DATES TO REMEMBER
9th Wednesday
Prep Orientation day 9-11.30am
11th Friday
-Remembrance Day
- Gr 2-6 Visiting Performance - To Federation and Beyond
14th – 17th
Grade 5/6 Camp – Melbourne
16th Wednesday
Prep Orientation day 9am-2pm
16th – 18th
Grade 3/4 Camp
23rd Wednesday
Prep Orientation day 9am-3.12pm
DECEMBER
1st Thursday
Yr 10 Exams
2nd Friday
-Yr 10 Exams
-Merbein Rotary Carols 7.15pm
-Yr 10 Graduation Dinner
5th Monday
Student Free Day
6th Tuesday
-Prep Orientation Day
-Prep Orientation day 9am-3.12pm
7th Wednesday
-Infants Ballet Excursion
-Sec Orientation Day
12th Monday
Whole School Awards Night – Arts Centre Mildura.
13th Tuesday
Yr 6 Dinner @ the Grand Hotel
15th Thursday
Pri Graduation Ceremony @ the Merbein Soccer Club.
Student reports sent home
16th Friday
Sec – Lake Day
Pri – Pool Day
20th Tuesday
Last Day of Term 4
Early dismissal time of 1.30pm

2016 TERM DATES
Term 1: 30th January – teachers return
31st January – 31st March
Term 2: 18th April – 30th June
Term 3: 17th July – 22nd September
Term 4: 9th October – 22nd December

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
Mr Graeme Cupper

NEW CHILD SAFE STANDARDS
As part of the Victorian Government’s response to the recommendations of the Betrayal of Trust Report, new Child Safe Standards are being introduced for registered schools. The standards are intended to strengthen existing approaches to preventing and responding to child abuse and enhance consistency in how these issues are managed in schools.

A Ministerial Order was issued in December 2015 which requires all schools to take specific actions to ensure all seven Child Safe Standards are met. The standards will promote cultures where protecting children from abuse is part of everyday thinking and practice in organisations. Most schools will already meet nearly all of the Standards under existing policies and practices.

Schools are required to report to the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) to demonstrate that they are compliant with all standards.

Although the new laws officially came into force on 1st August 2016, schools have been given until the end of 2016 to update and finalise their actions and be fully compliant across all of the seven standards.

Throughout Terms 2 and 3 the school has been developing policies, reviewing staff roles and updating practices in areas such as HR Employment, Risk Management and responses to any allegations. All new policies and protocols have been overseen and approved by School Council. Briefly, the seven standards state that school must:
S1. Appoint a Child Safety Officer(s)/Coordinator(s) as part of an Action Plan. (Kim McCarty and Donna Lay appointed).
S2. Develop a school-wide Child Safe Policy.
S3. Develop a staff Code of Conduct. All school staff and volunteers have signed the Code of Conduct.
S4. Ensure all employment (HR) processes incorporate Child Safe (advertising, selection, appointment and probation).
S5. Establish processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse.
S6. Develop, implement, monitor and evaluate risk management strategies to ensure child safety in the school environment.
S7. Develop strategies to promote Child Empowerment and Participation.

As part of our commitment to support the wellbeing of our children and young people, school staff focused on the implementation of the Child Safe Standards during our recent Pupil-Free Day held on 14th October.

Merbein P-10 College staff and volunteers are committed to act responsibly and diligently when it comes to the safety of our students.

Our school community also recognises the importance of ensuring our school is a safe, supportive and enriching environment which respects and fosters the dignity and self-esteem of our young people. These conditions are essential if students are able to thrive in their learning and development.

**ANNUAL MERBEIN CUP PHOTOS**
The Annual Merbein Cup Race was run and won yesterday. Congratulations to the students who constructed, decorated and raced their cardboard horses. A big thanks to Jess Williams and her helpers, Mr Rhodes and staff who also supported the event.

**OUT OF HOURS SCHOOL CARE HALLOWEEN BANQUET PHOTOS**
Our Out of Hours School Care coordinator, Cheryl Hodge and her assistant, Jill Dunstan go to considerable lengths to provide a stimulating and enjoyable program for participating students. On Monday the children were treated to a very special Halloween Banquet. Thanks Cheryl and Jill for the outstanding effort you put into the OSHC Program. It is much appreciated by the children and their parents.

**ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT – Greg Rhodes**
Our Annual Awards Ceremony will be held in the Mildura Arts Centre in the evening of Monday, 12th December this year.
Traditionally this ceremony has been held in the school Activity Centre however this venue will be out of action from 14th November until the beginning of next year.

**INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS**

**IMPORTANT UPDATE! – J. Hudson**
Instrumental lessons at Merbein P-10 College have previously been at a very low fee of $20.00 for the year. It has been decided to increase the fee next year to a yearly sum of $80.00. This is still extremely low. There will be more information regarding the Instrumental Music Program and fees early in 2017.
STATE SCHOOLS’ RELIEF - CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND 2017

YEAR 7 UNIFORM PACK INFORMATION

State Schools’ Relief works closely with all government schools across Victoria. Each year State Schools’ Relief provides assistance to families who are experiencing financial disadvantage with school clothing, shoes and other essential items.

The Victorian Government has a commitment to being the Education State, aiming to break the link between disadvantage and achievement. Through government funding the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) was established to provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports days and excursions. To find out more about CSEF or to apply for assistance go to www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

State Schools’ Relief has received extra government funding so that it can help more families needing financial assistance and ensure no one is left behind. This extra funding is being used by State Schools’ Relief to assist students who receive CSEF assistance.

In 2017 every Year 7 government school student who is a recipient of CSEF automatically qualifies to receive a uniform pack that is provided through State Schools’ Relief.

If your child receives CSEF assistance and is in Year 6 in 2016 you can ask for a uniform pack to be provided by State Schools’ Relief through the secondary school your child is enrolled to attend in 2017.

Parents who have already purchased their child’s uniform for 2017 and then become a CSEF recipient can still apply for a CSEF Year 7 Uniform Pack in 2017.

The uniform pack includes basic uniform items needed to start secondary school.

For Year 6 students commencing Year 7 in 2017 State Schools' Relief will provide one of each item listed below.

Boys:
- Black Leather Shoes – Lace up / Skate
- Jumper / Jacket / Bomber / Rugby top
- Shorts / Trousers
- Long Sleeve Shirt / Short Sleeve Shirt

Girls:
- Black Leather Shoes – Lace Up / T-bar / Skate
- Jumper / Jacket / Bomber / Rugby Top
- Summer Dress / Winter Skirt + Shirt / Trousers + Shirt / Shorts + Shirt

If above is NOT a Summer Dress then select either:
- Long Sleeve Shirt / Short Sleeve Shirt

All students will receive one free pair shoes supplied directly from SSR.

Where State Schools’ Relief cannot supply uniform items directly to parents you will receive a voucher that subsidises the cost of uniform items. The voucher(s) can be redeemed at your child’s school uniform shop or an independent uniform retailer which will be listed on the voucher. Parents receiving vouchers may need to make a contribution towards the cost of individual uniform items. The amount a parent has to pay will depend on the retail purchase price and the State Schools’ Relief subsidy.

The vouchers provided by State Schools’ Relief list every approved item for the student and the maximum purchase value that State Schools’ Relief will subsidise for each item. Parents who receive vouchers can work out how much extra they may need to pay towards uniform items using the school’s uniform price list.

If your child was a CSEF recipient in 2016 you can apply for a CSEF Year 7 Uniform Pack by contacting the secondary school where your child is enrolled.

The secondary school will make an application on your behalf using the order form provided.

Please do not contact State Schools’ Relief directly as staff cannot accept applications from parents. If you have any questions, or want to apply for assistance, please speak to your child’s 2017 secondary school.

All vouchers and free items provided directly by SSR will be received by your child’s 2017 secondary school. The school will get in touch with you to arrange handover of uniforms and vouchers. The voucher can be used at your child’s 2017 secondary school uniform shop or uniform retailer. The voucher will list the uniform items, with details of the maximum amount that State Schools’ Relief will subsidise from the retail purchase price. If a uniform item costs more than the maximum subsidised amount State Schools’ Relief will not pay for any extra cost. If a uniform item costs less than the maximum subsidised amount the difference cannot be redeemed or transferred to a different uniform item.

