



DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER

16th Friday

-Sec – Lake Day

20th Tuesday

-Last Day of Term 4

-Early dismissal time of 1.30pm

- No OSHC on this day

2017 TERM DATES

30th January – teachers return

Term 1: 31st Jan – 31st Mar

Term 2: 18th Apr – 30th Jun

Term 3: 17th Jul – 22nd Sept

Term 4: 9th Oct – 22nd Dec

PLAY GROUP

Thursdays 9.30-11am

Contact Danielle Mazza on 0437

077 689

STUDENT DENTAL SERVICE

13th St and Deakin Ave Mildura

Phone 50210944

MERBEIN P-10 FACEBOOK PAGE

Check the Facebook Page for updates about the school and upcoming events.

www.facebook.com/merbeinp10college

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.

NEWSLETTERS EMAILED

To have your newsletter emailed, please email your address to giddings.beth.l@edumail.vic.gov.au



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr Graeme Cupper

AWARDS PRESENTATION EVENING REPORT

The past week has been extremely busy with many traditional End-of-Year Activities occurring.

Our Annual Awards Presentation Evening was held on Monday at the Arts Centre. It was a whole-school event where students from every year level were acknowledged for their achievements throughout 2016.

I would like to thank parents and family members who attended the evening and to also thank staff who assisted with planning, taking on roles and generally supporting this important event. In particular I would like to acknowledge the enormous support provided by our office staff, not only for the Presentation Evening but also helping with the preparation of reports, certificates and awards for all our major End-of-Year Events.

Congratulations also to the large number of students who were awarded certificates, bursaries and scholarships.

I would also 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.



LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Tuesday, 20th December will be the last day of the 2016 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 1.30 pm 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.

GRADE 6 GRADUATION/PREP BOOK PRESENTATION REPORT

Grade 6 students were honoured with a special dinner at the Pizza Café on Tuesday night. Today at a special ceremony they were formally presented with their Graduation Certificates they were also presented with a balloon from their Prep buddies. The balloons were subsequently released in the traditional way on the oval. Morning tea was then held for parents and family members along with coffees prepared by our FLO Staff.

Due to the current refurbishment works in the Gym, this morning's ceremony was held under the big shelter. Fortunately the weather was quite cool.

Thanks again to the parents who attended this morning's ceremony and to the careful planning and preparation by the Grade P-6 Team.



PROPOSED PRIMARY TEACHER CLASS ALLOCATIONS 2017

The planned 2017 class structures and allocated teachers are listed below. As you can see we will be welcoming a new teacher, Carla Piscitelli, to our school.

Darin Lord and Bec Ogden in collaboration with Sandra Luitjes will continue their roles as Maths and Science Specialists and build on the great success that has been achieved during 2016.

The current Class Teacher Allocation Plan is based on current expected enrolments however 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 for teachers within each team to ensure that students benefit from a consistent, well-planned approach to classroom teaching.

Primary Learning Centre Leaders (Prep to Yr 7)					Rob Morgan, Wendy Finn		
Class Teachers							
P/1	Tania Rivett	P/1	Brioney Hall	Y 1/2	Carla Piscitelli	Y 2/3	Janelle Costello
Y2/3	Betty Colbert/ Hayley Breewel	Y4	Monica Brown	Y5	Sue Gardiner	Y6	Darin Lord/ Rebecca Ogden
Y6	Kerry Grimmer						
Literacy Specialist / Learning Centre Leader					Wendy Finn		
Year 2-4 Additional Teacher Support (Literacy Numeracy)					Jodie Atkinson		
Year 5-6 Additional Teacher Support /5-6 Literacy / FLO/ EYKLP					Janine Richardson		
Maths/ Science Specialist 0.5					Darin Lord		
Maths/ Science Specialist 0.5					Rebecca Ogden		
Specialist - Rebecca Holy/ Stephen Pay / Amanda Gratton / Josh Hudson / Janine Richardson							

STAFFING

As this is the final newsletter for 2016 I would like to take this opportunity to farewell two staff members, Ben Bamborough and Liz Rankin.

Ben has been with us for most of this term, filling in for Josh Hudson who has been away on leave. Ben has fitted in extremely well and has quickly earned the respect of students and staff. I sincerely thank him for doing such a great job and wish him well.

After fourteen years of outstanding service Liz Rankin has decided to leave Merbein P10 College and return to her home town of Adelaide. Liz has been appointed to an Assistant Principal position at Gawler & District College and I congratulate her on her appointment.

