



ISSUE #11
TERM 3, WEEK 1
21 July 2016

MC link

Merredin College Weekly Community Update



Principal Message:

Welcome back to Term 3, hopefully students and their families enjoyed the break and are well rested! All students have started the second Semester off smoothly and settled back into the school routine.

This term we welcome three new staff members at Merredin College.

- Sarah Oliver who is replacing Amanda Lockyer. We wish Amanda a wonderful holiday as part of her 6 months Remote Teaching Service Leave in Semester 2.
- Zane Saunders who is backfilling Kylie Bryant as primary HPE teacher. We wish Kylie all the best on the birth of her second child.
- Alison Ruzayi who will take on the role of Home Economics Assistant, having successfully applied and been selected for the position.



CHANGES TO GROUNDS OVER THE HOLIDAYS

There have been a number of improvements made over the school holidays. Some of our hard working early childhood staff and their partners have created a beautiful early childhood outdoor area which students can have a great deal of fun with. Among other things there is a camp fire (unlit of course), boat and dinosaur garden. Plans for a fairy garden are in full swing. Many thanks to all concerned!

Have you noticed our new electronic sign? It will be operational very soon and will be used to advertise upcoming events like P&C meetings, parent/teacher interviews etc. It is located outside the main office on the lawn just to the north of the main entrance.

In addition a new set of handrails have been installed on either side of the new steps leading down to the courts from the library. Primary parents may have also noticed that the roofs for the playground equipment have commenced. In secondary, the bricks on the VET Office wall in the West quad have also been replaced and that area is being tidied up.

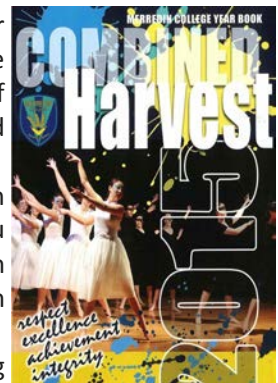
2015 COMBINED HARVEST AVAILABLE

We appreciate the inspirational work of Di Giles and Rebecca Wallace who have coordinated the efforts of staff and students to create our fourth Merredin College Combined Harvest. It is a terrific year book which shows the highlights of 2015.

Secondary parents/carers who ordered and paid for a Combined Harvest, can collect theirs from the front office or request their child to do so. A list of secondary students who ordered a Combined Harvest was provided to Form classes today.

Primary students had theirs distributed on Wednesday. Please check your child's bag if you have not seen it yet. If your primary child has an older sibling in secondary, the Combined Harvest can be collected by them from the front office.

Students who have left who no longer have a sibling at Merredin College will have theirs posted home.



PAYMENT OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS & CHARGES - INCENTIVE

Parents/carers who paid their voluntary contributions and charges by the end of Semester 1, have had their names placed in a draw for a \$500 voucher to be spent at IGA, Nextra Newsagency, Sports Power, Target or the P&C Uniform Shop. This draw will take place at the secondary assembly next Thursday 28 July.



EWENCON16

Last Monday (18 July 2016), 174 staff from Merredin College, Southern Cross District High School, Bruce Rock DHS, Kellerberrin DHS, Mukinbudin DHS, Nungarin Primary School and Moorine PS gathered at Merredin College for the 2016 Eastern Wheatbelt Education Network (EWEN) Conference. This event was organised by the EWEN Team Leaders who are three teachers from network schools. The K-2 Team was led by Mardi McNamara, the Year 3-6 Team was led by Amanda Lockyer and the Year 7-10 was led by Emma Crofts. The idea of having teachers organise the conference was to ensure that the needs of teachers were addressed and who better to decide on that, than teachers themselves! Our Team leaders were ably supported by Gavin Stevens (Principal of Mukinbudin DHS) and Sharon Alvaro (School Officer, Merredin College).

The day started with a 'Welcome to Country' by Mick Hayden and the conference was opened by Alan Smith (Acting Regional Executive Director – Wheatbelt). The key note address was delivered by Dave Faulkner (CEO Education Changemakers) who shared inspiring tales of educational change. He highlighted stories of school improvements from his experience as well as from across the globe.

