

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr Graeme Cupper

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### MARCH

**22nd Friday**

Harmony Day – Wear uniform with something orange

**25th-29th**

Pri Stomp – Dance

**27th Wednesday**

School Dentist Teeth forms to be returned

**29th Friday**

-Pri Stomp Performance

-Dentist forms will be sent away

#### APRIL

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday**

-Yr 4-6 Ichoose Day

-Pri Author Visit

**3rd Wednesday**

-Sec Parent/Teacher Interviews 4-7pm

-Pri Meet & Greet 4-7pm

**5th Friday**

-Last day of Term 1

-Whole School Assembly at 10am

-Easter Egg Competition at Recess

-Earlier dismissal of 2.30pm

-OSHC finishes at 5pm

**23rd Tuesday**

First day of Term 2

#### MAY

**1st Wednesday**

'Teeth on Wheels' Visit

**2nd Thursday**

'Teeth on Wheels' Visit

#### JULY

**31st July – 2nd August**

Yr 3-4 Ballarat Camp

#### AUGUST

**2nd Friday**

Yr 3-4 Ballarat Camp Returns

#### NOVEMBER

**11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>**

Year 5-6 Lake Cullulleraine Camp

**18th, 19th & 20th**

Whole School Variety Nights

### 'OPEN NIGHT' REPORT

Last night Merbein P-10 College hosted an 'Open Night' for interested families of Year 6 students currently considering schooling options for 2020. This event, which is normally held in May, has been brought forward to Term 1 as part of a state-wide process to align the Year 6-7 Transition timelines.

It was pleasing to have so many families from various local primary schools taking the time to visit and learn more about the great learning environment we provide for our students at Merbein P-10 College.

The 'Open Night' was held from 5-7pm, with a brief presentation in the Gym at 6pm.

I would like to thank staff for their work in planning for last night's event and thank students who assisted as guides, presenters and musical performers.



### PRINCIPAL LEAVE

I recently advised the region and staff that I will be taking Personal Leave next term. An Expression of Interest process to select an Acting Principal has just been finalised and I am pleased to announce that Mr Chris Grimmer, who is the current Principal at Cardross Primary School has been appointed to take on this role.

Chris will be well supported by a highly capable leadership group, a great administration team and a skilled and proactive staff.

I am confident that Chris will work well with all members of our school community and hopefully he will be able to visit in the next couple of weeks to familiarise himself with Merbein P-10 College and to meet staff and students.

## RECENT CAMPS REPORT

Over the past two weeks, our college has conducted two Year Level camps. The Year 8s attended a Surf Camp and the Year 7s participated in a camp in the Grampians.

It was pleasing that a large number of students took part in these great experiences. I would like to thank the teachers, support staff and volunteers for their comprehensive planning and willingness to take on the significant responsibility associated with such major activities.

## SHADE SAILS REPORT

Last night School Council approved the construction of two large shade sail structures adjacent to the covered court area and the Blue Building. The aim will be to have the shade sails finished in time for the next summer period. We are also purchasing additional outdoor seating to accommodate the needs of our growing student numbers.

# GENERAL NEWS

## HARMONY DAY – R. Morgan

This is Diversity Week. Tomorrow, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March our school will be celebrating the diversity in Australia and at Merbein P-10 College. Diversity Week is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. The values of Harmony are aligned to the school's values of Respect, Responsibility and Quality. Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week. Traditionally orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect. **Students are encouraged to wear something orange to school tomorrow, eg socks, t-shirt, ribbons, shorts, hat etc. Please note this is NOT a casual dress day!**

Facts and Figures

- nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was.
- we identify with over 300 ancestries.
- since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia.
- 85 per cent of Australians agree multiculturalism has been good for Australia.
- apart from English, the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek, Tagalog/Filipino, Hindi, Spanish and Punjabi.
- more than 70 Indigenous languages are spoken in Australia.

These facts are taken from ABS 2016 Census Data. Check out the Australian Bureau of Statistics website

## WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY – R. Morgan

The next Whole School Assembly will be Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 10am.

## SCHOOL PHOTOS - R. Morgan

School Photos have arrived and will be sent home tomorrow.

## 'TEETH ON WHEELS' VISIT – W. Finn

'Teeth on Wheels' will be visiting our school on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Please check that your child's forms have been completed and returned to school.

**Permission notes need to be returned no later than Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March.** All forms will be sent off on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

[www.teethonwheels.com.au](http://www.teethonwheels.com.au)

## 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](mailto:Collihole.heather.h@edumail.vic.gov.au)

## MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE'S BACH COMPETITION

The Melbourne Recital Centre's Bach Competition is dedicated to young musicians passionate about J.S. Bach.