The vouchers are not transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash; they cannot be used to purchase extra items and State Schools’ Relief does not make cash payments to schools or parents.

Can parents who are ineligible for CSEF or who have children in other year levels receive assistance from SSR?

Yes. Applications for parents requiring financial assistance for uniforms or work boots for children who are undertaking VET In School subjects are
encouraged to apply for assistance through the school where their child is enrolled. You can talk to the school principal or wellbeing officer about your situation. The school staff will assess your family’s eligibility and prepare an application your behalf to State Schools’ Relief as required.

Terms and conditions
- Only Year 2017 students who receive CSEF are automatically entitled to a uniform pack.
- Each student is eligible for only one uniform pack.
- All vouchers have an expiry date which is included on the voucher.
- Expired vouchers cannot be redeemed. Parents will have to reapply through their school for assistance.

If uniform items cost less than the stated subsidised amount on the voucher any unused subsidy cannot:
- be transferred to a different uniform item
- be used to purchase an extra item; or
- provided as cash to the school or the parent.

State Schools’ Relief Telephone: 03 8769 8400
Email: contact@ssr.net.au
Website: www.ssr.net.au/

**ORIENTATION DAYS** – Greg Rhodes
Next year approximately 115 Year 7 students will begin their secondary education at our school. On 6th and 7th December we will welcome them into the school for a two day Orientation Program. On these days our Year 10 students will attend the Senior College.

Our new Prep students will also be attending our school on Tuesday, 6th December for an Orientation Day.

These are important days as the new students’ first experience of our school can make lasting impressions so we encourage all our students to go out of their way help the new students feel welcome in our school. **We also ask parents to be aware of the increased traffic that is likely on these 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

**MERBEIN P10 COLLEGE FACEBOOK PAGE**
Visit our school’s Facebook Page for photos and updates www.facebook.com/merbeinp10college.

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**MDI SURVEY – YEARS 5–8 STUDENTS**
Between 9th November and 2nd December, all students in Years 5, 6, 7 & 8 will be invited to participate in a survey called “Understanding Student Wellbeing: The Middle Years Development Instrument Survey”.

The purpose of this survey is to understand how children during the middle childhood years think and feel about their lives both inside and outside of school.

**A letter with further information has been sent home to all parents regarding this survey.** Please read the information in the letter carefully and contact Yvonne Matotek in the office if you require any further information.

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**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.

**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.

**SCHOOL MAGAZINE**
Don’t forget to order your 2016 school magazine. The magazine will have a very comprehensive compilation of photos, articles, events and students work, detailing what has been a huge year for students in Grade Prep to Year 10 at Merbein P-10 College. Cost is just $15.00 and needs to be paid the office. **Please get your orders in soon as no spare copies will be printed.**
PLAY GROUP
If you are interested in coming along to a 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.

PRIMARY NEWS

GRADE 2-6 - "TO FEDERATION AND BEYOND"
VISITING PERFORMANCE – Kerry Grimmer
Next Friday, 11th November the Grade 2-6 students will be treated to a performance from a travelling tour group at 2:15pm. The show is called “To Federation and Beyond”. It includes a number of gripping Australian tales from pre-colonization to a salute to our current Australian bush-fire fighters and surf-lifesavers. Permission Notes for this incursion were sent home this week please check that your child's note has been returned. Please note that there is a cost of $4.00 per student for those who have not paid the 2016 Excursion Levy.

PRIMARY GRADUATION CEREMONY – EARLY NOTICE – Wendy Finn
The Primary Graduation Ceremony will be held at the Merbein Soccer Club on Thursday 15th December this year. This ceremony celebrates the completion of the Prep students first year of education and our Grade 6 students’ final year of primary education. All the primary students will travel there by bus first thing in the morning. There will be no cost for this travel. Parents are invited to attend the ceremony. Following the ceremony the students will be bussed back to the school where there will be a special morning tea provided for the Grade 6 parents, so please mark your calendars.

