



ISSUE #8
26 March 2021

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Merredin College Weekly Community Update



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Hello Merredin College Family

At Merredin College our goal is to ensure all students have the opportunity to gain an education and achieve their full potential. Research shows that every day at school contributes to learning, which leads to better engagement and academic success. Improving attendance is complex. Looking at our 2021 data all but Year 6, 8 & 9 sit above 90%. While a majority of students who do miss school do so for legitimate reasons, such as illness, but what is concerning with our data is that 50% of absences are unexplained. This type of absence is most strongly associated with lower achievement outcomes. Some of our best data comes from the early years and this is promising for the college as positive patterns are being formed.

Traditional schooling does not suit every child. At Merredin College we have been “thinking outside the box” to develop programs to engage our students. This year we have implemented 2 new programs:

- 1. Transition to Work:** A Year 10 - 12 program to support at risk students with opportunities to develop work readiness and explore the world of work.
- 2. Engagement:** A Year 7 - 9 program which supports at risk students to engage with their culture, education and relationship building skills. We have a strong relationship with families of students involved in this program and thank them for supporting a different approach to education in order to engage students in the education process.

Last night the college hosted a memorial evening for Chenynae Mongoo. It was a special night, very respectful and full of love and support for Chenynae and her family. Special thanks to college staff for supporting this event and the family over the last month.

Take Care
Leigh

TERM 2 - DATES TO REMEMBER

- Students commence Term 2 on Monday 19 April.
- Monday 26 April is the ANZAC Day public holiday.
- Term 2 School Development Day has been scheduled for Friday 4 June - students are not required to attend on this date.

MERREDIN COLLEGE P&C

The P&C are looking for volunteers to be a part of their fundraising committee. If this is something you could be interested in please contact the P&C via the Facebook page or email: merredincollegepc.sec@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES:

1 April	Last day of Term 1 (Thursday)
19 April	Term 2 commences
23 April	ANZAC Commemorative Service (Whole school)
25 April	ANZAC Day
26 April	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
1 May	Year 10-12 School Ball
10 May	P&C Meeting
11-21 May	NAPLAN
13 May	School Board AGM 5.30pm
14 May	PP - Y3 Pete Hushey Incursion
20 May	Primary Assembly
21-28 May	ATAR Exams
28 May	Whole School Cross Country



SECONDARY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Applications close next week, Thursday 1 April. If you have a Health Care card and have not yet applied for the \$350 available to you to cover school fees and uniforms for your child, please do so at the front office. Late applications will not be accepted.

ANZAC COMMEMORATIVE ASSEMBLY

The ANZAC Commemorative Assembly will be held on Friday 23 April at 9am in the gym. This is a whole school event and family and carers are more than welcome to attend this special event.

NAPLAN EXEMPTIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students will be undertaking NAPLAN Online in Term 2 between the 11 - 21 May. NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. It is important to remember that NAPLAN is not about passing or failing, but about assessing learning progress. At the classroom level it is an important tool used by teachers to measure student progress.

Students with significant intellectual disability and/or those with significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests may be exempted from sitting the tests.

Students who have been attending school in Australia for less than a year before the tests may also be eligible for exemption. Exemptions should be discussed with your child's classroom teacher.

Parents or carers may withdraw their child from the tests to address issues such as religious beliefs and philosophical objections to testing. It is recommended that withdrawal be considered in consultation with your child's teacher.

All requests for exemption from testing or withdrawal from testing must be received by the school by Friday 23 May. Exemption and Withdrawal Forms can be collected from Primary administration and Student Services.

SCHOOL BALL

Reminder that Ball tickets are still available for purchase. External Partner Forms are also due by the end of next week.

HAIR - PRIMARY

We have had a number of students attending school without their hair tied back. Head lice can be a serious issue in primary schools and it is important that children with hair past the shoulder have their hair tied back.

UNIFORM SHOP - SPECIAL HOURS

Please see below special opening hours of uniform shop next week:

Wednesday 24 March - Closed

Tuesday 30 March - Closed

Wednesday 31 March - Open 9am to 12pm

Thursday 1 April - Open 1pm to 3.30pm

Order forms are available at both Primary and Secondary administration offices as well as Student Services if you cannot get to

SECONDARY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

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

\$350

towards school expenses

DO YOU HOLD A: ● CENTRELINK HEALTH CARE CARD
(OR) ● CENTRELINK PENSIONER CONCESSION CARD
(OR) ● VETERANS' AFFAIRS PENSIONER CONCESSION CARD

Applications Close
Thursday 1 April 2021

Ask School Reception for More Information



Merredin College
Ball 2021

Lasting Memories

Saturday 1st May 2021
6:00 – 11:00 pm
Year 12 entrance from 6:30 pm
Cummins Theatre Merredin
\$50 per ticket

**FUNDRAISING WITH
GARDEN BULBS & GIFTS**

Merredin College Choir



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