



ISSUE #41
TERM 2, WEEK 2
4 May 2017

MC link

Merredin College Weekly Community Update



P & C UNIFORM SHOP HOURS TERM 2

Wednesdays: 9.30am-1.30pm
Thursdays: 3-4pm

Please note:

Closed only - Thursday 11 May
Thursday 18 May
Will still be open on Wednesdays
(Sorry for any inconvenience caused)

NAPLAN

Commences Tuesday 9 May 2017
Years 3, 5 7 and 9
Commencing at 9.00am

HOMEWORK CLASSES

Year 4 – 12 on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons
in the Library at 3.10pm.

We encourage students to attend and utilise the
services of the teachers and support staff there
to assist children with their learning and
homework. This is a free service the school
provides.



REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA (RDA) WHEATBELT SURVEY

The Commonwealth Minister for Education and Training has called for a **review into regional, rural and remote education** with a view to considering the key ideas, challenges and barriers that impact on the learning outcomes of students. RDA Wheatbelt believe that Education is a key to the future of not only our students, but to the success of the Wheatbelt as a region. They would like to make a submission to this review however need your help to make sure it is an accurate reflection of the views of parents and teachers within the region.

They would highly value parents completing the surveys below – the broader the reach of the survey the more reflective it will be of the region. They are particularly interested in any stories of innovative strategies that have been employed to improve the outcomes of our Wheatbelt Students (there are open questions within the survey of which this is one).

Please take 10 minutes to have your say as a [Parent/Guardian](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QL79NTW-Parents) <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QL79NTW-Parents> by 31 May 2017.

PRIVACY AWARENESS WEEK

This year, [Privacy Awareness Week](#) is celebrated between 15 to 19 May and aims to remind the community of the importance of protecting their personal information. Personal data can travel through numerous transactions, media and organisations – but it's always personal – so handle it with care at every step. Check out the latest news, events and resources available for that week.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES ARE NOW DUE

K-10 Contributions statements have been sent home via students. If you have not received a statement, can you please contact Janelle Millar (90410900) at the College.

Year 11 and 12 students should have also received their unpaid Charges statements. Charges are not voluntary and **MUST** be paid. Whilst most of these were sent home via students, those who were absent or those at the Residential College have had their's posted. If you have not received your statement, please contact Janelle Millar (90410900).

STUDENT ONLINE SERVICES—YEAR 7-12

The school provides access to online services provided by the Department of Education. These were outlined in the last MC Link.

If you agree to your child making appropriate use of these online services, please complete the permission slip in the attached letter. You will also need to ensure that your child reads or understands the Acceptable Usage Agreement, also on the attached letter, before the permission slip is signed. Both signed documents should be returned to school so that an online service account can be continued for your child. This was due by **Friday 28 April** but **has now been extended to this Friday 5 May**. Failure to submit the documentation will mean your child's access will be withdrawn. Please return the form to Student Services. Last term, students were also provided with forms at school to bring home.



MERREDIN COLLEGE FACEBOOK PAGE

Follow us at: <https://www.facebook.com/Merredin-College-256760021333175/> or scan the QR code

STUDENTS LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS

A reminder that students are not allowed to leave school grounds without permission from parents AND signing out through Student Services. Please also be aware that it is also school policy that when students leave on a 'Lunch Pass' they are only permitted to go straight home and must arrive back at school in time for their next class. Students are NOT ALLOWED to go down the street or visit Chicken Treat to purchase food. We have a canteen on school site for students to buy lunch and recess.

PARENTS ON SCHOOL SITE

Please be aware that it is school policy that parents/carers are NOT PERMITTED access to school quads without signing in at either the front office or Student Services.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN testing will run from Tuesday 9 May 2017 to Friday 12 May 2017 (Week 3) for our Year 7 and 9 students. It is very important that students attend the NAPLAN tests, as attaining a 'Band 8' result will exclude them from sitting future OLNA testing. High achievement in these tests also place students in good stead for studying an ATAR pathway.

NAPLAN Test Conditions: The following items are NOT permitted in the NAPLAN test area under any circumstances -

- ◇ Mobile phones
- ◇ Smart watch or other internet-or Bluetooth-enabled device
- ◇ Rulers

COUNTRY WEEK

Please be reminded that students will NOT be allowed to attend Country week if they:

- Are suspended
- Fail to submit homework
- Are out of school uniform 5 or more times
- Break the mobile phone policy
- Have less than 90% attendance (without good reason)

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Leadership Team.

YR 10 WACE PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

Please be aware that the Yr 10 WACE Information session advertised in the Term Planner for Wednesday

3 May 2017 has been moved to Wednesday 17 May 2017 (Week 4) 5:30pm – 7pm. This session will be held in the Library.

REACHOUT RESEARCH PROJECT-YOUNG PEOPLE REQUIRED-FINANCIAL INCENTIVE PROVIDED

ReachOut is Australia's leading online mental health organisation for young people, providing practical support to help them get through everything from everyday issues to tough times. To find out more about ReachOut check out their website at <http://au.reachout.com/>

Shamus Whately from Avon Youth Community and Family Service is organising a workshop/focus group in **Merredin on Sunday 21 May from 10am to 3pm** as part of a funded project to ask young people (16-22 years of age) such questions as:

- issues they face
- any challenges faced in accessing mental health services
- what might be some unique needs young people would like from ReachOut to ensure the agency is responsive

He is paying an incentive of \$150 for participating in the Sunday workshop. There will also be one follow up activity which participants will be paid \$30 to complete.

