

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr Graeme Cupper

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL

20th Wednesday

Open Air Cinema Night **POSTPONED**

22nd Friday

Pri Book Club orders closing date

25th Monday

ANZAC Day Public Holiday

29th Friday

Biggest Morning Tea

MAY

3rd Tuesday

-Secondary Open Night 5-7pm

-Immunisations

6th Friday

Merbein P-10 Cross Country

10th, 11th 12th

NAPLAN

16th-20th

Year 9 Camp

23rd Monday

Pupil Free Day

25th Wednesday

-Gr P-4 National Simultaneous Story

Telling

-Sec Interschool Cross Country

JUNE

13th Monday

Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

16th -19th

Mildura Eisteddfod Dances

24th Friday

Last day of Term 2 - early dismissal

time of 2.30pm

JULY

22nd Friday

Primary PJ Day

AUGUST

20th - 26th

Book Week - Theme 'Australia Story

Country'

SEPTEMBER

6th Tuesday

Immunisations

12th Monday

Visiting Performance - Pass the Poetry

Please

NOVEMBER

14th Monday

Visiting Performance - To Federation

And Beyond

WELCOME BACK FOR TERM 2

I hope students, families and staff had an enjoyable break. School life has quickly returned to normal after the holiday as we commence a busy Term 2.

SCHOOL REVIEW

Yesterday the school reviewer, Mike Rowland presented his report to staff and to the School Council following his review visit in November last year.

As is to be expected, the report identified evidence of where the school was doing well and also where we can improve. Our Annual Implementation Plan has been developed to address the improvement areas that have been identified and we now look forward to putting these strategies into action this year.

The previous review was held in 2011 and yesterday's report confirmed the school has grown and changed considerably over the past four years. It was encouraging to hear that an effective implementation of the 2016 AIP will place Merbein P-10 College in a strong position to continue as a successful Prep-Year 10 community school.

The final step in the process will be the development of a School Strategic Plan which will set out Merbein P-10 College's direction for the next four years (2016-19).

DROP-OFF/PICK-UP ROUTINES

I would like to ask parents to please be mindful that classes are not distracted when dropping-off or picking-up your children, especially in the Infant Building.

Gaining the full attention of children at the start of the day is essential in ensuring that the morning literacy and numeracy sessions are conducted in an orderly and calm learning environment. Consequently, it would be appreciated if parents/carers could leave before the first morning activity commences at 9am.

For parents/carers picking up children at the end of the day, I would ask that you please wait outside the buildings until the dismissal bell rings. Seating is available under the shade sails and trees for parents who may be a few minutes early.

Whilst we encourage parent involvement in the education of their children, the school also has to balance this against respecting the privacy rights and laws that apply to all students.

If parents need to collect their child at an earlier time please contact the School Office so that necessary sign-out procedures can be arranged.

I thank you for your support and cooperation.

BUILDING UPGRADE REPORT

In the 2014 State Government Budget, \$1.15m was allocated to Merbein P-10 College for maintenance and refurbishment to our older buildings. Money for schools is always welcome but the College Council was concerned that this may further delay the Regeneration Works that were promised when the Merbein P-10 College was formed in January 2010 following the Merger Agreement. This led to further discussions in which the school has been arguing that the older buildings should be demolished and replaced, rather than just patched up.

We have put a case to the new State Government to provide additional money to demolish and replace our most dated building, the secondary technology block. The Minister, Mr Merlino met with Mr Andrew Nemtsas, our School Council President and myself in December last year and gave us a hearing. We have continued to push our case this year and we now wait with interest for the release of the 2016 State Budget on April 27th. In the meantime we have been given an opportunity to commence refurbishment of the Gymnasium and approval has been given to plan works provided the cost will not exceed \$200,000. Over the past three weeks master planning discussions have been held with architects and the DET Infrastructure Division and costings will be undertaken in the next few weeks.

It is expected that the gym upgrade will be completed in Term 3 or early Term 4 this year.

PUPIL-FREE DAY – MONDAY, 23RD MAY

Last night School Council approved a Pupil-Free Day to be held on Monday, 23rd May. All primary classroom teachers and secondary maths teachers will be working with Charles Lovitt, a highly respected Maths Consultant.

This activity is a key part of the school’s Primary Maths/Science Specialist Program and also supports our focus on improving teaching and learning outcomes in the secondary years.

All other secondary teachers and ES staff will be involved in report writing and professional development activities on this day.

