

IMPORTANT DATES:

ISSUE #1
TERM 1 • 2017

Labour Day Public Holiday
Mon 6 March

Secondary Interschool Carnival
Fri 10 March

School Photos - Primary
Tues 14 March

School Ball
Sat 18 March

School Council Meeting
Thurs 9 March

School Photos - Secondary
Mon 13 March

Secondary Assembly
Fri 17 March

P&C Meeting
Mon 20 March (3.15pm)



Woolgar Ave
MERREDIN . WA . 6415
Phone: 08 9041 0900 . Fax: 08 90412 008

MERREDIN COLLEGE NEWS

learning close to home

Congratulations to:

- Merredin College Primary Interschool Swimming Team for being victorious in the Interschool swimming carnival against St Mary's today. Well done!!
- Trent Starceвич our highest performing 2016 Year 12 student who achieved an ATAR score of 97.6, placing him in the top 6.5% of all ATAR students in WA. Trent also won a Certificate of Distinction and Subject Certificate of Excellence for Maths Applications.
- The 2016 Year 12 students, 98% of whom achieved attainment - an ATAR score school of 55 or better and/or a Certificate II or higher.
- The Year 11 and 12 students recognised for their 2016 achievements at an Awards Ceremony on the first day back.
- The primary certificate winners acknowledged at the assembly on Thursday 2 March
- Jenna Muir (Yr 12) who is a finalist (last 6) in the 'Lions Youth of the Year'
- The U/16 Country Basketball Champions – Darcy Lowe, Sam Alberti, Gavin Muir, Tom Lane, Trent Caplan, Blair Morris, Patrick Withers and Darcy Dixon.
- The Year 7-9 Girls who have progressed to the finals of the Country Tennis Classic tournament
- Growden House which won the primary and Mitchell House, winner of the secondary swimming carnival. Well done to those students who were recognised as Champions in their age or year group.
- The newly elected Middle School Councillors – Alyssa Taylor & Jaden Willis (Year 7), Paige Tiller & Blake Jones (Year 8), Robyn Buder & Thomas Farson (Year 9), and Jacob Richards & Maddison Lane (Year 10). Samantha Cash and Joshua Burrell are our elected Year 11 Councillors.
- Our school Chaplain, Mr Brett Guthrie who was recently commissioned into the Anglican Church of Merredin, now his own church.

THIS ISSUE:



YEAR 7 BIG DAY OUT

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SECONDARY SWIMMING CARNIVAL

6



PRIMARY SWIMMING CARNIVAL

9

Principal's *message*



Mrs Beverley Stanes
Principal

We have enjoyed a smooth start to the school year with student attendance generally good. Currently 75% of our students are regular attenders as they are absent for no more than half a day per week. Ideally all students should be regular attenders. Parents/carers need to support our staff to ensure their children attend every day. We cannot teach your child unless they are here and YES they do fall behind when they are absent!

Census day (17 February) arrived and we had 270 primary students and 345 secondary students enrolled (Total = 615). Last year, there were 250 primary and 353 secondary students (Total = 603). Increased primary numbers have meant a new Preprimary class has been set up. We welcome Emily McKercher as the new class teacher.

Merredin College is an Independent Public School

What is our purpose? Where are we headed? What values underpin our actions?

Vision (Preferred Future)

Merredin College is the benchmark in rural educational excellence. We aspire to develop a community of engaged, creative and independent lifelong learners who aim high, value diversity and contribute positively to the global community

Mission (Core Purpose)

In partnership with our parents, we seek to instil in our students high standards for academic scholarship, integrity, leadership, and responsible citizenship so that they may enjoy freedom through knowledge, and lead healthy productive and meaningful lives.

College Values

1. Achievement – Expecting and accomplishing academic, sporting, cultural, citizenship & social growth through practice and perseverance.
2. Excellence - Striving for mastery in all aspects of our lives.
3. Respect – Demonstrating that we value self, others and property.
4. Integrity - Acting according to high moral principles including being honest and trustworthy.

Merredin College Business Plan 2017-19 - Our Role and Yours!

Staff have continued working on the College Business Plan by building on the work started in 2016. The school priorities for the next three years have been identified and are indicated below. Targets have been set for 2017 and strategies put in place to drive improvements in these priority areas.

1. Early Childhood Writing and Numeracy
2. Aboriginal Student Progress and Achievement
3. Senior School WACE and Attainment Outcomes
4. Positive School Culture

Key to improvement in the first three areas above is for parents/carers to ensure their children attend school every day, arriving on time having eaten breakfast and with the necessary requirements to get them through the day (food, pens, pencils and paper). Teachers can then undertake what they are passionate about and trained to do; teach your child.

