



ISSUE # 2
TERM 1, WEEK 2
14 February 2019

MC link

Merredin College Weekly Community Update



Message from the Principal.....

SCHOOL BOARD

The first School Board meeting for the year will occur on Thursday 21 February at 5.30pm in the secondary staffroom.

P&C AGM—11 MARCH 2019—6.00PM

All parents and carers are strongly encouraged to attend the AGM of the P&C on Monday 11 March at 6.00 pm in the library. All positions are vacant. Without the P&C, we would not be able to run the canteen or the uniform shop. Extra funds provided by the P&C for activities like the Choir Camp are considered essential.

IMPORTANCE OF YOUR CHILD ATTENDING IN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF TERM 1, 2018

As the school is funded according to the number of students we have enrolled and attending, we are pleading with parents/carers to ensure that their child/ren have been enrolled and have attended before 15 February 2019. Students who are enrolled but have not attended cannot be counted in our census and hence we will not receive funding any allocation for them. If you know that your child will be attending Merredin College in 2018 but cannot attend before 15 February, please contact Sandi Lee (School Officer) so that she can enter this information on our system. If there is a confirmed start date during Term 1 and we have this entered on our system before 15 February we may be able to count these students.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS—KEEPING IN TOUCH

Apart from individual notes which are sent home about specific activities, Merredin College has a variety of methods of providing parents and the wider community with information:

- **Connect** for secondary students (generally Year 10-12). Refer to information in the secondary section.
- **Seesaw** for primary students – see separate article in the primary section
- **MC Link** – sent weekly via email on a Thursday. This is a basic information bulletin about upcoming events. Some hard copies are made available to parents on request and also via the primary and main offices. Contact the main office to be on the email list.
- **School Website** – the latest news is published at <http://merredincollege.wa.edu.au/>. This includes reports on activities around the College, award winners etc.
- **Phoenix** – to provide information to the wider community we publish articles of interest in the fortnightly community paper.
- **Year Book** – this is called the *Combined Harvest* and is a comprehensive summary of the past year. The Combined Harvest is ordered when Contributions and Charges are paid.

CAMP KULIN-EASTERN WHEATBELT EDUCATION NETWORK (EWEN) LEADERSHIP CAMP

Our Year 6-10 student leaders will attend a two day Leadership Camp at Camp Kulin on 26-27 February. They will be accompanied by student leaders from Bruce Rock DHS, Moorine Rock PS, Nungarin PS, Mukinbudin DHS and Southern Cross DHS. The camp has been fully funded by EWEN. Next week, more information will be provided to the students who will be attending.

Our PBS Values Focus

Each week the College will focus on aspects of our PBS expectations. The information will be provided to students on classroom doors. Parents are encouraged to support the College in promoting these values at home.

The PBS focuses for *Week 3, Term 1* are:

PRIMARY

We are **RESPONSIBLE** in Learning Areas **WE ARE RESPONSIBLE BY BEING PUNCTUAL, PREPARED AND ORGANISED FOR CLASS**

SECONDARY

We are **RESPONSIBLE** in Outside Areas **WE ARE RESPONSIBLE BY PUTTING OUR MOBILE DEVICES AWAY**

*We are carin**G**, we are **R**espectful, we are Res**P**onsible, **W**e strive to succeed!*

G
R
O
W

Follow us at:
<https://www.facebook.com/Merredin-College-256760021333175/>



2019 STAFF

Our apologies as some staff were omitted from last week's MC Link:

Student Support Officer: Ms Terri Te Kani

UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop opening hours for Term 1 2019 are: Tuesdays 9.00am to 12.00pm and Wednesdays 12.30pm to 3.00pm.

CROSSING WOOLGAR AVENUE AFTER SCHOOL AND AFTER SCHOOL PICK-UP

Students who need to cross Woolgar Avenue after school must go to either end of the bus bays to do so. (*Opposite the driveway alongside the basketball courts or at the intersection with Cunningham Street*).

It is very risky to cross by cutting through the buses. Cars coming up Woolgar Avenue cannot see them until the last moment.

If students are picked up by a family member, please collect them from Cunningham Street where there is plenty of parking and less danger to students.

