REMEMBRANCE DAY REPORT

I would like to thank and congratulate the four Merbein P-10 student leaders who represented our school with distinction at the recent Merbein Remembrance Day Ceremony held on Friday, 11th November.

Year 10 students, Josh May and Alex Pallot addressed a gathering at the Kenny Park Memorial Gates. They spoke about the significance of the ‘Signing of the Armistice’ to end World War I.

Following this ceremony, two of our Grade 6 students, Rylan Robertson and Tayla Pratt spoke at another service held at the Chaffey Aged Care Homes. The feedback from the RSL organisers about our student representatives was extremely positive.
FLAG PRESENTATION - STUDENT INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE REPORT

Last Friday the school was pleased to host a visit from Mr Andrew Broad, Federal Member for Mallee who presented an Australian Flag to Corey Sleep who has been selected to participate in an International Student Exchange visit to Spain in the first half of 2017. Corey’s proud mum, Alanie also attended the presentation.

Corey explained to Mr Broad that he was excited to be selected and credited his involvement in the Year 9 Alpine School Program held in Term 1, as being one of the positive experiences that influenced his decision to apply.

On behalf of the school I would like to thank Mr Broad for his support and I have no doubt that Corey will “Fly the Flag” with distinction in his role as an ambassador for our school and our country.

PUPIL FREE DAY – EARLY NOTICE

There is a Pupil Free Day scheduled for Monday, 5th December. There will be NO school for students on this day.

MINISTERIAL VISIT REPORT

The Minister for Education and Emergency Services, James Merlino, visited Merbein P10 College on Monday, 14th November. It was Mr Merlino’s second visit to our school this year. The main purpose for this visit was to inspect the damage caused to the school by the storm that struck Sunraysia on 11th November.

It also provided an opportunity to discuss the current status of facilities works in the Regeneration Project at Merbein P-10 College. Mr Merlino was shown around the gym where refurbishment works have just commenced.

Plans for the new Technology Building were also discussed and the Minister was pleased to learn that the commencement of construction is scheduled for Term 1 next year.

I also raised the issue of completing the final stage of the Regeneration Project which would involve the replacement of the main wing to provide new administration, science, canteen, staff offices and library. Mr Merlino confirmed that he was aware of the community’s position and that it would be considered in the upcoming budget planning processes.
GYM UPGRADE UPDATE
Weir Constructions have commenced work on refurbishing the gymnasium. They have started working on the stadium which will involve installing acoustic panelling to the ceiling and walls, installing new polycarbonate roof sheets and the construction of additional storage space. New LED lighting will also be fitted. It is anticipated that the gym works will be completed by the end of February.

CHILD SAFE – INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS
As mentioned in a recent newsletter, new Child Safe Standards are being introduced in registered schools. The standards are intended to strengthen existing approaches for preventing and responding to child abuse. They will also enhance consistency in how these issues are managed in schools. The standards are designed to promote cultures where protecting children from abuse is part of everyday thinking and practice in organisations. Our school already has policies and processes in place to protect the care, safety and welfare of children. These are being strengthened to ensure a zero tolerance approach to child abuse.

There are several key beliefs that underpin the ongoing implementation of Child Safe Standards in our school. They include:

- Everyone connected to our school can help children be safe.
- We have zero tolerance for any abuse of children.
- There are clear boundaries about how adults in our school community may interact with the children here.

The new Child Safe Standards go further than child protection arrangements did in the past. It is the Government’s Policy that:

- The Child Safe Standards apply to school staff (including volunteers and contractors), visitors and students’ family members.
- Keeping children safe is everyone’s responsibility. Different people at our school have different roles and responsibilities for ensuring children’s safety.
- Staff members (including volunteers) will receive training and support to understand and carry out their responsibilities under the standards.
- Unsupervised contractors will be asked about their child safety arrangements as a condition of working with us if they work with children enrolled in the school (or children can reasonably be expected to be present while they are at the school).
- Other people using our school facilities will be asked about their child safety arrangements as a condition of using our facilities if they involve children enrolled at the school (or children can reasonably be expected to be present while their staff or other adults are at the school).

Information will also be posted on the school’s web page. This will include the school’s Child Safe Policy, Code of Conduct, and an explanation about how we will respond to allegations of child abuse.

Teachers and staff will also be reviewing the incorporation of Child Safe Standards into programs such as School Wide Positive Behaviours, Health Education, Sexuality Education, Safe Schools and Mental Health Promotion.

I’m sure all parents and carers will share our commitment to ensuring the safety of our children and I look forward to working in partnership to ensure our students are safe, happy and ready to enjoy their learning.
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.

