ISSUE #8 TERM 1, WEEK 8 22 March 2018





#### **MERREDIN SHOW**

Merredin College wishes to extend a congratulations to all involved with the 2018 Merredin Show. It was outstanding!

#### CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES ARE NOW DUE

If you require a copy of your child's Contributions and Charges Statement please contact the office.

Families who have a Health Care Card/Pensioner Concession Card, and a student in Year 7-12 you are eligible to apply for the Secondary Assistance Scheme (Closes 7 April 2017) which will contribute \$350.00 towards their child's educational costs.

For families who are experiencing financial hardship, payment plans are available. Please contact the office if you need to apply for the Secondary Assistance Scheme, arrange a payment plan or want a copy of your child's invoice.

#### MERREDIN COLLEGE BOARD ELECTIONS AND EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Merredin College Board is calling for nominations for two parent positions and expressions of interest for two community positions. In line with the Merredin College Board *Terms of Reference,* members of the Board are appointed for a term not exceeding three years. Newly elected members will begin their term in May each year. This will coincide with the Annual Meeting to be held at the beginning of Term 2 (17 May 2018).

Members whose terms expire in 2018 are parent representatives *Di Dixon and Jenny Doncon* and community representatives, *Julie Flockart and Mick Hayden*. Parents are elected whilst community representatives are appointed by the Board. We would like to thank Di, Jenny, Julie and Mick for their invaluable support as members of the School Council/Board.

The role of the Board is not to make operational decisions but to set the strategic direction of the school taking into consideration both local issues and government legislation and policy. As an Independent Public School our relationship with the Merredin community is instrumental to our success. We would love our parents and community members to take this opportunity to have a real say in the direction of your school. Please nominate!

The Merredin College Board meets twice per term, currently on a Thursday at 5.30pm in Weeks 3 and 6 of each school term. Meetings are usually about 90 minutes long.

If you are interested in nominating (parent representative) or expressing an interest (community representative) please request a Board Nomination Form from Bev Irving (School Officer) and return this to Bev.Irving@education.wa.edu.au or to Merredin College Woolgar Ave Merredin WA 6415 - ph: (08) 90410900.

Further information about the role of the School Board can be provided on request.

Nominations close 3pm Wednesday 11 April 2018.

256760021333175/ or scan the QR code

### MERREDIN COLLEGE FACEBOOK PAGE Follow us at: https://www.facebook.com/Merredin-College-



EVERY TUESDAY 10:30AM - 3:30PM

## Our Values









### BOOKCLUB

Book club is due back by 23 March 2018.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOOL P&C!!

# This week our hard-working P&C was able to contribute almost <u>\$6000</u>

#### to a wide range of areas of the school curriculum!

The money will assist your child's education ranging from:

- Primary through to Secondary
- Physical Education to Drama
- Choir to WACE preparation

• Technology in lower primary to English excursions in Year 10 This is a direct result of the hard working volunteers who contribute to our P&C and shows what can happen when we all work together for our children!

There are more fundraising opportunities approaching this year which  $\underline{you}$  can be involved in too.



Come along to our next P&C meeting on

Monday, 21 May at 6pm in the Library to join us in supporting the education of our students.

As mentioned at the last meeting the P&C committed to almost \$6000 in staff requests to provide extra opportunities for your children. This includes :

- Transport for Year 10 to a live performance in Perth \$1600
- Choir camp \$1000
- Subsidising WACE seminars for Year 12 students \$1000
- Primary interschool sport shirts \$900
- Secondary drama camcorder \$799
- Primary headphones \$616

The above list does not include fundraising for the Year 6 Camp. P&C do not have all of these funds and require your support to make this fundraising happen. This can be through payment of your P&C contributions and/or support of fundraising events. Two functions which are guaranteed to make money where you could assist, involve catering:

- Friday 1 June Catering for the Eastern Wheatbelt Education Network (EWEN) conference – approx. 120 -140 people. This can raise about \$3,000. Hayley Billing is the coordinator.
- Thursday 7 June Catering for a Department of Education workshop numbers to be confirmed (20-40). Could possibly raise \$600-\$1000. The Year 5 parents have taken this on and we hope a parent will assume the position of coordinator and be supported by other parents in the class.

