SUCCESSFUL CHINA EXCHANGE VISIT REPORT

Our Chinese guests from Dali No1 Middle School flew home on Tuesday morning after a most successful visit to Merbein P-10 College. The 2015 Program is the sixth consecutive exchange and the high level of friendship and respect between the staff and students from both countries is very obvious.

There are many people involved in making this such a successful exchange. I would like to sincerely thank:

* The host families (parents and students) for the care and generosity they provided to the Chinese students.
* Liz Rankin and Chris Blackie for their meticulous planning and organisation of the program.
* Staff from previous exchanges who shared their knowledge and experience. The many staff who either assisted with planning or kept the school running smoothly throughout the program.
* Our partner schools, Irymple and Red Cliffs Secondary Colleges.

Our students and staff will represent Merbein P-10 when they depart to visit Dali in China on 10th September, returning on 25th September.
**NAIDOC DAY REPORT**

Our 2015 NAIDOC Day was held last Wednesday to celebrate indigenous history and culture. Once again this year NAIDOC Day was timed to coincide with the arrival of our Chinese visitors. The Merbein and Chinese students took part in a series of activities that educated participants about a range of aspects of Koorie culture. I would like to thank the members of our local indigenous community who assisted with the running of the activities, especially David Byrnes for his contribution to the planning and the running of the day.

**VANILLA SLICE**

The 2015 Merbein Great Australian Vanilla Triumph is being held this Saturday, 15th August. Merbein P10 College students assisted in the setting up of one of the car park areas this morning. On Saturday, students will be performing on stage (dance and rock bands), singing the Jingle and competing in the Bake-off Event. Primary and Secondary students will be performing on the main stage from around 11.30am to approximately 12.40pm.

**PUPIL-FREE DAY**

Parents please note that a Pupil-free Day will be held Friday, 28th August. Students will not be required to attend school on that day. The day will allow staff to focus on the School Self-Evaluation which is a critical part of the Strategic Review that Merbein P-10 College is undergoing in Terms 3 and 4. Curriculum planning and development will also be a focus.
**QUESTACON VISIT! - Tim Dreyer**
All primary students, Year 7 and 8 students will be participating in the visiting Questacon Science Circus, here at the school next Wednesday. Stay tuned for exciting science stories!

**TOY FUNDRAISER**
Parent Direct and Chalk Toy Catalogues have a great variety of educational toys and games in them and would make ideal presents for Christmas. Help raise funds for our school by ordering some of these great buys through Merbein P10 College, as 20 cents from every dollar is donated back to us to purchase classroom resources for our primary students. Orders and money need to be in by Friday, 11th September. You can also place orders on line if you wish. Information is on the inside cover of the catalogues. Ask at the Green Office if you would like another catalogue.

**CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSION FUNDING**
Parents/Careers are still able to apply for the Camps, Sports and Excursion Funding (CSEF) if they hold a valid Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC). Claims must be submitted by Monday, 14th September.

The CSEF will be paid directly to the school ($125 for primary students and $225 for secondary students) and will be allocated to any outstanding camps, sports or excursions fees owing. Any remaining CSEF money will be carried forward towards next year’s camps, sports and excursion expenses.

**Application forms will be sent home tomorrow to those families that have received the EMA in the past but have not yet applied for the CSEF.**
Application forms are also available from the main office or the office in the P-3 building.

**IMPORTANT DATES TERM 3**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15th Aug, Sat</td>
<td>Vanilla Slice Event (students involved)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th Aug, Mon</td>
<td>Yr 9 Senior College Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th Aug, Tues</td>
<td>Yr 10 VCE Selections</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th Aug, Wed</td>
<td>Pri Questacon/Yr 10 Snow Trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th Aug, Mon</td>
<td>Yr 10 Work Experience Begins</td>
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<td>26th Aug, Wed</td>
<td>The Beat</td>
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<tr>
<td>27th Aug, Thurs</td>
<td>The Beat/Pri Book Week/Pri Sleepover</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th Aug, Fri</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Sept, Wed</td>
<td>Jump Rope for Heart</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Sept, Thurs</td>
<td>Sec Inter College Athletics/Pri Summer Sports Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Sept, Fri</td>
<td>Sec Work Experience Finishes</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th Sept, Tues</td>
<td>Sec Interschool Hockey</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th Sept, Thurs</td>
<td>China Trip Departs</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th Sept, Fri</td>
<td>End of Term – Early Dismissal</td>
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**SCHOOL WEBSITE**
Reminder that the newsletter is uploaded to the school’s website each week - merbeinp10.vic.edu.au.

