

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr Graeme Cunner

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL

29th Friday

Biggest Morning Tea

MAY

3rd Tuesday

-Secondary Open Night 5-7pm

-Open Day for Kinder Kids 9-11am 5-6pm

-Immunisations

5th Thursday

-Mother's Day Stall

-Gr P-6 Indonesia Dance Workshop

6th Friday

Merbein P-10 Cross Country

10th, 11th 12th

NAPLAN

16th-20th

Year 9 Camp

17th Tuesday

Primary District Cross County

23rd Monday

Pupil Free Day

25th Wednesday

-Gr P-4 National Simultaneous Story

Telling

-Sec Interschool Cross Country

26th Thursday

Primary Disabilities Awareness Talk

27th Friday

Primary Disabilities Awareness Talk

JUNE

10th Friday

Primary Grandparents Day

13th Monday

Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

17th Friday

Prim Mildura Eisteddfod Dances 9.30am

24th Friday

Last day of Term 2 - early dismissal time of 2.30pm

JULY

22nd Friday

Primary PJ Day

AUGUST

20th - 26th

Book Week - Theme 'Australia Story Country'

SEPTEMBER

6th Tuesday

Immunisations

12th Monday

Visiting Performance - Pass the Poetry

FUNDING NEWS

I am pleased to confirm that Merbein P-10 College was allocated \$2.25 million in yesterday's Victorian State Government Budget. It is to be used to demolish and replace the existing Technology/Manual Arts Wing with new facilities that will include Wood, Metals, Systems and Home Eco classrooms.

This funding is in addition to the \$1.15 million that is currently earmarked to refurbish the gym and open up the spaces at the ends of the main wing (Library/FLO). We now have \$3.40million allocated for the next phase of upgrading the school's facilities.

The feedback from our School Review indicated that Merbein P-10 can be proud of what has been achieved over the past few years (Although we know there is more to be done). However it has been very frustrating and disappointing for the school community that the promised regeneration of all facilities was halted for several years. Hopefully this announcement represents an important first step towards completing the original vision. I was encouraged to be advised by the Minister's Office that the State Government will remain "Open to ongoing conversations" about the remaining works. These promised works include Administration, Library, Science, Canteen and Gymnasium.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the School Councillors and in particular Mr Andrew Nemtsas, School Council President who at no stage has given up. Many letters/emails were written and numerous representations have been made to politicians and to the government to put the school's case.

I would also like to acknowledge Minister James Merlino's willingness to listen to the school community and for choosing to provide this funding. I'm hopeful this signifies that the Merbein Regeneration Project has been re-booted and that we will continue with the conversation until the delivery of the promised upgrade is achieved.

SCHOOL ANZAC DAY OBSERVANCE ASSEMBLY REPORT

Last Friday, 22nd April, the school held a special assembly to commemorate ANZAC Day. All students and staff participated.

The Merbein RSL Branch was represented by Mr Tom Storer, President and Mr Rob Lauder, Vice President with the support of Mr Terry McGowan who played a stirring rendition of The Last Post and Reveille. After an address to the students by Mr Lauder, Mr Storer led a Wreath-Laying Ceremony involving our school leaders and representatives from each primary class.

I would like to sincerely thank Tom, Rob and Terry for taking the time to educate our students about the significance and purpose of ANZAC Day. I would also like to congratulate the students on the respect and attention they displayed. Thanks as usual to Mr Rhodes for coordinating this important assembly. Photos to follow.



MERBEIN OFFICIAL ANZAC MARCH REPORT

Thanks to the students, parents and teachers who supported and participated in the annual ANZAC Day March on Monday 25th April. Once again our Student Leadership Team led our students and represented our school with distinction. After the march a Wreath-Laying Ceremony was conducted at the Kenny Park Memorial Gate. A service was then conducted in the Kenny Park Rotunda. Thanks to Wendy Finn, Brioney Hall, Kerry Grimmer, Greg Rhodes and Sue Gardiner.