All staff (teaching and support) were then able to select from a range of information sessions appropriate to their professional needs. Sessions included: Design thinking for educators; Navigating teenage depression; Leveraging IT for innovative classroom teaching; Performance management; Intervention for low performing students in lower secondary and upper primary, Phonemic awareness to support the development of literacy in the early years; Literature: Picture Books and the Australian Curriculum; Library and Information Focused training; Manual Handling and Work Safety; and Finance for Schools training. There was something everyone.

The day finished with a Sundowner at Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre and was sponsored by the Bendigo Bank. This was a further opportunity for staff from the seven schools to continue networking.

EWENCON16 was a great success and staff look forward to a similar opportunity in two years' time.

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

Years K-10 School Contributions that remain unpaid @ 16 June 2016 - \$58 257.21
 Year 11/12 Fees and Charges that remain unpaid @ 16 June 2016 - \$35 359.00

Total Outstanding: \$97 616.00

This does not include outstanding amounts for other voluntary approved Requests: Like P&C, Library, Technology Fund or contributions to the School Chaplin.

If we do not get contributions and charges from parents, we do not get reimbursed. Students just miss out.

Just look what we can get if everyone pays their little bit:



107 New Computers

OR



88 Laptops

OR



Nearly 1 more teacher

OR



More EA's in our classrooms

Or it would help to fund special projects like improvements to our student facilities like :



The Gym

OR



Science Labs

OR



Classrooms

Paid contributions also help in supporting the school to provide Teacher/Staff Relief so students can go on camps, to sporting events or attend other curriculum related activities.



IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF OUR KIDS MISSED OUT!

Please contact admin for a copy of your statement. Payment plans are available.

SCHOOL UNIFORM/ATTENDANCE AND GOOD STANDING AND THE RIGHT TO ATTEND EXTRACURRICULAR EVENTS

There are many opportunities for students to attend extracurricular activities at Merredin College. It is not a student's right to attend; extracurricular activities are privileges which must be earned. Please refer to the table below for the criteria which must be met before students can attend the main extracurricular activities. These commence in Semester 2, 2016. Parents/carers are asked to remind their children.

Year Group	School Uniform	Attendance*	Good Standing (GS)	Penalty
All student leaders (Middle School Councillors and Year 11 Student Councillors)	Should be in school uniform as they are our role models	At least 90%	Cannot lose GS	Loss of badge
2016 Year 9 Canberra students	Should be in school uniform	At least 90%	Cannot lose GS.	May be withdrawn from Canberra Camp
2017 Year 9 Canberra students (current Year 8's)	Should be in school uniform	At least 90%	Cannot lose GS	May not be offered a place on the 2017 Canberra Camp
2016 Year 9-11	Should be in school uniform	At least 90%	If lose GS, in S2 2016 student must earn back by the end of 2016. Cannot lose GS in 2017.	May not be allowed to attend the School Ball in 2017
2016 Year 12	Should be in school uniform	At least 90%	Cannot lose GS in S2. Must also ensure all school work is completed and handed in.	May not be allowed to attend the Year 12 Awards Night

* An explanation for student absences **MUST** be given to mark their attendance accordingly. A note saying they were away on a date without a reason for an absence will be marked "Unacceptable Absence".

PRIMARY *link*

ATTENDANCE

Week 10 was not our best week for attendance – sadly we had our lowest percentage of regular attendees for the entire term (88%). BUT looking forward, we have started term 3 with most classes having all students returning on Tuesday.

Our STAR CLASS for the last five weeks of term 2 was the YEAR 5/6!!! They now have the opportunity to attend the rewards room every Tuesday that they desire until week 5 when we announce our next star class.

BEHAVIOUR

During term 2 there were 251 letters of commendation sent home for students who were demonstrating excellent work ethics, behaviour, attitude, achievement and respect towards others. This is outstanding and demonstrates that we have such a high percentage of amazing students at Merredin College.

VALUES PROGRAM

Our value for Term 3 is SELF RESPECT and students will be participating in lessons throughout the term to develop and highlight self respect.

LOST PROPERTY

There is a large amount of lost property in the Primary office. Please come and look through the lost property and reclaim any items that are yours. Whatever is not claimed at the end of week 2 will be washed and donated or resold as second hand items.