2017 PREP ORIENTATION DAYS
The Merbein P-10 College Orientation Days for our new 2017 preps will be held on the following days this term.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9th November</td>
<td>9am-11.30am</td>
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<td>Wednesday 16th November</td>
<td>9am-2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23rd November</td>
<td>9am-3.12pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 6th December</td>
<td>9am-3.12pm</td>
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Children are asked to bring a fruit/vegie snack for brain food, a hat and water bottle each day and some lunch as well on the last three days.
Contact Wendy Finn - P-4 Learning Centre Leader if you would like more information on 50252501.

Prep Practice this coming Wednesday, 9th November.

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.

NE MO WORK – Wendy Finn
The Nemos worked cooperatively to complete a puzzle. Then they wrote their own puzzle description. The class then guessed which one it was. Well done Nemos! Keep up the great home reading too!
**DRINK BOTTLES**
Please send a clearly named water bottle to school with your child every day.

**GRADE 5-6 NEWS** – Sue Gardiner

**Melbourne Camp** - Equipment and Clothing
Requirement lists have been sent home with your child. A Flowride Induction Form for the Melbourne Aquatic Centre will also be sent home and MUST be completed and returned to school by tomorrow, Friday 4th November.
All outstanding camps medical and permission notes are now OVERDUE.

**VARIETY NIGHT VIDEO** – Wendy Finn
The school has video of each class act from the Variety Night. If parents would like a video, please send a USB in an envelope to school, clearly labelled with your child’s full name, their year level and what you would like included from the Variety Night.

The Variety Night has been taped in four parts.
- Tuesday – First half
- Tuesday – Second half
- Wednesday – First half
- Wednesday – Second half

You will need a 16GB USB for one half night video and a 32GB USB for one whole night’s video. Please ensure your USB is large enough to hold all the information and send it into the school as soon as possible.

**GREEN BUILDING WEEKLY AWARDS**
Congratulations to the students from the Green Building who received weekly awards at last week’s assembly.

**NO HAT – NO PLAY**
Reminder that students must bring a wide brimmed hat to school every day, clearly labelled with their name.

**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.

**STUDENT OF THE MONTH ASSEMBLY**
To be advised next week.

**FUN RUN REPORT** – Bec Holy
Well done to all the primary students who participated in last Friday’s Adidas Fun Run! It was great to see the staff, students and parents all having a great time. We walked, ran, jumped, played and danced our way around the oval in a sea of colour for an hour and twenty minutes. Thanks to the Hoyle family for the oranges that kept us going at the half way mark. The Quench icy poles at the end were a lovely way to finish the afternoon.

So far we have managed to raise around $2,500 which is an amazing effort. If you have any more sponsorship money please return it by Monday so we can send away for the fantastic prizes.

What a fantastic spread of photos in Sunraysia Daily! Well done everyone!
SECONDARY NEWS

SECONDARY ELECTIVES – Greg Rhodes
I have placed all the selections for students into elective blocks in readiness for staffing information to finalise. It is expected that student in Years 7-9 will have all the information about their electives before the end of November.

YEAR 10 GRADUATION
The Year 10 Graduation Dinner will be held on Friday, 2nd December at Club Da Vinci. Unfortunately, the wrong price for the ticket was stated in last week’s newsletter. Tickets are $45 each.
Parents or Guardians of students who have overdue work or are at risk of not successfully completing a subject should be receiving a progress report and letter in the mail. If you have any questions about your child’s overall progress please contact me at your earliest convenience. If there are any concerns about specific subjects, please contact your child’s teacher for that subject.

SUNSMART – Greg Rhodes
Despite the temperature not getting too hot as yet the Sunsmart app and website are telling us that Ultra Violet Radiation levels are consistently above safe levels between the hours of 10am and 5pm. At school we inform the students about these levels daily and require them to stay out the direct sunlight unless adequately protected.
Parents can help protect the young and vulnerable skin of their children by supplying sunscreen and encouraging them to apply sunscreen on exposed sections of skin on a daily basis.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH ASSEMBLY – Greg Rhodes
The Student of the Month assembly will be held in the Activity Centre (School Gym) next week. This will be the last opportunity to hold our assembly in this venue this year as refurbishments will commence on Monday 14th November.

