

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr Graeme Cupper

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY

20th Wednesday

School Photos

MARCH

15th Friday

Pri Say No To Bullying Poster Competition

21st Thursday

Yr 7 Immunisations

25th-29th

Pri Stomp – Dance

2019 TERM DATES

Term 1: 30/01/19 - 05/04/19

Term 2: 23/04/19 - 28/06/19

Term 3: 15/07/19 - 20/09/19

Term 4: 07/10/19 – 20/12/19

STUDENT DENTAL SERVICE

Sunraysia Community Health Services
137, 13th Street Mildura, phone
50210944. visit www.dhsv.org.au

WELCOME BACK

I would like to welcome students, staff and parents to the 2019 school year. I would especially like to welcome the many new families who have joined the Merbein P-10 College community and we look forward to working with you to ensure your child achieves success in 2019.

ENROLMENTS

Merbein P-10 College has commenced the year with over 770 students. This is the largest enrolment in the school's history. Numbers in both primary and secondary sections have grown significantly, with our total enrolment increasing by around 100 overall when compared to 2018.

STAFFING

As student enrolments have grown, so too has the number of staff. I would like to welcome several new members of staff to our school:

Jaymie-Lee Lyell (Yr 4-5)	Josh Callaghan (Maths/Science)
Megan Downes (Yr 2-3)	Anthony Cormick (Hums/English)
Jordan McPhee (Yr 5-6)	

This year we will have approximately sixty teachers and thirty education support staff (including part-time staff) working at Merbein P-10 College.

Although Merbein P-10 has become one of the larger schools in this district, we are committed to ensuring that we continue to provide the same inclusive community culture that has been such a positive aspect of our school.

FACILITIES

Our facilities received a boost last year with significant refurbishments in the original main wing and the construction of a new technology building. A large area of artificial turf was also installed under the big covered court area. During the Christmas/New Year break, a new locker shed was built to accommodate our 160 Year 7 students. New lockers eventually arrived yesterday afternoon and were allocated to students this morning.



PREPS

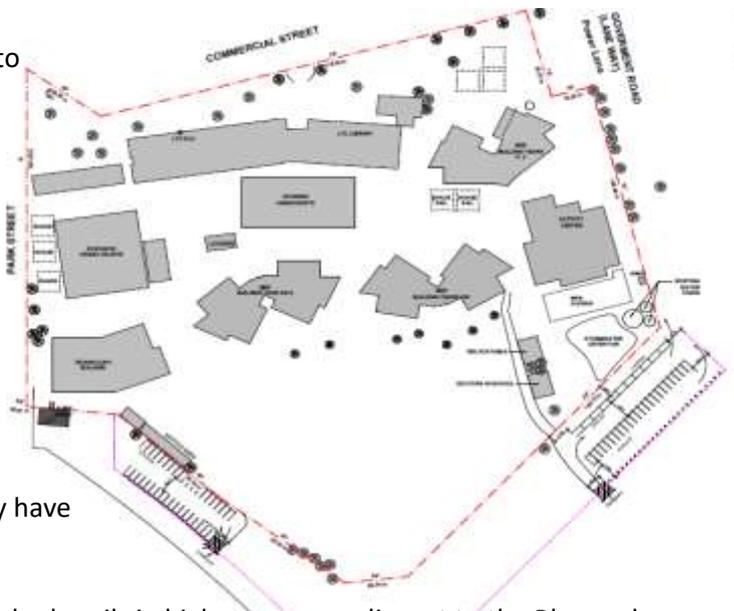
An excited group of Preps started school this morning. The children settled in very well, thanks to a comprehensive transition program conducted by the Infant Team last year. We wish the children well in their future education journey and look forward to working with parents and carers in this very important first year of schooling.



CAR PARK

Due to the increasing traffic, especially during drop-off and pick-up times, the School Council is planning to construct additional car parking space this year. This will occur on the former Channel Reserve land which was acquired by the school last year. Schematic designs have been prepared and approvals for access to cross over land belonging to Lower Murray Water and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning are currently being sought. Mildura Rural City Council has also been involved in the consultation and design process. The plan is to provide two car parking areas. One will mainly be for staff use and the other will be for parents (including a drop-off/pick-up facility).

