



Successful Students - Strong Communities

Principal: Mr Graeme Cupper

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NEWSLETTER 2017 Thursday, 9 February

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY

13th Monday

-Pri Book Club Orders return

-Whole School Assembly

16th Thursday

Sec Swimming Carnival

20th Monday

-P-4 Stamp Out Bullying Incursion

-Nominations for School Council Close

22nd Wednesday

School Photos

23rd Thursday

School Photos

28th Tuesday

Pancake Tuesday

MARCH

3rd Friday

Sec Interschool Swimming Carnival

6th - 10th

Yr 8 Camp

7th - 10th

Yr 7 Camp

13th Monday

Public Holiday - NO School

14th - 18th

P-4 MAV Week

20th - 24th

P-6 STOMP Music Program

23rd Thursday

Sec LMR Swimming

24th Friday

Pri STOMP Evening Performance

27th Monday

Sec I/S Volleyball / Tennis

29th Wednesday

Sec I/S Softball / Baseball

Sec Parent/Teacher Interviews

31st Friday

Last Day of Term One

Earlier finishing time of 2.30pm

2017 TERM DATES

Term 2: 18th Apr - 30th Jun

Term 3: 17th Jul - 22nd Sept

Term 4: 9th Oct - 22nd Dec

STUDENT DENTAL SERVICE

Sunraysia Community Health Services

137, 13th Street Mildura, phone 50210944

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr Graeme Cupper

MERBEIN P-10 COLLEGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS - 2017

In accordance with DET guidelines, an election of members for the 2017 School Council will be conducted during February and March.

The new 2017 Council will be formed from an election process and will be based on a membership size of 15, with a configuration of 8 parents, 5 staff (including the principal) and 2 co-opted community members.

Due to the scheduled expiry of their terms of office, several members of Council will be retiring in accordance with DET guidelines and the Council Constituting Order. Consequently, the following vacancies are being declared:

4 Parent category vacancies

2 DET category vacancies

Up to 2 Co-opted Community positions will be filled by the newly formed council following the conclusion of elections.

I would like to publicly thank the following retiring Councillors for their valuable contribution to the ongoing development of Merbein P-10 College over the past year:

Parent Category	Andrew Nemtsas, Scott Gardiner, Michelle Nokes, Kate Donaldson
DET Category	Greg Rhodes and Yvonne Matotek
Co-opted Community member	Graeme Worthington and Greg Mann

I sincerely thank the members of the 2016 School Council for volunteering their time, expertise and energy to enable Merbein P-10 College to continue to grow as a successful community school.

I also would like to sincerely thank Andrew Nemtsas for the leadership he has continued to provide as School Council President.

If either or both categories (Parent or DET) have more nominations than positions then a ballot will be conducted. All parents or guardians of students enrolled at the school are eligible to vote for parent members, and staff vote for staff members.

Parents who are DET employees may stand for election in the Parent category, but only up to a maximum of two. This is to ensure that the majority of the college council is created through a combination of parent and community members and not DET employees.

Nominations for a position on the Merbein P-10 College Council will open tomorrow Friday, 10th February and close on Monday, 20th February 2017. The School Council will continue to play a vital role in achieving the best-possible outcomes for our young people and in ensuring that our school continues to build effective connections with the local community.

I therefore encourage parents and staff to consider nominating for a position on the Merbein P-10 College Council and to support us in the important work that lies ahead.

Enclosed in this newsletter is an information sheet that provides information about the role and membership of School Council. Parent nomination forms will be available at the school office for any parent considering nominating. If you would like a Nomination Form to be emailed directly to you, please contact the General Office. Nomination Forms can also be downloaded from the School Web Page.

As mentioned above, if there are more nominations than vacancies an election will be called and candidates will be invited to prepare a statement of no more than 150 words. More details about the recommended content of statements will be provided for candidates if this occurs.

NEWSLETTER EMAIL ADDRESSES CONTACT LIST

- The weekly school newsletter was emailed to families last Thursday afternoon but unfortunately some emails bounced back. After consultation with our college technician, it was concluded that either the emails supplied were incorrect or the families email inbox is full. **Families who have not received the newsletter via email are asked to email the newsletter co-ordinator at the following email address: Giddings.beth.l@edumail.vic.gov.au. Please add your name and your child's name . We will then update our data base so you can receive the newsletter in good time each week.**
- We would also ask families who have not received the newsletter to check their email **Junk Mail Folder**, as sometimes mail that has not been sent for a while can be redirected to the Junk Folder.