NAPLAN AND STUDENT READINESS FOR NAPLAN ONLINE

Students at Merredin College and across the country will be sitting NAPLAN online on 14-24 May. In preparation, ACARA's NAPLAN Online public demonstration site is available for public access. This resource will enable students and parents to interact with minitests in Reading, Writing, Conventions of Language and Numeracy for each of Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. The items in these tests have been chosen to demonstrate the type of items which students will encounter in the NAPLAN Online tests. The landing page for the website <http://www.nap.edu.au/onlineassessment/> naplan-online/naplan-online-public-demonstration-site contains a number of resources (FAQs, user guide and technical requirements) that will continue to be updated.

STUDENTS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Breakfast Club commences at 8.15am so no student should be at school before 8.15am. Unless attending Breakfast Club or arriving by school bus which may drop students here early, children should not be at school before 8.30am on school days. The school grounds are out of bounds after hours and on weekends. Police complete periodic "walk throughs" in order to monitor trespassers. The school has extensive CCTV cameras to monitor out of hours trespassers.

SCHOOL SITE—AFTER HOURS

The school site is out of bounds outside of school hours. Parents/carers are asked to remind their children about this and be aware that it should not be used as a short cut to get to the top end of town.

SECONDARY *Link*

YEAR 7 BIG DAY OUT—FRIDAY 9 FEBRUARY

This is a reminder that this Friday the Year 7 students will be participating in the Big Day Out and attending the Merredin pool after lunch. Students will have to provide their own lunch.

SCHOOL BALL—YEAR 10,11 AND 12

External Partner forms are due to Student Services, Mr Tom James or Mrs Natalie Pirovich or by Friday 15 February.

Tickets for the Ball are \$50 per person. Permission forms must be handed in when payment is made. Payment and Permission forms due to student services Friday 22 February.

EXTRA TUITION FOR ATAR STUDENTS

In order to provide our ATAR students with the best possible opportunity to complete a successful ATAR in Year 12, Merredin College is providing extra tuition at set times (before the regular school day commences) in a number of subjects.

The sessions have been organised to coincide with regular Period 1 timetabled lessons for the same subject. Students will be able to remain in the same room for the entire time. The sessions will commence at 8.30am to coincide with the arrival of most students to school, including those arriving by bus.

Human Biology before school tuition started this week and the other subjects will commence next week:

History:	(Mr Eggleston)	Rm 14	Mondays	
Human Biology & Physics :	(Mrs Last)	Rm 27	Tuesdays	8.30am
Mathematics –Applications/Methods/Specialist:	(Mr Gardiner)	Rm 23	Thursdays	8.30am
English:	(Mrs Tiller)	Rm 17	Fridays	8.30am

Any queries contact Mr Gardiner

SECONDARY *Link Cont'd.....*

HOMEWORK CLUB

Homework Club will be commencing on Thursday 14 February in the school library. It will be running Tuesdays and Thursdays between 3.00-4.00pm. Students are encouraged to come along for support and assistance to complete homework or assignments. Teachers will be there to help students as they 'strive to succeed' and get on top of your studies.

YEAR 11 AND 12 ATAR PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

There will be a meeting in the school library commencing at 5.30pm on Tuesday 19 February for parents/carers of students currently enrolled in the ATAR pathway. All Year 11 and 12 ATAR students are invited to accompany their parent/carer.

This meeting will provide important information on the expectations and demands of your child's courses and how the school can work with you to cope with these expectations and demands to maximise results.

Mr O'Neill will send a flyer home with ATAR students, providing more details, on Friday 15 February.

YEAR 7-8 VOLLEYBALL SELECTION DAY

On Friday 22 February our Year 7 and 8 students will be given the chance to be awarded a spot into the Merredin College Volleyball Program by participating in a half-day excursion. It is called the Year 7-8 Selection Day excursion and it will give students the opportunity to showcase their skills in an attempt to be given a position on the team.

The program, now in its second year, has seen lots of interest from new prospective students who are looking to make an impact in the sport. To prepare for the selection day, training has already begun in Week 2 and those who have attended the training sessions have given themselves the best chance possible of attaining a position in the program.