To inform our educational focus and practice across the school, teachers have also been collaboratively developing a set of commonly held beliefs about teaching and learning. These will appear in the Business Plan.

A Thought...

"Life is not a solo act. It's a huge collaboration, and we all need to assemble around us the people who care about us and support us in times of strife." - Tim Gunn, TV personality

2016 Year 12 Results

Staff are delighted with our attainment rate. 98% of our Year 12 students carved out a successful post-school pathway because they either gained entry into a University (an ATAR score of 55 or better) and/or a Certificate 11. Attainment leads students into university, work opportunities or TAFE. 85% of our students graduated which means they achieved a Western Australian Certificate of Secondary Education. This was the first year of the more rigorous WACE requirements. We are especially delighted by the results of our ATAR students. Three students gained an ATAR of more than 80 giving them direct entry to UWA. This was a mighty achievement and shows just what can be done if you put your mind to it!



Trent Starceвич gained an ATAR score of 97.6 and so was placed in the top 6.5 % of ATAR students – a mighty achievement!

Staffing

We have welcomed several new staff to Merredin College this year and are delighted that they have chosen to join our team:

Jarrad Ritchie – Deputy Principal Student Services, Teagan Pascoe – School Psychologist, Chin Huan – Secondary Science, Jane Patroni – Primary DOTT, Trent Cremin and Narelle Millington – Year 1/2, Isobelle Sirianni - Home Economics. and Teacher in Charge (The Arts/T&E), Lillybelle Walton – English, Justine Low – Year 1 and Brett Postans (Home Economics Assistant). Mike and Lisa Gibbon and Amanda Lockyer have also returned from leave.

Ms Sarah Johns has assumed Maternity Leave. Her HASS teaching position will be taken by Helena Van der Riet in Term 1. We wish Ms Johns well over the next few weeks.

Collgar Supports Merredin College

The Collgar Community Fund Pty Ltd is a generous supporter of Merredin College students. Secondary students have been provided with access to substantial Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Academic scholarships over the past few years. In addition Collgar have provided funds to support camps and student awards.

In early February we were delighted to receive news that the College would benefit to the tune of \$38,160 in 2017. This funding will be used for the following:

- BUZ (Build it Up Zone) – a program to empower primary aged children with the life skills they need to face life's ups and downs.
- Digital technology resources – upgrade of iPads in primary.
- To set up a Sensory Space for special needs students in primary.
- Assistance to run student Protective Behaviours workshops in secondary.
- Support of other camps and awards across the school.

Merredin College wishes to publicly thank Collgar Wind Farm for their continuing support of our students.

Beverley Stanes – Principal



Secondary update



Mr Gerard Rennie
Deputy Principal

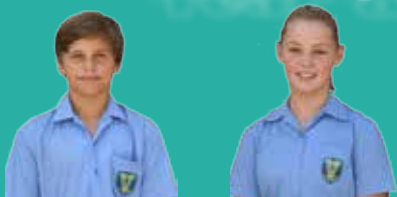
MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNCILLORS 2017

Year 7



Jaden Willis & Alyssa Taylor

Year 8



Blake Jones & Paige Tiller

Year 9



Thomas Farson & Robyn Buder

Year 10



Jacob Richards & Maddison Lane

Year 11



Joshua Burrell & Samantha Cash

Year 11 Orientation

Life for students in Year 11 and 12 is very different from lower secondary and to help make the transition smoother, Mr Tibbits the Year 11 Coordinator arranged for a Year 11 Orientation day during Week 2 to provide students with further detailed information on their chosen pathways for Year 11 and 12. Mrs Stanes welcomed everyone and set out her expectations, motivating students to make the most of their limited time remaining at Merredin College.

Students were given information about the new WACE requirements, behavioural expectations, Workplace Learning and VET requirements and heard from our School Chaplain (Mr Brett Guthrie) and new School Psychologist (Miss Teagan Pascoe) about the support available to students at Merredin College.

Mrs Sutherland organised some 'get to know you' activities after which Mr Tibbits had the Year 11s start designs for their leavers' jacket for next year. Special congratulations to Samantha Cash and Joshua Burrell who were nominated by their peers during the Orientation Day as the Year 11 Student Councillors.

HOME ECONOMICS

This year students are off to a great start and are already busy creating.

Year 7 students have been introduced to sewing equipment and have been learning how to thread a sewing machine. They have been learning how to follow a basic recipe and successfully completed a batch of corn fritters for their first cooking practical of the year.