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS DURING HOLIDAYS
The Uniform Shop will be open on the following days before school resumes next year.
Wednesday, 25th January 2017 from 1.30–6.30pm
Friday, 27th January 2017 from 1.30–6.30pm
Monday, 30th January 2017 from 8.30am–4.30pm

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.

ATHLETE’S FOOT SHOES FOR THE SCHOOL
The Athletes Foot at Centro have generously offered to give our school $5.00 for every pair of school shoes our students purchase from the Athlete’s Foot. Brochures are available from the school office.

Please note that Year 7 CSEF Uniform Pack recipients will need to order their shoes through State Schools’ Relief.

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.

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

2017 YEAR 7 CSEF UNIFORM PACK
Students who will be entering Year 7 in 2017 and are recipients of the CSEF payment this year, automatically qualify to receive a Uniform Pack through State Schools’ Relief.
Uniform items are as listed below:
Girls
• Polar Fleece Jacket or a Jumper or a Jacket.
• Summer Dress or a Winter Skirt & Shirt or Trousers & Shirt or Shorts & Polo Shirt.
• A pair of black leather shoes – Lace up/T-bar or Skate.

Boys
• Polar Fleece Jacket or a Jumper or a Jacket.
• Trousers or Shorts.
• Long Sleeve Shirt or a Polo Shirt.
• A pair of black leather shoes – Lace up or Skate.

An order form can be collected from the main office. Shoes must be ordered through State Schools’ Relief. Students will need to have their foot measured to ensure the correct size is ordered and sent.

More information, order forms and photo of shoes are available on our school website.

If you were not eligible for CSEF this year and will be next year, please collect an application form from the school’s main office. If your application is successful next year, your Year 7 child will qualify to receive a Uniform Pack when the application is processed in March 2017.

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)
The amount payable for eligible primary and secondary students is:
$125 for Primary school students.
$225 for Secondary school students.
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 2017.

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
**PRIMARY NEWS**

**SINK OR SWIM REPORT**
Last Tuesday, the primary students were given a free presentation focusing on water safety and survival skills. The timing for this advice is ideal being the beginning of the summer season and with our river so high and even more dangerous at present.

**MERBEIN COMMUNITY CAROLS** – Mrs Finn
The Merbein Community Carols will be held at Kenny Park on Friday, 2nd December. We would like all our Grade P-6 students to perform at this festive local community event. We ask that all students who are able to attend and perform, meet the teachers at 7.25pm at the left of the stage area adjacent to the Band Rotunda. The performance is scheduled for 7.40pm. Students are also asked to wear Christmas clothes or Christmas colours, a Christmas hat or hair decoration. **Please note that students’ families will be responsible for their own child’s supervision for the entire evening.**

This is a great family community event, so why not bring the whole family, a chair or a picnic rug and enjoy the evening’s festivities. Free Glow Sticks will be provided. (Food & drinks are available from 6.30pm).

**A permission note is attached to today’s newsletter. We ask that every family please complete the note and return it to school ASAP, tomorrow if possible.**

**LIBRARY NEWS**
Please check at home for any over-due library books and send them back to school as soon as possible so the Library End-Of-Year processes can begin. Class Library borrowing will finish in the first week of December.

**GRADE P-2 BALLET EXCURSION** – Wendy Finn
On Wednesday, 7th December the Grade P-2 students will travel by bus to the Mildura Arts Centre to see some amazing dancers bring to life the story of Gaïté Parisienne Ballet. The bus will leave the school approximately 11am and return to school approximately 2.30pm. Students will take a walk up to the Langtree Mall to perform some Christmas Carols at approximately 1pm before travelling to Park for Play to have lunch and then back to school.

Students will need to bring a packed lunch in a paper bag clearly named, a drink and a hat. The cost for those who have not paid the 2016 Excursion Levy is $10. **Permission notes have been sent home with every student. Please check that your child's permission note has been returned.**

**INFANT CLASS COOKING PHOTO** – Wendy Finn
The Nemos have been reading a big book called The Fantastic Cake, so we decided to make our own. Of course they were fantastic and delicious.
GRADE 5-6 MELBOURNE CAMP REPORT - Mrs Grimmer, Jorja Ernesti and Maia Hall

What an amazing week the Grade 5-6 students had in Melbourne last week. Some of the highlights were:

· Looking at the wide variety of animals, including the endangered species at the zoo.
· Learning interesting facts about history millions of years ago, how your body works, World War 1 and animals and insects.
· Finding out about how the seasons of the year work and examining the stars and constellations at the Planetarium.
· Using all the interactive equipment at Science Works.
· At the MCG we went on a tour with a very kind man and found out about the history of the ground and saw all the change rooms and facilities underground.
· We tried lots of different sports at the National Sports Museum.
· We saw little penguins jumping and swimming around and hiding in the rocks at St Kilda.
· The food was mouth-watering and tasty. We enjoyed Pizza from St Kilda Republica, Chinese from China Town and burgers and hot dogs from the Soda Rock Diner where they put on a spectacular show and served our food on roller skates. We could also dance along.
· At the Aquatic Centre we had a turn on the Flow Rider, the Inflatable, Wacky Waterslide and Relaxing Wave Pool.