For further information regarding the program and the Selection Day excursion, please contact Mr Pirovich in the Physical Education Department. david.pirovich2@education.wa.edu.au

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL BALL

Given that we have the all-important School Ball this term, it is timely to remind Year 10, 11 and 12 students and their parents that by being *caring, respectful, responsible and striving for success*, students earn the right to attend a wonderful evening on Saturday 16 March. This is being organised by Mr James, Mrs Pirovich and the Year 12 Student Leaders. It is important for students to maintain their Good Standing and make the right choices with regard to behaving appropriately by respecting teachers and fellow students. This will ensure students avoid suspensions. Students who attend the Ball must be responsible with regard to attendance and attitude to class. They must have an attendance rate of 90% or more, come prepared for class and complete all work. In addition students must be respectful and demonstrate this by wearing the school uniform and complying with the school's mobile phone policy. These criteria are made more explicit in the attached document.

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE 2019

The Education Department of WA has recently reviewed all Duty of Care policies including the Workplace Learning Policy and all but the Outdoor Education Policy must be implemented from 1 January 2019.

The new Workplace Learning Policy prescribes a number of changes to ensure that all parties involved, student, parents, host employers and the school are aware of their roles and responsibilities in providing a safe working environment for Workplace students.

The new procedures and paperwork has increased the time required to place a student with an employer. In 2019 Merredin College will be reviewing how long the process takes to place Year 11 and 12 VET students. Until we ascertain how much time this involves it is with regret that we are unable to implement Year 10 Work Experience for 2019. We will review this decision late in 2019 with a view to reintroducing Year 10 Work Experience in 2020.

Any queries to Tracey Sutherland.

PARENTS OF YEAR 7S: BE PART OF THE SUPPORTING FAMILY CONVERSATIONS PROJECT

This year our school will be part of a great project being run by the Telethon Kids Institute and the Western Australian Department of Education's School Drug Education and Road Aware (SDERA) program. The *Supporting Family Conversations* Project is all about alcohol and cybersafety for Year 7 students. As part of this project, Year 7 students will be learning about alcohol, and we will be showcasing their hard work at a Family event, to be held at our school later in the year. It would be great to have as many families attend as possible.

A survey will be sent home to parents of Year 7 students and can be returned in the provided reply-paid envelope to the Telethon Kids Institute. If you would prefer to do the survey online, you can access it [here](#).

All parents who complete the survey by 12 April 2019 have the chance to win one of three \$100 gift vouchers.



CONNECT—FINDING OUT WHAT YOUR YEAR 10-12 CHILD IS STUDYING, WHAT ASSESSMENTS ARE DUE AND HOW THEY ARE PROGRESSING

Connect is an integrated online environment developed by the Department of Education WA for staff, students and parents in public schools. Check out the short video clip on Connect at <https://vimeo.com/connectwa/welcome>. Each parent is given their own secure login to Connect. Connect is totally free and, because it is provided by the Department of Education, very safe. As well as being able to login to Connect on any internet-enabled device, you may also receive notices from Connect that will be sent to you as either an email or a notification on your phone. A free app called *Connect Now* can be downloaded from Google Play or the Apple App Store and will let you receive Connect notices as push notifications.

If you have multiple children you only need one login – even if your children attend different public schools.

When you login to Connect you will be able to see information specific to your own child/ren such as:

- The classes in which your children are engaged
- Class calendars
- Assessment Outlines information drawn from Reporting to Parents (secondary)
- Assessments and evidence for your own child
- Notices from your child's classes that automatically generate an email or phone notification to you.

To register for Connect please read and sign the attached *Connect Conditions of Use for Parents* and complete the *Parents Registration Form* and return to the school as soon as possible or scan and email the signed documents to Sandra.Lee@education.wa.edu.au. You will then be confidentially issued with your unique user name and password for Connect. We see Connect as an exciting new way for you to stay in touch with your child's school journey.

PRIMARY link



PRIMARY BELL TIMES AND BREAKS

In 2019, we have adjusted the primary timetable to enable the implementation of solid numeracy blocks after recess. Meal breaks during the day will be changed to 11.00am and 1.30pm with children encouraged to balance their food intake across the two breaks. Fruit break will still be incorporated into the daily schedule with teachers determining the time to allow for after school activities and students on buses. The canteen will serve students lunch orders at 11.00am for the first 2 weeks as a trial for a permanent change to this arrangement. We will survey the students before we make this change permanent. For more information about healthy options for lunches: <https://healthy-kids.com.au/10-great-lunch-box-ideas/>

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

SWIMMING LESSONS

Next week is our final week that Year 3-6 students will be involved in In-term Swimming Lessons. Students will participate in a 50 minute swimming session each day. Students need to either come to school in their bathers, with their school clothes over the top or bring their bathers, a towel, a plastic bag, underwear and their school clothes each day. Don't forget to slip, slop, slap as we will have some warm days next week!