DENTAL HEALTH SERVICES VICTORIA

For emergency care the service is free to all children aged 0-12.

If you have a Centrelink Concession Card, general care (eg fillings, extracts and sealants) for your children 0-12 and dental health advice is also free.

If you do not have a Centrelink Concession Card, there is a capped \$ amount per family per year for general care (eg fillings, extracts and sealants) and dental health advice for your children 0-12.

Sunraysia Community Health Services 137, 13th Street Mildura, phone 50210944.

For more information visit www.dhsv.org.au

MERBEIN P-10 FACEBOOK PAGE

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

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.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE/BUS PASS

Students or parents need to collect an application form from the school's main office if they wish to apply for the allowance in 2017. These need to be completed each year. Forms are available at the main office.

OSHC FAMILIES - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

It is a requirement that all families re-enrol their children each year for the OSHC Program to ensure that all information is correct and up-to-date.

New forms are available from the OSHC area in the green building and need to be completed and returned as soon as possible. Can families also confirm what days their child/ren will be attending the program for the year as days are filling up fast.

Our program runs from the end of school until 6.00pm each school night. Cheryll Hodge is our school's OSHC coordinator and can be contacted on 0428 258035 if you have any queries.

SCHOOL PHOTOS – Mr Rhodes

School Photo Days will be held on Wednesday, 22nd and Thursday, 23rd February. Most photos will be taken on the Wednesday. On Thursday, the Prep students and some students that will be absent on the Wednesday will have their photos taken. The photo packs were sent home with each student. If your child has not brought a pack home or you wish to have a family portrait taken please contact the school office. All students will have their photo taken as they are used to update our administration system and are used for student ID and photocopy cards. Please read the instructions on the envelope carefully. All envelopes with the correct payment enclosed must be returned before the photo days.

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.

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

MOBILE PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY 2017

Preamble

Mobile phones and other electronic devices are commonly used by a large proportion of the student population.

They have become a part of the lifestyle of many people in the 21st Century.

Some students require phones to communicate with parents or employers after school hours.

Mobile phones are not specifically required for use in school time.

Contact by families with the school or students should be made through the general office.

Many businesses require employees to NOT use mobile phones while working as they distract the workers. This policy recognises our role as educators to help teach our students about timely and appropriate use of mobile phones and electronic devices in educational and work settings.

Policy Guidelines

- 1/ If mobile phones are brought to school by students, it is at their own risk.
 - a/ Primary aged Students are to leave their (named) phone at the office each morning. The College take no responsibility for theft or damage to phones that are not kept securely at the office.
 - b/ Phones are not to be used during class time and are to be turned 'OFF' while in class unless authorised by a teacher for use by the student. If the teacher gives explicit authorisation to a student to turn on their electronic device; the device may be left 'ON' but in silent mode.
- 2/ Important or emergency parental contact by phone, during school hours must be made through the general office. This allows the school to take appropriate steps to assist the students and families.
- 3/ Parents wishing to make contact with their child in non-urgent or non-emergency situations are still encouraged to do so through the school office, but if they do choose to message their child it should be done before 9.00am, between 11.00am and 11.30am (recess) , between 1.30pm and 2,15pm (lunch) or after 3.17pm. These are the times the students are out of class.

Definitions

Unauthorised use includes any use of the mobile phone or electronic device without the express permission of a teacher during class time between the hours of 9.00am and 3.17 pm.

Inappropriate use includes:

- Photographing or videoing at school without express permission.
- Displaying offensive material (e.g. pornography, offensive language, ring-tones etc)

- Sending offensive text messages or material that threaten or bully another student
- Making offensive or threatening phone calls
- Using social media inappropriately.

Consequences for breach of Policy

For unauthorised use in the class room

If students use their electronic device in class without teacher permission, the teacher will ask for the device to be turned off. Subsequent use by the student may see a referral written and the phone removed from the student. If a phone is removed it will be returned later in the day. Other consequences will include detentions or in-school suspensions for ongoing breach of this policy.

