



ISSUE # 7
20 March 2020

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Merredin College Weekly Community Update



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Message from the Principal.....

During my time in education I have never experienced anything quite like the response to COVID-19.

I want all families to know that Merredin College is working hard to provide a safe environment for students and staff to work in.

WA schools are following a national approach. Every decision is being made with students and school staff front of mind and acting on the advice of the Chief Health Officer. All chief health officers from around Australia agree that there is no need to close schools at this point.

By allowing schools to stay open, but with clear guidelines, we can positively assist in the safety and well-being of our staff and students, continue the focus on learning and regular routine in this difficult time.

The college is implementing a range of strategies to reduce transmission. This includes educating students about the importance of handwashing, reducing face contact and cough etiquette. We have also increase cleaning around high touch surfaces such as desks, door handles, chairs and portable technology devices.

Information about COVID-19 has been delivered to staff and students to reduce fear or anxiety in relation to the pandemic. If you have concerns about your child's well-being please contact student services.

Social distancing is being encouraged and as we have over 500 students we are taking sensible precautions. Many school activities have been cancelled or postponed including the Senior Ball and Country Week.

Please note, students whose parents have chosen to keep them home, without seeking medical advice, will not be provided curriculum work and activities. The priority for staff is to maintain focus on classroom learning programs. In the event of a temporary school closure, further advice will be provided.

As more information comes to hand I will release immediately to the school community. The college appreciates your support during these difficult and uncertain times.

NAPLAN 2020

The minister has announced the decision to not proceed with NAPLAN 2020 in order to assist school leaders, teachers and support staff to focus on the wellbeing of students and continuity of education, including potential online and remote learning. This also means the Coordinated Practice Test (CPT) scheduled for Monday will also not proceed.

P&C MEETING - MONDAY 23 MARCH 2020

To be held at 3.15pm in the Primary Staff Room. Please forward any agenda items to merredincollegepc.sec@gmail.com by 5pm, Monday 16 March 2020. The P&C committee would like to encourage you to attend these meetings wherever possible.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there.

KINDILINK

KindiLink has come to Merredin College! KindiLink is a play-and-learn initiative for three year old children in the year before they start Kindergarten. Children attend with a parent/carer for six hours a week. KindiLink offers high quality play-and-learn sessions for children and their parent/carer at the participating schools, at no cost to families. Families are supported by a teacher and assistant to be actively involved in the activities with their children.

As we will have room in the program, younger members of the family may also attend with the three year old child. Children and families from outside our school's catchment area are also welcome to participate in KindiLink. Our



sessions run every Tuesday and Friday morning from 9am to 12noon. Mrs Crabb from Kindy will be there as well as our Aboriginal Education Officer, Ashlyn Osborne, to help with some fun cooking, craft and games. Don't miss out as this is a fabulous opportunity for our little people. Meet at the Kindy Room door!

SCHOOL PHOTOS - Monday 23, Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 March

School Photos will go ahead next and has been approved by the COVID-19 Team.

Please ensure that your child(ren) wear the correct uniform on these days. House Captains are required to bring their House Shirt and navy sport shorts, Choir members are to bring their formal Choir uniform and all Student Leaders are required to wear their formal uniform. A summary of the days schedule is below. Please see the online ordering information attached. If you are unable to access online ordering please collect an order envelope from the Administration Office.

Monday 23 March: Family Photos (Surnames A-H) and Kindy to Year 6 and Year 8 student photos.

Tuesday 24 March: Family Photos (Surnames I-N) and Year 7, 9,10,12 student photos and the Choir group photos.

Wednesday 25 March: Family Photos (Surnames O-Z) and Year 11 student photos, Primary and Secondary House Captain and School Councillors & Leader groups photos.

MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL BANKING

The health, safety and wellbeing of our communities and our people is our first priority. Due to the rapidly developing situation with coronavirus, School Banking has been temporarily paused from **20 March 2020 until the start of Term 2**. Please don't bring your deposit book with your weekly banking into school and we will notify you when banking will recommence.

LUNCH AND SNACKS - PRIMARY

A number of students are dropping into the office to request food during the second break at 1.30pm. Can parents please have a conversation with students about whether they are getting enough food during the day. We have a limited supply of fruit and food items for emergencies which is being exhausted. We will give you a call if your child is coming to the office for extra food items.

NEXTRA NEWSAGENCY BACK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

Thanks to everyone who supported our local Newsagency who in turn donated to the school the amount of \$600. The winner of the TV Raffle was Daisy Hooper from Naremben.

IMPORTANT DATES:

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 23-25 March | School Photos |
| 30 March | Year 11/12 Outdoor Ed Camp |
| 9 April | Last day of School |
| 27 April | ANZAC Day (Public Holiday) |
| 28 April | Term 2 commences |
| 4-6 May | Bibbulmun Trek (Girls) |
| 5 May | Year 7-9 Uni Info Evening |
| 12 May | NAPLAN Commences |
| 14 May | School Board AGM 5.30pm |

USEFUL LINKS:

Uniform Shop:

<http://merredincollege.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2020-ORDER-FORM-T1.pdf>

Canteen Menu:

<http://merredincollege.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Copy-of-2020-Canteen-Menu.pdf>

Latest News

www.merredincollege.wa.edu.au

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS:

Tuesdays - 8.30am-1pm

Thursdays - 11am-2pm

INFOCUS CAREERS NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2020

<http://merredincollege.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/April-2020.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2GHRADigHXfdv6me0h7xWutwZ1FKpbPyhko0dbmUjCeJBeJVTBg8jc4o>