Got a question about this? Mrs Barbara Smith (Deputy Principal)

SAVE THE DATES

The Merredin College Yr3-12 Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 8 March and the Interschool Carnival on Friday 15 March. We will be advertising for parent helpers over the next few weeks. Please save the dates to help us out and/or come along to support your child on the day.

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

NO HAT!! NO PLAY!!

Merredin College has a STRICT no hat – no play policy. All children need a hat to participate in our recess, lunch and physical education programs. Hats are available from the Uniform shop and the primary office for \$12.

Got a question about this? Mrs Barbara Smith (Deputy Principal)

HEALTH CARE PLANS

Student health care plan updates will come home with students next week. Please complete them and return them through the classroom teacher as soon as possible to ensure your child's health concerns are managed appropriately by school staff.

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

BOOKCLUB

Bookclub was distributed to students last week and early this week. Orders are due back by Wednesday 20 February.



PRIMARY *link Contd*

SEESAW LEARNING PORTFOLIOS (K-6)

Seesaw is a simple way for teachers and students to record and share what's happening in the classroom. Seesaw gives students a place to document their learning, be creative and learn how to use technology. Each student gets their own journal and will add things to it, like photos, videos, drawings, or notes. When there are new Seesaw posts, families can be notified via app notification, email or SMS. Parents are only notified about their own child's work, and all data is safe and secure. Teachers have started sending out invitations for parents to access their child's electronic learning portfolio. Check out the video for further information here: <https://bit.ly/2BlgBYO>



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

ON ENTRY ASSESSMENT FOR PRE-PRIMARY STUDENTS

During Weeks 3 – 6 of Term 1 all children in Preprimary will be participating in the Department of Education's state-wide On-entry Assessment Program.

The purpose of the program is to provide teachers with an opportunity, early in the year, to collect information on the essential literacy and numeracy skills and understandings of each child in their class. This will assist your child's teacher to develop informed and intentional play-based teaching programs, designed to reflect individual needs and foster each child's learning. Some assessment tasks can be included in the daily teaching program and some will be carried out one-to-one, in a quiet area. This will provide your child and their teacher with valuable time together, as well as give the teacher the opportunity to observe the behaviours and processes your child uses in responding to questions.

Further information can also be found on the *On-entry Assessment Program* website at the following address.

<http://det.wa.edu.au/educationalmeasurement/detcms/navigation/on-entry/information-for-parents/>

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 (Block 1). 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. A big thank

MERREDIN COLLEGE Attendance at 2019 School Ball

The general restrictions on 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 2018 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 2018, 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 2019, 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: Student that are unprepared for class on 5 occasions or warnings will lose good standing.

Attendance: The attendance average from Semester 2 2018 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 uniform or mobile phone use in Semester 2 2018 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 2019 are unable to earn back their right to attend without exception.



Useful Links:

Uniform Shop:
<http://merredincollege.wa.edu.au/uniform/>

Canteen Menu:
<http://merredincollege.wa.edu.au/canteen/>

Latest News & Events:
www.merredincollege.wa.edu.au

Save the Date:

14-22 February

15 February

19 February

22 February

K-6 Swimming Lessons

Yr 7 Big Day Out

Yr 11/12 ATAR Parent Info
Night 5.30-6.30pm

Yr 7-8 Volleyball
Selection Day

TERM 1 PLANNER:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	SAT	SUN
2	11 *Swim Lessons Yr 3-6	12 *Swim Lessons Yr 3-6	13 *Swim Lessons Yr 3-6 *Aboriginal Parent Afternoon Tea <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	14 *Swim Lessons Yr 3-6	15 *Swim Lessons Yr 3-6 *Big Day Out Yr 7	16	17
3	18 *Swim Lessons Yr 3-6	19 *Swim Lessons Yr 3-6 *Yr 11 & 12 ATAR Parent Info Night 5.30-6.30pm	20 *Swim Lessons Yr 3-6 <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	21 *Swim Lessons Yr 3-6 *ECU Medical Science Tour(Yr10-11) <i>School Board 5.30pm</i>	22 *Swim Lessons Yr 3-6 *Yr7-8 Volleyball Prog Selection Day	23	24
4	25	26 *Camp Kulin	27 *Camp Kulin <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	28	1 MARCH	2	3
5	4 Labour Day	5 *OLNA-Writing <i>YouthCare Mtg 5.30pm</i>	6 *OLNA-Writing <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	7 *OLNA-Writing *Primary Assembly	8 *K-12 School Swimming Carnival	9	10
6	11 *OLNA-Reading P&C Meeting (AGM) 6pm	12 *OLNA-Reading *Medical Students Visit	13 *Medical Students Visit *TDS Event *Yr 7-12 Assembly <i>Early Close 2.30pm</i>	14 *Medical Students Visit *Combined University Talk-ATAR-P.1	15 *Medical Students Visit *Yr 3-6 Interschool Swimming Carnival *Interim reports Due *Secondary Interschool Swimming Carnival-Cunderdin *Ball Set Up	16 School Ball	17 *Scho ols Beach Volley- ball Cup Yr7-12