What an AMAZING experience!

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

**2017 PREP PRACTICE REPORT** – Brioney Hall
Another successful big day was held at school yesterday. Jungle Animals were the theme of the day and there was lots of learning done with happy smiles in preparation for next year.

The next Prep Practice is Tuesday, 6th December from 9am-3.10pm.
Children are asked to bring a fruit/vegie snack for brain food, a hat, water bottle and some lunch.
Contact Wendy Finn - P-4 Learning Centre Leader if you would like more information.

**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.

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

**DRINK BOTTLES**
Please send a clearly named water bottle to school with your child every day.

**LOLLY JAR RAFFLE** – Mrs Gardiner
This is a fundraiser organised by Mrs Gardiner’s Maths Group. Profits will be donated to the local charity ‘The Lucas Foundation’. The lucky winner will be drawn at lunch time tomorrow.

**PRIMARY GRADUATION CEREMONY** – Wendy Finn
The Primary Graduation Ceremony will now be held at the school on Thursday, 15th December. More information will follow in a future newsletter.

**GRADE 3-4 CAMP LAST WEEK – A BUNCH OF HAPPY CAMPERS**

**SECONDARY NEWS**

**SECONDARY ENGLISH NEWS – YEAR 10 ENGLISH EXAM** – Kirsten James
Next Monday, 28th November Year 10 students will sit their final 2016 assessment task for English. Students will sit a two hour exam in which they will be asked to write two essays; a language analysis essay in response to an article and a text response essay in response to a prompt, based on one of the texts studied in class this year. Year 10s have been busy in class in the last fortnight studying and revising for their exam. Please support your child to continue studying over the weekend but also remind them to have some balance by taking a break from studying to do something relaxing and enjoyable. Some students may feel increased levels of stress about the exam, so please reinforce with them that if they have completed all assessment tasks throughout the year and participated in the class revision activities as well as revising at home, then they will be fine. This exam gives students the opportunity to prepare for VCE and is not designed to be a ‘pass’ or ‘fail’ for Year 10 English.

If you are concerned about your child or have any further questions about the exam, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s English teacher. We are always happy to discuss how to support your child’s learning opportunities.

We wish the Year 10 students all the best for the exam on Monday and we look forward to celebrating their success with them at the Year 10 Graduation night.
ORIENTATION DAYS – Mr Rhodes
On Tuesday, 6th and Wednesday, 7th December we will have 113 new Year 7 students in our school. On Tuesday 6th December we will also have 30 new prep children attending for a final transition day for their foray into formal schooling.

SUNSMART – Mr Rhodes
It is important that students adequately protect themselves against the harmful Ultra Violet Radiation that is above safe levels for much of our daylight hours at this time of the year. To protect our outer and under layers of skin we need to ensure that clothing covers exposed skin or apply SPF 30+ sunscreen in the mornings to exposed skin.

BOOKLISTS AND ELECTIVES – Mr Rhodes
All students in Year 7-9 should now know their elective choices. The Year 8 Elective Blocks have been completely changed. Mr Rhodes has endeavoured to catch up with all the Year 7 students over the past three days to check that their new electives are acceptable. New elective sheets will be distributed to students tomorrow. These elective sheets will indicate the ten electives allocated for the year. If parents have questions or concerns they should contact Mr Rhodes at the school.

YEAR 10 NEWS – Mr Rhodes
The end of the year is fast approaching for our Year 10 students. English and Maths exams will be held on Monday, 28th November. Students will then participate in a number of excursions and school based events for the remainder of the week. These excursions and events are aimed at preparing them for the next phase of their education and celebrating their time and achievements at Merbein P-10 College. Each student has been provided with a timetable of events. Spare copies are available at the front office. Attached to the timetable is a permission note that must be signed and returned as soon as possible. Next Friday morning we will conduct an assembly to farewell our Year 10 students. The Year 10 students are invited to a breakfast with their classmates and their teachers before the assembly. After the assembly the Year 10 students will have a final practice of formal dance, sign their Year 10 shirts and view a reflection of their time at Merbein. This is a special day for the Year 10 students, a traditional and respectful farewell from our school. The following week the Year 10 students will be involved in orientation activities at the Senior College. Year 10 students may be dismissed at the close of the school day on Friday, 9th December provided they have a signed permission note from their parents.

