YEAR 10 GRADUATION PHOTO – Mr Blackie
Congratulations to our Year 10 students who graduated on Friday 4th December. What a fantastic night it was and a great way to acknowledge this educational achievement. Well done and all the best for the future. Thank you for all the wonderful memories. Photos from the Graduation and Year 10’s last day at school will be available via students’ school Google Drive by the end of the week.

YEAR 10 FINAL ASSEMBLY PHOTO – Mr Blackie
Merbein P-10 College would like to congratulate our Class of 2016 and thank them for their contribution to the life of our school and the community. We hope that they leave us with knowledge, skills, friendships and an approach to life and to learning that will lead them to success no matter where the future takes them.

DATES TO REMEMBER
DECEMBER
12th Monday
-Pri Pool Day 1-3pm
-Whole School Awards Night – Arts Centre Mildura.
13th Tuesday
Yr 6 Dinner @ The Grand Hotel
14th Wednesday
-Gr 2-4 Bowling Excursion
-Pri Class Parties
15th Thursday
-Pri Graduation Ceremony held at the school @ 9.30am
-Student reports sent home
16th Friday
-Sec – Lake Day
20th Tuesday
-Last Day of Term 4
-Early dismissal time of 1.30pm
-No OSHC on this day
MERBEIN P-10 COLLEGE AWARDS NIGHT
We look forward to one of the most satisfying ceremonies of the year on Monday, 12th December. The Whole School Awards Night is a time to celebrate Grade Prep to Year 10 students’ outstanding accomplishments throughout the year. Families of recipients have been notified of details.

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS – SRC FUNDRAISER
All students are asked to send along a donation of a ‘can of food’ to build a Christmas Tree in the main entrance of the school. A big thank you to those who have already sent along some cans, the tree has a trunk and a star. Let’s do better and see how huge we can make it. Donations will be given to Mallee Family Care at the end of the school year.

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

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
ATHLETE’S FOOT SCHOOL SHOES
FUNDS 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.

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.i@edumail.vic.gov.au asking for the newsletter to be emailed to you.

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.

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.

PRIMARY NEWS

PRIMARY GRADUATION CEREMONY – Wendy Finn
The Primary Graduation Ceremony will now be held at the school on Thursday, 15th December at 9.30am. This is a very special ceremony where the Grade 6 students’ final year of Primary Education is recognised. We also recognise the completion of the Prep’s first year of Primary Education at this ceremony. The Preps will receive a book to mark the occasion donated by Hammertons’ Jewellers. All families are welcome to attend. If the weather is kind to us, the ceremony will be held on the school oval or if we need protection from weather on the day it will be held under the basketball shade area in front of the canteen.

CLASS PARTIES
Class parties will be held on Wednesday 14th December. Notices have been sent home with each child detailing their class party information. Please check with your child’s teacher if you have not received a notice.

FINAL PREP PRACTICE DAY REPORT - Mrs Hall and Mrs Rivett
On Tuesday, our 2017 Prep students spent their final Prep Practice day engaging in Christmas activities with their teachers and friends and having a very enjoyable and happy time. They met their Grade 6 buddy and participated in a music lesson with Mr Pay. An information notice was sent home with each prep child. It is important to note that all the 2017 prep children will have a rest day every Wednesday in February.
We are looking forward to having a bright & happy start with your child’s first year for Primary School at Merbein P-10 College.
GRADE P-2 CAROL SINGING IN THE MALL PHOTO
What a beautiful day it was yesterday to be singing carols in the Mall. Our Grade P-2 students performed in the spirit of the season.

MERBEIN CHRISTMAS CAROLS EVENT PHOTO
Sixty seven primary children performed at the carols last Friday, 4th December. Well done everyone. Fantastic effort! Huge thankyou to parents for the support.

SCHOOL BOOK BORROWING
Library Borrowing has finished for the year. Please check that your child’s Library Books have been returned. School books are a very important part of our children’s educational resources and very expensive to replace. Please encourage your child to look ‘everywhere’ in their room, behind shelves and furniture, under beds and in cupboards.