MARCH STUDENT OF THE MONTH PHOTOS



P1A	Sienna Pope	P1B	Samantha Tarrant
12A	Seth Arnold		
23A	Sapphire Dodds	23B	Beauden Vandermerwe
4A	Lola Colling	5A	Tess Liddicoat
5B	Tayisha Leksas	6A	Shyanna Vandermerwe
7A	Jarrold Willis	7B	Xander Rothwell
7C	Aidan Middleton	7D	Lachlan Vernon
8A	Marla Collins	8B	Kobe Byrne
8C	Billie Stewart	8D	Cooper O'Connor

9A	Cayla Fawdry	9B	Nadia Siniremera
9C	Sam Green	10A	Logan Boundy
10B	Chloe Storer	10C	Lachlan Cavallaro
10D	Jordyn Nichols	10E	Georgia Donaldson

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

RUNNING CLUB 2016 - YEARS 5-10 - Laura McPhee

The school's Running Club will resume again this term. This is a great opportunity for training prior to the school's Cross Country Event in May. Students will train on Friday's during lunchtime. All students from Years 5-10 are welcome but students should be able to run close to 3km without stopping. **Students who are interested should collect a permission note from Mrs McPhee.**

MERBEIN P10 COLLEGE FACEBOOK PAGE
Visit our school's Facebook Page for photos and updates www.facebook.com/merbeinp10college.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

The school prefers to send the weekly newsletter 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.

PLAY GROUP

If you are interested in coming along to a new playgroup held here at Merbein P10 College, on Thursdays from 9.30-11am, please contact the coordinator Danielle Mazza on 0437 077 689 or phone the school office for more information.

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

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.

PRIMARY NEWS

PHOTOS OF PRIMARY HOUSE LEADERS PRESENTED AT ASSEMBLY ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR TERM 1



BOOK CLUB

The closing date for Book Club orders is Friday, 22nd April.

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.

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.

ART NEWS – Jodie Atkinson

This term Grade P-6 students will continue to learn, develop, explore and have fun in Art. The Grade P-2 students will be focussing on fine motor activities, which will include weaving, threading, cutting, moulding clay and sewing.

Grade 5-6 will be weaving and learning about the many different styles of weaving.

Grade 5-6 students have already been given a little taste of weaving this week.



If families have spare coat hangers, pieces of material, buttons, wool, threads, bottle or jar lids that they can donate, please send them to school with your child. The primary Art Department will love them. Mrs Atkinson will have a tub on her chair where the donation can be left.

GRADE 5-6 NEWS

New Shirts - The Grade 6 students are proudly wearing their new shirts! Special thanks must go to Montie Beckworth for the design and Judy Hunyadi for organising the printing. The students look fantastic wearing them!



Camp - Organisation for this year's Grade 5-6 Camp is well underway. It will be held the week beginning 14th November for a duration of four days. The itinerary will include visits to Science Works, the Planetarium, Queen Victoria Market, Melbourne Zoo, the MCG, National Science Museum, Eureka Towers and Skydeck, the Aquatic Centre and more! The approximate cost of the camp is \$400 per student. A more detailed outline will be provided at a later date, however families can start to make regular payments at the main office.

Empty Cereal Boxes Please - To assist with our Science Inquiry Unit, we are asking families to **please send in empty cereal boxes** for us to use.

Reading Diaries - It is great to see students bringing in their reading diaries this week. Students are required to complete their reading diaries every night after reading for twenty minutes and then return them to school either on Tuesday or Thursday every week. It would be appreciated if families could help their child get back into this important routine after their holiday break.

SECONDARY NEWS

YEAR 10 ANNUAL SHAREMARKET GAME –

Howard Hankinson

Our Year 10 students participate in this program every year. To date it has been underway for four weeks of the eight week competition. Our school has fifty four syndicates entered. The syndicates are made up mainly of pairs as well as some brave individuals. All syndicates started trading (buying & selling shares) with \$50,000. The share market has not been all that profitable since the game commenced and only eleven of our fifty four teams have more than they started with (21% in profit). There are 20,000 syndicates involved from schools across Australia and the National average in profit is only 13%. The leading syndicate from a school in Sydney has turned their \$50,000 into \$56,000 in four weeks. A nice little \$1,500 profit per week. Merbein P-10's results so far are as follows: Congratulations to 'Ascot' (Ethan Axton) our leading syndicate who has \$52,031 and is ranked 32nd in Victoria and 112th in Australia. In 2nd place we have 'Bishang' (Tiarni Bishop/Jack Lang), they have \$51,707 and in 3rd place we have 'Salach' (Zach Hornby/Salih Baykurt), they have \$51,692. The 'Cowboy' (Jesse James Robertson), has a bit of work to do. He has \$47301.

VOLLEYBALL NEWS

Congratulations to the following students who have qualified to represent our district at the next level of the SSSA Volleyball.

The date for the next event is early May and the event is local.

Kyle Stevens	Jayden Curtis
Will Smith	Jack Smith
Jamie Hood	Jeremy Rodi
Lachlan Crouch	Logan Dunne

COMMUNITY NEWS

MERBEIN GOLF CLUB 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Step back in time with the Merbein Golf Club Inc. celebrating its 90th Anniversary with a Family Fun Day on 24th April at 11.30am.

Events include Jumping Castle, Face Painting, Historical Display, Go Go Golf Activity, Launch of the Merbein Golf Club Magazine 1926 – 2016 featuring local recipes.

Gourmet BBQ lunch available \$5 a head.

