



ISSUE #33
13 November 2020

MC link

Merredin College Weekly Community Update



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Message from the Principal.....

SCHOOL GROUNDS

Next time you drive past the college or visit for any reason please take the time to notice the transformation happening to the school grounds. School grounds can impact positively on children's physical and mental wellbeing and enhance both the opportunity for and the quality of social interactions. Research strongly supports that having a well-kept and clean school environment can reduce the incidence of bullying, and assist in the management of student behaviour. Hands-on experiences are essential to learning. The development of special areas such as sensory gardens, bush food gardens, nature-play, water-wise gardens and vegetable gardens provides hands-on experiences for students. School grounds also provide informal, 'incidental' learning opportunities for students. I'd like to send a big shout-out to Jaclyn, Ledge and Scott for improving the overall aesthetics of the grounds and in-turn supporting improved outcomes for students attending Merredin College.

NAIDOC 2020

This week at Merredin College has been a special week of celebration and sharing of Aboriginal culture. Students of all ages have participated in a multitude of activities both classroom-based and whole school events. These activities have helped our students understand the significance of NAIDOC celebrations, giving them a greater knowledge of the cultural heritage of the country in which we live. Teachers and students have collaborated throughout the week on many activities and the displayed student work reflects the knowledge of the 2020 theme "Always was, Always will be". Today we look forward to the NAIDOC Cup football match and finish the week with a sand art project, whole school assembly and sausage sizzle. A big thank you to staff, students, volunteers and the Merredin Shire for supporting NAIDOC 2020 activities!

IN-TERM SWIMMING LESSONS

In-Term Swimming lessons have started for students P-7. Lessons will run over four consecutive weeks. Once again it has been a struggle to secure staff and I would like to thank the P&C for being proactive to support the program.

2021 YOUTHCARE FUNDING

Merredin College has once again obtained funding under the National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP). We are very lucky to have Sal Marias and Beth Smith on-staff to provide an essential 5 day service at the college.

NO SCHOOL NO POOL

Merredin College has put significant effort into maintaining positive attendance statistics over many years. Using Schools Online data provided by the Department of Education, comparisons can be made to WA Public and like schools for Primary, Secondary and Aboriginal attendance. Merredin College attendance rates for all categories have been better than like schools and either marginally better or equal to WA public school averages. To improve attendance for a very small group of students the college has successfully collaborated with the shire and police to adopt a **No School No Pool** policy. As we have such positive attendance data (down this year because of the pandemic) I don't see the strategy as being punitive rather supportive for those that need an extra incentive to make it to school. As such the college will be providing attendance data to the shire to support the initiative – please note that we will take a common sense approach to this initiative. If you have any concerns about this information being shared please contact me directly at the college.

Take Care

Leigh



BALL PHOTOS

Please see link below to purchase school ball photos. Photos are \$5 each. Proceeds go towards the 2021 School Ball.

<https://sites.google.com/view/merredincollege2020ballphotos/home>

YOUR DONATION WOULD BE APPRECIATED!

In Week 10, we acknowledge Primary and Secondary students for academic achievement and citizenship. Special awards are also given.

If you would like to donate to an award, please contact Bev Irving (bev.irving@education.wa.edu.au or 90410900). The value of awards is \$50.

Your support would be greatly appreciated.

SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS NEEDED URGENTLY!!!

(JOB OPPORTUNITY)

Swimming instructors are in short supply across the state. The Department of Education has consequently developed a free one day training course for anyone under the age of 25 to try and encourage more people to attain instructor status. If students (or ex-students) are interested in completing this course in the next few weeks they will be able to be signed off on their practical side of their qualifications while our swimming lessons are occurring this term. There are three more weeks of swimming this term, with another two weeks of lessons at the start of February next year. There is also the option of Vacation swimming lessons during the school holidays.

If there is anyone interested please contact Barb Smith at Merredin College or speak to Jess Wells the Swimming supervisor at Merredin Aquatic Centre.

TRIPPLE P PARENTING PROGRAM

The Triple P parenting program will be running at the College this term with sessions in Week 6, 7 and 8 on Fridays.

Session 1 – Friday, 20 November 1-3pm

Session 2 – Friday, 27 November 9.30 – 11.30am

Session 3 – Friday, 4 December 9.30 – 11.30am

Triple P is the flexible, practical way to develop skills, strategies and confidence to handle any parenting situation. It's backed by decades of research. And it's already helped more than 4 million children and their parents. Please RSVP to Lynne Herbert on 90410900 if you would like to attend. There will be a small number of places available in the Amity Health Crèche during the sessions – prior bookings essential.



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SECONDARY SCHOOLING SCHOLARSHIPS

'GIVE YOUR CHILD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED'

The following link provides information about some of the financial scholarships, grants and prizes for young people in secondary school so they can focus on achieving their education goals.

All scholarships are awarded in Term 1 each year with funds fully allocated at that time. Applications for scholarships open in late October each year and close in the second week of December.

For more information on how to apply, please find the information below. Further enquiries can be made through contacting:

E: SecondarySchoolingScholarships@education.wa.edu.au

T: (08) 9402 616

W: <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/scholarships>

IMPORTANT DATES - TERM 4:

15 Nov	Beach Volleyball Cup (Perth)
9-20 Nov	Swimming Lessons (Year 5-6)
20 Nov	Last Day for Year 11 Students Kindy Orientation
23 Nov	Swimming Lessons (YPP-4 & Y7)
27 Nov	Kindy Orientation
1-4 Dec	Year 9 Camp
2-4 Dec	Year 9-10 Try-A-Trade Days
4 Dec	Year 6-7 Transition Day Thank-a-volunteer Morning Tea
7-17 Dec	Year 10 Workplace Learning
15 Dec	MerryDin K-2 (6-7.30pm)
16 Dec	Year 7-9 Highest Achievers Assembly MerryDin Year 3-6 (6-7.30pm)
17 Dec	Last day of school for students



3 year olds/pre-kindy Program
Tuesdays and Fridays
9am - 12noon



0-5 year old Program
Mondays and Thursdays
9am - 12noon