In addition, it is hoped to sell named paving bricks and run a Merredin College Festival (mini fete) on the Open Day -7 September.

#### NAPLAN ONLINE

Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students will be undertaking NAPLAN Online in Term 2 between the 15 and 25 May. Information for parents of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students will be sent home as a hard copy. An electronic copy of this information is attached to this week's MC Link.

Students in Year 5 and 7 will be undertaking a 'practice run' on Thursday 5 April. Other practice opportunities will occur for all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students before Week 3, Term 2 when the actual tests occur.

All requests for exemption from testing or withdrawal from testing must be received by the school by Friday 6 April. Exemption and Withdrawal Forms can be collected from primary administration or the main office.

Got a question about this? Mr Jarrad Ritchie or Ms Lynne Herbert (Deputy Principals)

#### SCHOOL SPECIAL GROUP PHOTOS ONLY

On photo day the following speciality group images were taken.

- 1. Yr 12 Student Councillors
- 2. Yr 7-11 Secondary School Councillors
- 3. Yr 7-12 House Captains
- 4. K- 12 School Leaders
- 5. K-Yr 6 School Leaders
- 6. K-Yr 6 House Captains
- 7. I.T and Choir Monitors
- 8. School Choir

These images can be viewed and purchased at a unique website that is DIFFERENT to where you order the portraits online.

1. To place your Order online simply go to <a href="https://mspphotography.shootproof.com/">https://mspphotography.shootproof.com/</a>

2. Click Specials 2018, then select the album titled:

#### Merredin College Specials - 2018

3. You will then be required to enter a password to view the

#### Album. The password for this MECOL2018

4. Please ensure that you use your child's name at the checkout

5. The first photo is a sample of the final product to show colour and layout (please ignore the school name)

• These online orders will be open until midnight on **Monday** 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018 – for the Bulk Pricing Offer

# • The Bulk Pricing Offer is \$20 per print and these will be delivered to the school BY CLASS GROUP

After the \$20 pricing expires, the photos will remain available online, but the photos will be at a cost of \$35 per image and delivered to a preferred address.

If you have any queries please contact MSP Photography on **9240 8000** or via email on <u>ordering.perth@msp.com.au</u>

#### **UNIFORM SHOP-IMPORTANT NOTICE!**

The next batch of polos are not due until April. We honestly cannot see it being before end of Term 1. On the upside is that when they do come, most of the current orders will be cleared. Unfortunately, students who have ordered size 'small' will have to wait even longer - at least May. I cannot explain this but this size has had the longest delivery time from the start. Parents who have placed an order with administration (and not come into the uniform shop) may not be aware of this - so, if you placed an order a couple of weeks ago - see above - and please keep your child in the loop too. Another plus from this last shipment is that we now have a small supply of sizes 2-10 on the shelf for 'walk in' sales...be quick!

Other schools around Australia are ordering this particular shirt, so the information below may give a little perspective on our wait times as our distributor has to wait for their manufacturer;

To date orders to our supplier for new polos total 1160. If there are 10 schools (very conservative guess) the same size as



Merredin College, ordering the same amount = 11600 polos = very busy sewing machines!

The polos do look good but we would like to remind parents and students that the polos are an addition to the current uniform, not a replacement. As a result, some students have only received part of their orders so others may receive a shirt. Orders are also processed by the date of the order.

When more polos arrive, orders will be processed as quickly as possible and students/parents, will be notified.

We are doing the best we can for everyone in a demanding situation and sometimes people make mistakes. If you have a query about your order in addition to what has been stated above, please direct to the Uniform Coordinator via email - not on the Facebook page.

Thank you for your patience and continued understanding.



#### HARRY PERKINS CENTRE EXCURSION

The Year 12 Human Biology students will be visiting Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research tomorrow, Friday 23 March. This allows students to have a hands-on approach to learning about Polymerase Chain Reaction and Electrophoresis.