Liz has earned the respect of students, parents and her colleagues over the past fourteen years for her care, integrity, teaching skill and leadership. On behalf of the Merbein P-10 College community I sincerely thank Liz for the outstanding contribution she has made to our school and wish her well in her new role.

Thanks also to our school councillors, teachers and support staff for a job well-done throughout 2016. I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of our Learning Centre Leaders and to especially express my appreciation to Greg Rhodes and Sandra Luitjes. The school is fortunate to have such capable and professional leaders.

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

VCE RESULTS

Congratulations to the former Merbein students who achieved impressive VCE results. Sophie Crouch achieved the top ATAR ranking in the Sunraysia District with a score of 99.1. Many of our former students achieved ATARs above 80 and a significant proportion of ex-Merbein Year 11s who enrolled in Year 12 VCE subjects were awarded Year 12 Subject Duxes.



ATHLETE'S FOOT SCHOOL SHOES FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL

The Athletes Foot at Centro have generously offered to give our school \$5.00 for every pair of school shoes our students purchase from the Athlete's Foot. Brochures are available from the school office.

Please note that Year 7 CSEF Uniform Pack recipients will need to order their shoes through State Schools' Relief.

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.

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS DURING HOLIDAYS

The Uniform Shop will be open on the following days before school resumes next year.

Wednesday, 25th January 2017 from 1.30–6.30pm

Friday, 27th January 2017 from 1.30–6.30pm

Monday, 30th January 2017 from 8.30am–4.30pm

2017 YEAR 7 CSEF UNIFORM PACK

Students who will be entering Year 7 in 2017 and are recipients of the CSEF payment this year, automatically qualify to receive a Uniform Pack through State Schools' Relief.

Uniform items are as listed below:

Girls

- Polar Fleece Jacket or a Jumper or a Jacket.
- Summer Dress or a Winter Skirt & Shirt or Trousers & Shirt or Shorts & Polo Shirt.
- A pair of black leather shoes – Lace up/T-bar or Skate.

Boys

- Polar Fleece Jacket or a Jumper or a Jacket.
- Trousers or Shorts.
- Long Sleeve Shirt or a Polo Shirt.
- A pair of black leather shoes – Lace up or Skate.

An order form can be collected from the main

office. **Shoes must be ordered through State Schools' Relief.** Students will need to have their foot measured to ensure the correct size is ordered and sent.

More information, order forms and photo of shoes are available on our school website.

<http://www.merbein10.vic.edu.au/>

If you were not eligible for CSEF this year and will be next year, please collect an application form from the school's main office. If your application is successful next year, your Year 7 child will qualify to receive a Uniform Pack when the application is processed in March 2017.

FOOD CAN TREE DONATIONS PHOTO

Thank you to everyone who has sent in donations. If you haven't done so already there is still time, please send your donations in ASAP.



CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

The amount payable for eligible primary and secondary students is:

\$125 for Primary school students.

\$225 for Secondary school students.

To be eligible for this funding, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending the school must be the holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR be a temporary foster parent and submit an application to the school before the end of February.

Ask at the school office if you would like to collect an application.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The Breakfast Program is being financially supported by the Merbein & District Community Bank & Merbein Development Association. Foodbank Victoria also supports the breakfast program with donations of food. 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

PRIMARY GRADUATION ASSEMBLY PHOTOS



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. **There is NO OSHC on Tuesday, 20th December.**

SCHOOL BOOKS

Please check that all school books have been returned.

WHOLE SCHOOL AWARDS NIGHT

A very successful Presentation Night was held at the Mildura Arts Centre on Monday this week. Congratulations to all our award recipients. Below is just one photo of the many individual photos taken of our well-deserved award winners.



GREEN BUILDING WEEKLY AWARDS

Congratulations to the students from the Green Building who received weekly awards at last week's assembly.



LIBRARY SERVICE SUMMER READING CLUB

The Mildura, Red Cliffs, Merbein, Irymple and Mobile libraries invite children and families to participate in the Summer Reading Club this school holidays. The Summer Reading Club is a free in-library and online holiday program. This year the theme is Heroes and Villains. Young readers will be encouraged to continue reading during the school holidays and participate in local library activities. The fun continues online with great prizes up for grabs. The Summer Reading Club runs from 1st December to 27th January.

For further information, or to sign up to the program please contact Mildura Library on 50188350, find us on Facebook or visit www.mildura.vic.gov.au/library.

GRADE P-2 CLASS PARTY

The Grade P-2 students celebrated the end of year with class parties yesterday. They enjoyed lots of delicious food and exchanged their Kris Kringle gifts.