For inappropriate use

If a student is found to be using their phone inappropriately at school the teacher will ask the student to turn the phone off and give the phone to the teacher immediately. The student will be asked to report to the Learning Centre Leader or the Assistant Principal.

Action will be taken in line with the College Discipline Policy which for serious policy breaches may include suspension. The Police or other external agencies may also become involved in these cases.

Implementation

- 1/ A copy of this policy will be distributed to all students, parents and staff. The policy will be discussed with students at year level meetings.
- 2/ Timely reminders about the policy will be discussed at year level assemblies and appear in school newsletters.
- 3/ The policy is to be reviewed annually.

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

PRIMARY NEWS

2017 YEAR 7 CSEF UNIFORM PACK

Students who have commenced 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.merbeinp10.vic.edu.au/>

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.

PLAY GROUP - TLC

Our apologies to the parents who turned up today to attend. Playgroup will commence next Thursday, 16th February. This playgroup is free of cost and is for children aged 0-5. Share books, make fun stuff, play, dance, sing. Parents can receive information and support and share a cuppa and get to know other families. For more information about the Total Learning Centre (TLC) call or text Dani on 0437077689 or 50217476. If you need transport call or text the TLC 0458001775.

BOOK CLUB – H. Colihole

A Scholastic Book Club Order Pamphlet was sent home with each child in the Green Building last week. We encourage families to purchase bargain priced books for your child from Book Club each month. Orders for our first Book Club this year need to be sent back to the Green Building desk no later than Monday 13th February.

GRADE P-2 NEWS – Brioney Hall

The P-2 students in the Space End of the Green Building should be very proud of themselves for beginning the school year in a very happy and engaging way, learning lots and getting to know one another and their teachers.



HOME READING – W. Finn

It's been a great start to the year with some fantastic support for home reading. We can't stress enough how important this is to your child's reading development.

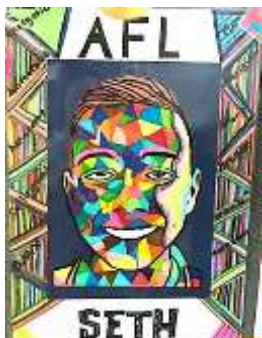
GRADE 5-6 NEWS – Sue Gardiner

The Grade 5-6 Unit have had a super start to 2017. Students completed their first 'Cold Write' in Literacy last Thursday. The students were all engaged and enthusiastic. Footage, has been uploaded to the school's Facebook Page. Amazing effort!

Student Representative Council (SRC) candidates will be presenting their speeches in the Orange Building from 2.12pm. Parents are welcome to come along to support their child.

GRADE 5-6 SELF- PORTRAITS – K. Grimmer

Check out the amazing self-portraits from the Grade 5-6 Learning Centre. The students have created awesome art using a 'pop art' technique to create some very colourful results. Come into the Orange Building to check out the displays!



GRADE 6 SCHOOL SHIRT ORDERS – K. Grimmer

Grade 6 families are reminded that the Grade 6 school shirt orders and payments are due tomorrow Friday, 10th February. Please see the office staff or Kerry Grimmer if you have any queries.

PE DAYS – W. Finn

Primary students participate in a Physical Education Program every week.

The Grade P-2 students have PE on Tuesdays. The Grade 2-4 students have PE on Wednesdays and the Grade 5-6 students have PE on Thursdays.

Please check that your child brings a water bottle, hat and wears runners on their PE day each week.

BEFORE SCHOOL

Students who arrive at school before 8.40am can either go to the Breakfast Club, held in the Canteen or sit on the seats at the back of the Green until 8.40am. Students are not to play out the front of the Green Building until 8.40am when the front playground is supervised.

ART SMOCKS

All primary students are required to bring along an art smock or old shirt to protect their school uniform when participating in their Art Program.

GUITAR PROGRAM 2017 (OPTIONAL PROGRAM)

– Josh Hudson

Welcome back to another exciting year of guitar lessons for Grade P-6 students!

We are pleased to announce that Joel Anderson will be replacing Phil McDonald who has decided to travel this year.

There are still spots available for both Group and Individual Guitar lessons for this term.

If you wish to enrol for guitar lessons, to find out the cost or if you need more information, please email iwansoebardi@gmail.com or call Iwan Soebardi on 0418919220.

WEEKLY ASSEMBLY

The Green Building will hold their weekly assembly on Thursday afternoons at 2.45pm.