PARTNERS IN LEARNING REPORT

Last night a most successful Partners-in-Learning evening was held in the school's Green Building. Approximately thirty parents/carers attended with a similar number of children. A presentation was made to parents by a guest speaker, Sandra Luitjes. Sandra also happens to be our Assistant Principal and is widely respected as an expert literacy educator.

A big thank you to Rebekah McClure who organised the event and to staff who supported the evening, Bec Holy, Brioney Hall, Tania Rivett, Wendy Finn and of course Sandra Luitjes. Sue Gardiner and Kyra Fetherston attended as both teachers and parents.

A special thanks also to the parent volunteers who helped out by leading activity groups.



PUPIL-FREE DAY

School Council has approved a Pupil-Free Day to be held on Monday, 23rd May. All Primary Classroom Teachers and Secondary Maths Teachers will be working with Charles Lovitt, a highly respected Maths Consultant.

This activity is a key part of the school's Primary Maths Science Specialist Program and also supports our focus on improving teaching and learning outcomes in the secondary years.

All other Secondary Teachers and support staff will be involved in Report Writing and Professional Development Activities.

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

BIGGEST MORNING TEA EVENT – Jess Williams

Tomorrow, Friday 29th April, Merbein P-10 will be holding a Biggest Morning Tea Event. The Student Representative Council (SRC) will be selling Cupcakes at recess. Students and staff will be able to purchase a cupcake for \$2.50 each and then decorate it with various toppings, such as chocolate, sprinkles, lollies and more. All profits will go towards the Cancer Council Charity. Order forms were sent home with students from Grade P-4 Tuesday. Students in Year 5-10 are reminded to bring money to purchase their cupcakes tomorrow.



CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND

Parents and guardians who hold a Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) that is valid on the first day of Term 2, are eligible to claim the Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund. Application forms must be completed and returned to the school by 20th June, for the claims to be processed. Application forms are available from the main school office or the office in the Green Building.



Mother's Day Stall

Happy Mother's Day

Beautiful Gifts for Mum, Grandma, Nanna or that Special Lady in your life

Thursday 5th May

9:30am ~ 11am Primary Students
11am ~ 11:30am Secondary Students

Gifts starting at \$1

Proudly organised by Merbein P-10 College Parents Club



THE OFFICIAL ANZAC CEREMONY REPORT – Mr Rhodes

On Anzac Day over fifty of our students attended the march along Commercial St and then the ceremony held at Kenny Park. We were well represented by students who looked resplendent in their uniforms.

NAPLAN TESTING – GRADES 3/5/7/9 – Mr Rhodes

During the week of May 10th-12th, most students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 around Australia will be sitting the NAPLAN Tests. Teachers have been preparing students in their classes for these tests. There will be two tests on Tuesday based on English skills, one Writing test on Wednesday and either one or two Maths tests on Thursday depending on the year level. This is a very rigorous program that can be quite challenging for students.

If you do not wish your child to sit one or all of these tests, please contact your child's Learning Centre Leader or Mr Rhodes as a special form will need to be completed to excuse your child from the testing.

The students who will be sitting the test need to have a 2B pencil a pencil sharpener and rubber for every test. All the test papers and writing paper will be supplied. Secondary students will also need a calculator for one of the maths tests on the Thursday. Mobile phones or other electronic devices apart from calculators are NOT permitted. The format of the tests means that there will be a disruption to normal classes on these days. **An official NAPLAN flyer has been sent home with all students sitting the NAPLAN test.**

MERBEIN P10 COLLEGE FACEBOOK PAGE

Visit our school's Facebook Page for photos and updates www.facebook.com/merbeinp10college.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

The school prefers to send the weekly newsletter via email as this is the most reliable method. Please send your email address to:

giddings.beth.l@edumail.vic.gov.au asking for the newsletter to be emailed to you.

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 at the end of the day each Thursday.

PLAY GROUP

If you are interested in coming along to a new playgroup held here at Merbein P10 College, on Thursdays from 9.30-11am, please contact the coordinator Danielle Mazza on 0437 077 689 or phone the school office for more information.

STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is away from school, please send a note or email the following address:
Collihole.heather.h@edumail.vic.gov.au

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. If you are able to volunteer to help in the Breakfast Program, please contact Haley at the Merbein & District Community Bank. The Breakfast Program is held in the school cafeteria. All students are welcome to come along between 8.00am and 8.45am each morning if they would like a FREE tasty breakfast to kick-start their day's learning.

PRIMARY NEWS

ANZAC DAY REPORT – Wendy Finn

We had a brilliant sunny day for the Merbein ANZAC March. We apologise if there were any students who missed the start of the parade. The times we were given were checked twice by the RSL and the times in our school newsletter were correct. The starting time of 9am was advertised in the Sunraysia Daily on Saturday. Fortunately we were successfully able to display this change on the Merbein P-10 Facebook Page before the event. Thanks to all of the parents who brought their children along. They looked very smart in the school uniform and they were very respectful during the service. We received a number of positive comments about the excellent behaviour of our students. Well done.

MOTHER'S DAY STALL

On Thursday 5th May, students will have the opportunity to make their own choices in purchasing an affordable gift for their mother or special lady in their life, under the guidance of our Parents' Club members here at the school. Gift costs will range from \$1 to \$5 each. **Please send a small amount of money to school with your child on this day** to enable them to enjoy participating in this choosing, purchasing and giving experience.

OPEN DAY – Wendy Finn

Next Tuesday, 3rd May, Kinder children are invited to visit the school from 9-11am to participate in activities and see what it's like to be a Prep student. Interested people are welcome to walk through the Green Building at their leisure between the hours of 9-11am and 5-6pm on this day, to see the primary learning centre at work. If you know of anyone who may have a child eligible for Prep next year, please pass this information on.

PREP UNIFORM PACKAGE - CSEF

As part of the Victorian Government's Affordable Uniform Program, prep students who are recipients of the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund are automatically eligible for uniform support and will receive a polar fleece jumper and a pair of track pants. **Please contact the office to collect these items.**

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.

PARTNERS IN LEARNING REPORT – Bek Judd
Last night the Grade P-2 students, their parents, family, siblings and kinder kids were invited to a "Reading Rocks - Partners in Learning" Program, held here in the Green Building. What a fantastic turn-out and so encouraging to see forty children participating in various stimulating reading activities with their families.

A huge thank you to staff, parent helpers, parents, family members and most of all the children who came and attended the night. Your support, positive attitudes and effort made it all possible. The children had a great time, taking home various pieces they made and also scored prizes, a certificate and a book.

More photos from the night to follow.



SUARA INDONESIA DANCE GROUP – GRADES P-6

On Monday, 9th May, Suara Indonesia Dance Group will be visiting our school. This is an interactive dance, music and cultural workshop that will enhance and support your child's classroom studies. The cost of this program is covered by the 2016 School Excursion Levy. If you have not paid your child's school levies, there is a cost of \$6. Permission notes were sent home this week.

Please check that your child's permission note is returned by next Thursday, 5th May.

CROSS COUNTRY

The School's Cross Country Event will be held Friday, 6th May. The events for the Primary Section will be held at Chaffey Park, across the road from the school.

A permission note went home with all the primary students this week. Please check that their permission note is returned as soon as possible as our **students will be practicing for the event at the park leading up to the day and will need the permission note to do so.**

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.



CONGRATULATIONS TO LAST WEEK'S GREEN BUILDING WEEKLY AWARD WINNERS



SECONDARY NEWS

YEAR 10 SHARE-MARKET GAME REPORT

As we commence Week 6 of the eight week game, it appears to be a roller coaster ride with the market heading both up and down over the last week. Of the 54 School Syndicates participating, less than half (only 23 teams) are in profit. This includes two of the four teachers who are also playing the game. All the other teams are below the starting amount of \$50,000.

Here at Merbein P-10 Ethan Axton continues to do exceptionally well with \$55,525 placing him 27th in Australia and 9th in Victoria. This is nearly \$1000 profit a week, well done Ethan. Our 2nd and 3rd Place Teams swapped positions this week with Salach (Salih Bakhurt/Zach Hornby) on \$52,666 just ahead of Bishang (Tiarnie Bishop/Jack Lang) on \$52,610.

