

DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER

2nd Friday

- Merbein Rotary Carols 7.15pm
- Yr 10 Graduation Dinner

5th Monday

Student Free Day

6th Tuesday

- Sec Orientation Day
- Prep Orientation day 9am-3.12pm

7th Wednesday

- Gr P-2 Ballet Excursion 11.30-2.30
- Sec Orientation Day

12th Monday

-Pri Pool Day 1-3pm

- Whole School Awards Night – Arts Centre Mildura.

13th Tuesday

- Yr 6 Dinner @ The Grand Hotel

14th Wednesday

- Gr 2-4 Bowling Excursion
- Pri Class Parties

15th Thursday

- Pri Graduation Ceremony held at the school at 10am
- Student reports sent home

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

Term 1: 30th January – teachers return
31st January – 31st March

Term 2: 18th April – 30th June

Term 3: 17th July – 22nd September

Term 4: 9th October – 22nd December

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

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr Graeme Copper



GYM UPGRADE REPORT

Refurbishment works in the Activity Centre are progressing well. There have been some unavoidable impacts on the school's normal routines but Weir Constructions have been very accommodating when we have requested access to Specialist PE/Sport equipment stored in the gym. Currently acoustic panels are being installed to ceilings in the gym along with new LED lights.



MERBEIN P-10 COLLEGE GIRLS CRICKET TEAM – STATE CHAMPIONS!

Congratulations to our Girls Cricket team who have just won the State Championships in Melbourne yesterday. Under the guidance of super-coach Jenny Donnelly, the girls emerged victorious from the final which was played at the MCG. This is an outstanding achievement that the girls can be very proud of. A report and photos in the Secondary Section.

FLO GRADUATION REPORT

A Graduation Ceremony was held for our Flexible Learning Options (FLO) students earlier this week. It was well attended by students, parents and staff who took the opportunity to note the achievements of our students in 2016. Students participating in the FLO program are offered access to additional support and learning options to assist them in developing pathways into further education, training and employment. As part of their FLO program the older students are able to undertake Vocational Courses at Sunraysia TAFE and Work Placements.

I would like to thank the parents for their ongoing support and also acknowledge the great team of teachers and Educational Support Staff who conduct the program on a daily basis.

I especially thank our FLO Coordinator, Kim McCarty and Assistant Principal, Sandra Luitjes for their detailed planning and commitment to ensure that each student is well-catered for. Kim's and Sandra's work is being recognised across the Region and beyond and the school is regularly hosting visits from other schools and agencies.



TRANSITION PROGRAM REPORT

As a Prep to Year 10 School we have several transition stages to manage each year. Our "Prep Practice" program is well under way and our Infant Team is working diligently to ensure all of our preps have the best possible start to their school education.

Year 6-7 is another key transition stage. Year 6-7 Orientation Days will be held next week on 6th and 7th December. We look forward to hosting over 100 students for the two days.

Most of our incoming Year 7s are excited, if not a little nervous about moving into secondary school next year so Mr Rob Morgan has been actively visiting Year 6 students in other schools to ensure the transition goes smoothly. Rob has also organised extra transition activities for a smaller number of Year 6 students who may be experiencing some anxiety about such a big change. These children and their parents have been invited to participate in some additional familiarisation activities. I would encourage any parent to please contact Rob or the school if they have any questions about the transition process.



MUSIC WORKSHOP REPORT

Last Friday, 25th November, visiting performer Taylor Sheridan provided a lunch concert and ran a music workshop. All the students had an enjoyable time. Corey Wakefield created a video of the event which can be viewed on the school Facebook Page. Big thank you to Taylor Sheridan.

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.

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS – SRC FUNDRAISER

The Student Representative Council are running one final fundraiser for the year. All students are asked to send along a donation of a 'can of food' to build a Christmas Tree in the main entrance of the school. A representative will be there at 8.40am each morning to help the tree grow. Let's see how huge we can make it. Donations will be given to Mallee Family Care at the end of the school year.



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.

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

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.

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

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.

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 2017.

Ask at the school office if you would like to collect an application form or to enquire about more information.

To find out more about CSEF or to apply for assistance go to www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

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.

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

CLASS PARTIES – Mrs Finn

Class parties will be held on Wednesday, 14th December. More information will go home next week in a separate Unit Notice.

GRADE P-6 POOL PARTY DAY – Wendy Finn

The Grade P-6 students will enjoy an End-Of-Year Break-Up treat on Monday, 12th December at the Merbein Pool. Students will travel by bus to Kenny Park, where they will eat their lunch, before entering the pool at 1.00pm.

Parents are asked to collect their child from the pool before 3.12pm on this day. If your child needs to return to the college to catch a bus or attend OSHC, a bus will be provided. A permission note has gone home today with each child. Please mark the appropriate boxes provided on the form if your child has a pool season's pass or needs to be returned to the school from the pool at the end of the day. There is no cost for this excursion.

Your child will need their bathers, towel, hat, sunscreen, drink, lunch and snacks. Students will change into their bathers at the school. Please complete and return the permission note as soon as possible.

SCHOOL BOOK BORROWING

All school books must be returned next week.

School books are a very important part of our children's educational resources and very expensive to replace. Therefore all families with school library books that have not been returned next week will be sent an invoice for the cost of the missing books.

Please check your child's bag as overdue book notices were sent home this week.

You are welcome to contact Jill in the Primary Library regarding any overdue books.

Please encourage your child to look 'everywhere' in their room, behind shelves and furniture, under beds and in cupboards.

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.