The Grade 5-6 assembly will be held at 12.40pm every Friday. Weekly awards and certificates will be presented at these assemblies. Families are welcome to attend.

BLUE BOOK/LIBRARY BAGS

Reminder that all students will need a suitable waterproof bag to put their library and reading books in to take home. Blue book/library bags are for sale at the school uniform shop at a cost of \$10.00.

SEVERE FOOD ALLERGIES

There are students at the school with severe food allergies. Please remind your child that their food is not to be shared.

BRAIN FOOD

Each child is encouraged to bring some 'brain food' to have every morning. Studies have shown that small amounts of healthy food continually throughout the day helps with concentration and energy. Examples are: dried fruit, crackers, grapes, carrots, celery, cheese, plain popcorn. No nuts please. (No roll-ups or chips).

JUNIOR LIBRARY NEWS

Your child will enjoy borrowing from our school's fantastic Junior Library this year. **Please note that every child will need to bring along a book bag to protect the books they borrow.** Please be diligent in having your child return their library books every week. (Books can then be re-borrowed if they have not finished with them).

Also note that any returned overdue books from past years will always be very much appreciated.

WATER BOTTLES

Every student needs to bring along a plastic sport bottle of water (not soft drink or cordial or fruit drink, just water) to school every day to sit on their desks during class. Studies have proven that the brain does not function well if dehydrated. So it is best practice to drink plenty of water throughout the day.

NB: We have the refrigerated water fountain at school where the children can refill their bottles during the day.

HEADLICE

Headlice is always a problem in schools. Below is a list of recommendations for parents to follow:

- Parents are asked to keep their child/ren's hair tied back neatly at all times.
- Parents are asked to check their child/ren's hair regularly.
- If Head Lice is detected on your child, prompt notification to the principal is important and will be kept confidential.
- If Head Lice is detected, please seek treatment from your local chemist, doctor or the MRCC Health Department.
- If you or the school detects headlice on your child, it is necessary for your child to remain at home until they have been treated and then checked by you to make sure they are clear of any headlice before they return to school.

These precautions will help the school to nip any further infestations in the bud.

LEVIES – PRIMARY PARENT PAYMENT 2017

Thank you to the parents who have paid their levies. If you have not paid your levies, please call into the school office and do so as soon as possible or make arrangements to pay by instalments.

NAMING ARTICLES

Please remember it is very important to name all your children's property clearly, especially hat, jumpers, bags, drink bottles and lunch containers.

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.

NO HAT – NO PLAY

Students must bring a wide brimmed hat to school every day, clearly labelled with their name. The hat does not need to be the uniform hat. **Caps are not acceptable.**

SECONDARY NEWS

HOT WEATHER – Mr Rhodes

The Department of Education has alerted the school's that today and tomorrow are EXTREME WEATHER alert days. Our response to this weather alert is to keep all primary students inside at both recess and lunchtimes in their air-conditioned rooms and to open up twelve classroom areas for the secondary students to access at recess and lunch. All outdoor activities have been cancelled for these two days.

IMPORTANT DATES – Mr Rhodes

February	
13 th	Whole School Assembly for student leader induction.
14 th	Friends and Valentine's Day activities
16 th	Secondary Swimming Carnival
22 nd	School Photo Day
23 rd	Prep Photos and back up day for absentees
21 st -24 th	Primary Stomp Dance performance Evening
24 th	-Interschool Secondary Swimming Sports -Primary Stomp Dance Evening Performance
March	
6 th	Year 8 Camp Departs - Returns Friday March 10th
7 th	Year 7 Camp departs - Returns Friday March 10th.
13 th	Labour Day Holiday
23 rd	LMR Secondary Swimming Swan Hill
27 th	Sec interschool Volleyball and Tennis
29 th	Sec Interschool Baseball and Softball
31 st	Last day of term early dismissal - Easter basket

IMPENDING COOLER WEATHER – UNIFORM – Mr Rhodes

After this spell of four very hot days, the temperature will drop to an expected maximum of 24 degrees on Monday with an overnight minimum of 13 degrees. Next Monday students may need a jumper as the temperature will be cool. Now is the time to check if your child has access to a warm school jumper. If a new one is needed or a good quality, clean, second hand garment is required please contact the office to make arrangements for fitting and purchase.

