



ISSUE #1
4 February 2022

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Merredin College Weekly Community Update



A message from the Principal

A warm welcome to our students and families for the start of the 2022 school year. I'd like to start by thanking parents and carers for ensuring their children were well prepared for the start of the school year. Being well prepared makes a significant difference in assisting students to settle back into the structure of school.

This year we also welcome several new staff members (myself included) and a couple who are returning from leave:
<https://merredincollege.wa.edu.au/newsta22/>

Secondary staff:

Mr Rakesh Gookooluk (Maths)
Mrs Dianna Tomazos (Science)
Miss Alli Watson (Art)
Ms Verity Hughes (English)
Miss Gaby Paterson (Phys Ed Support)

Primary staff:

Mrs Judy Middleton (Specialist provider)
Ms Amber-Lee Kernaghan (Yr 3/4)
Ms Chanelle Squires (PP – Mon, Tues/Kindy - Thurs)

Murdoch University Prac Students:

Rachel Turner (Year 3/4, Term 1, Weeks 1-2 & Term 2, Weeks 1-8)
Kate Dufall (Year 3/4, Term 1, Weeks 1-2 & Term 3, Weeks 1-8)

We also welcome back from leave Mrs Natalie Pirovich and Mrs Alyce Last.

A number of Merredin College students access the Merredin Residential College. I would like to acknowledge the Residential College staff that support the students boarding away from home during the school term. Caine Denyer (Manager), Richard Oxford (Senior Supervisor), Glyn Doughty, Jodie Brooker and Peta Creek (Supervisors) as well as their additional support staff.

COVID UPDATE

Last Friday we sent out an email outlining the public health requirements regarding COVID in the Wheatbelt. I would like to thank parents for ensuring secondary students had masks and for those who complied with the requirements to wear masks when visiting classrooms.

Schools are currently operating under the Education Department Phase 5 COVID Guidelines in the school. The aim is to remain as normal as possible while maintaining the safety of those in our school. At present we are operating under the following guidelines:

- Parents are required to wear a mask whenever they are indoors within the school unless they have an exemption.
- All students in year 7-10 are required to wear a mask indoors unless they have an exemption.
- A focus on Hand hygiene and ongoing increased cleaning regimens remain in place. Masks are available for staff and students if required.
- Events and programmes such as Classroom Parent Information Sessions, Swimming lessons and carnivals, volunteering and incursions will proceed as normal unless we advise otherwise.
- Any students presenting as unwell will be isolated from others until they are picked up by parents/carers.

As of this morning schools have been advised by the Education Department to limit in-school gatherings of students and staff to class groups or small groups within a year level. All actions are aimed to minimise the number of students and staff impacted by the pressure of a positive case.

The evolving nature of the COVID-19 situation will likely result in ongoing tightening of conditions resulting in additional measures that will need to be put in place to manage the challenges ahead. We will continue to provide information to parents as we receive it and will include links to the information already sent out on the school website. I thank you in advance for your understanding and ongoing support as we navigate our way through these uncertain times. Please don't hesitate to contact the school should you have any queries or concerns. Link: <https://merredincollege.wa.edu.au/covid-19/>

Tracy Pickering
PRINCIPAL

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



PRIMARY OFFICE

The Primary Office will be manned by a school officer from 8.30-9.30am each day. The contact phone number for the Primary office is the main Merredin College phone number 9041 7520. To guarantee messages get passed on to students before the end of the day they will need to be received by the office by 2.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and by 2pm on Wednesday (early close).

If parents need to collect their child during the day, they can sign them out at the Compass station in the Primary Office, where they will receive a pass to give to the classroom teacher, before collecting them from class. Students cannot be released from class without a pass.

STUDENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Due to the current phase of the COVID restrictions, it is essential that the emergency contact information of our students is current. If you have made any contact or address changes, please advise administration as soon as possible in writing so records can be updated.

CONSENT2GO

Invitations to install and update Consent2Go have been initiated. If you have not received one please also check your 'junk items' in your inbox to see if you have received the email there, otherwise please contact administration.

We ask that you please confirm our records of your son/daughter's health details are current. Information provided is valid for 12 months and authorises staff to provide care for your child.

Any permanent change/s to contact information including address change/s must also be advised in writing to Merredin College Administration as soon as possible so contact can be made in the case of any matters of urgency.

HEALTH CARE PLANS

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

ROCK AND WATER PROGRAM

During 2022, our chaplain Sal Marais will be working with all primary classes to present the Rock and Water program. The program will last a full term in each class and complements the social and emotional learning that teachers promote throughout each lesson.