PRIMARY POOL ACTIVITY DAY PHOTOS



GRADE P-2 SAFETY TALK REPORT - Brioney Hall
Visitors to the school gave our students a safety presentation last Friday and met Captain Koala from the CFA. Students were taught how to be safe through engaging activities including 'Get Down Low and Go, Go, Go, Stranger Danger and Stop/Look/Listen'.



READING REWARD AT TEN PIN BOWLING

Grade 2-4 students enjoying their reading reward at Ten Pin Bowling! Well done students and thank you to families for fantastic home reading this year.



SECONDARY NEWS

YEAR 9 MOSAIC ELECTIVE

A fantastic piece of artwork produced by our Year 9 students Shania and Cody during their Mosaic elective.



COMMONWEALTH BANK - NEW BANK ACCOUNT

Students wanting to open a new bank account in their own name will need to provide two pieces of formal identification to the bank. One piece could be your birth certificate and another could be a letter from the principal of your school. This letter must be on official school letter head, have your full name and full residential address, plus the number of years you have been enrolled as a student at the school. The letter must then be signed by the principal (please note that your photo ID is not acceptable as a formal piece of identification).

COMMUNITY NEWS

BOYS TO THE BUSH HOLIDAY CAMP

A new unique farm based holiday camp for boys is being offered during the Christmas school holidays. Held on the NSW/VIC border at Howlong. Check the website for further details.
www.boystothebush.com.au

WEP STUDENT EXCHANGE

What are your plans for 2017? Head off on a WEP student exchange and have the adventure of a lifetime! A summer, semester or year exchange will equip you with incredible benefits, experiences and friendships that'll last a lifetime! Request your FREE student exchange info pack now and plan your adventure over the school holidays! To get your hands on a pack, SMS 'EXCHANGE' to 0428 246 633, head to wep.org.au or call 1300 884 733.

INSIDE THE BRICK: MILDURA 2017 INTERACTIVE PLAY & LEGO MODEL EXHIBITION

To be held Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th January 2017.

INSIDE the BRICK is bringing their fantastic travelling Interactive Play & LEGO Model Exhibition to Mildura for a massive weekend of LEGO play! Fun activities for kids of all ages.

There will be opportunities to see fantastic original LEGO creations on display and opportunities to create your own in a MASSIVE hands on 'Build Zone'!

INSIDE the BRICK is proud to also offer the option of a Sensory Friendly Session to families impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorders with a sensory friendly, supportive environment and low volume music, announcements and reduced numbers. (Please note that numbers and noise will steadily increase from 10am). Cost: Family Block \$44 (2 Adult & 3 Children). Single Adult ticket \$12.

Children 3 years to 17 years inclusive & Concession \$10. Free entry for Under 3 years when accompanied by an Adult Ticket Holder.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Adults require a ticket to enter, unless they have a current Carer or Companion Card. Tickets & Bookings – www.trybooking.com/NUYP

Pamphlets are available from the school's main office.

MILDURA RURAL CITY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM JANUARY 2017

Activities are for students currently attending primary school. Cost is \$1.80 per child per activity. Bookings essential. If your child is unable to attend please contact the library.

Merbein Library - 03 5018 8364		
3rd January	11:00am	People bookmarks
4th January	11:00am	Lego (FREE)
5th January	11:00am	Fishing Expedition
10th January	11:00am	Animal bookmarks
11th January	11:00am	Lego (FREE)
12th January	11:00am	Squishies
17th January	11:00am	Cup people
18th January	11:00am	Lego (FREE)
19th January	11:00am	Hanging pots
24th January	11:00am	Light jars
25th January	11:00am	Lego (FREE)
Mildura Library - 03 5018 8350		
10th January	10.30am	Marble Run
	2.30pm	Felt Decoration
11th January	2.30pm	Lego (FREE)
12th January	10.30am	Games Galore
	2.30pm	Creation Station
17th January	10.30am	Creation Station
	2.30pm	Games Galore
18th January	2.30pm	Lego (FREE)
19th January	10.30am	Felt Decoration
	2.30pm	Marble Run

2017 YOUTH SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

2017 Youth School Holiday Program is now open!

There are some amazing activities on the calendar including, Laserforce, Scrapbooking, Cupcakes & Nail Art, Lawn Bowls, Ten Pin Bowling, Abstract Art, Golf Day, Outdoor Pool Challenge, Mega Splash Pool Party, House of Bounce, Putt Putt & Aqua Coaster. To register go to their website

www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Services/Youth or call 5018 8280