#### **BE A HERO DAY-YEAR 10 FUNDRAISER**

In the weeks leading up to April 13, the Year 10 cohort along with Mr James will be raising money for the Leukaemia Foundation through *The World's Greatest Shave*. They have set a target of

\$5,000 with a number of milestones along the way where staff and students have agreed to colour or shave their hair. Blood cancer claims more lives than breast cancer or melanoma. In addition, today another 35 people will be given the devastating news



that they have leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma or another blood disorder. Help support this amazing effort by donating at <a href="http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/merredincollege">http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/merredincollege</a>

#### **PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOURS WORKSHOPS**

On Wednesday 28 March all Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 students will be attending Protective Behaviours workshops presented by WA Child Safety Services. The presentations will be slightly different for each year group to ensure age appropriate delivery.

The sessions are designed to assist young people to identify unsafe situations, to know how to respond and access help in a range of situations they may encounter in the 'real' world and 'online' world. The seminars are delivered by qualified and highly experienced trainers who understand the complexity of adolescents and the issues they face.

Additionally all parents are invited to a parent seminar from 9.00 to 9.45am in the school library. In the parent workshop, we will address:

- The importance of abuse prevention education in teenage years
- The prevalence of child sexual abuse and who is abusing our children

- A run through of what will be addressed in the workshops with the students
- How to access supports and how to support your children

Got a question about this? Mr Jarrad Ritchie (Deputy Principal-Student Services)

#### YEAR 11 AND 12 VET STUDENTS WORKPLACE LEARNING

Year 11 and 12 students completing a VET course can attend workplacement in the last week of Term 2, 25-29 June. All VET students not attending Country Week are encouraged to find a placement related to their VET course.

Return deadline for applications is 25 May.

#### ATAR STUDENT COUNSELLING PROCESS

Mr Rennie and Mr Wallace are currently counselling ATAR students, particularly those who may be at risk.

Please conduct them if you have a question you would like answered.

#### **MOBILE PHONE USE**

Since the introduction of the *Bring Your Own Device Policy*, the implementation of the *Mobile Phone Policy* has the been relaxed in order to assess the impact on student learning and behaviour. Staff wish to re-impose the restrictions regarding mobile phone use because:

- The distractions caused by mobile phones outweighs any educational benefits. Many students spend valuable learning time texting and/or listening to music.
- Some students have been known to text one another in class and then create an excuse to leave class to meet up with friends. This often leads to poor behavioural choices.

Staff recently met to finalise the policy. It will soon be discussed with students. After this, a 'No Tolerance' approach will be adopted in the interests of providing the best educational environment possible for our students.

#### YEAR 10-12 ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL BALL

Please refer to the attached information for student eligibility requirements for the 2018 School Ball which will occur on Saturday 7 April.

Parents and students are advices that pre and post Ball parties are not supported by the school.

#### WACE CHECKER DEVELOPED TO ASSIST YEAR 12 STUDENTS MONITOR THEIR PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE WACE

Students are reminded that the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) has developed a WACE Checker for Year 12 students. The WACE Checker is a tool which Year 12s can use to check their progress towards achieving their Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) and is now available on the Authority website at: https://wacechecker.scsa.wa.edu.au/.

The WACE Checker will be particularly useful for students considering changes to their education program which may affect their eligibility for the WACE.

More information is available under the 'Tell me more' button on the checker.

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CENTENARY OF ARMISTICE TOUR 2018

Western Australians aged 18 to 25 (students who have turned 18 by the date of application or staff under 25) with a variety of interests are invited to submit written or audiovisual responses to three questions. Competition guidelines, agreement conditions and application form are <u>online</u>. Applications close COB Friday 6 April. Enquiries: Leah Pitt <u>leah.pitt@dlgc.wa.gov.au</u> 6552 1593

# VOLUNTEERING OR VISITING ORPHANAGES IN FOREIGN COUTRIES

The Australian Government has developed a national Smart Volunteering awareness campaign which highlights alternative pathways for people to volunteer and/or engage with development through tourism. Research has shown that orphanage tourism can encourage harmful practices and, in some cases, put vulnerable children at risk. The number of orphanages in certain popular tourist destinations has increased dramatically yet many of the children living there have at least one living parent. The quality of care varies dramatically across these institutions. There is guidance for school groups and others considering visits to overseas orphanages on the Smart Traveller website or email smartvolunteering@australianvolunteers.com.