Year 8 students have been revising cooking rules and procedures. They completed their first recipe with Miss Robins, blue pancakes, yum. Year 8 students have also been revising sewing basics which they will be using to construct a patchwork cushion.

Mr James' Year 9 students have been learning about food classification which has included research and discussion on the classic debate: tomato, a fruit or vegetable? They began a new sewing task in which they will need to design and construct more complex sewing project.

Year 10 students are working with Miss Sirianni to produce nutritious meals while following safety and hygiene procedures. They have recently begun their sewing assessment task in which they need to research, design and construct an embellished bag.

Last but certainly not least, the Certificate II Hospitality VET students are in full swing. Miss Sirianni has been very impressed by the team work, dedication and knowledge shown by students in the past few weeks. They have been learning about hygienic practices and safe food handling procedures while completing standardised recipes. We are looking forward to seeing what they produce as part of their training this year.



Miss Isobelle Sirianni
Teacher In Charge

TECHNOLOGY & ENTERPRISE



Mr Jarrad Ritchie
Deputy Principal

student services

First of all thank you to the Merredin College school community for making me feel so welcome. I feel privileged to lead the following staff members who make up the Student Services team in 2017:

Year Coordinators

Year 7 Coordinator- Sarah Johns/Krystal Hickman

Year 8 Coordinator- Kelly Robins

Year 9 Coordinator- Jarrad Ritchie

Year 10 Coordinator- Natalie Beale

Senior School Coordinator- Nathan Tibbits

Special Needs Coordinator - Fleur Forsyth

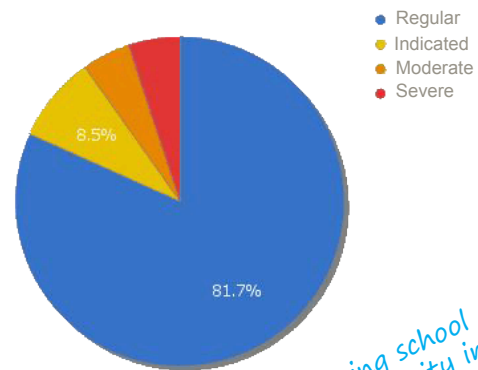
We also welcome Teagan Pascoe as our School Psychologist and welcome back Brett Guthrie as our School Chaplain.

Once again Vanessa Morris is our administration officer. Should you wish to speak with one of the team about your child please call Vanessa and a time can be arranged.

Students may also nominate to speak with either Brett or Teagan through a self referral box in Student Services.

Attendance

So far this year we have 143 secondary students with 100% attendance. What a great start! We also have over 82% of students above 90% attendance. Students, remember your attendance affects your eligibility to attend fantastic events like the School Ball, Country Week, the Canberra Trip, school socials and so much more! Parents, please remember to call Student Service to let us know of and the reasons for your child's absence.



"Improving school attendance is a priority in 2017"

Year 7 Big Day Out!!

On the 28 February all of our 63 Year 7 students attended the 'Big Day Out'. The day started in the library where students were asked to bring bullying 'into the open'. Together they discussed various forms of bullying and the reasons that it occurs. Suggestions were made regarding how to deal with a bully and also ways in which teachers, community members and others can help. Students were then given time to play a sport or a board game learning how to work together and include everyone. After recess students were involved in trust building exercises such as 4Up and Human Knot.

In other small groups they were asked to get to know each other better and work together to solve problems. After lunch, all students then attended the Merredin Pool where they were free to swim and slide as well as attempt to cross the giant caterpillar. The day was a great success thanks to all the students, staff and community helpers!



Miss Sarah Johns
YEAR 7 COORDINATOR

Secondary update

ASSEMBLY - 1 FEBRUARY

YEAR 10 & 11 HIGHEST ACHIEVERS 2016



YEAR 10

COURTNEY GARLETT
JESSICA COX
JACK DIXON
JACK FITZSIMONS
KAELEB ROISSETTER

LIANA CRAINE
SOPHIE CAPLAN
SAMANTHA CASH
TYLER DI FULVIO

ART
HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCE
PHYSICAL EDUCATION
MATHS & SCIENCE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY &
WOODWORK
ENGLISH
HOME ECONOMICS
DANCE & DRAMA
METALWORK