**EMAIL ADDRESSES**
The school prefers to send the weekly newsletter and other important information home 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.

*Please note that those few students in Years 8/9/10 who still require a hardcopy of the newsletter, will need to collect their newsletter from the main office at the finish of their last class each Thursday.*

**MERBEIN P-10 FACEBOOK PAGE**
Check the Facebook Page for updates about the school and upcoming events. www.facebook.com/merbeinp10collegeparentsclub

**SCHOOL BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS**
BSB - 063 714
Bank Acc Number – 10060535
Account Name - Merbein P-10 College Official

**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.

**MERBEIN P-10 COLLEGE BREAKFAST PROGRAM**
The Breakfast program is being financially supported by the Merbein & District Community Bank & Merbein Development Association. 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. The breakfast program is held in the 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.

**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

**PRIMARY NEWS**

**SCIENCE WEEK - QUESTACON**
Next week is Science Week. The Questacon Science Show will be visiting our school on Wednesday 19th. Notes were sent home last week. Students who have paid their 2015 Primary Levy will automatically attend. If a student’s levy has not been paid, they need to send a payment of $5.00, to attend the Science Show.
HEAD LICE - HEAD CHECKS
The school will be conducting ‘Head Checks’ next week. All our primary children will have a Pediculosis (Headlice) examination by trained staff to look for the presence of Headlice and Headlice eggs.

It would be beneficial to check your child’s hair before next week. Headlice do not discriminate on whose hair they will lay their eggs. If it is detected that your child has an infestation, a letter will be sent home with instructions for treatment. If ‘live’ Head Lice are found, parents will receive a phone call from the school to come and collect their child.

Reminder also to keep hair tied firmly back at school to help prevent the spread of headlice.

VANILLA SLICE DANCE PERFORMANCE UPDATE
On Saturday, 15th August, students performing the dances at the Merbein Vanilla Slice Event are asked to meet Mrs Grimmer at the Post Office side of the Main Stage at 11.30am dressed in their school uniform. Their performance is due to begin at 11.40am. Thank you in advance to those parents who will be bringing their child to the event and supporting our college and the local community. The students will be ready to be collected straight after the performance at that same meeting place.

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART - Rebekah McClure and Rebecca Holy
Jump Rope for Heart will be happening again this year on Wednesday, 2nd September. Sponsorship forms have been handed out to all primary students to raise money for the worthy cause of Cardiovascular Disease Research. Don’t forget to use the Jump Rope for Heart Online Donation Page. Please keep collecting donations from family and friends and KEEP JUMPING!
If you have any questions please come in and talk to Rebecca Holy or Rebekah McClure the Jump Off coordinators.
As an extra incentive, any student who raises $200 or more online, will automatically go into the draw to win tickets to a Melbourne City FC Match, photos with a Melbourne City player, a chance to sit near the players bench and a bunch of other goodies. Full details are available online at http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/sites/jumpropeforheart/Kids/Pages/EventsandCompetitions.aspx

GREEN BUILDING SLEEPOVER
Students are becoming very excited about the upcoming Sleepover/Prep Tea. A Permission/Information Note has been sent home, please check that it has been returned. Ask at the Green Building Office if you have not received a notice.
PRIMARY GIRLS’ HOCKEY REPORT
Last Tuesday, 4th August, nine girls travelled to Swan Hill to play in the Regional Hockey Finals. Sarah, Darcy, Katelyn, Makayla, Ella, Jade, Emily, Chenaye and our only Grade 4 team member, Brooklyn played in the Interschool Competition and then in the Lightning Premierships before qualifying for the Regional Finals. They also had help from Year 10 student Jess Barko, who was their helper/coach/umpire.
Firstly the team played at Kenny Park against Our Lady’s and The Lake where they were undefeated. They then went onto the Lightning Premierships where again they were undefeated and won a plaque. Finally the team went to Swan Hill to play in the Regional Finals where they played Boort and Kerang. Sadly they lost the first game against Boort 5-0. They then played against Kerang and won 2-1. It was a happy Girls Team that finished the Swan Hill Regional Hockey Finals in Second Place, receiving a red banner for their efforts. Well done girls!