For catering purposes please contact the Club on Facebook or email royal.merbein@gmail.com by 20th April.

SUNRAYSIA VOLLEYBALL AUTUMN SPIKE ZONE PROGRAM

The Sunraysia Volleyball Autumn Spike Zone Program is a new program for ages 7-14. It begins 16th April and ends 18th June, each Saturday from 9:30–11:00am at the SJC Stadium. Cost is \$5 per week. Come along and bring your friends!!

For more information phone Allen Hassell on 50243721 or email info@wildsideoutdoors.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 perform, 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

SUNRAYSIA VOLLEYBALL SENIOR COMPETITION

The Sunraysia Volleyball Senior Competition begins Wednesday, 20th April with the introduction of a new Social Sevens Competition. This competition will run for 10 weeks. A one off entry fee for the team with no weekly fees and then anybody can play. Matches go for 45 minutes with modified rules to suit social and beginner players. Teams have to have at least four players there each week with a maximum of six allowed on the court. For more information phone Allen Hassell on 50243721 or email info@wildsideoutdoors.com.au

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART PARISH MERBEIN – FIRST EUCHARIST

Lessons for the Sacraments of the Confirmation and First Eucharist begin 21st April at 7pm at the school. Children would have already made their First Reconciliation. For more information phone Janine Dannatt 0419371284.

SUNRAYSIA MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

Will be held 30th April at the SMECC Community Cultural Centre on 12th Street from 10.30-3.30pm. The festival will have live music and dance, traditional food and drinks, Henna Art and Face Painting, Children's Activities Area and Jumping Castles, Afghan Community Workshop Space, Art and Craft Stalls.

Entry is free. Gold coin donations are welcome. Visit their Facebook Page for more information about the event and updates as they occur. <https://www.facebook.com/events/809554692506880/> or phone Andrew J. Rankin 5022 1006.

RHEE TAEKWON-DO OPEN DAY

Held 19th April from 6-7pm at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Primary School 18 Box St, Merbein. Phone 1300743853 for more information. Visit www.facebook.com/rheetkd or www.rheetkd.info

THREE COLOURS SC - MINI ROOS SOCCER

Mini Roos Soccer Training is held Wednesday nights from 5.30-6.30pm for U6 to U11. Season starts 24th April. For registration information call Vince Maiorana on 0416054372 or go to www.myfootballclub.com.au.

HIPPO! HIPPO! MUSICAL AT THE ARTS CENTRE

Performances at the Mildura Arts Centre on 17th May at 10am, 11.45am and 1.30pm. Shows for schools. Phone 50188330 for more information.

MILDURA BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

U10, U12 and U14 skills sessions will be held every Friday throughout the winter competition from 4.30-5.30pm, starting on the 15th April. Held at the Toyota Hothouse, Cost \$25 and \$5 per session door fee. For more information phone 50232241 or email manager@mildurabasketball.com.au.

CHANCES FOR CHILDREN FUNDING

The current round will close 22nd April 2016. Phone 50217 480 if you have any questions or queries.

IRYMPLE SECONDARY COLLEGE CAR BOOT SALE

Held 16th April from 8-11am. \$30 per vehicle. Gold Coin Donation Entry. Proceeds to the school fence. To book contact the college on 50245407.

SUNRAYSIA ARTS AND LEARNING TERM 2 ENROLMENTS OPEN NOW!

Music Together for 0-5 year olds classes held Thursdays and Saturdays. Drum Circles for Adult Beginners are held Thursday nights and Saturday mornings. Enrol online at <http://www.sunraysiaartsandlearning.com.au/en.../registration/> or phone 0420939229 or email enquiries@sunraysiaartsandlearning.com.au.

HEADSPACE MILDURA - JOB SEARCH GROUP SESSIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Headspace Mildura and Melinda Binding (MADEC worker) are offering a four week course, commencing Monday, 2nd May at 4pm, to help young people with goal setting, creating a resume and cover letter and learning how to prepare for the interview. Held in the Headspace building. If you know of someone who could benefit from this, please see Headspace Mildura reception or phone 5021 2400 to book your place.

COME TOGETHER SUNRAYSIA FESTIVAL BILLY GRAHAM EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION

Churches in the region are coming together to host these events FREE, for everyone. All events will be held at Nowingi Place.

Friday 29th April at 6pm – Games, activities and live music.

Saturday 30th April at 11am – Kidsfest with jumping castles, crafts, games and live music.

Saturday 30th April at 7pm – Live music, real-life stories and a message of hope.

Contact Sarah by email sarahrmonks@gmail.com or phone 04055695381 for more information.

MILDURA ARTS CENTRE 60 YEARS

Celebrating with a weekend of Caviar and Culture.

14th April Exhibition opening at 6pm.

15th April Conversation event with Gary Wilkie at 6pm.

16th April Cinema Memory Swap at 4pm, Exhibition Opening at 6pm.

17th April Downtown Cinema Walk at 11am, Talk with artist Sam Lloyd at 2pm. For more information phone 50188330.