YEAR 11

BRINLEY POWELL

CONNOR PEARCE
COURTNEY THORNTON
CRISTIAN SUBIZA

ISAAC WARD
JENNA MUIR
JESSICA HUBECK
KANE KAHIKA-LEWIS
KELSEY OSBORNE

TAYLOR DAVIES

ZAC MCQUISTAN

CERTIFICATE II INFORMATION
DIGITAL MEDIA TECHNOLOGY
& ENGLISH
CERTIFICATE II AUTOMOTIVES
PHYSICAL EDUCATION - ATAR
CERTIFICATE II BUILDING &
CONSTRUCTION
MATHEMATICS - ESSENTIALS
ENGLISH - ATAR
HUMAN BIOLOGY & HISTORY
CERTIFICATE II ENGINEERING
CAREERS & ENTERPRISE &
CERTIFICATE II BUSINESS
MATERIALS DESIGN &
TECHNOLOGY - TEXTILES
PHYSICAL EDUCATION - GENERAL

Special Awards

YEAR 11

HIGHEST ACHIEVER
Isaac McDonald

ENDEAVOUR AWARDS
Christian Subiza

CITIZENSHIP AWARD
Jenna Muir

VET/GENERAL HIGHEST ACHIEVER
Kane Kahika Lewis

YEAR 10

HIGHEST ACADEMIC ACHIEVER
Jack Fitzsimons

ENDEAVOUR AWARD
Nicola Beck



SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Inter-House Carnival

Mitchell 342
Growden 264
Kelly 199
Law 157

Secondary update

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CHAMPIONS

Year 7 Boys: Xavier Rajagopalan
Year 7 Girls: Sienna Shelton
Year 8 Boys: Blake Jones
Year 8 Girls: Jasmin Griffiths
Year 9 Boys: Trent Caplan
Year 9 Girls: Charlee Brooker
Year 10 Boys: Alexander Rajagopalan
Year 10 Girls: Amy Robartson
Upper School
Boys: Kaleb Roissetter
Girls: Lana Drakeford

RUNNER-UP CHAMPIONS

Joshua Grant
Trenaya Lawrence
Arlo Adams
Paige Tiller
Robert Fitzsimons
Kaley McDonnell
Gavin Muir
Rachael White
Tyren Stones
Sopjie Caplan



Wednesday 1 March 2017 was the Merredin College Secondary Inter House Swimming Carnival. The day was a warm one and there was no better place to be than swimming in the pool. We had just fewer than 80 students compete this year which is a growing number and it's fantastic to see students putting their hand up to represent their House. There were some great times swum, along with fantastic sportsmanship displayed on the day which is a credit to all involved.

I'd like to thank those parents who came and supported their children at this event. They really do enjoy performing in front of you. To those parents who helped with timing and starting the events I offer an even bigger thanks. Without you the carnival wouldn't have run so smoothly.

YEAR 10 PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Physical Education has a new look for Year 10 students in 2017. This year the Year 10 students have been given the option to choose from 3 different sporting electives this year: 1) Ball Sports, 2) Fitness and 3) Physical Recreation. The fitness class focuses on building stronger bodies and encouraging students to maintain body strength through basic exercises. We have started to build a fitness centre on the mezzanine floor in the gym for the fitness class. This new fitness centre will be beneficial for not only our Year 10 students, but those in our Certificate II Sports Coaching and Physical Education Studies for both ATAR and General classes. The Physical Recreation class focuses on more of the social side of sport whilst still creating a competitive learning environment. Students in this class have been playing darts from the beginning of this term and will be moving on to other sports such as bocce, orienteering, table tennis and lawn bowls. The Ball Sports class focuses on the traditional model of Physical Education playing team sports such as tennis, volleyball, netball and water polo. Already we are seeing greater participation rates and performance from the Year 10s. Another addition to the Physical Education Program is a Specialist Volleyball sporting option. We have identified that volleyball is a sport that students in all years enjoy and have developed a program that will further develop students interest and skill. This volleyball program will help those students choosing Physical Education Studies ATAR and General courses as well as developing skills for the Country Week competition.



New
Fitness Centre

Mr David O'Neill
Teacher In Charge - HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

COUNTRY TENNIS CLASSIC

Merredin College participated in another successful Country Tennis Classic tournament in Cunderdin on Tuesday 21 February. The school entered five teams of students in Years 7 - 12 and competed against rival schools; York DHS, St Josephs and Cunderdin College of Agriculture. Merredin College students were successful in the Herbert Edward Shield 7-9 Girls division with the girls winning the majority of their matches. The remaining teams performed well with a mix of experience and youth in the 7-12 Mursell Shield boys and girls divisions.



All of the students represented Merredin College with pride and showed a high degree of sportsmanship to their fellow competitors.

The Year 7-9 girls will be competing in Finals in Perth on the 17 March at the Mt Lawley Tennis Centre. Good luck, girls!