As the School Council is funding the project, the works may have to be staged, depending on costs and budget constraints.



SHADE SAILS AND SEATS

Quotes are currently being obtained for the installation of shade sails in high-use areas adjacent to the Blue and Orange buildings. Additional outdoor seating is also being costed.

2019 PRIMARY CLASSES

The class structure and staffing for primary classes this year are as follows:

Prep	Mrs Tania Rivett	Yr 2-3	Mrs Wendy Finn/ Mrs Hayley Brewel	Yr 5-6A	Miss Carla Piscitelli
Yr P-1	Mrs Monica Brown	Yr 2-3	Mrs Sue Gardiner	Yr 6A	Miss Jordie McPhee
Yr 1	Mr Darin Lord	Yr 4-5A	Mrs Janelle McLean	Literacy/Maths support- Mrs Ingrid Romeo	
Yr 2-3	Miss Megan Downes	Yr 4-5B	Miss Jaymie Lee Lyell		

Specialist teachers		
Mrs Rebecca Holy—Physical Education	Mrs Jodie Atkinson—Visual Arts	
Mr Steven Pay—Music	Ms Janine Richardson—Digital Technologies	
P-7 Learning Centre Leaders		
Mrs Kerry Grimmer	Mrs Wendy Finn	Mrs Renee Carmes

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School Photo Days will be held on Wednesday, 20th and Thursday, 21st 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 have arrived and will be sent home with each student next week. 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. These envelopes will be kept safe at school and distributed to students on the photo day. Correct payment must be put into each envelope. Please DO NOT place another child's envelope inside a sibling's envelope. If you wish to pay by credit card, then you MUST order online. This information is detailed on the photo envelope. If you lose your envelope, don't use someone else's. Spare blank envelopes can be obtained from the photographers or at the school.

BUS APPLICATION FORMS

Bus Application Forms are available from the school's main office. For students to be eligible for the bus pass they must live more than 4.8km from the school and this must be their nearest state school. For more information, ask at the front office.

2019 YEAR 7 CSEF UNIFORM PACK

Students who have commenced Year 7 in 2019 and are recipients of the CSEF payment, automatically qualify to receive a Uniform Pack through State Schools' Relief.

An order form can be collected from the main office.

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

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 2019.

If your child was enrolled at this school last year and you were a successful applicant for the funding last year, you will not need to apply for the funding again this year.

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

STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is away from school, please notify the school before 10am in the morning. A text message will be automatically sent to your phone after this time if your child is not at school and the school has not been notified. The school can be notified of absences by phone or by sending an email to the following email address:

Collihole.heather.h@edumail.vic.gov.au

SCHOOL BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

BSB - 063 714

Bank Acc Number – 10060535

Account Name - Merbein P-10 College Official Account.'

UNIFORM SHOP

School uniforms, can be purchased from the school's main office between the hours of 8.45am and 4pm during the school week. If these hours are inconvenient for you, please ring the school to make an alternate arrangement.

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.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The Merbein & District Community Bank & Merbein Development Association are financially supporting the Breakfast Program. Foodbank Victoria also supports the breakfast program with donations of food. The following organisations provide volunteers to assist with the program; Merbein P10 College parents, the Board & Staff of the Merbein & District Community Bank, Merbein Development Association, Merbein Lions Club, and Merbein Uniting Church. 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 days learning.

If you have time to volunteer for this community service from 8-8.45am on school days, please contact the school, we would love to hear from you. Please note that volunteers will need a Working with Children's Check.

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY IN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - 2019

We are offering local businesses the opportunity to advertise in our weekly newsletter commencing in 2019. Our newsletter goes out to over 400 families as well as a number of community organisations. We have 10 business card size advertising spaces available on the back page and the cost is \$200.00 for the year. If you wish to take up this advertising opportunity, please email your expression of interest to merbein.p10@edumail.vic.gov.au.

CANTEEN PRICE LIST

A new canteen price list for primary and secondary sections is attached to this newsletter.

PRIMARY NEWS

LIBRARY NEWS

There are still a few overdue books. Any returns of overdue books from past years will always be very much appreciated.