The competition repertoire needs to be any work of J.S. Bach not exceeding ten minutes in total duration. Soloists and ensembles of up to five members who are 17 years of age and under (at 1 January 2019) are welcome to apply. Applications close on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May and the finals will be held at the Melbourne Recital Centre on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

Cash prizes of up to \$2,000 are available to be won. For further entry information and competing guidelines, students can visit - [melbournerecital.com.au/bach2019/](http://melbournerecital.com.au/bach2019/)

## 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.



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## SCHOOL BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

BSB - 063 714

Bank Acc Number – 10060535

Account Name - Merbein P-10 College Official Account.

## BUS PASSES - REPLACEMENTS

Buslink have informed the school that if a student requires a replacement bus pass, they will be required to pay \$10.00 either to the school or to the Buslink office. The new pass will not be printed out and issued to the student until the payment has been received. Please remind students to take care of their bus passes to avoid this additional cost.

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER - EMAILED

The school distributes a weekly school newsletter to families via email. **If you have not received a newsletter by email, please notify the school** to either of the following email addresses: Giddings.beth.l@edumail.vic.gov.au or [merbein.p10@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:merbein.p10@edumail.vic.gov.au), with the subject Newsletter Email, so this can be rectified. Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 who would like to take home a printed copy of the newsletter each week, can collect one from the main office every Thursday at 3.15pm.

## 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.

# PRIMARY NEWS

## HARMONY DAY – W. Finn

**All students are encouraged to wear their uniform with something Orange tomorrow, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.** Primary students will be participating in activities at school fostering respect of others and of being inclusive.

## LATE TO SCHOOL - W. Finn

Primary students who are late to school need to be signed-in by their parent/guardian at the Green Office. Michelle is our Green Office staff. Teachers mark the rolls at 9am. Those students who have been signed-in late are added as present on our Compass Program by Michelle. **If a late student has not been signed-in by the parent, our Compass Program will send a text to the family after 10am in the morning, so please sign-in your child if they are late to school.**

## YEAR 3-4 BALLARAT CAMP – 'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST' FORM – W. Finn

The Year 3-4 Ballarat Camp will be held from 31<sup>st</sup> July – 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The cost will be approximately \$300.00 per student, depending on the number of campers. A Camp 'Expression of Interest' form was sent home with all Year 3-4 students. **Please check that your child's form is returned to school as soon as possible so the co-ordinators can budget for the numbers attending.**



## STOMP DANCE – GRADES P-6 – W. Finn

Stomp Dance is AWESOME and it is coming to Merbein P-10 for a 5 Day Program from 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March. The Stomp Dance Group will be teaching dances to all our Year P-6 students throughout the week. This program will cover a huge section (Music, Dance, Performance and Drama) of the Primary ARTS Curriculum. All students are expected to participate. The cost for this special program is covered by the 2019 Excursion Levy. If you have not paid the levy, the cost is \$10 per child. **A permission note was sent home. Please check that your child's note has been returned.**



## PRIMARY STOMP DANCE PERFORMANCE – W.

Finn

A Primary Stomp Dance Performance by our students will be held in the college gym on Friday evening, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 6.00 – 7.00pm. All primary section families are invited to attend.

### YEAR P-6 AUTHOR VISIT – K. Grimmer

Martin Chatterton will visit the school on Tuesday, 2nd April at 9am. He will present to all our primary students. **Please check that your child's permission note has been returned.**

### 'WALK WENTWORTH SING' VISIT REPORT – W. Finn

'Walk Wentworth Sing' is a part of the Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival Event.

James, from the 'Walk Wentworth Sing' visited our college to teach the Year 2-3 students and any interested Year 4-6 students, the songs that will be sung in the 'Walk Wentworth Sing Choir' (which is a joint choir of adults and students). This choir will perform on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May at Wentworth. Our school music teacher Stephen Pay will continue to work with the students leading up to that day. We look forward to performing, it has always been a very special event.

### EASTER BASKET COMPETITION – W. Finn

Families are asked to start sending in donations of Easter Eggs for the Annual Easter Basket Competition. In the last week of term, each class will create and design the best basket they can with their class donations. These Easter Baskets will be judged and then raffled off at recess on the last day of term, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Students will receive a raffle ticket with every Easter Egg/Donation they bring to school. More raffle tickets can be purchased for \$1 per ticket, outside the Orange and Green Buildings before school and at recess in the last week of school. There will be a Secondary and a Primary class winner. The winning class gets to keep their basket of eggs.



### AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM (OSHC)

**OSHC finishes at 5pm on the last day of term, Friday 5th April.**

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

### LIBRARY NEWS

There are still a few overdue books. Any returns of overdue books from past years will always be very much appreciated. **Please ensure your child returns their books each week and brings a waterproof Library Bag for their Library books on the following days.**

Year 4-6 students have Library on Mondays

Year P-3 students have library on Thursdays

Year 2-3A students have library on Mondays

Year 2-3B students have library on Tuesdays

Year 2-3C students have library on Thursdays

### 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.

## SECONDARY NEWS

### ENGLISH NEWS – K. James

#### 'Write On' Competition

All narratives for our annual 'Write On' writing competition have now been submitted by students. Teachers are busy moderating and marking together to ensure we provide accurate feedback. Our English teachers have recently developed a new marking guide and we therefore need to ensure we are assessing consistently between students. This means that students will need to wait a little longer than usual to receive their mark and their feedback. However, teachers have read the drafts and work in progress during their students' classes, and have a good understanding of how each student is progressing. Teachers have also given some feedback to assist students to submit their most polished piece of work. Ask your child what feedback they received from their teacher and their peers to assist them to make changes to their final draft. We look forward to announcing the winners of the narrative section of 'Write On' in Term 2. Next term students will commence writing their persuasive piece for the competition.

#### Textbook

This is a reminder that all students need to have their own copy of the English textbook 'Essential English Skills' for our 'SPaG' program (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar). If your child doesn't have a copy of their own, please speak to their English teacher to discuss how we can assist. The text can be ordered and purchased from Collins Bookstore located in the mall.

## **Reading**

All students have commenced fortnightly library sessions. Students have their own novel to read and we encourage families to remind their child to read at home at least 2-3 times a week. Reading at home helps to develop and strengthen vocabulary and knowledge of spelling, punctuation and grammar as well as providing opportunity to learn about the world around us. In the wise words of Dr. Seuss, 'the more that you read, the more things you will know!'

## **Units of Work**

Now that students have completed their 'Write On' narratives, we encourage you to chat with your child and find out what they are currently studying in English. Some classes are viewing and responding to films and documentaries, others are reading a class novel. Please feel free to contact your child's English teacher if you have any questions as to what your child is doing in class. We look forward to meeting you at Parent/Teacher interviews in the coming weeks.

## **MILDURA SENIOR COLLEGE (MSC) TRANSITION PARTNERSHIP - 'BACK TO MERBZ' MORNING – C. Blackie**

This is an event when Mildura Senior College students, who are former Merbein students volunteer to visit our school and speak with our current Year 10 students about their transition to the Mildura Senior College. This year, a large number of former students have volunteered and are keen to participate. As a result, we have rescheduled this event to Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April to allow us to set up, better prepare and make the most of the students who are willing to give up their time to visit.

## **YEAR 7 CAMP REPORT – R Carnes**

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 108 students and 12 staff left to attend the Year 7 camp at Halls Gap. Over the course of the camp, students had the opportunity to participate in activities including; abseiling, rock climbing, mountain bike riding, the pinnacle walk, lookout tours, high ropes course and visiting the Zoo. Students had a fantastic time climbing, walking and even holding a python. Thanks to all staff who attended the camp.



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## 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.



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### AUSTSWIM TEACHER COURSE

AUSTSWIM teachers are in high demand. Develop essential knowledge, skill and understanding to teach vital swimming and water safety education. Held at the Mildura Waves, Alfred Deakin Centre – Benetook Room on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March from 8.30-5.15pm. Cost is \$395. For more information contact AUSTSWIM Victoria Business Centre on phone 1300885666 or email [vic@austswim.com.au](mailto:vic@austswim.com.au).



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!!!

## YOUTH SERVICES SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

### AGES 12-16

Bookings for the School Holiday Program in April are now open and close 5<sup>th</sup> April. Full payment and enrolment must be submitted before the closing date. Maximum of three activities per week per participant.

8 <sup>th</sup>	Street Art – No Cost
9 <sup>th</sup>	The Waves – No Cost
10 <sup>th</sup>	Aqua coaster & Putt Putt Cost \$15
11 <sup>th</sup>	Movies and Pizza Cost \$15
12 <sup>th</sup>	Games Day - \$15
15 <sup>th</sup>	Laser force - \$15
16 <sup>th</sup>	Fishing Day – No Cost
17 <sup>th</sup>	Inflatable World - \$15
18 <sup>th</sup>	Art Day - Free

For more information, see the School Holiday Fact Sheet

<http://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Services/Youth/School-Holiday-Activities> or phone the Mildura Rural City Council Youth Services 50188280.

### MERBEIN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY BANK – VOLUNTEER DIRECTOR INFORMATION SESSION

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer Director and contribute to your community, please attend an information session on 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7.15pm at the Club Merbein, Commercial Street. RSVP by 25<sup>th</sup> March. To RSVP or for further information email [secretary@merbeincb.com.au](mailto:secretary@merbeincb.com.au) or or phone 50251377.

### FREE BOWLS PROGRAM FOR UNDER 18S

Bowls that is fast and fun for Under 18s at the Mildura Bowls Club on Wednesdays' at 4.30pm. Starting on 17<sup>th</sup> April. For boys and girls. No experience needed food, drinks and music. Free to play. Coaching and equipment provided. Contact Chris Mitchell on phone 0409248600. Registration day is 3<sup>rd</sup> April at the Mildura Bowls Club, Cureton Ave from 4-6pm.