Please refer to the attached documents:

- Advertisement outlining what they are looking for.
- Copy of the screening questions form that has to be returned to Shamus to check eligibility. This must be completed for a person to participate in the workshop. He will also be sending it electronically to those who contact him directly.

Note that he will be following up with a phone call to all who send in a completed screening form. Shamus only needs to recruit about 12 young people but wants a real diversity of people.

EXTERNALLY SET TASKS (ESTS)

All students enrolled in a General Year 12 course and/or a Foundation Year 12 course are required to complete the externally set task (EST) developed by the Authority for that course. The EST is compulsory and forms part of the school-based assessment and is included as a separate assessment type with a weighting of 15% for the pair of units.

The ESTs are administered in schools during Term 2 under standard test conditions. This will be Week 5 at Merredin College.

Detailed information about ESTs is provided in the [Externally Set Tasks Handbook](#).

EXAMS AND WORKPLACE LEARNING TERMS 2 (YEAR 11 AND 12)

Wednesday 17 May

General Exams Year 11/12 English
 Year 11 English

Monday 22 – Friday 26 May

Year 11 & 12 ATAR Exams

Monday 22 – Wednesday 24 May

Year 11 & 12 VET/General Externally Set Tasks [ESTs]

PLEASE NOTE:

Normal timetabled classes will be attended by all Year 11 & 12 'VET/General Pathway' students before, and after, their ESTs.

Monday 26 – Friday 30 June

Year 11 & 12 Timetable is suspended

Year 11 & 12 students should be –

*at Country Week

*on Workplace Learning (ADWPL)

*at home studying, completing assignments/tasks, etc

YEAR 10 CAREERS EXCURSION

Year 10 students are you interested in the Resources Industry?

We will be taking 20 students to Perth for 'Get Into Resources' a unique event where you will -

- learn more about resources careers from the people who actually do it
- learn by doing hands-on activities

- find out about a range of **technical**, **professional** and **trade** roles

- speak to people who work in the field

If you would like to take part in this excursion see Mrs Sutherland to put your name down.

When: Wednesday 21 June 2017

Number of Places: 20

Cost : \$22

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S ACHIEVEMENT—THEN JOIN CONNECT

Secondary teachers at Merredin College use an online environment called **Connect** to post their subject curriculum and assessment outlines, resources, assignments, information guides etc. It is disappointing to see how little this terrific service is used by parents and students.

Participation in Connect is optional. If you would like to take part you will require internet access and a computer, tablet or smartphone device. There is no additional software required and your access is free. If you have multiple children you will only need one login - even if your children attend different public schools. To register for Connect, please speak to Sandi Lee (School Officer) to be confidentially issued with your unique user name and password as well as access details for Connect. We hope that you enjoy the Connect experience and see it as an exciting new way to stay in touch with your child's school journey.

In addition, teachers provide up-to date information about your child's marks. All we need is a current email address and each time your child completes an assessment, a copy of the marks can be emailed.

PRIMARY *link*

WELCOME

A big welcome to Rebecca Bowler who will be joining our team of education assistants working in with Mrs Kudas and Mrs Goodier in the PP/1 room.

Got a question about this? Ms Lynne Herbert (Deputy Principal)

NAPLAN

Students in Year 3 and Year 5 will sit their NAPLAN Tests next week. Testing will start for these classes at 9am in the morning so it will be very important that children are on time to school. Teachers are currently familiarising students with the tests and students will be doing practice tests over the next few weeks.

Tuesday: Language Conventions and Writing

Wednesday: Reading

Thursday: Numeracy

If students miss a test during the week they will be given the opportunity to catch up later in the week.

Got a question about this? Ms Lynne Herbert (Deputy Principal)

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking is on Wednesday mornings in the wet area of the Early Childhood Block. School Banking is available between 8.30am-8.50am. Forms can be collected at this time if you would like to set up an account for your child.

Got a question about this? Ms Lynne Herbert (Deputy Principal)

FUNDRAISING – SPELLING BEE

Merredin College primary will be running a Spelling Bee Fundraiser later in the term and preparations will start soon. All money raised will go toward special projects in primary including creating and resourcing a MakerSpace for students where K-6 students are able to be creative, invent, explore and tinker in a collaborative environment while accessing a range of materials, tools and technologies from low tech items like collaborative weaving looms and cardboard to hi tech items like 3D printers and green screen technologies. This space would be utilised for delivery of our design and digital technologies curriculum and form an integral part of STEAM (Science – Technology – Engineering – Arts – Maths) Curriculum.