BEFORE SCHOOL

Families please be aware that students who arrive at school before 8.40am can go to the Breakfast Club, held in the Canteen or sit on the seats at the back of the Green Building or stand with their parents near the door until 8.40am. Students are not to play out the front of the Green Building until 8.40am when the front playground is supervised and the doors of the Green Building are opened.

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.

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.

NAMING ARTICLES

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

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. (Please do not send roll ups, or chips).

WATER BOTTLES – PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD BRINGS A WATER BOTTLE EVERY DAY.

Every student needs to bring along a plastic sport bottle of water (not soft drink or cordial or fruit drink) to school every day to sit on their desks during class.

This is even more important during this hot weather. Studies have proven that the brain does not function well if dehydrated. It is best practice to drink plenty of water throughout the day.

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

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. Students are to return their diaries, books and bags every day after reading their book at home.

PREP REST DAYS

Reminder that during the month of February, the Prep students will have every Wednesday off to rest and for testing.

PRIMARY FAMILY PAYMENT SCHEDULE 2019

The Primary Family Payment Schedule for 2019 is attached to the end of this newsletter. It gives a detailed explanation of the costs included in this compulsory payment for the year. Payment can either be made at the school's main office or you can arrange for the payment to be made in instalments. Payment can also be made electronically, details are on the form.

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.**

MERBEIN COMMUNITY BANK SCHOOL STUDENT BANKING PROGRAM

If you wish your child to participate in this program, please send your child's bankbook 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.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM (OSHC)

Cheryll Hodge is our school's OSHC coordinator and can be contacted on 0428 258035 if you have any queries.

PREP NEWS - Mrs Rivett/Mrs Brown

The preps have had a fantastic day!



COMMUNITY NEWS

ELECTRIC LIGHT THEATRE 2019 PRESENTS

'IT'S SHOWTIME'

Held Friday 8th February at 7,30pm, Saturday 9th February at 2pm and 7.30pm and Sunday 10th February at 2pm.

Tickets available from the Mildura Arts Centre 50188330. Enquires 0419655500. Visit the website www.eltmildura.org

SUNRAYSIA ARTS AND LEARNING

Guitar classes for adults are held Wednesdays from 6-7pm at the Merbein studio, 198 Third Street Merbein starting on 30th January. Cost is \$180 for eight classes including a workbook. BYO guitar and capo.

Beginners very welcome. Enrol now on <http://www.sunraysiaartsandlearning.com.au/enrolments/registration/> or 0420939229 or enquiries@sunraysiaartsandlearning.com.au

African Drumming New Rhythms. This five week series runs on Saturdays from 10-11am starting 9th February. Cost is \$100 for five weeks, or \$85 with your own drum. Drums provided or bring your own.

All levels including beginners welcome. Book now on <http://www.sunraysiaartsandlearning.com.au/enrolments/registration/> or 0420939229 or enquiries@sunraysiaartsandlearning.com.au



SECONDARY NEWS

DOCTORS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Remember our doctor's room is open every Tuesday from 10am–3pm for secondary students. Student appointments can be made through staff at the school or by calling the Merbein Family Practice on 03 5025 2511 or students can simply drop into the rooms at recess or lunch on Tuesdays. This is a great service, not just when students are sick but for things like prescriptions, asthma and anaphylaxis plans, catch-up immunisations, mental health and any other issues facing secondary students. **Students will need to give their Medicare Card details to the GP clinic. An easy way to do this is for the student to take a photo of the card on their phone.** Parents do not need to attend appointments with students but are very welcome to come along if the students wish.

LOCKS ON LOCKERS

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.

PRIMARY FAMILY PAYMENT SCHEDULE 2019



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 \$200.00 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 Spellodrome	\$70.00
*Excursion Levy	Incursions, travel to and from sports, local excursions and use of school hire bus as required (includes entry fees and bus travel for the Swimming Program which is also subsidised by the school) *This is covered by the Camps, Sports and Excursion Funding (CSEF) if you are eligible to claim it.	\$80.00
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	\$50.00
Total		\$200.00

PAYMENT OF FEES—Options

1. Online - BPay (Quote BPAY Biller code and Family Reference Number from your Statement)
2. 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

3. Credit Card by Phone General Office on 5025 2501

4. 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.

