purchased 100 new netbook computers for student use. These will replace the outdated netbook computers used in the college. Students are still encouraged to use the BYOD Computer Access if possible for their school work

YEAR 7 CAMP REPORT - Hayley Hibberd

The Year 7's are back at school this week after returning from camp at Norval House in the Grampians last week.

All students who attended had a great time and engaged in a range of activities including rock climbing, abseiling, completing the pinnacle walk and facing obstacles on the High Ropes Course. Many of the campers showed their fearlessness and willingness to attempt any task put before them. There were however a few of the students who faced their fears and bravely attempted the terrifying obstacles before them, despite having an obvious fear of heights.

Students continued improving their skills as they progressed through the activities.

This camp provided our Year 7 students with an excellent opportunity to get to know each other and to form bonds that will continue to strengthen as they move through their future years of schooling at Merbein P-10 College. Most of the exercises completed at camp required the students to trust one another and have faith that they are part of a team who will support them. Our students proved to each other and their teachers that they are an extremely supportive and co-operative cohort. Congratulations to all campers who not only demonstrated their skills but also faced their fears and tackled great heights. It was an excellent camp where many students made friendships and memories they will carry with them beyond their schooling years.





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.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12-16 YEARS

Drop off and pick up venue is the Mildura Scout Hall, 39 Twelfth Street, Mildura. 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.

29 March	Master Chef Challenge - \$15
30 March	Sand Tobogganing @ Perry Sand Hills
31 March	Inflatable World @ Lifestyle Plus - \$15
1 April	Laserforce - \$15
4 April	House of Bounce - \$15
5 April	Mildura Waves - Free – No Lunch
6 April	Digital Scavenger Hunt
7 April	Woodwork Session - \$15
8 April	Art Day @ Mildura Arts Centre

Free lunch provided except 5th April. Book and complete registration forms early so you don't miss out.

WANDERERS BASEBALL CLUB

The Wanderers Baseball Club for players aged 5 to 17. 'Come and Try' Baseball Day will be held 20th March from 10:30am-2pm. All participants will enjoy a free BBQ lunch after progressing through several fun activities organised by junior coaches. No equipment required, just come dressed to play ball. Held at the Southern Cross Ball Park, Old Aerodrome Ovals, Mildura.

For more information call Bert 0418630722.

PRIMARY SCHOOL SWIM MEET

Held at the Irymple Swimming Pool on Thursday 10th March at 5,30pm. Entry is free and closes 5pm on Wednesday 9th March. The Event List includes a School Freestyle Relay with four of the fastest swimmers from each school.

For further information, please contact Clinton Williams on 0438234807 or Paula Phelan 0538709363. Enter online

www.irympleswimmingclub.co.au or entries@irympleswimmingclub.com.au

FREEZA PUSH START BATTLE OF THE BANDS 2016

The Battle of the Bands Competition will be held on 22nd April 2016 at the Mildura Senior College (details to be advised soon).

The FReeZA Push Start Battle of the Bands Competition showcases young musicians from around Victoria, giving them the opportunity to preform, gain local exposure, and win their way to a spot on the Grand Final line up. Nominations are now open with applications closing 5pm on 18th March 2016. Forms can be downloaded from mildura.vic.gov.au/youth

For more information contact Barbara Clifford 5018 8293 or 0428 997 514 or email barbara.clifford@mildura.vic.gov.au

LEGO CLUB

Lego Club is on this Saturday from 10:30-11:30am, 110 Pine Ave Mildura. All welcome. For more information contact Sunraysia Autism Spectrum Support Group.
sunraysia.autism@gmail.com

MUSIC TOGETHER

Free Trial Classes in Mildura on 18th March from 10-10.45am and 11-11.45am.

For 0-5 year olds and their parents. Consists of joyful sessions of songs, dances, instrumental playing.

Registration for these free sessions is essential as places are limited. Held in the Benetook Room, Alfred Deakin Centre, Mildura.

For more information phone 0420939229. Register at www.sunraysiaartsandlearning.com.au or on.

DRUMS AND PERCUSSION

Free Trial classes on 19th March, Sunraysia Arts and Learning Studio, 198 Third St, Merbein. Drum Circles for kids and adults. Kids 8-12 years. 9.30-10.15am and Adult Beginners 10.30-11.15am.

Experience playing djembes, West African percussion and more. The program is open to everyone, with no previous experience required. Drums are provided or bring your own.

Registration for these free sessions is essential.

For more information phone 0420939229. Register at www.sunraysiaartsandlearning.com.au or on.

PUSH FOR POSSIBILITIES - GUINNESS WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT

A fund raising event for Zoe Support Australia. Held at the No. 1 Oval, Mildura on 20th March from 9.30am. Lots of family activities and food stalls. Performances by Peter Combe, one of Australia's well known children's entertainers before and after the world record attempt. Adult tickets \$20, kids enter free. Register online at www.zoesupport.com.au. For more information contact Anne Webster on email

anne@zoesupport.com.au

HAWKS BASEBALL CLUB

First training day and Registrations on 13th April from 4.30-6pm at Southern Cross Ball park (Aero Ovals) Mildura. New players most welcome. U7 Teeball, U10 & U13 Little League, Under 15 & U17 Baseball. For more information contact Corey Barbary 0409413261 or Kym Barbary 0417502941.

FOOTBALL SUNRAYSIA CLUB REGISTRATION DAY

3 Colours SC Registration Day will be held Sunday 6th March at the 3 Colours SC Shed, Soccer Park, Flora Ave Mildura from 10am-3pm.

New and existing players are welcome to register. Don't miss out as teams are expected to fill quickly. Players are requested to self register BEFORE the registration day. Instructions on how to self register are available at www.threecolours.com.au. Further information: Vince Maiorana 0416 054 372 or threecolourssc@live.com.au

MUSIC GROUP FOR ADULTS - MERBEIN

The group is designed for adults who need some extra support to learn, play and enjoy music. Participants will have the opportunity to develop their music skills through drumming, singing, hand percussion and other instruments.

Held Thursdays from 5.30-6.15pm at the Studio, 198 Third St, Merbein. Cost is \$85 for four sessions. To register or for further enquiries ring Catherine 0420939229 or email

enquiries@sunraysiaartsandlearning.com.au.

2ND MILDURA JOEY SCOUTS - AGES 6-8

Joey Scouts for kids 6-8 years of age. They play games, read stories, sing songs and do craft activities. They find out about nature and learn about native birds and animals. They do fun things like fly a kite, go bushwalking, go sailing, go camping or visit a fire station. They learn to share and be helpful. They learn heaps of useful things like what to do in an emergency.

Joey Scouts is held at 39 Twelfth Street Mildura, Tuesdays from 5.15-6.15pm.

For more information email Michelle Nokes rnmknokes@bigpond.com.

SUNRAYSIA DAILY 38TH MILDURA EISTEDDFOD

Registrations are now open.

Closing date for entries is 18th March. No Late entries will be accepted.

For more information contact Michele on 0429 481 898 or email milduraeisteddfod@gmail.com or visit www.milduraeisteddfod.org.