MOBILE PHONE POLICY – Mr Rhodes

Our Mobile Phone Policy is available on our website and has been attached to the newsletter today. Please read the policy as it has important information about the protocols for use and contact with the school.

STUDENT HOMEWORK POLICY – Mr Rhodes

Teachers are currently discussing amendments to our Homework Policy. Some key points in the current discussion include:

- homework is an important part of the education process and should be a manageable expectation on students, teachers and families
- expectations for homework will be different at different stages of education

There are more key points of discussion so after further consideration by the teachers, these will be put to the School Council for further discussion at the next meeting to be held on 22nd February. If you have any thoughts or input regarding amendments to the Homework Policy, please contact Mr Rhodes at the College on 50252501.

FORM TEACHERS AND LEARNING CENTRE LEADERS– Mr Rhodes

Below is a list of Form Teachers and Learning Centre Leaders. Your Form Teachers and Learning Centre Leaders are both important points of contact at school. If you wish to contact them directly please forward your email address to these teachers who will forward them on to their class teacher if required.

Year 8-10 Learning Centre Leaders	Chris Blackie, Hayley Hibberd and Rebekah McClure
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Form teachers are:

8A - Ms J Williams	8B – Mr A Hill
8C – Mrs E Smith	8D Mr D Watson
9A – Ms B Byrne	9B – Mr B Hill
9C – Mr S Johnson	9D Ms J Donnelly
10A – Mr H Hankinson	10B – Mrs Dawson
10C – Mrs Bettison	10D – Mr D Voegel

Year 5 - 7 Learning Centre Leader	Mr Morgan
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Year 7 Form teachers:

7A - Mr P Arney	7B – Mr J Hudson
7C – Mr J Lee	7D – Mrs L Mc Phee and Ms J Kames

FRIENDSHIP/VALENTINES DAY– Mr Rhodes

The Senior Student Representative Council (SRC) will be organising the annual Friendship/Valentine's Day Stall. Students from Grade 5 and above can purchase relatively inexpensive mementos from the stall next week to give to friends as a way of acknowledging friendships with students in the school. This stall will also raise funds for the SRC's school based projects.

SECONDARY SWIM CARNIVAL– Mr Rhodes

The Annual Secondary Swim Carnival will be held during the day on Thursday, 16th February. On this day all students in the secondary section will be encouraged to enter the water and swim, walk or float to the other end of the pool at least once for the day to gain important points for each student's Sports House. Parents are welcomed to come and spectate or assist with time-keeping or judging on the day. This will be a Sunsmart Event as the long-range forecast for the day is 34 degrees and sunny. All students will be expected to apply sunscreen and stay protected from the sun. More detailed information will be given to students in the near future.

OPEN WATER LEARNING EXPERIENCE– Mr Rhodes

As part of our school's commitment to water safety in the Murray River and inland waterways, our Year 7 students have been booked to attend the Open Water Learning Experience which will be held on Tuesday, 14th February in the afternoon. I encourage all our Year 7 students to participate and attend this fun and educational experience, conducted by Lifesaving Victoria.

LOCKS ON LOCKERS– Mr Rhodes

Students are responsible for the security of their personal equipment at school. We have supplied lockable lockers and have cameras set up at most locker locations. If a student has a BYOD computer or Ipad they MUST use a lock on their lockers. It is strongly advised for all other students to use a lock on their lockers also, to ensure security.

If any equipment is lost from a locker without a lock on it, then the responsibility for this loss will likely be borne by the student and the family.

SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS (SWPBIS)– Mr Rhodes

Our first focus for SWPBIS in 2017 is centred on students being punctual to class with the correct equipment and completing good quality work. Over the next few weeks, this will be the expectation for all our students. Those who consistently do the expected will be acknowledged and rewarded. The students that are not punctual or do not bring equipment will have a graduated set of consequences that are designed to help them improve their behaviour patterns.

CONGRATULATIONS SHANIA MCKINNON

The photograph and 'write-up' below was published in the Sunraysia Daily over the holidays. 'Shania McKinnon, 15, wants to play cricket for Australia one day.

She took a step down that road with dominant performances for the Mallee Murray Heat at the Cricket Victoria Under 16 Female State Championships recently, earning her the player of the Series Award.

A strong all-rounder, Shania was presented with the award by Coach Jenny Donnelly and Cricket Victoria Region Manager Tom Huf in the presence of her Heat teammates.'