CANTEEN PRICES

Primary Canteen Menu and Prices

Below are the prices for Primary Student lunch orders. Primary students need to complete lunch orders on paper bags supplied in the Green Building office in the mornings and include the payment. Please make sure you check the price list when ordering your child's lunch. Any change is put in your child's bag so please remind them to check their bag and collect their change before throwing out the bag.

Feel free to phone the school and speak with Kylie Liddicoat in the Canteen, if you have any questions.

Everyday Items										
Wrapped Up	½ Chicken & Salad Wrap					\$4.50				
	½ Ham & Salad Wrap					\$4.50				
	½ Sweet Chilli Wrap					\$4.50				
	½ Salt & Vinegar Wrap					\$4.50				
Sandwiches	Chicken Salad Sandwich (with small drink) choc milk			strawberry milk		water				\$6.00
	Ham Salad Sandwich (with small drink) choc milk			strawberry milk		water				\$6.00
Fresh Fruit pieces (in season)						\$1.00				
Drinks										
Water						\$1.50				
Flavoured Water – 350ml	ABC			Raspberry		Lemon				\$2.00
Milk – 300ml	Chocolate			Strawberry						\$2.00
Juice - 300ml	Orange			Apple						\$2.00
Occasional Items										
Vegemite Sandwich						\$2.00				
Cheese Sandwich	Fresh			Toasted						\$3.00
Pizza	Hawaiian			BBQ						\$2.50 each or 2 for \$4.50
Chicken Crackles						\$0.50c				
Chicken Munchies						4 for \$1.00				
Toasted Wrap	BBQ			Hawaiian						\$4.50
Potato Chips –	Plain			Honey Soy		Salt & Vinegar				\$4.00
Monday Only					Friday Only					
Hot Dog		\$4.00		Pie		\$3.50 sauce 20c				
Hot Dog & Cheese		\$4.50		Party Pie		\$1.00 sauce 20c				
Sauce		\$0.20		Small Sausage Roll		\$3.00 sauce 20c				
				Large Sausage Roll		\$3.50 sauce 20c				

ICY POLES ARE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT THE CANTEEN DURING LUNCH TIME

Secondary Canteen Menu and Prices

Secondary students can order their lunch and pay for it at lunch time.

Crackles	50c	Munchies	4 for \$1.00		
Pizza	1 for \$2.50 2 for \$4.50	Caesar Salad (Contains egg)	\$7.50		
Chicken Salad Bowl (egg extra 50c)	\$7.50	Fruit	\$1.00		
Chips	\$1.00	Slices	\$2.50		
Cookies	\$2.00	Burgers	\$5.50		
Sandwich/Toasted	\$4.50	Sandwich/Toasted with small drink	\$6.00		
Sandwich/Toasted with Large Drink	\$7.50	Wraps Full	\$6.50		
Wraps Half	\$4.50	Focaccia	\$7.00		
Specials					
Mondays		Thursdays		Fridays	
Hotdog	\$4.00	Burger & Small Drink	\$6.50	Pie	\$3.50
H/Dog with Cheese	\$4.00	Burger & Large Drink	\$8.00	Pastie	\$3.50
Sauce	20c			Small Salad Roll	\$3.00
				Large Salad Roll	\$3.50
				Party Pie	\$1.00
				Sauce	20c
Drinks					
Oak Milk	Small Large	\$2.00 \$3.50	Icebreak		\$3.50
Lencia Orange Juice	Small Large Orange Mango	\$2.00 \$2.50 \$2.50	Nippys	ABC Apple	\$3.00 \$2.00
Focus Water		\$2.00	Milky Max		\$2.00
Water		\$1.50			



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Bistro open every day for lunch 12pm-2pm and Monday to Saturday for dinner 6pm-8pm with great meal specials every day!!

Wednesday Pot n Parma just \$15 as well as Kids Eat Free (Dinner only)

Free dessert with every kids meal every day!!

Don't forget Members' Draws and Meat Raffles and FREE Kids Raffle every Thursday and Friday from 6pm. Joker Poker every Friday!!!

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