Mr David Pirovich
HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Primary report



Mrs Lorraine Shreeve
Deputy Principal



Ms Lynne Herbert
Deputy Principal

Welcome

A big welcome to Mrs Justine Low (Year 1) and Mr Trent Cremin (Year 1/2) who have joined our staff for 2017. We also would like to welcome back Miss Lockyer who has just returned from a long period of travel while she has been on long service leave. We have had 22 new families enrol their children in the primary and we extend a warm welcome to them all.

Attendance

The Primary area of Merredin College has enjoyed a good start to Term 1 with an initial overall attendance percentage of 92%. We would like to thank all our students and their families in helping us do this. School is compulsory for everyone in Pre-primary to Year 6 and if you don't attend you are at a great disadvantage to the rest of your class mates. This even applies to our Kindergarten students – it is a real “eye opener” to see how much learning goes on in these classes each day. We are looking forward to reaching an overall Primary attendance percentage of 95% soon.

Year K-6 Clan Leaders

Our K- 6 Clan Leaders this year are:

Jane Patroni: Kindergarten and Pre-primary

Tracey Cornish and Trish Downsborough: Years 3 and 4

Deirdre Fardell: Years 1 and 2

Sarah Postans: Years 5 and 6

Our Clan Leaders, with assistance from the Deputies, are available to support our teachers in all aspects of education focusing mainly on attendance, welfare, behaviour management, professional learning and any other areas our staff feel they need support in.

Class Structure for 2017

We have 12 classes in primary accommodating Kindergarten to Year 6 students.

Kindy 1: Mrs Leah Boehme

Kindy 2: Mrs Leah Boehme

Pre-primary: Mrs Emily McKercher

Pre-primary/Year 1: Mrs Sue Goodier/Mrs Claire Kudas

Year 1: Mrs Justine Low

Year 1/2: Mr Trent Cremin/Mrs Narelle Millington

Year 2: Mrs Deirdre Fardell

Year 3: Mrs Tracey Cornish

Year 3/4: Mrs Trish Downsborough

Year 4: Mrs Amanda Cash

Year 5: Mrs Sarah Postans

Year 5/6: Mrs Amelia Baltovich

Year 6: Miss Amanda Lockyer

Meet the Teachers Afternoon

All classes have completed their “meet the teacher” afternoons/evenings and found them very informative for the parents that attended. This is an opportunity for teachers to set the requirements for the coming term and year. It is also an opportunity for you to meet some of the other parents in your children's classes and make class networks. Some classes had very low numbers of parent involvement this year and if you were unable to make it to your child's class meeting please contact the teacher to arrange another meeting as there may be important information you have missed.

Assembly - Term 1, Week 5



Values Award Winners:

Archer Gardiner, Chloe Wahlsten, Noah Ghirardi & Liam Flanagan

This award is to acknowledge the values of respect and integrity displayed at school.

Award Winners

Academic:

Pre Primary Erich Curan **Year 1** Riley Van Der Merwe

Year 1/2 Jordan Billing **Year 2** Lucas Mason **Year 3** Ollie

Parker **Year 3/4** Robert Mason **Year 4** Jaqueline-Jade Reiling

Year 5 Christopher Berryman **Year 5/6** Ebony -Rose Stone

Year 6 Kiara Sandercock

Citizenship:

Pre Primary Calvin Hardy **Year 1** Harper Pursell

Year 1/2 Ned Truglio **Year 2** Jayden Coelho **Year 3** Ollie Parker **Year 3/4** Chloe Van

Der Merwe **Year 4** Cassandra Cervantes **Year 5** Rodney Little **Year 5/6** Lilly Wall

Year 6 Chelsea Routledge **MUSIC - Upper Primary** Jorja Pursell **MUSIC - Lower**

Primary Logan Cervantes **ART - Upper Primary** Jorja Pursell **ART - Lower**

Primary Logan Cervante

Year 3-6 Swimming Lessons

Our Year 3 – 6 classes had two weeks of swimming lessons in Week 3 and 4. It was pleasing to see all our students trying to improve their skills right before our carnival, which was on the Friday of Week 4. The swimming teachers were most impressed with our students' good behaviour and how much effort they showed during lessons. Students will receive their certificates soon and look forward to their next chance to pass another stage. We thank parents for their support in supplying the necessary equipment each day and encouraging their children to still participate on some of our cooler mornings.

Better Hearing, Better Listening

Primary Health in conjunction with the Eastern Wheatbelt Early Years' Network has been successful in accessing the expertise to hold onsite hearing clinics throughout the year at Merredin College. Specialists from Princess Margaret Hospital will be able to collect all the information required to refer students on to ENT specialists in Northam ensuring block appointments and thorough ear screening. Hearing loss has a profound impact on learning and identifying and dealing with issues early is essential. Our first clinic will be held on the 21-22 March.