LIBRARY SERVICE SUMMER READING CLUB
The Mildura, Red Cliffs, Merbein, Irymple and Mobile libraries invite children and families to participate in the Summer Reading Club this school holidays. The Summer Reading Club is a free in-library and online holiday program. This year the theme is Heroes and Villains. Young readers will be encouraged to continue reading during the school holidays and participate in local library activities. The fun continues online with great prizes up for grabs. The Summer Reading Club runs from 1st December to 27th January. For further information, or to sign up to the program please contact Mildura Library on 50188350, find us on Facebook or visit www.mildura.vic.gov.au/library.

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.

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. There is NO OSHC on Tuesday, 20th December.
GRADE P-6 POOL PARTY DAY – Wendy Finn
The Grade P-6 students will enjoy an End-Of-Year Break-Up treat on Monday, 12th December at the Merbein Pool. Students will travel by bus to Kenny Park, where they will eat their lunch, before entering the pool at 1.00pm. Parents are asked to collect their child from the pool before 3.12pm on this day. If your child needs to return to the college to catch a bus or attend OSHC, a bus will be provided. Permission notes were sent home last week. Please check your child’s permission note has been returned. Your child will need their bathers, towel, hat, sunscreen, drink, lunch and snacks. Students will change into their bathers at the school.

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.

SECONDARY NEWS

END OF YEAR PROGRAM FOR YEARS 7-9 – Mr Rhodes
All students in Years 7-9 have been given a note explaining the last four days of school from Thursday, 15th December to Monday, 20th December. Up to Wednesday 14th December all students will be completing normal classes with their regular teachers. For the remainder of the week students will be participating in activities which include our annual sports afternoon on Thursday 15th and the Picnic Day, held at Lake Cullulleraine on Friday 16th. Students attending the Lake Day are required to be Sun Smart and wear shirts with sleeves and collars, sunscreen and hats. They will also need to take appropriate footwear for canoeing.
On Monday, 19th and Tuesday, 20th December students will be assisting staff in cleaning lockers, tables and the yard as a major focus.

YEAR 10 STUDENTS – Mr Rhodes
Last Friday 2nd December we farewelled our Year 10 students. A special assembly was held on the outside basketball court with chairs provided for the Year 7-9 and mats for the Year 10 students. This was the beginning of a memorable day for our Year 10 students, some of whom had made our school their home for as little as a term or as long as eleven years. They are currently attending Orientation Activities at the Senior College and will officially exit the school tomorrow, Friday 9th December.

ORIENTATION DAYS REPORT – Mr Rhodes
This week we welcomed 113 new Year 7 students on Tuesday and Wednesday to our school. This has been our largest intake of Year 7 students for a number of years.
On Tuesday, 24 new prep children also attended their final Transition Day.
ORIENTATION DAYS REPORT – Mr Morgan
This week the school was swarming with many new and eager students preparing for life as a Year 7 student in 2017. There will be 113 new Year 7 students next year. It was great to meet and work with these young people during their two day Orientation at Merbein P-10. During these two days the students meet their new class mates and Form Teachers who are Mr Arney, Mr Petrie, Mr Hudson, Mr Lee, Ms James and Mrs McPhee. The feedback from the students was that they loved the college and checking out the new subjects including Food, Plastics, Science and Wood which they don’t experience in a primary setting. There were many comments on how they appreciated the friendliness of the other students in the school and that the staff were very nice.

On Tuesday, the 2017 Student Scholarship Awards for our college were announced. These students come from five different local primary schools. Each winner receives a certificate plus $250 toward their schooling in 2017.

There are four different scholarships.

Award Winners were as follows:

**Academic Excellence Scholarship**
Cameron Kiel and Chloe Tonkin - Mildura West PS.
Eleanor Sands and Amy Green - The Lake PS.
Taylah Pratt – Merbein P-10.
Campbell Murray - Mildura South PS.

**Citizenship/General Excellence Scholarship**
Sam Pratt, Josie Brigante, Aimee Geyer and Noah Bailey - Mildura West PS.
Nikea Champion - The Lake PS.
Jade Barlow - Ranfurly PS.