#### 26 MARCH TO 2 APRIL 2018 IS AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK

Each year the Autism Association of Western Australia, together with other organisations nationally and internationally, hold an Autism Awareness Week to raise community recognition of the needs and accomplishments of children and adults with Autism. Go to <u>https://www.autism.org.au/whats-on/world-autism-</u> <u>awareness-week/</u> to read about the events and activities being held to help embrace difference, raise awareness and acceptance of Autism. We have a number of children enrolled at Merredin College who are on the Autism spectrum and hence we wish to raise awareness of this condition with our wider community.

#### What Are The Signs Of Autism?

Often the signs of Autism develop gradually, with routine things becoming more difficult. Parents usually notice signs of Autism in their child around two years of age, as signs come to light, such as being unable to get the child's attention or communicating simple tasks. Other signs common to Autism include a lack of language and communication skills, reduced social interaction and sensory difficulties. Each of these challenges, along with others common to Autism, is explained on the website <u>https://www.autism.org.au/</u> <u>what-is-autism/signs-of-autism/</u>. With support, these can be overcome to improve the quality of life of the person with Autism.

# PRIMARY link 🧿

#### **PRIMARY ASSEMBLY**

Our next assembly will be hosted by the Year 4/5 and Year 5/6 classes and will be next Thursday 29 March at 9am in the primary covered assembly area. We look forward to seeing you there to celebrate our students achievements.

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

#### SCHOOL RUN4FUN COLOUR EXPLOSION - FUNDRAISER

From today, we commence the School Run4Fun Colour Explosion which is as a major fundraiser this term so we do ask for your support. The more money we raise, the more we can provide for the students through vital school projects, in particular woodwork tools for primary, Dash robot launchers, Sphero Robots to make a class set, a lego base wall, a movable marble run in Block 1s verandah and Lego WeDo Robotics.

The School Run4Fun Colour Explosion will be held on **Tuesday April 10** starting at **1.15pm**. We do ask that you bring a spare change of clothes to school, most importantly a plain white shirt as the students will be covered in powder from head to toe. The day's focus is on fun and fitness with the added benefit of raising funds for our school.

#### **Colour Powder**

The colour powder used in our event has been sourced direct from India, the home of Holi Powder. It is made of high quality corn starch and permitted food colours. It's non-toxic, biodegradable, skin safe and environmentally friendly. Toxicological Risk Assessment and ingredient listings can be obtained from the School Office upon request. Students with asthma are advised to be careful in their decision to participate.

#### How Does My Child Fundraise?

Students have now received a Sponsorship Form with instructions on how to raise money and order prizes. Students obtain donations in cash using the Sponsorship Form together with online fundraising.

Students who raise as little as \$10 or more will receive an incentive prize for their efforts. But why not aim higher? You have the option to choose up to five (5) prizes and this will set your fundraising goal. Family and friends are your greatest supporters, so ask them first for your support. You will reach your fundraising goal in no time. All fundraising money needs to be returned by the Friday before the School Run4Fun Colour Explosion – **6 April**.

#### **Student Profile Page**

Create a Student Profile Page at <u>www.myprofilepage.com.au</u> which is unique to you. There are also some great features like recording your sponsorships and selecting your prize goal.

You can also register for online fundraising. It's the easiest way to help your child raise money and to reach your fundraising goal sooner. The average raised per student using online fundraising is \$120.

WIN A SHARE OF \$70,000 WORTH OF FREE SPONSORSHIP DONATIONS. Create a Student Profile Page at www.myprofilepage.com.au and enter your unique code found on page five (5) of your Sponsorship Form to see if you're an instant winner. Give your fundraising goal a kick start! How to Order Prizes?

