**STEM Day (Science Technology Engineering Maths)**

Last Friday our P-6 students all participated in a STEM Learning Day which was held as part of Science Week. It was an outstanding success and it was great to see primary children of all ages so deeply engaged in the activities that had been organised and presented by the teaching and support staff. I would especially like to acknowledge the comprehensive planning and coordination provided by Ms Ogden and Mr Lord. Beck and Darin are our primary Maths and Science Specialists and it was exciting to see the significant impact they have made on science and mathematics learning since they took on these roles at the start of 2016.

Our values of Respect, Responsibility and Quality were very evident throughout the day and I must congratulate all of the children for the high levels of enthusiasm shown throughout the day, and for the high quality of their work. Thanks also to the secondary students who assisted with the activities and again continue to be outstanding role models.
STAFFING CHANGES
I would like to mention to parents of our primary students that a letter has gone home this afternoon to explain that a few staffing changes will be implemented as from next Monday, 22nd August. These changes have arisen from unexpected circumstances beyond the school’s control and will mainly affect the Year 4 primary class, although there will also be minor adjustments to some other classes.
The new arrangements will continue for the remainder of the 2016 school year. Normally, we are reluctant to make such changes to class teachers at this time of the year, but we are confident this re-organisation will work successfully. All staff involved have taught at Merbein P-10 College during 2016, have an existing relationship with most of the students, and are familiar with our teaching and learning practices. If you have any concerns or questions about these changes do not hesitate to contact the school on 50252501.

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN USING PLAY EQUIPMENT AFTER SCHOOL
We have had a few primary students who have suffered minor injuries while playing on the play equipment after school. Could parents please ensure children are closely supervised, especially toddlers?

VARIETY NIGHT
This year Merbein P-10 College is presenting an ARTS EXTRAVAGANZA on 11th & 12th October at the Mildura Arts Centre. Please see attached flyer for information.

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.

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 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.

FATHER'S DAY STALL

Play Group

If you are interested in coming along to a 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.

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.
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VANILLA SLICE PERFORMANCE
All primary students participating in the Vanilla Slice Performance on Saturday are to meet at the Merbein Post Office at 11.25 am in their school uniform ready to perform at 11.35. We will have the P-2's dance and the 2-6 students sing on the main stage near the post office. Thank you to the parents who will be making the effort to bring their children to the performance. We realise that people have weekend commitments so it’s great to have a number of students available. If your child has not brought back the note but you find that you are able to be there, please bring them along in their school uniform and they will be able to perform.

Some of our P-2 students and the yummy vanilla slices they made yesterday.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) CHALLENGE DAY
All students in grades 3-6 thoroughly loved participating in the Density Layer STEM Challenge last Friday. Working in teams, the students explored the density of various liquids to create their own tower. With lots of experimenting they then had to design and create a submersible ‘submarine’. The ultimate objective was for their submarine to be suspended in the liquid with the highest density without touching the bottom of the container. A MASSIVE thank you to Ms Ogden and Mr Lord for the hard work they put into organising this day for the students. Thanks also to the staff and Secondary students for their assistance on the day and to the families able to attend to witness the intense final testing. Finally, congratulations to all students for the amazing learning that took place, with special mention to the groups that earned 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Presentation by the P-2 students to the class on Monday explaining what they used to make their snail/ant models at the STEM day on Friday.
GRADE P-6 BOOK WEEK ACTIVITY DAY
This year we will be celebrating the Olympics together with our Annual Book Week Activity Day on Thursday, 25th August. We will begin the day in the usual way with a Book Week Parade in the Gym just after 9.00am. Your child can wear sporting clothes or clothes that represent a country to school on this day. Parents and family are welcome to stay and watch the parade. Students will then return to their learning centre and participate in a variety of book week activities until recess.

MERBEIN LIBRARY VISIT
Students in the Sea End (Prep -2) will visit the Merbein Library after recess on Thursday 25th August for more Book Week Activities. The Grade 5 students will visit the Merbein Library after lunch on this day to hear a presentation from author/illustrator Anne Spudvilas who now lives in this area. Excursion notes went home yesterday with the students. There is no cost for this excursion and students are asked to return their notes ASAP.

P-2 ART
Lots of fun was had by Prep-2 students this week in Art. Molding and manipulating clay to create a wonderful piece for a special someone...

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH – JULY
Congratulations to our July Primary Student of the Month recipients. With so many students receiving nominations it shows how well everyone is displaying our Core Values of Quality, Respect and Responsibility. Thank you to our SRC representatives for leading the assembly, Shayde for the Acknowledgement of Country and all the family members who were able to attend.

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.

CHALK AND PARENT DIRECT TOY FUNDRAISER
Chalk and Parent Direct Toy Catalogues were sent home with every family in the Primary Section. The catalogues were given to the youngest child in each family. These catalogues are filled with lots of fun and educational toys for all ages. Free delivery is offered on all orders over $150 and 20 cents from every dollar you spend on toys will be donated back to our school to spend on educational resources. Please return the order forms to the school’s main office by Friday, 9th September so the orders can be processed during the school holidays. If we do receive any late orders, they will be processed in Term 4.