**Music/Art Scholarship**
Samantha Moore and Madison Doig - The Lake PS.

**Sports Scholarship**
Toby Edlington - Mildura West PS.
Samantha Lambert - The Lake PS.

**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 the day. To protect the outer and under layers of skin, students need to ensure that clothing covers exposed skin or that SPF 30+ sunscreen is applied in the mornings to exposed skin.

**COMMONWEALTH BANK – NEW BANK ACCOUNT**
Students wanting to open a new bank account in their own name will need to provide two pieces of formal identification to the bank. One piece could be your birth certificate and another could be a letter from the principal of your school. This letter must be on official school letter head, have your full name and full residential address, plus the number of years you have been enrolled as a student at the school. The letter must then be signed by the principal (please note that your photo ID is not acceptable as a formal piece of identification).
COMMUNITY NEWS

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.
Participates 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)
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
Pamphlets are available from the school's main office.

MERBEIN GOLF CLUB CHRISTMAS FAMILY NIGHT
This Saturday is the Merbein Golf Club Christmas Family night with plenty of fun for the family. For more information phone Melina Binding on phone 5021 3472 or email mbinding@madec.edu.au

FOSTER CARERS NEEDED
The Sunraysia Community needs more carers to provide safe caring environments for young people aged 0-18 years old. For more information contact MASP on phone 5021 6500 or email info@masp.org.au

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

WEP STUDENT EXCHANGE
What are your plans for 2017? Head off on a WEP student exchange and have the adventure of a lifetime! A summer, semester or year exchange will equip you with incredible benefits, experiences and friendships that’ll last a lifetime! Request your FREE student exchange info pack now and plan your adventure over the school holidays! To get your hands on a pack, SMS ‘EXCHANGE’ to 0428 246 633, head to wep.org.au or call 1300 884 733.

MILDURA RURAL CITY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM JANUARY 2017
Activities are for students currently attending primary school. Cost is $1.80 per child per activity. Bookings essential. If your child is unable to attend please contact the library.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Merbein Library - 03 5018 8364</th>
<th>Mildura Library - 03 5018 8350</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd January 11:00am People bookmarks</td>
<td>10th January 10.30am Marble Run</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th January 11:00am Lego (FREE)</td>
<td>2.30pm Felt Decoration</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th January 11:00am Fishing Expedition</td>
<td>11th January 2.30pm Lego (FREE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th January 11:00am Animal bookmarks</td>
<td>12th January 11:00am Squishies</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th January 11:00am Lego (FREE)</td>
<td>17th January 11:00am Cup people</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th January 11:00am Squishies</td>
<td>18th January 11:00am Lego (FREE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th January 11:00am Cup people</td>
<td>19th January 11:00am Hanging pots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th January 11:00am Lego (FREE)</td>
<td>24th January 11:00am Light jars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th January 11:00am Hanging pots</td>
<td>25th January 11:00am Lego (FREE)</td>
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MERBEIN GOLF CLUB CHRISTMAS FAMILY NIGHT
This Saturday is the Merbein Golf Club Christmas Family night with plenty of fun for the family. For more information phone Melina Binding on phone 5021 3472 or email mbinding@madec.edu.au<mailto:mbinding@madec.edu.au>
### CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES COACHING SESSIONS
The tennis coach at Red Cliffs is running a children with disabilities coaching session on Wednesdays. There are only two Wednesdays left this term. If your children would like to try it before Christmas, email sunraysia.autism@gmail.com for more information.

### MILDURA CHURCH OF CHRIST 10TH STREET & DEAKIN CHRISTMAS SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 11th</td>
<td>9.00am &amp; 10.30am</td>
<td>Two morning services</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Special Guests Aaron and Mel Francis; Mildura Carols By Candlelight @Nowingi Place</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 18th</td>
<td>9.00am &amp; 10.30am</td>
<td>Two morning services</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Carols Service featuring a brass band</td>
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<td>Family Christmas Party with Jumping Castle, Face Painting, Free BBQ, TEA, Special Musical Performance from Caitlin Holdcroft and Joshua Tonkin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 24th</td>
<td>5.00pm &amp; 7.00pm</td>
<td>Two evening services</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Christmas Eve Service. Featuring your favourite Christmas Carols, special items and an inspiring message of hope. A light supper will follow each service.</td>
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