To reward your child for their efforts, they will receive incentive prizes based on the total amount of sponsorship dollars raised in cash, online, and if applicable, any **FREE SPONSORSHIP DONATIONS** won using the unique code on page five (5) of the Sponsorship Form. You have two options to place your prize order:

**1.** Login or create a Student Profile Page at <u>www.myprofilepage.com.au</u>. Once the fundraiser has finished, click the 'ORDER MY PRIZE' button and then confirm your total amount raised and order your prize/s, <u>OR</u>

**2.** Complete the back page of the Sponsorship Form and return to the school.

Please note, all donations need to be finalised on or before **Friday 6 April**. Student prizes will be delivered shortly after.

Thank you in advance for your participation, and get ready for a BLAST OF COLOUR! Happy fundraising!

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

#### **PRIMARY HOMEWORK CLASSES**

Homework classes will be held on Tuesdays from 3:15 to 4:00pm. Students are able to use this time to complete homework tasks or to work on learning areas that they have difficulty in. Sessions will be supervised by a teacher who will be supported by the Primary Student leaders. Students to meet in the Block 4 Wet area. A healthy afternoon snack will be provided.

Got a question about this? Miss Amanda Lockyer (Year 4/5 Classroom Teacher)

#### **TUESDAY MORNING RUNNING GROUP**

Mrs Walker is running a Tuesday morning running group at 8am each week for Year 3-6 students. We have over 40 students signed up so far. If your child would like to participate please collect a note from primary admin.

#### Got a question about this? Mrs Zane Walker (PE Teacher)

#### **YEAR 6 CAMP**

Year 6 students along with Mrs Baltovich, Mrs Sutherland, Mr Postans, Mrs Hayden and Ms Herbert/Mrs Smith are currently enjoying their annual camp at Camp Kulin. We look forward to their return tomorrow and hearing stories of their experiences.

#### MERREDIN COLLEGE Attendance at 2018 School Ball

The criteria required for attendance at the Ball were established to encourage students to make the right choices. Currently there are four main ways by which students can lose Good Standing:

- Behaviour (Suspensions)
- Work completion
- Attendance
- Mobile Phone use and Uniform

**Behaviour (Suspensions)**: If students lose their Good Standing for Behaviour (in or out of school suspensions) at any stage from Semester 2 2017 then they lose their right to attend the Ball (without exception).

**Work Completion**: If students lose their Good Standing due to not completing work to a satisfactory standard in Semester 2 2017, they can restore Good Standing by submitting all assigned tasks before the end of the year. As a result they are able to attend an appeal meeting with a Deputy Principal to plead their case.

If students don't complete all their work in Semester 1 2018, then they are ineligible to attend the Ball.

Good Standing for work completion is not automatically restored after a set time period but rather only once the set tasks have been submitted. (Even if the relevant teacher decides to award a 0% score for the task).

**Class Preparedness:** Students who are unprepared for class on 5 occasions will lose Good Standing. This includes students who fail to purchase and bring the required text books for Year 11 and 12.

**Attendance:** The attendance average from Semester 2 2017 until the time of the Ball needs to be at least 90%. Attendance that is less than 90% needs to be explained in a review meeting with a Deputy Principal.

**Mobile Phone/Uniform:** If students lose their Good Standing for not wearing the correct uniform or mobile phone use in Semester 2 2017 then they will need to attend an appeal meeting with a Deputy Principal to plead their case in order to be considered to attend the Ball. Attendance at the Ball is still at the Deputy Principal's discretion.

Students who lose Good Standing in 2018 for any reason are unable to earn back their right to attend without exception.