Values

Our focus value for Term 1 is RESPECT.

Classes have been discussing what RESPECT is and how we display it. They are also discussing the positive rewards students gain by displaying respect – for themselves, for others and for property. Children who display outstanding respect received Values Awards at our last assembly.

Year 5 Fundraising for Year 6 Camp We need your help!

Our Year 5 students and parents will be starting their fundraising for the 2017 Year 6 Camp this term. Camp costs can be reduced significantly for students when parents support the fundraising efforts. This year we were able to reduce camp costs from \$450 to \$150 for Year 6 parents who supported the fundraising efforts throughout 2016. Mrs Baltovich and Mrs Postans will be calling for parents to coordinate the fundraising in conjunction with the P&C this year.

PRIMARY LEADERS 2017

Our Primary student leaders for 2017 have stepped into their roles with enthusiasm and dedication. They are a very mature group of students who are currently learning how to speak publicly with confidence and are keen to make a difference in our school.

They have taken on several roles within the school including running our Monday Meetings, collecting and collating our Goodie token reward system, raising and lowering the flags each morning and afternoon, bell duties for all sessions of each day, library duties and many other duties as required by the Deputies.



School Captains:
Campbell Gardiner and Hallie Anderson

Vice Captains:
Jack Truglio and Chelsea Routledge



House Captains:
Kelly: Miaysha Chandler and Jaya Jaxon
Law: Haylee Bill and Angus McGrath
Growden: Ethan Creek and Kris Hayden
Mitchell: Harry Farson and Ebony-Rose Stone



Library Monitors:
Kiara Sandercock and Jearah Antazo

Choir Captains:
James Carnduff and Jada Moore

Primary Spotlight

Swimming Carnival

Our primary house swimming carnival was held on Friday 24 February in wonderful conditions. There was a very excited buzz about the school before the Year 3 – 6 students marched down to the pool. Everything began with a SPLASH and there was lots of yelling to encourage those in the pool. A big thanks must go to Mrs Zane Walker who organised the carnival and made sure all the behind the scene jobs were completed and also to all our wonderful parent helpers – without you, these things would never be possible!!



TROPHY WINNERS

Congratulations to Growden on the win and thank you to all the teachers, parent and student helpers who helped to make the day a great success. Well done to all the students who participated and a big congratulations to the following medal winners.



CHAMPIONS

RUNNER-UP CHAMPIONS

Year 3 Boys:	Milla Kett	Matilda Smith
Year 3 Girls:	Sam Anderson	Xander Boehme
Year 4 Boys:	Pheobe Hayden	Ruby Truglio
Year 4 Girls:	Zeke Jetta	Kurtis Jones
Year 5 Boys:	Tyler Bush	Grace Shelton
Year 5 Girls:	Judd Major	Mason Robartson
Year 6 Boys:	Harry Farson	Ebony-Rose Stone
Year 6 Girls:	Abbey Caplan	Kris Hayden

Overall Champion Boy

Harry Farson

Overall Champion Girl:

Pheobe Hayden & Abbey

Caplan

Good luck to all the students who will be representing Merredin College at the Interschool Swimming Carnival Friday March 3!



Mrs Zane Walker
PRIMARY PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Kindy/Pre Primary



We are delighted to welcome all our children, their families and friends to our Kindergarten class for 2017. Each Tuesday, Thursday and alternate Wednesdays, our classroom buzzes with the happy sounds of the children investigating, exploring and advancing their fast developing social skills in a variety of learning situations. We are working within the statement of the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) of Being, Belonging and Becoming, which allows the children rich opportunities to learn as they participate in activities both inside the classroom and in the excellent outdoor nature area. We work closely with Mrs Boehme's K/PP class and observe lovely friendship networks occurring. Our early learning experiences have included understanding and practising the rules and behaviours acceptable at school as well as the content areas of number, shape, colour and sounds.

From next week, due to increased numbers, Kindergarten will be split into two classes. Both will be taught by Mrs Boehme. I will still catch up with my students in my new role as DOTT provider.

Mrs Jane Patroni
Class Teacher

Pre Primary

Primary spotlight

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What a great start to the school year! The Pre-primary students have done a wonderful job of settling into their new classroom and school routine. It's been very exciting discovering and joining in new activities. We love going to the Music Room with Mrs Adamson and visiting the Art room for our classes with Miss Burnett. It's always fun when Mr Oakes takes us for Science, as we conduct experiments, observing reactions and changes to materials. In Literacy, we have been

busy learning and reviewing the sounds of the alphabet using the Jolly Phonics program. The students really enjoy singing along to the alphabet songs and dancing to the actions. In Maths, we have been counting collections and investigating various two dimensional shapes.