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

YEAR 7-9 PRIMARY SPORTS VOLUNTEERS REPORT – Rob Morgan
Last week many of the school’s wonderful Year 7-9 students volunteered to help Ranfurly Primary School with the running of their Athletics Carnival. The Merbein P-10 students helped with a variety of important jobs like raking the sandpits, putting scores onto students’ cards, measuring, timing, assisting with the packing up of equipment and anything else that they were asked to do. All Merbein P-10 students were fantastic ambassadors for the school and should be very proud of how they represented themselves and our school.
Ranfurly Primary School have already made a request for the school to help out next year as they were most grateful and impressed with the maturity, cooperation, respect and work ethic of all our students. You were brilliant guys!!
COMMUNITY NEWS

POWERCOR TOUR DE DEPOT SCHOOLS PROGRAM MILDURA
It is a family friendly ride, run in conjunction with the Bicycle Network. Includes a competitive time trial event, community ride and a community festival at the finishing line with free rides, face painting, market stalls and a sausage sizzle. To be held on Sunday 21st August, 2016 to bring the community together to raise funds for the Mildura Region School Breakfast Partnership and the Sunraysia Cancer Resources Charities. All funds raised goes to the charities. Register at www.tourdedepot.com.au

SUNRAYSIA STEINER PLAYGROUP FUNDRAISER NEEDLE FELTING FAIRY WORKSHOP
To be held on 27th August at 9.30am. Cost is $30 per person. Workshop held at Steiner Hall, 658 Koorlong Ave Irymple. Purchase tickets from Fine and Sunny, 141 Eighth Street. For more information call Peg 0400148353. Check out the Playgroup Facebook Page.

ELECTRIC LIGHT THEATRE AUDITIONS
Electric Light Theatre (ELT) teaches young people the skills of stagecraft. Everything from lighting, sound, stage set design and construction and costume design and creation. They will also learn leadership, team work and people management skills.

Auditions will be held on 28th and 29th August at the Irymple Masonic Lodge. Register at www.eltmildura.org. Rehearsals will begin on 3rd October on Sunday afternoons and Monday evenings (with some Friday night and weekend rehearsals). Performances will be held the last weekend in January 2017.

For more information email: eltmildura@gmail.com or phone: 0439347986 Kim Trigg or 0419655500 Lynde Adams.

CROCHET AND COILED BASKET WORKSHOPS
Conscious Living Crochet Workshop held 3rd and 17th September from 2-4pm. Cost is $48 per workshop.
Crochet Coiled Basketry Workshop held 11th September from 2-5pm. Cost $65.
Venue: 198, 3rd Street Merbein. For more information phone 0420939229 or email enquiries@sunraysiaartsandlearning.com.au

SPECIAL AFRICAN DRUMMING WORKSHOP WITH SHABBA!
A one hour workshop will be held 30th August at 7.30pm. Venue: Sunraysia Arts and Learning Studio. Workshop is for all ages. Cost is $20 for members and $25 for visitors.
For more information visit the website http://www.sunraysiaartsandlearning.com.au/enrolments/registration/ or phone 0420939229, email enquiries@sunraysiaartsandlearning.com.au

MERBEIN FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB – NET SET GO
A Net-Set-Go Program for ages 5-7 and 8-10 will be offered from 4-5pm beginning 30th August 2016 at Kenny Park. Cost is $50. Online registrations can be completed by going to the following link https://netball.resultsvault.com/common/pages/oauth/olregstart.aspx?type=6&entityid=45346&fl=1&id=19965
For further information phone Sue Mulder 0403 316 782 or email pmulder@bigpond.net.au.

GIRLS BASKETBALL FUNDAMENTALS! COME AND TRY OUR FEE CLINICS!
With Mildura Basketball’s Russell Knights and Heat player Calvin Henry.
U10 Girls – Tuesday 6th & 13th September from 4.00pm – 5.00 pm
U12 Girls – Tuesday 6th & 13th September from 5.00pm – 6.00pm
U14 Girls – Thursday 8th & 15th September from 6.00pm – 7.00pm
@ The Toyota Hothouse. Please phone 5023 2241 for enquiries or go www.mildurabasketball.com.au to register.
2016/17 Summer Season starts on 5th October.
MERBEIN P-10 COLLEGE PRESENTS

ARTS EXTRAVAGANZA

MILDURA ARTS CENTRE

11TH OCTOBER
12TH OCTOBER
7PM

$10 ADULTS
$8 CONCESSION
$20 FAMILY
(2 ADULTS/2 CHILDREN)

Tickets available online or in person from Mildura Arts Centre or in person at Mildura Visitor Information Centre