## Save the Date:

### 22 March

### 23 March

School Board Meeting 5.30pm Harry Perkins Excursion-Yr 12

# 28 March

Aboriginal Parent Meeting 9.00am

### 28 March

Protective Behaviours Workshop for Parents 9.00-9.45am

### 29 March

Yr 4/5 & Yr 5/6 Assembly 9.00am

### Term 1 2018 Planner:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	SAT
8	19 *OLNA (All Week) P&C Meeting 3.15pm	20 *YR 6 CAMP *Black Dog Institute Visit P.1-4	21 *YR 6 CAMP Early Close 2.30pm	22 *YR 6 CAMP School Board 5.30pm	23 *YR 6 CAMP *'Harry Perkins' Excur- sion-Yr12	24
9	26	27	28 *Aboriginal Parent Meeting 9am *Protective Behaviours W/shop(Yr 7-10 & Staff) Early Close 2.30pm	29 *Primary Assembly 9am *Primary Loved Ones Day *'Be A Hero' Free Dress- Yr 10	30 Good Friday	31
10	2 Easter Monday	3 Easter Tuesday (no school)	<b>4</b> Early Close 2.30pm	5	<b>6</b> *Yr 12 Councillors set up for Ball *Aboriginal Boys Basketball-Northam	7 School Ball
11	9	<b>10</b> *P-Yr6 Glass of Class Lunch	<b>11</b> *Commonwealth Games Fun Run (Primary) <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	12	13 Last Day Term 1 *Primary ANZAC Assem- bly-P.2 *Yr7-12 ANZAC Ceremo- ny & Assembly P.1	14

#### FLU (INFLUENZA) VACCINE

Flu is a highly contagious disease. Some people are at risk of serious health complications if they get flu.

People most at risk of serious complications from flu are eligible for free flu vaccinations (refer to list below).

You should get vaccinated against the flu every year.

Influenza, commonly known as flu, is a highly contagious disease caused by the influenza virus.

For best protection against flu, people are advised to get the flu vaccine in late autumn. This will help ensure they are protected throughout peak flu season, which in Western Australia is usually August. This follows recent evidence that shows flu immunisation may wane after 3 to 4 months.

Everyone is encouraged to get the flu vaccine, but it is strongly recommended that the following groups are immunised because they are at higher risk of serious complications from flu:

pregnant women, children, the elderly, Aboriginal individuals of all ages and people with certain health conditions such as <u>heart</u> or kidney disease or a weakened immune system.

Flu can make existing medical conditions worse, and can cause high fever and <u>pneumonia</u>. It is easily spread by coughing, sneezing, or touching contaminated surfaces and then touching your mouth or nose. Good <u>hand hygiene</u> is important to prevent the spread of flu and other infections.

Learn more about <u>influenza</u>.

Information taken from the Department of Health website <u>http://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/F\_I/flu-Influenza-vaccine</u>



## CoMmuNiTy NoticEs

# Saturday Junior Hockey Merredin Women's Hockey Chib

There will be a Junior Hockey game held every Saturday (on fixture days) at 11:30am. Games will be played in either Merredin, Narembeen or Bruce Rock.

If you are interested in having your child participate in Saturday hockey we encourage you to please contact us or come down for a training session on MONDAY 26th March @4:00pm at the Merredin Rec Centre—Turf

There will be sticks for you to borrow if needed but we recommend that shin pads and mouth guards be worn.

Students from Year 1– 8 are invited to come along and join in, Boys and Cirls. If your child is older or interested in playing Adult hockey we encourage them to stay for the Merredin Trainings @6:00pm

If you are unable to come on Monday please let Amanda-Lee Lockyer (0429891010-Amanda.Lockyer@education.wa.edu.au) know or pop in and see her in the year 4/5 classroom @Merredin College before or after school.







Welcome to the 2018 season.

Junior Netball will commence on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018 All registrations this year will be completed online, with payment required at the time of registration.

KIDSPORT You can apply for KidSport online at

Or if you don't have internet access come down to our Manual Registration day!

Manual Registration Day: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March from 4.30pm to 5.30pm (Merredin Recreation and Leisure Centre)

REGISTRATIONS WILL CLOSE ON THE 23rd March 2018

Age Groups/Registration types If you played for a club last year, your club will send you an Email with their own link to register

> Junior Competition Year 6 to Year 9 - \$140 Juniors also playing seniors - \$190 <u>NETSETGO - \$75</u> Net - Pre-primary & Yr 1

Set - Yr 2 & Yr 3 GO - Yr 4 & Yr 5

Registration details can be found on our Facebook page & website Further enquiries to Jessica or Priscilia: merredinnetballjuniors@hotmail.com