ART SMOCKS
It is a requirement that your child/children wear an art smock or an old shirt for Art Classes as they are experimenting with paints, glue etc. this term. Art Smocks are worn to protect their school uniforms. If your child does not have an Art Smock at school, could you please ensure they have one next week. Grade P-2 have Art on Monday and Grade 3-6 have Art on Tuesday. Old shirts/tops from home would be perfect to use as Art Smocks or you could visit the local Op Shop where you can purchase shirts and tops for $5. Unfortunately, NO ART SMOCK will mean NO ART. Any questions concerning this, please contact Mrs Atkinson.

LAST WEEK’S GREEN BUILDING WEEKLY AWARD WINNERS
Congratulations to the following Grade P-3 Award Winners. Shakiera Faux, Zhoe Willison, Jayden Kirkpatrick, Cara Graham, Shauna Lawson, Adrian Allan, Sharla Arnold, Oliver Hutchings, Alana Young, Megan Young, Seth Arnold, Chloe Moore and Jayson Ruttley-Higgins.

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 your child’s bank book back to the school before the end of the school day.
BOOK WEEK
The theme this year is ‘Books Light Up Our World’. On Thursday, 27th August, students can come to school dressed in the Book Week Theme, or as a character from their favourite book. There will be a parade at 9am, parents are welcome to stay until after the parade.

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.

MISSING BOOKS
Please check at home for school books and return them as soon as possible.

SECONDARY NEWS

SENIOR COLLEGE SUBJECT SELECTIONS FOR YEAR 10
All students have received a 2016 Handbook from the Senior College. They should be using this and discussing with their parents their course options for next year. Subject Selections will occur at school on Tuesday 18th August. All Year 10 students should attend on this day with the completed blue course selection sheet found at the back of the Senior College Handbook.

The Senior College has posted enrolment packs home to all Year 10 students. If you have not received one please contact Mr Dreyer.

Please visit the Mildura Senior College YouTube channel if you require more course information.

YEAR 10 SNOW TRIP
The Snow Trip departs on 18th August. The final cost of the camp is $565 and should have been paid in full. A final information letter was handed out last Tuesday. Please contact Mr Dreyer if you have not received this letter.

YEAR 10 GRADUATION BALL
The Year 10 Graduation Ball is to be held on 4th December at Club Da Vinci. Students are reminded that in order to be invited they need to successfully complete 12 of their 16 subjects, have an attendance greater than 85%, consistently wear school uniform and behave in accordance with the School Behaviour Policy. The full Graduation Policy can be found on the school website.

YEAR 9 SENIOR COLLEGE VISIT
All Year 9 students will attend an Information Session at the Mildura Senior College on Monday, 17th August. Permission notes were handed out last week. Please return these notes to the front office as soon as possible.

WORK EXPERIENCE
Our work experience block is from Monday, 24th August to Friday, 4th September. Students should be finalising their placements now.

YEAR 9 STUDENT VOLUNTEERS - Rob Morgan Learning Centre Leader
This term many of the school’s wonderful Year 9 students volunteered to help Merbein P-10 and Mildura West Primary School with the running of their Athletic Carnivals. The Merbein P-10 students did a variety of important jobs on each day. Jobs varied from running events, putting scores onto students’ cards, measuring, timing and assisting with the packing up of equipment.

All our Year 9 students were fantastic ambassadors for the school and should be very proud with how they represented themselves and our school.

The student helpers were Ashlee Battin, Chase Carter, Lachlan Cavallaro, Shae Congress, Tiarne Cordwell, Lochie Crouch, Jayden Curtis, Logan Dunne, Vhilla Evans, Jarni Hay, Britney Jackson, Holly Kit, Nikita Lindsay, Ashlyn Livens, Tara Martin, Aisea Miki, Enya Nemtsas, Alex Pallot, Chelsea Prothero, Oscar Riley, Jeremy Rodi, Bree Sharp, Jasmyn Sharp, Jack Smith, Will Smith, Kyle Stevens, Chloe Storer, Ashleigh Wakefield, Tania Wilkinson and Gemma Young.

Mildura West Primary School have already made a request for the same students to help out next year as they were most grateful and impressed with the maturity, cooperation, respect and leadership all the Year 9’s displayed.

Year 9 were brilliant and should be extremely proud!
COMMUNITY NEWS

MERBEIN FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB – NET SET GO
A Net Set Go Program for 5-9 year olds began last Tuesday, 11th August 2015. Held at Kenny Park Merbein from 2-4pm.
Contact Brock Munn 0407096108, Janene Pitt 0413415608 or Contessa O’Connor 0439031240 for more information. Email cobrabasketballclub@gmail.com to express interest or visit the website www.mildurabasketball.com.au to register online. Information also available on Facebook at www.facebook.com/officialmerbeincobras.
Parent coaching and committee assistance would be appreciated, please phone the above contacts if interested.