LETTER FROM OUR SISTER SCHOOL IN CHINA – Chris Blackie
Last Friday the College received a letter from our sister school Dali No.1 Middle School in Yunnan, China. Our friends in Dali would like to extend their thoughts and sympathy to the Merbein and Mildura communities following the damage caused by the storm.
Mr. Tony Zhang, who visited our school in August this year, writes: ‘During our visit to Mildura and your school, we were greatly impressed by the beautiful houses, green lawns, clean streets and happy, friendly people. After the huge storm, we can imagine what your city looks like and how you are suffering.
It’s said that help has come from other parts of Victoria, which is inspiring. We strongly believe with the help and your efficient organization and great efforts, your city and your school will soon be reconstructed. Please accept our deep sympathy and let’s look forward to a better Mildura together.’
We’re grateful for this support from our Chinese friends and look forward to sharing with them the story of our community’s strength and recovery.

SECONDARY EXCURSION NOTE REMINDERS
Below is a list of upcoming excursions. This is a reminder that permission notes need to be returned.

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<th>Excursion Date</th>
<th>Excursion Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>7C &amp; 7D</td>
<td>29th Nov – 13th Dec / Laser Force &amp; Aqua Coaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>7A &amp; 7B</td>
<td>30th Nov – 14th Dec / Laser Force &amp; Ten Pin Bowling</td>
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<tr>
<td>8A &amp; 8B</td>
<td>29th Nov / Laser Force</td>
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COMMUNITY NEWS

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.

BOYS TO THE BUSH HOLIDAY CAMP
A new unique farm based holiday camp for boys is being offered during the Christmas school holidays. Held on the NSW/VIC border at Howlong. Check the website for further details.
www.boystothebush.com.au
2017 YOUTH ACTION COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS
If you going to be in Year 10 next year and are interested in participating in youth development and leadership opportunities, assist in identifying issues and needs relevant to young people in the municipality and assisting Mildura Rural City Council to promote a positive image of young people in the community and recognise the contribution young people make to community life. The Youth Action Committee would like to hear from you! Nominations for the 2017 Youth Action Committee are Now Open and will close on 2nd December. For more information or an application form contact the Youth Services Team on 5018 8280 or go to the website www.mildura.vic.gov.au/youth page.

MERBEIN ROTARY CHRISTMAS
The Merbein 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). Local schools and community choirs. Free Glow Sticks. Santa arrives at 9pm. Everyone welcome. For more information phone Leon Wagner 5025 2585 or 0427 252 586.

LORD OF THE FLIES FREE DANCE WORKSHOP FOR MALES AGES 10-22
It’s a great opportunity for the young men in our community to participate in something fun and positive. Open to all males aged 10-22 years with or without dance experience. Workshops to be held at the Mildura Arts Centre on 16th December at 10am, 1pm and 4pm. Participants could be invited to audition to join the cast for the performance season of Lord of the Flies at Arts Centre Melbourne in April 2017. For more information visit the website or contact Helen Piscioneri at Mildura Rural City Council on phone 0400 381 646 or email helen.piscioneri@mildura.vic.gov.au

INSIDE THE BRICK: MILDURA 2017 INTERACTIVE PLAY & LEGO MODEL EXHIBITION
To be held Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th January 2017. INSIDE the BRICK is bringing their fantastic travelling Interactive Play & LEGO Model Exhibition to Mildura for a massive weekend of LEGO play! Fun activities for kids of all ages. There will be opportunities to see fantastic original LEGO creations on display and opportunities to create your own in a MASSIVE hands on ‘Build Zone’! INSIDE the BRICK is proud to also offer the option of a Sensory Friendly Session to families impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorders with a sensory friendly, supportive environment and low volume music, announcements and reduced numbers. (Please note that numbers and noise will steadily increase from 10am)
Cost: Family Block $44 (2 Adult & 3 Children). Single Adult ticket $12. Children 3 years to 17 years inclusive & Concession $10. Free entry for Under 3 years when accompanied by an Adult Ticket Holder. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Adults require a ticket to enter, unless they have a current Carer or Companion Card. Tickets & Bookings – www.trybooking.com/NUYP

LEGO CLUB
The final Lego Club for 2016 is on this Saturday, 26th November from 10:30-11:30am, 110 pine Ave, Mildura. All welcome. For more information email sunraysia.autism@gmail.com.
Please indicate whether your child can or cannot attend the event below and return the note tomorrow.

I give permission/I do not give permission for my child/ren

..................................................................................................................................... /Grade ....

..................................................................................................................................... /Grade ....

..................................................................................................................................... /Grade ....

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to perform in the Merbein Community Carols on Friday 2nd December, 2016. I am aware that I will be responsible for my child’s supervision on the night. I will have my child meet the teachers at 7.25pm to the left of the stage area in Kenny Park on this day.

Signed ........................................................................................................ Parent/Guardian  Date ..................................................