



ISSUE # 17
26 June 2020

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Merredin College Weekly Community Update



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Message from the Principal.....

Hello Merredin College Family

The first phase of the Telethon Kids Institute DETECT Program has been completed. Approximately 150 tests were administered to staff and students over two days with minimum disruption to the college. I'd like to thank Bev Irving and Bec Wade for masterfully coordinating this somewhat unusual school activity. Feedback about student participation has been very positive. All data and any parent contact will be managed by Health WA.

The staff at the college have just completed the first reporting cycle. With the regular attendance of many students being lower over this time, the breadth and depth of the curriculum covered throughout Semester 1 has been reduced. For this reason, schools are not required to include A to E grades on this year's Semester 1 student reports. It also means that your child's attendance may not be reported, and any written comments may provide less information on their progress than usual. If a teacher has requested an interview I strongly encourage all parents to take the opportunity.

A focus at the college next semester will be to positively re-engage a group of senior students who have struggled to meet assessment deadlines and other school work requirements. We do understand that this is a completely different year for all students having lost important school events and the routine of winter sport however, it does offer an opportunity to develop resilience and grit when faced with difficult circumstances. The college will look to increase communication with students at critical points of the term and engage with parents.

Late last week I met with Regional Executive Director Neil Darby to discuss the first semester and our journey through COVID-19. It was a wide ranging conversation with Neil highlighting positive feedback that he had received about the college and commitment to students. At the end of the meeting he offered a significant sum of money to kick start strategic professional learning connected to our new business plan. With the money I have targeted whole staff development around Positive Behaviours in School and the use of evidence based teaching strategies. As the funds have come late it has forced a date change for next term. ***Please note that students will now commence Term 3 on Monday, 20 July. The School Development Day has been moved to Monday, 17 August, this will be a Pupil Free day.***

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement as we work together to provide the best learning opportunities for our students. As we progress, I'll be sure to keep you updated with any new information.

Take care and enjoy the weekend
Leigh

2020/2021 Year 12 Student Council

Today at recess the new student councillors for 2020/21 were announced!!

Congratulations to Head Boy and Head Girl - Arlo Adams and Ellie Downsborough
and to the councillors Gaby Paterson, Jasmin Griffiths, Jordi Smith and Georgina Squire.



CLEANERS REQUIRED

We are desperately seeking casual cleaning staff. Must be available to work either a morning and afternoon split shift, before and after school, or daytime shifts during school hours. If you are interested in applying, please contact Susan Coomber in the front office to arrange Department of Education police clearance and Working With Children Check.

SMS FOR ATTENDANCE

The schools MSGU program is for attendance messages and for distribution of important information to parents which doesn't always require a response. When using the SMS facility to inform of absences please keep text to a minimum (for example: *Jim is sick with the flu - will provide medical certificate tomorrow* or *Jim will be absent tomorrow as he has orthodontist in Perth*). Unfortunately, the texting program we use has a character limit that splits longer responses into many files. Should you feel your child's absence requires a more detailed explanation, please phone or email the school to provide this information.

For matters of urgency or signing out during the day a note should be provided to the classroom teacher or Student Services by the student or a phone call to administration prior to student/s signing out.

NO HAT - NO PLAY (PRIMARY)

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. We have had a number of students missing hats this week – please check with your child.

PRIMARY GLASS OF CLASS LUNCHEON

Students that have had their Letter of Commendation return drawn out of the box during Classroom Correspondence and will receive their invitations to our Glass of Class luncheon next week. The luncheon will be held on Tuesday, 30 June. Students invited to attend will not need to bring lunch that day.

SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

A reminder to parents that they need to contact their bus driver if there is a change of arrangements for the bus service – this includes parents picking children up at the end of the day.



IN FOCUS NEWSLETTER - JULY 2020

<http://merredincollege.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Careers-July-2020.pdf>

IMPORTANT DATES:

30 June	Glass of Class Luncheon
3 July	Last day of term
20 July	Term 3 Commences
24 July	Year 7-12 Semester One Highest Achiever Assembly
3 Aug	Parent/Teacher Interviews (Sec) Y10 Course Selection Info Night
5-6 Aug	COVID19 Testing - Round 2
10-12 Aug	School Photos
17 Aug	School Development Day (Pupil Free Day)

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, 17 October 2020

Year 10-12 School Ball

Venue and further details TBA!!

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS:

Tuesdays - 8.30am-1pm

Wednesdays - 11am-2pm

LATEST NEWS



Check out the Cross Country results on the link below!!!

<http://merredincollege.wa.edu.au/ccountry-20/>

SECONDARY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

YEARS 7 TO 12
YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR UP TO:

\$350
towards school expenses

DO YOU HOLD A:
(OR)
(OR)
(OR)

- CENTRELINK HEALTH CARE CARD
- CENTRELINK PENSIONER CONCESSION CARD
- VETERANS' AFFAIRS PENSIONER CONCESSION CARD

Applications Close

Friday 3 July 2020

Ask School Reception for More Information