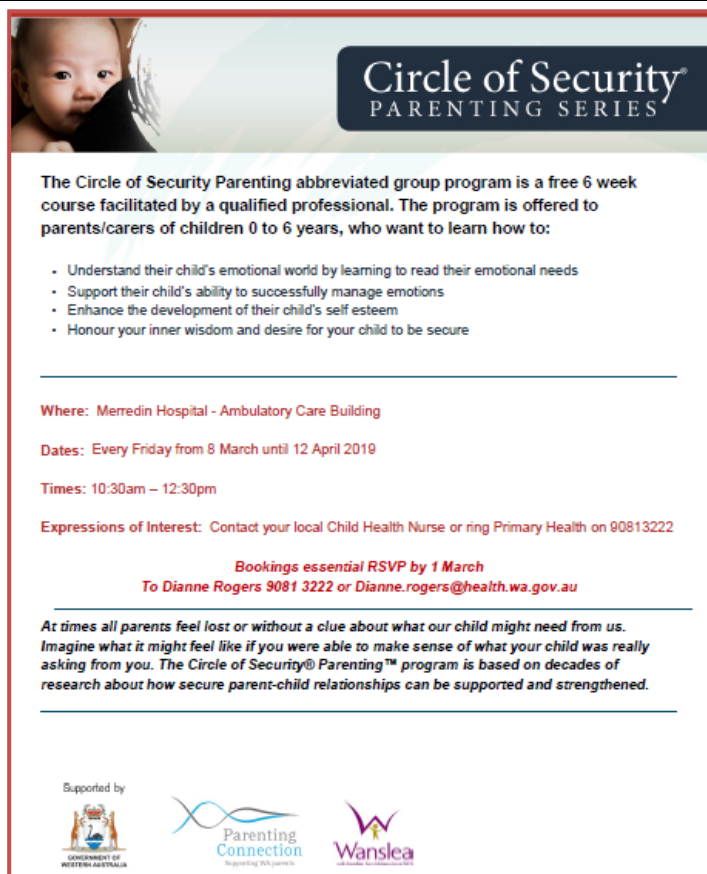
Amity Health - Kids Health Link Program
Children 0-5 years

Thursdays and Fridays
10.00am to 12.00pm
Merredin College - Block 1 Room 4

Kids learn through play!

Everyone is welcome for a morning
Filled with activities, healthy fruit
Story time and outdoor play!

Contact: Sonya
PH: 90 410 962



Circle of Security
PARENTING SERIES

The Circle of Security Parenting abbreviated group program is a free 6 week course facilitated by a qualified professional. The program is offered to parents/carers of children 0 to 6 years, who want to learn how to:

- Understand their child's emotional world by learning to read their emotional needs
- Support their child's ability to successfully manage emotions
- Enhance the development of their child's self esteem
- Honour your inner wisdom and desire for your child to be secure

Where: Merredin Hospital - Ambulatory Care Building

Dates: Every Friday from 8 March until 12 April 2019

Times: 10:30am - 12:30pm

Expressions of Interest: Contact your local Child Health Nurse or ring Primary Health on 90813222

Bookings essential RSVP by 1 March
To Dianne Rogers 9081 3222 or Dianne.rogers@health.wa.gov.au

At times all parents feel lost or without a clue about what our child might need from us. Imagine what it might feel like if you were able to make sense of what your child was really asking from you. The Circle of Security® Parenting™ program is based on decades of research about how secure parent-child relationships can be supported and strengthened.

Supported by