The Rock & Water Program is well known throughout school education systems around the world since it was written in the mid 1990's. The concepts 'Rock' and 'Water' are used as a metaphor throughout the program for young people to explore and choose different forms of communication (e.g. does the situation require a Rock attitude or Water attitude).

'Rock' explores closing off from others and going your own way while 'Water' explores going with the flow and working in partnership with other people. The skills and strategies learnt from Rock & Water support young people to learn and practice adaptable life and social skills while providing a consistent, predictable, easy to learn and retain language. There is a strong "social" focus embedded in the program. In recent evaluations and studies, it has shown the program and framework can deliver key outcomes for schools and students such as:

- To increase social wellbeing
- To teach and increase social safety for students
- To increase positive social behaviour
- To increase social competence in students
- To increase social literacy

For more information, on the Rock & Water Program, please visit:

[Rock and Water Central \(rockandwaterprogram.com.au\)](http://rockandwaterprogram.com.au) .

BYOD ACCEPTABLE USAGE AGREEMENT

Agreements have been sent home with Year 4 and Year 7 students who are required to bring their own device in 2022. Could parents please read through these with their children, sign them and return them to school. Once forms are received, devices will be added on to our network and students will be able to start using them in class. If your Secondary child chooses to also bring their own device then forms are available at Student Services.

<https://merredincollege.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Bring-Your-Own-Device-Acceptable-Usage-Agreement-Years-7.pdf>

P&C UNIFORM SHOP

Term 1 opening hours

MONDAYS: 8.30-11.30AM

TUESDAYS: 8.30-9.30AM

WEDNESDAYS: 1-3PM

Order Form: [2021-ORDER-FORM.pdf](#) (merredincollege.wa.edu.au)



Please update our contact number to 9041 7520.

The diversion from our old telephone number has now ceased!!



MOBILE PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

Merredin College has a clear Policy regarding mobile phones and Electronic Devices.

[Merredin-College-Mobile-Phone-Policy-2021.pdf \(merredincollege.wa.edu.au\)](#)



CLASS

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.

If you are not connected to your child's portfolio, please request an access code from the classroom teacher. Check out the video for further information here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzIrtDR84KY&feature=emb_logo

IN-TERM SWIMMING LESSONS

Year 3 – 6 students will be involved in In-term Swimming Lessons beginning on Monday the 14th of February (Week 3). Notes will go out this week and need to be returned with \$24 or a pool pass number as soon as possible. Please return both the Health form and Enrolment form.

Any donations of towels or bathers your children have outgrown would be greatly appreciated. Please send them in to the Primary Administration.

YEAR 7 BIG DAY OUT

To formally welcome Year 7 students to Merredin College, we will be hosting an introductory Big Day Out event on Friday 12 February 2021. The day will commence with a variety of activities conducted at school until 12.30pm followed by an excursion to Merredin Swimming Pool. A Consent2go email will be sent out late this week or early next week.

2022 CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES

Thank you to parents and carers who have already paid their student's Contributions and Charges for 2022. Statements with outstanding amounts will be sent out shortly. Please note Charges for Year 11 and 12 are compulsory payments as are all agreed extra cost options for K-12. Secondary Assistance Scheme (SAS) forms are available from the front office. Eligible Health Care card holders are entitled to up to \$350 towards contributions, charges and uniform. Please make sure when paying by EFT that the student's name is included in the reference.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, please contact the office on 08 9041 7520 to arrange a payment plan.

STUDENTS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Breakfast Club commences at 8.20am so no student should be at school before 8.20am. Unless attending Breakfast Club or arriving to school on a school bus, 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 and passes this information on to the police.

NO HAT!! NO PLAY!!

Merredin College has a STRICT no hat – no play policy in Primary. Secondary students are strongly encouraged to wear a hat also. 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.

MERREDIN YOUTH COMMITTEE (MYC) - BLUE LIGHT COMMUNITY CHARITY BALL.

This event aims to raise funds for the Blue Light Unit in Merredin, so they can continue to provide activities to our children, as well as a few other charities that will aim to assist our youth. We are incredibly fortunate that the MYC will be giving part proceeds to our own Merredin college P&C. The ticket sales for the event close on Saturday, 5 February at 8pm, so time is running out!

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
Friday 8 April 2022

Ask School Reception for More Information

LOCAL CHARITYS



MERREDIN COLLEGE
P&C



Blue
LIGHT
COMMUNITY
Charity Ball



ST MARY'S
P&F



MERREDIN
P&C

Saturday 19th February 2022
6.30 – 12.00pm

📍 Cummins Theatre
31 Bates Street, Merredin WA 6415

Tickets \$85