PEAC TESTING

Year 4 students will be involved in the annual PEAC testing in week 3 this term (Wednesday 3 August). Parents were sent a notification letter late last term, more information will follow as necessary.

SECONDARY *Link*

ATTENDANCE

It is important to make sure that Student Services is notified regarding a student's absence. A reason for absence must be provided so attendance can be marked accordingly. If no explanation is provided the student will be marked with an 'Unacceptable Absence' which will affect their good standing. Other absences deemed unacceptable by the Department of Education are; Truanting; family holidays during the school term; leaving or arriving late during the school day to travel away for the weekend or holidays (this also applies to Residential College students).

YEAR 7-12 PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEW NIGHT

To be held this Tuesday 26 July in the library from 4-6pm. Teachers would like to catch up with as many of you who can make it, especially parents of students where a teacher meeting was requested in their report.

YEAR 11 2017 SUBJECT SELECTIONS

Forms for next year subject selections will be given to Year 10 students today. There are two pathways that students can choose from: **ATAR (University)** or **General/Vocational Education Training (VET)**.

Please note for those students wanting to enrol in the ATAR pathway, there are strict prerequisites which are included with the selection forms.

In the VET pathway, students have Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in the classroom for English, Maths and the options on Lines 3 & 4. On Thursday and Friday students spend a full day on their Certificate courses.

Once all forms have been returned interviews will be arranged to finalise selections. If you have any queries with subject selections, please feel free to ring Mr Wallace or Mr Rennie who will be happy to help you.

Save the Dates:

26 July
Year 7-12 Parent Teacher/
Interview Night

28 July
Yr 7-12 Highest Achiever Assembly

15-19 August
NAIDOC Week

22-26 August
Bookweek & Canberra Camp

8 August
School Council & P&C Meeting

18 August
Primary Assembly

20 October
Year 12 Awards Ceremony

Term 3 Planner:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	25	26 Yr7-12 Parent/Teacher Interview Night (Library) 4-6pm	27 <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	28 Yr7-12 Highest Achiever Assembly AMC Maths Comp PEAC	29 Secondary Highest Achiever Student Morning Tea
3	1 AUGUST	2 ICAS English Comp K-Yr 6 Dance Incursion Bibbulmun Trek Presentation Night 7pm	3 Yr 4 PEAC Testing <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	4	5
4	8 <i>School Council Meeting 4.30pm P&C Meeting 6.00pm</i>	9 Canberra Camp Info Night 7pm	10 Primary G'day Asia Incursion <i>Early Close-2.20pm</i>	11 PEAC	12 Choir Camp (One Big Voice)
5	15 NAIDOC Week	16 ICAS Maths Competition	17 <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	18 Primary Assembly	19 Newsletter →  NAIDOC Assembly
6	22 Bookweek Canberra Camp	23 <i>Dowerin Field Days</i>	24 <i>Dowerin Field Days</i> <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	25 <i>Dowerin Field Days</i>	26 → 
7	29 OLNA Yr10-12 Shakespeares Play "As you Write It" 9am	30	31 <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	1 SEPTEMBER PEAC	2 → Primary Athletics Faction Carnival
8	5 OLNA <i>School Council Meeting 4.30pm P&C Meeting 6.00pm</i>	6 Secondary Faction Athletics Carnival Canberra Camp Presentation Night 7pm	7 <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	8 Drama Open Day Performance (PAC)	9 → Open Day/Arts Expo Drama Open Day Performance Primary Footy Colours Day Fundraiser Careers Carousel Yr9-10
9	12	13	14 Yr11/12 General English Exam <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	15 Primary Assembly	16 Primary Interschool Athletics Carnival (at Merredin College) Yr7-12 Assembly 9am <i>Merredin Bus Accident (Anniversary 18/9)</i>
10	19	20 Y3-6 Forensic Incursion PP-Yr 3 Glass of Class	21 Yr 11/12 ATAR Exams Yr 4-6 Glass of Class <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	22	23 Last Day of Term 3 PP-Yr6 Attendance & Behaviour Reward Day