PRIMARY GRADUATION CEREMONY – Wendy Finn

The Primary Graduation Ceremony will now be held at the school on Thursday, 15th December at 9.30am.

This is a very special ceremony where the Grade 6 students' final year of Primary Education is recognised. We also recognise the completion of the Prep's first year of Primary Education at this ceremony. The Preps will receive a book to mark the occasion donated by Hammertons' Jewellers. All families are welcome to attend. If the weather is kind to us, the ceremony will be held on the school oval or if we need protection from weather on the day it will be held under the basketball shade area in front of the canteen.

SAFETY DAY – Mrs Finn

We will be holding a Safety Information Day here at the school for the Grade P-2 students on Thursday, 8th December. The Safety Day is to help students be aware and to be able to identify 'safe' and 'not safe' situations at home, at school and in the community. A Mildura Youth Resource Officer from the Victoria Police, members of the Merbein Fire Brigade and a Community Welfare Worker will visit the school on this day to develop the students' knowledge and understanding of strategies and skills to keep themselves safe in a fun and enjoyable way.



GRADE P-2 BALLET EXCURSION – Wendy Finn
 Next Wednesday, 7th December the Grade P-2 students will travel by bus to the Mildura Arts Centre to see some amazing dancers bring to life the story of Gaîté Parisienne Ballet. The bus will leave the school at approximately 11am and return to school approximately 2.30pm. After the ballet performance students will walk up to the Langtree Mall to perform some Christmas Carols at approximately 1pm before travelling to Park for Play to have lunch and then back to school. Students will need to bring a packed lunch in a paper bag clearly named, a drink and a hat. The cost for those who have not paid the 2016 Excursion Levy is \$10. **Please check that your child's permission note has been returned.**

MERBEIN COMMUNITY CAROLS – Mrs Finn
 The Merbein Community Carols will be held at Kenny Park tomorrow Friday, 2nd December. Our Grade P-6 students are performing at this festive local community event. A reminder that students are to meet the teachers at 7.25pm at the left of the stage area. The performance is scheduled for 7.40pm. Students are also asked to wear Christmas clothes or Christmas colours, a Christmas hat or hair decoration. This is a great family community event, so why not bring the whole family, a chair or a picnic rug and enjoy the evening's festivities. Free Glow Sticks will be provided. (Food & drinks are available from 6.30pm).



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

2017 PREP PRACTICE REPORT

The next Prep Practice is Tuesday, 6th December from 9am-3.10pm.

Children are asked to bring a fruit/vegie snack for brain food, a hat, water bottle and some lunch.

DRINK BOTTLES

Please send a clearly named water bottle to school with your child every day.

GREEN BUILDING WEEKLY AWARDS

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



NO HAT - NO PLAY

Reminder that students must bring a wide brimmed hat to school every day, clearly labelled with their name.

GRADE 5-6 WEEKLY AWARDS

Congratulations to the students who received awards at last week's assembly.



GRADE 6 GRADUATION DINNER

It's an exciting time of the year for the Grade 6 students. They are looking forward to all the celebrations in their last few weeks of primary schooling, especially the Grade 6 Graduation Dinner which will be held Tuesday, 13th December at the Grand Hotel.

GRADE 5-6 READING AWARDS

Reminder that the Grade 5-6 students will receive Reading Rewards the week after next. The target is 45 nights.

SECONDARY NEWS

STATE CHAMPIONS – Jennifer Donnelly

The Year 9-10 Girls Cricket Team competed and won at the MCG on Wednesday, 30th November, making them the State Champions in a thrilling game against Mary Mackillop Regional College. Congratulations to Shania McKinnon, Tara Martin, Calin Graham, Vhilla Evans, Nadia Siniremera, Jordan Kerr, Ash Battin and Jacqueline Fleri.



THE YEAR 10 FINAL WEEK

The Year 10's final week at the school has been a busy one.

- On Monday, they sat their End-Of-Year exams.
- They have been completing dance practice in readiness for the Graduation.
- They spent Tuesday at La Trope Uni.
- Attended transition and stress management sessions on Wednesday.
- Excursion on Thursday.
- Tomorrow morning will begin with a Teachers and Year 10 students breakfast at 7.45am. Followed by the assembly and T-shirt signing and PowerPoint presentation. Most students will then be dismissed at 11am to prepare for the Graduation. Those remaining will assist to decorate Club Da Vinici.

COMMUNITY NEWS

MERBEIN ROTARY CHRISTMAS

The Merbein Community Carols evening will take place adjacent to the Band Rotunda in Kenny Park on Friday, 2nd December, starting at 7.15pm (Food & drinks available from 6.30 pm). Local schools and community choirs. Free Glow Sticks. Santa arrives at 9pm. Everyone welcome. For more information phone Leon Wagner 5025 2585 or 0427 252 586.

LORD OF THE FLIES FREE DANCE WORKSHOP FOR MALES AGES 10-22

It's a great opportunity for the young men in our community to participate in something fun and positive. Open to all males aged 10-22years with or without dance experience.

Workshops to be held at the Mildura Arts Centre on 16th December at 10am, 1pm and 4pm.

Participants could be invited to audition to join the cast for the performance season of Lord of the Flies at Arts Centre Melbourne in April 2017.

For more information visit the website or contact Helen Piscioneri at Mildura Rural City Council on phone 0400 381 646 or email

helen.piscioneri@mildura.vic.gov.au

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.

FOSTER CARERS NEEDED

The Sunraysia Community needs more carers to provide safe caring environments for young people aged 0-18 years old. For more information contact MASP on phone 50216500 or email info@masp.org.au

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.