Tom Huf, Shania McKinnon and Jenny Donnelly at the presentation.

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM FOR SALE

Size 10 Winter Skirt \$20

Size 6 Summer Dress \$20

Size 14 & 8 Summer Skirt \$10 each

Size 10 & 12 White Shirts \$10 each

Phone 0408349184 for more information.

SUN SMART– Mr Rhodes

All students have had our Sun Smart Policy explained at a whole school assembly. The policy was also included in last week's newsletter. The key messages for students are that they need to take measures to protect themselves against over exposure from rays of the sun. At this time of the year the UV levels are regularly above safe levels between 9.30am and 5.20pm each day whether the temperature is hot or cool. Each day our students receive information about temperature and UV levels in the daily bulletin. Please ensure you supply your child with appropriate sunscreen that they can lock in their lockers and use when required.

COMMUNITY NEWS

39TH MILDURA EISTEDDFOD (MAY 31–JUNE 19)

Entries are now open. Entries close Friday 17th March 2017. Information can be found at our website <http://www.milduraeisteddfod.org/> and on Facebook Mildura Eisteddfod Timeline. Email: milduraeisteddfod@gmail.com Mobile: 0429 481 898

VOLLEY STARS 2017

Volley Stars 2017 starts at 9:30am this coming Saturday at the SJC Stadium. Now is a great time for new students to start up and join those that were attending last year. For new players the cost is \$50 (sign-up fee) plus \$5 per week. For players that have already signed up, it's just \$5.

Allan Hassell, email: allanhassell@me.com

RICHMOND AFL SUPER-CLINIC

The Tigers will be in Mildura on 13th and 14th February at the Sara Oval South Mildura Football Ground from 3.45pm. Register at <http://www.richmondafc.com.au/clinic>

GIRL GUIDES

Girl Guides have resumed meetings for 2017 and have vacancies for girls aged 5–18 years. Guiding offers activities designed to meet personal challenges, to learn team building and leadership skills, and to make new friends.

For more information of units in your area contact Region Manager Narelle Tomlinson 0414 431 998 or mallee@guidesvic.org.au **FREE**

ONE DAY WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS AND CARERS – Autism Spectrum Australia

This workshop is designed to help foster productive school, family and community relationships with your school aged child on the autism spectrum.

Held on 14th March at the Quality Hotel Mildura Grand on 7th Street Mildura from 9.15am-3pm.

Morning tea and lunch provided. Register online

www.positivepartnerships.com.au. For more information phone 1300881971 or email

parentcarer@autismspectrum.org.aumilduratoylibrary@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Mildura-Toy-Library-142146065891985>

MILDURA TOY LIBRARY OPEN DAY

"Don't buy toys... BORROW them!"

Open Day will be held Saturday 18th March from 9.30–11.30am at the Mildura Primary School (12th St entrance). Cost is \$20 a term for roster duty members and \$40 for non-roster membership.

Normal open times are 9.30-11.30am on Saturdays and Tuesdays during the school term only.

HELP DEB REACH \$500 FOR THE CHILDREN'S TUMOUR FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA

Deb works as a support officer in the Green Building here at Merbein P-10. Her daughter and grandson are participating in the Cupid's Undie Run in Adelaide this year to raise money for research. Help Deb to help them to help the Children's Tumour Foundation of Australia. Either donate to Deb directly or search for Declan's Minions on the Internet. For more information about the Charity google <http://www.cupidsundierun.com.au/>

MERBEIN P-10 COLLEGE
2017 SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS TIMETABLE



EVENT	DATE
Notice of election and call for nominations	Friday 10 February 2017
Closing date for nominations	Monday 20 February 2017
Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted	Wednesday 22 February 2017
Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed	On or before Mon 27 February 2017
Close of ballot – 4.00 pm	Tuesday 7 March 2017
Vote count and Declaration of ballot – 4.30 pm	Tuesday 7 March 2017
Special council meeting to co-opt Community members (the principal will preside)	Wednesday 8 March 2017
First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)	Wednesday 15 March

Graeme Cupper
Principal

School Council Elections (2017)

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

There are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category.

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed at the school.

A mandated elected DET employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

- DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled
- Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.
- If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do

Consider standing for election to council this year

Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.