MERBEIN COMMUNITY BANK MULTICURRENCY CASH PASSPORT
The Merbein Community Bank would like to make available information about their Multicurrency Cash Passport, for anyone planning an overseas trip and students attending the trip to China. They also offer foreign cash and travel insurance if needed.
For more information contact Priscilla Reimann at Merbein Community Bank® Branch of Bendigo Bank on phone 03 5025 1377 or email priscilla.reimann@bendigoadelaide.com.au

MERBEIN PRESCHOOL KINDERGARTEN
Have you enrolled your child in Kindergarten yet? Merbein Preschool Kindergarten is currently accepting enrolments for 2016. Offering both 3 and 4 year old Kindergarten Programs in a fun and welcoming environment. Please contact the Kindergarten on 50252491 or call in to collect a Pre Enrolment Form.

ON THE BALL HOLIDAY PROGRAM – EARLY NOTICE
The ‘On The Ball’ Holiday Program will run again during the September School Holidays. The program, run by Whitelion/Stride is free and open to young people aged 7-17 years (boys and girls). A consent note is needed, contact Lyn for more information P: 03 8354 0884 | M: 0415 770 319 Lyn.Lenehan@whitelion.asn.au. Visit the website on www.whitelion.org.au

SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS
The focus over the next few weeks is LISTENING for UNDERSTANDING.
Students will be explicitly taught how to Listen for Understanding which requires eye contact, non-verbal acknowledgements, clarifying questions or acknowledgement to the speaker from the listener and full attention given so that distractions are ignored.
Our school has been working with a School Wide Positive Behaviour approach for four years. Over this time, our team of teachers have been working to implement a set of values across the school.
- Positive reinforcement is the best way to ensure that good behaviours and practices are learnt.
- This year to date, there have been over 1,000 positive letters sent home to parents in this school.
- Students are acknowledged with Virtual VIVO Rewards.
- This year to date, there have been 30,400 positive acknowledgements awarded to students. These awards and rewards have acknowledged quality work, respectful behaviours and displaying responsibility for themselves and towards others.

YEAR 10 A BUSY TIME – Greg Rhodes
Over the next six weeks there are many extra-curricular activities for Year 10 students that will disrupt their learning classes.
- The Year 10 Snow Trip will depart next week. Forty students will be participating in an experience of a lifetime on the Victorian Alps.
- From August 24th, ALL Year 10 students will be on a two week Work Experience Program. These extra-curricular activities add to the breadth of our students’ educational experience but our students will still need to ensure they complete their set class work to ensure satisfactory results at the end of the year.
At the end of Year 10 we have a Graduation Ceremony which celebrates the achievements of our successful Year 10 students. To be able to attend, students must have a minimum attendance of 80% and have satisfactorily completed at least 12 of 16 subjects.

SUCCESSFUL CHINESE VISIT 2015
I would like to extend a huge thanks to the families who hosted our Chinese Exchange Students this year. It was great to see the genuine affection between our Chinese visitors and their Australian families at the airport on Tuesday. The next part of the exchange will see our students and teachers visiting Dali, China in the last week of this term and the first week of the school holidays. A special thanks also to Ms Rankin and Mr Blackie for their work in making this exchange such a success again this year.
ELECTRIC LIGHT THEATRE AUDITION DATES
Dates: 5th/6th/12th & 13th September. Time: 1-4pm. Venue: The Lake Primary School. For ages 10-26 years of age. Register now 0432107115 or 0439347986 or visit the ELT Facebook Page.

QUESTACON SCIENCE CIRCUS – MILDURA
Hands-on exhibits, an opportunity for parents and children to discover and explore science together. There will be spectacular science shows presented regularly during opening hours. You may see giant smoke rings, bricks being smashed on someone’s stomach or a Science Circus presenter holding fire in their hands.
To be held at the St Joseph’s College Stadium, Mildura on 22nd August, 2015. Come anytime between 10am-3pm. Admission $18-family, $6-adult, student/concession-$5, children under 5 FREE. Enquires 0439499700 or visit www.questacon.edu.au

WEP STUDENT EXCHANGE
Allows teenagers to exchange their school, culture, family and possibly language for a selected time period in another country. It is an opportunity to study at an overseas school with the support of a volunteer host family. WEP is also looking for volunteer host families for exchange students arriving in February. If you are interested visit the web site www.wep.org.au or phone 1300884733 or email info@wep.org.au