Got a question about this? Ms Lynne Herbert (Deputy Principal)

NO HAT NO PLAY

Broad brimmed hats are required if students are to play in outside areas at recess and lunch time. Many hats went home at the end of Term 1 for washing and we still have a few students who haven't brought their hats back to school. Please check that your child has their hat.

Got a question about this? Ms Lynne Herbert (Deputy Principal)

ADMINISTRATION CHANGES – TEACHER CHANGES

Mrs Lorraine Shreeve will be taking an extended leave of absence from Week 4 this term. She is looking forward to spending time with her family and some travel and we are lucky to have Mrs Leah Boehme stepping into her role through to the end of term.

Mrs Jane Patroni will be taking on the Kindergarten classes through to the end of term and Mrs Norelle Millington will be joining our team again to support the classes in Junior Primary.

Got a question about this? Ms Lynne Herbert (Deputy Principal)

WANTED

Mrs Boehme and Mrs Patroni in Kindy are seeking donations of nail polish for a class activity. Bottles can be partially used - but must be in good condition and still able to be applied to nails. Thanks in advance!

CANTEEN SPECIAL—FRIDAY 5 MAY

Potato & Chicken Nuggets—\$4.50.



BOOKCLUB NEWS

Bookclub orders are due back next Thursday 11 May.

This month Scholastic are running a special promotion to benefit your child's class.

The class that has the most number of student ordering Bookclub will win a pack of books for the classroom library!!

This is a great prize for your class to get those orders in.

The best way to order is through the online LOOP service:

<https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/Parent/Register.aspx>

If you do not have access to the internet you can send your order form and correct money in cash to the library with your child.

Any queries please contact Mrs Clarke in the Library.

HEALTHY FOOD RECIPE

Date And Muesli Slice

A perfect healthy treat or lunchbox/ tractor snack –once prepared can be frozen also! Good for those busy times when you want to grab a quick something and know that it's healthy. Please try and enjoy today

Ingredients

- olive or canola oil spray
- 2 medium apples, core removed, coarsely grated with skin on
- 1/3 cup water
- 1/4 cup margarine
- 2 cups dates, seeded
- 2 cups natural muesli
- 1/2 cup plain flour
- 1/2 cup wholemeal plain flour
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan forced).
2. Lightly spray a slice tin (approx. 25x30cm) with oil.
3. Add apple, water, margarine and dates to a small saucepan and bring to the boil.
4. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for a further 5 minutes until the apple is soft.
5. Cook uncovered for a further 5 minutes and stir occasionally until mixture thickens to a paste-like consistency.
6. While apple and date mixture is cooking, place muesli in a large frypan. Stir over low heat for 5 minutes until lightly browned.
7. Sift flours into a large bowl, returning husk remaining in the sieve to the bowl.
8. Add cinnamon and muesli to the flours and mix to combine.
9. Stir into the date mixture then spoon into prepared tin.
10. Bake for 20 minutes until firm.
11. Cool in tin before cutting.



Save the Date:

9 —12 May
NAPLAN
Yrs 3, 5, 7 & 9

11 May
School Board Meeting
5.30pm

15 May
P&C Meeting
6.00pm

18 May
Primary Assembly

19 May
Secondary Assembly

26 May
National Sorry Day

Term 2 Planner:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	8 Interruption Free Week (P)	9 *NAPLAN	10 <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i> Moon Night Incursion-Yr 7	11 School Board Mtg 5.30pm	12
4	15 P&C Mtg 6.00pm	16 YouthCare Mtg 5.30pm	17 Yr11/12 General English Exam Yr10 WACE Info-P.5 <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i> Yr10 WACE Info Night 5.30-7pm	18 Primary Assembly 9am	19 Yr7-12 Assembly-P.1
5	22 Interruption Free Week (P) ESTs Yr11/12 English/Maths Exams	23 ESTs Yr11/12 HASS/Science	24 Yr 11/12 ATAR Exams *STs <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	25	26 National Sorry Day NEWSLETTER
6	29 <i>Aboriginal Parent Mtg 9.30am-Staffroom</i> Yr 9.1 Exams Yr 10 Exams (Core Subjects)	30	31 Human Biology Excursion Yr 12 <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	1 JUNE Primary Spelling Bee <i>School Board Mtg 5.30pm</i>	2 Primary Cross Country
7	5 WA Day – Public Holiday	6 School Development Day	7 <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	8	9 Bruce Rock Cross Country
8	12 P&C Mtg 3.15pm	13	14 <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	15 Primary Assembly 9am	16
9	19	20 YouthCare Mtg 5.30pm	21 Yr10 Careers Excursion <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	22 Primary Spelling Bee	23 Prim. Winter Carnival Yr 7-12 Assembly P.1 NEWSLETTER
10	26 Yr10/11/12 Country WkYr11/12 ADWPL Try-A-Trade Excursion	27 P-Yr2 Glass of Class Lunch	28 Yr3-6 Glass of Class Lunch <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	29	30 Last Day Students Newsletter