Our classroom has a pirate theme this term and we have had lots of fun reading pirate stories, designing and creating pirate ships, pirate hats and best of all, dressing up as menacing pirates. We are looking forward to an exciting and rewarding year.

Mrs Sue Goodier & Mrs Clare Kudas
Class Teacher

Today we sailed
the Seven Seas!!



Kindy/Pre Primary

What a start to the year we have had in the Kindy/ Pre-primary classroom. Mrs Boehme, Mrs Drakeford and Mrs Jefferys were very excited to meet us all and have enjoyed getting to know us over the first few weeks of school.

We have been very busy learning about colours, shapes, numbers and letters, as well as talking about the parts of our body and who is in our family. We have made some gorgeous craft including red lady bugs, yellow ducks, blue oceans, green frogs, square rockets, triangle fish, circle caterpillars and rectangle robots. We have also made spiders for the letter 's', alligators for the letter 'a', tractors for the letter 't' and Indians for the letter 'i'.



In Numeracy we have been focussing on our counting, making sure we count each item in the group only once. We have learned some songs and rhymes to help us remember our numbers. We have watched and sung 'One Big Elephant', 'Two Little Dickie Birds', 'Three Little Kittens' and 'Four Enormous Dinosaurs' on the interactive whiteboard. 'One Big Elephant' was our favourite!

We have been practising writing our name, holding our pencil correctly and using our scissors carefully. We have visited the library to explore books and enjoyed borrowing a book to read at home with our families. We have also been delivering the canteen basket in the morning and collecting it at lunch time – aren't we clever?!

We are trying hard to be grown up and are doing our morning jobs independently. We put our water bottle and fruit away every day and are earning stars on our 'Star Chart' for trying our hardest. We have also enjoyed utilising the technology in our class. We love moving our names on the Smartboard every morning and have enjoyed playing letter games online.

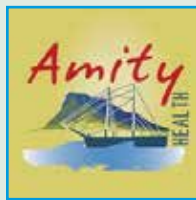
Mrs Leah Boehme
Class Teacher



Amity Health

Amity Health continues to provide a wonderful service to the school supporting individual students and families. Leesa Murray works in primary providing a regular counselling service to students who are experiencing difficulties. Students can be referred by parents, teachers and administration, however, parents will always be consulted as part of the referral process. Leesa also supports the school in a range of social and emotional programs that we run in middle and upper primary. This includes our 'Build Up Zone' Program for Year 3-6 and 'Rhythms to Recovery'. This year we will be introducing a protective behaviours program for Year 2 students as well as a 'Peer Support' program in Year 6.

The 0-4 program run by Emma Fitzsimons and Sonja Smith runs on Thursday and Friday mornings in the Early Childhood Centre focusing on health, language, social development and having fun. If you have a child in this age range, feel free to give Emma Fitzsimons a call at the school between Tuesday and Friday for more information.



U16 Countryweek Basketball Champs 2017



Congratulations to our Merredin Basketball Association Under 16 Boys who won their division at the Western Australian Country Championships held at Warwick & Bendat Stadiums in Perth on the 11-12 February. A special mention to Samuel Alberti (U/16s) and Kane Morris (U/14s) who made the Allstars Team for their division!!

School Photos

Our School Photos will be taken on:

Monday 13th March 2017

Yr 8 -12 Student Photos + Primary & Secondary School Leader Group Photos

Tuesday 14th March 2017

Family Photos in Library, Primary K-Yr 6 Student Photos, Primary Choir Group Photo, Primary Leaders Group Photos, Yr 7 Student Photos and Staff Group Photo

Class Photos/Portraits

- Every Student will have their photo taken, whether they are purchasing photos or not.
- Your child will be given a personalised pre-paid envelope by the class Teacher.
- Please ensure that your child returns the pre-paid envelope with enclosed payment to school on photo day if you wish to purchase photos.
- Please note: The photographers are not permitted to open the envelopes and cannot provide change.

Family Photos:

- Envelopes can be obtained from Administration.
- Family photos are been taken each morning before school. Please bring your children in on the days listed above via your child's surname to avoid long queues.
- Please ensure that your family envelope with enclosed payment is handed to the Photographers on photo day.

Special/Sports Group Photos:

- If your child is in a Special/Sports photo you will receive a link and password to the online gallery after photo day, where you can view and order these photos if required. These photos will be packed and delivered with the school's bulk order.