Leader of the competition across the 16,000 syndicates in Australia is a syndicate from Victoria on \$59,500.

OPEN NIGHT (SECONDARY) – Mr Rhodes

On Tuesday, 3rd May, we will be conducting our Annual Open Night from 5-7pm. This is an opportunity for families of prospective Year 7 students to come to the school and talk with teachers and students about our school. Some of our teachers have asked students to assist on the night. To be asked and to help is an honour. Students helping will need to wear full school uniform. These students will be provided with a snack at about 4.30pm. Parents are asked to pick them up at the conclusion of the event at around 7pm.

SPORT REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS UPDATE – Mr Rhodes

Next Monday two teams will represent our college and district at the Zone Level of State Schools Competition. Mr Hill will be coaching a Boys Baseball Team to play against teams from the Bendigo and Swan Hill areas. We wish them good luck and feel confident they will represent us well. Our Intermediate Boys Volleyball Team will also be contesting the next level after going through our local competition undefeated.

COMMUNITY NEWS

2001 -2004 MERBEIN HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

Ex-students and staff who attended Merbein Secondary College from 2001-2004 are invited to a reunion on Saturday, 30th July. A walk through the school will be conducted at 5pm followed by refreshments at the Merbein Citizens Club at 6.00pm. For Further information please contact Tegan Lawn on tegan@selectevents.com.au

SUNRAYZIA MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

Will be held 30th April at the SMECC Community Cultural Centre on 12th Street from 10.30-3.30pm. The festival will have live music and dance, traditional food and drinks, Henna Art and Face Painting, Children's Activities Area and Jumping Castles, Afghan Community Workshop Space, Art and Craft Stalls.

Entry is free. Gold coin donations are welcome. Visit their Facebook Page for more information about the event and updates as they occur. <https://www.facebook.com/events/809554692506880/> or phone Andrew J. Rankin 5022 1006.

HIPPO! HIPPO! MUSICAL AT THE ARTS CENTRE

Performances at the Mildura Arts Centre on 17th May at 10am, 11.45am and 1.30pm. Shows for schools. Phone 50188330 for more information.

HEADSPACE MILDURA - JOB SEARCH GROUP SESSIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Headspace Mildura and Melinda Binding (MADEC worker) are offering a four week course, commencing Monday, 2nd May at 4pm, to help young people with goal setting, creating a resume and cover letter and learning how to prepare for the interview. Held in the Headspace building. If you know of someone who could benefit from this, please see Headspace Mildura reception or phone 5021 2400 to book your place.

WATCH FOOTBALL UNDER LIGHTS

Great family entertainment! Saturday, 30th April at Pitch 10, Aero Ovals, Mildura.

Three Colours SC vs Irymple Knights SC.

Reserves 6pm kick-off. Senior Mens 7.45pm kick-off. Miniroos games during half time. Hot food available with Licensed Area (No BYO by law)

MINIROOS

Three Colours SC has a few spots left for children aged 5-7 who wish to play Miniroos this Season. Contact Coach Vince Maiorana 0416 054 372 for more information.

MERBEIN JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

The 2016 Auskick Season training will be held at Kenny Park Merbein beginning Sunday 8th May, at 11:30am.

Boys and girls are welcome to come along and have some fun at a great family club.

Training and Game days will alternate between Thursday afternoons at 4.30pm and Sunday mornings at 11:30am to give parents an option, a schedule of dates is available upon request and at the training sessions.

Training is structured but with an emphasis on the kids having fun. If you have any queries please call the Merbein coordinator Todd Rigby on 0499 504 599. Registration for Auskick is to be completed online via website

<http://aflauskick.com.au/register/>



OPEN DAY

Green Learning Centre Prep-4

Tuesday 3rd May 2015

Just come and walk through
anytime between 9-11am and 5-6pm



COME AND SEE HOW WE WORK

Any children who might be interested are welcome to get involved in activities
to give them practise at being a Prep student.

Contact the Merbein P-10 College office on 50 25 2501 for more information.