COMMUNITY NEWS

MERBEIN JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB AGM
The Annual General Meeting of the Merbein Junior Football Club Inc. will be held on Sunday, 6th November 2016 at 4pm at Merbein Football Club Social Rooms, Kenny Park.
Business:
1. Receiving of annual reports
2. Election of Office Bearers
MERBEIN AUSKICK, JUNIOR FOOTBALL AND NETBALL COACHING POSITIONS FOR 2017 SEASON
Applications are invited for Auskick, Junior Football and Netball Coaching Positions and Sports Trainers for the 2017 season. Applications to be received by 30th November 2016 addressed to: The Secretary, Merbein Junior Football Club, PO Box 161, Merbein 3505
For further information phone Geoff Stevens 0407 502 465 or Graeme Dunne 0407 325 751 – Football and Sue Mulder 0403 316 782 – Netball.

MERBEIN SWIMMING CLUB
Training at the Merbein Pool in November on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information email Merbswimclub14@gmail.com or phone Christine Mazza 0438256282.

MERBEIN COBRAS BASKETBALL CLUB
If your child is interested in playing in the Summer Competition, contact Brock Munn on 0407 096 108 or Cassie Munn on 0409 632 898.
mailto:sun.dance@bigpond.com for more information.

THE POSITIVE PARENTING TELEPHONE SERVICE: SUPPORT FOR RURAL FAMILIES, FATHERS AND GRANDPARENTS CARING FOR GRANDCHILDREN
The Positive Parenting Telephone Service (PPTS) makes it easy to access a proven parenting support program delivered by qualified parent support workers from your home at a time that suits you – daytime, evenings and weekends. PPTS will help parents and carers develop the skills to:
• build better relationships with your children
• encourage the behaviours you want to see from your children
• teach children to think before they act and to keep busy without constant adult attention
• teach your children new skills, to solve problems for themselves
• to know when to ask for help set family rules that are realistic and followed.
Parents and carers will be supported by weekly telephone calls over 6 to 10 weeks. You can also participate in PPTS online - with or without telephone support.
The program is currently free to all grandparents caring for grandchildren, fathers and rural families from across Victoria.

Positive Parenting Telephone Service phone number is 1800 880 660. For more information, google Positive Parenting Telephone Service.

MERBEIN ROTARY CHRISTMAS
Early notice that this year’s Community Carols evening will take place adjacent to the Band Rotunda in Kenny Park on Friday, 2nd December, starting at 7.15pm (Food & drinks available from 6.30 pm). Everyone welcome. For more information phone Leon Wagner 5025 2585 or 0427 252 586.

RED CLIFFS SECONDARY COLLEGE FASHION CLOTHING EXCHANGE DAY
Red Cliffs Secondary College Year 10 and 11’s are holding a Clothing Exchange Day as a part of their sustainability assignment in VET Fashion.
Held at Red Cliffs Secondary College Activity Centre on Saturday, 19th November from 2:30—4:30pm. You are invited to bring quality unwanted clothes to SWAP! Bring up to 6 quality items—accessories are equal to an item. All left over clothing will be donated to Salvation Army Red Cliffs.
There will be lucky tickets and a raffle on the day. Afternoon tea and coffee will be available.
Cost is $10 per ticket. Tickets are available from Red Cliffs Secondary College, Ghanda in Langtree Mall, Poppies on Ilex in Red Cliffs or at the door.
For more information contact Tina Binding email tbinding@edumail.vic.gov.au or phone 0448 801 656.

CROCHET FESTIVE BUNTING WORKSHOP
MERBEIN
Prepare for the festive season with a joyful crochet workshop with artisan Sophie Appleby. Create your own Crochet Festive Bunting while enjoying great company, delicious afternoon tea and the beautiful surrounds of our rural studio. Saturday 19th November 2-4pm. 198 Third St Merbein $50 including your creation, a crochet hook and afternoon tea. Book now on http://www.sunraysiaartsandlearning.com.au/enrolments/registration/ or 0420939229 or enquiries@sunraysiaartsandlearning.com.au

“LET’S DANCE” AT THE MERCY THEATRE
Show to be held on 5th and 6th November. Tickets available from www.sjcmda.vic.edu.au. This year Sunraysia Dance Academy will be donating to the McGrath Foundation and Sunraysia Resources. Contact Peta-Lyne Buchanan email.