SECONDARY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

YEARS 7 TO 12

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR UP TO:

\$350

towards school expenses

**DO YOU HOLD A: CENTRELINK HEALTH CARE CARD OR
CENTRELINK PENSIONER CARD OR
VETERANS' AFFAIRS PENSIONER CONCESSION CARD**

**Applications Close
Friday 7 April 2017**

ASK SCHOOL RECEPTION FOR MORE INFORMATION

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

6 March	Labour Day Public Holiday	20 March	P & C Meeting 3.15pm (in Junior Primary)
9 March	School Council Meeting 5.30pm	21-24 March	Year 6 School Camp
10 March	Secondary Interschool Swimming Carnival	24 March	Year 8 Immunisation
13 March	School Photos (Secondary)	30 March	Primary Assembly
14 March	School Photos (Primary) Year 7-9 Parent Evening & 'Preparing for Uni Pathway' 5-6pm	31 March	Jump Rope for Heart
16 March	Halogen Leadership Excursion (Secondary)	4 April	PP-Year 2 Glass of Class Lunch
17 March	Secondary Assembly 9am Halogen Leadership Excursion (Primary)	5 April	Year 3-6 Glass of Class Lunch
18 March	School Ball	7 April	ANZAC Assembly & Last day of Term 1
		24 April	Term 2 Commences
		25 April	ANZAC Day Public Holiday

Who to contact at Merredin College in 2016

An outline of major staff and general responsibilities is shown below. In order to receive a timely response to concerns, parents and carers are requested to contact the appropriate person directly. This is best done, by telephoning the Merredin College Office and asking for the person

Bev Stanes (Principal) – *unresolved issues or concerns of a confidential nature*

Thelma Motzel/Janelle Millar (Manager Corporate Services) – *contributions and charges*

Lynne Herbert (Deputy Principal) – *K-6 unresolved general concerns, special needs*

Lorraine Shreeve (Deputy Principal – K-6) – *K-6 behaviour and attendance, Year 6 camp, student reports*

Gerard Rennie (Deputy Principal) – *Year 10-12 courses and counselling, Year 11/12 behaviour, reporting processes and secondary concerns of a general nature*

Jarrad Ritchie (Deputy Principal – Student Services) – *Yr 7-12 pastoral care and attendance, Year 7-10 behaviour, Year 7-9 courses*

Darren Gardiner (Head of Curriculum – Yr 7-12 Mathematics) – *Mathematics curriculum/classroom/student progress concerns*

Alyce Rogerson (Teacher in Charge – Yr 7-12 Science) – *Science curriculum/classroom/student progress concerns*

Julie Tiller (Head of Curriculum – Yr 7-12 Humanities) – *English/History and Social Sciences curriculum/classroom/student progress concerns*

Isobelle Sirianni (Teacher in Charge – Yr 7-12 Technology and Enterprise/The Arts) – *Home Economics, Design and Technology, Art, Dance, Drama curriculum/classroom/student progress concerns*

David O'Neill (Teacher in Charge – Yr 7-12 Health and Physical Education) – *HPE curriculum/classroom/student progress concerns, overseeing carnivals and other sporting events*

Fleur Forsyth (Education Support Coordinator) – *Year 7-12 concerns regarding students with special needs*

Brett Guthrie (School Chaplain) – *social and emotional support of students*

Jeno Hayden, Chrissi Smith (AIEOs), Tanya Garlett (ALO) – *concerns relating to Aboriginal students*

Wayne Wallace / Tracey Sutherland (Coordinator of Vocational Education) – *Yr 10-12 Workplace Learning, Vocational Education and Training Courses*

Rebecca Waye (School Nurse) – *Student health issues*

Teagan Pascoe (School Psychologist)

For classroom issues or queries, please first contact your child's classroom teacher before speaking to anyone else. If your concern is not addressed, then people should be progressively contacted as shown:

Classroom teacher → Head of Curriculum (if secondary) → Deputy Principal (K-6) or Deputy Principal (Yr 7-12) if the matter is curriculum related or Deputy Principal (Student Services) if behaviour related → Principal.

The school has a Complaints Management procedure.
Parents/carers are welcome to request a copy.

Bank Details:

You may prefer to pay school accounts vis direct debit. The school account details are as follows:

A/c name: Merredin College
BSB number: 066-040
A/c number: 19903610

Please make sure you add students name to the payment details.
The school also has EFTPOS and credit card payment facilities.



Merredin College

Contact Details:

Phone: 9041 0900 FAX 9041 2008

Email: Merredin.College@education.wa.edu.au

Website: merredincollege.wa.edu.au

Canteen: 9041 0942