MILDURA'S RELAY FOR LIFE

Relay For Life is a fun and moving experience that raises vital funds for the Cancer Council's research, prevention, information and support services. Relay is a chance for the Mildura community to recognise and celebrate local cancer survivors, patients and their carers. To honour and remember loved ones lost to cancer and to raise money to help save more lives. Join the thousands of Australians who take part in Cancer Council's Relay For Life each year in the fight against cancer. Start or join a team in the Mildura 2017 Relay today! Early registrations have a reduced cost. The event will be held Soccer Park, Old Aerodrome Sporting Complex Mildura on Saturday, 22 April beginning at 2pm and finishing on Sunday, 23rd April at 8am.

For more information contact Rowan Hatty on phone 1300 65 65 85 or email mildura@relayforlife.org.au.

SAVER PLUS

You may be eligible to join Saver Plus and match your savings for school costs, dollar for dollar up to \$500 to help pay school cost like uniforms, books, excursions, tutoring, a tablet or laptop. To find out more email the local co-ordinator CBradley@bsl.org.au or saverplus@bsl.org.au or visit www.anz.com/saverplus

MILDURA CHURCH OF CHRIST 10TH STREET & DEAKIN CHRISTMAS SERVICES



December 18th	
Two morning services 9.00am & 10.30am	Carols Service featuring a brass band
6.00pm	Family Christmas Party with Jumping Castle, Face Painting, Free BBQ TEA, Special Musical Performance from Caitlin Holdcroft and Joshua Tonkin.
December 24th	
Two evening services 5.00pm & 7.00pm	Christmas Eve Service. Featuring your favourite Christmas Carols, special items and an inspiring message of hope. A light supper will follow each service.

PRIMARY FAMILY PAYMENT SCHEDULE 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Schools can request payments from parents under three categories: Essential Student Learning Items, Optional Items or Voluntary Financial Contributions.

1. Essential Student Learning Items are items, activities or services that the school deems essential to student learning of the standard curriculum. Where practical and appropriate parents may choose to purchase items through the school or provide their own. These items may be: items the student takes possession of (e.g. stationery, text books, activity books, cooking ingredients, materials for products that students take home, school uniforms) and activities associated with instruction that students are expected to attend (e.g. excursions, incursions, school sports, work placements). Any costs associated with Essential Student Learning will be kept to a minimum.

2. Optional Extras are items, activities or services that are optional and are offered in addition to the standard curriculum. They are accessed on a user-pays basis and parents and guardians may **choose** whether their child accesses or participates in them (e.g. school magazines, instrumental music tuition, graduation dinners, camps).

3. Voluntary Financial Contributions which parents and guardians may be **invited** to donate to the school (e.g. grounds beautification, building or library fund, general voluntary contribution).

The school bulk purchases all essential student learning items for our primary students and the \$210.00 Essential Student Learning Items charge covers these costs as well as all incursions, travel to and from sports and local excursions, use of school hire bus as required and ICT and software access.

Essential School Items		Amount
ICT/Software Levy	Netbooks and iPads - All children will have access to iPads and Netbooks in their classrooms. Software subscription for Mathletics and Spelldrome Please note: This amount is reduced by \$40.00 for any grade 4 – 6 students who brings their own Device.	\$110.00
*Excursion Levy	Incursions, travel to and from sports, local excursions and use of school hire bus as required. *This is covered by the Camps, Sports and Excursion Funding (CSEF) if you are eligible to claim it.	\$60.00
Requisites	All classroom supplies which may include (depending on grade level): Exercise books, Scrap books, Student Diaries/Reading Diaries, Pencil case including items such as pencils, pens, erasers, glue sticks, textas, highlighters, colouring pencils, etc	\$40.00
Total		\$210.00

PAYMENT OF FEES – Options

- Online - BPay** (Quote BPAY Biller code and Family Reference Number from your Statement)
- Direct Deposit** (Quote Family ID Reference Number or Student Full Name)
Account Name: Merbein P-10 College
Bank: Commonwealth Bank
BSB: 063-714
Account Number: 10060535
- Credit Card by Phone** General Office on 5025 2501
- General Office** Cash/cheque/EFTPOS

Consideration of Hardship

Parents who experience difficulties providing, or paying the school to provide essential student learning items should contact the Business Manager at the school by attending the school office, or by phone on (03) 5025 2501 or by email merbein.p10@edumail.vic.gov.au to discuss options for support.