



ISSUE #8  
1 April 2022

# MC link

Merredin College Weekly Community Update



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## A message from the Principal .....

Dear Parents and Carers and community,

With one week to go I would like to take the opportunity to thank our parents, students and community for their ongoing efforts with adhering to the Covid restrictions. Whilst there are cases in town, the impact on Merredin College to date has been minimal. This is largely due to families being proactive in isolating if deemed positive or close contacts, students wearing their masks in class and good communication between parents and the school so close contacts are identified quickly. The latest Health Department announcements have introduced more relaxed Covid rules. As such the Minister of Education has announced an easing of public health measures in schools for Term 2. Year 3-12 students will still be required to wear masks on site, however, parents will be able to attend school events such as assemblies and sports carnivals. A letter will be sent home to parents next week with updated Covid guidelines for Week 1 -Term 2.

I would like to positively acknowledge the staff and students of Merredin College. This term has been challenging in numerous ways. There has been changes in Leadership, staffing, postponement of activities, and of course Covid restrictions. The vast majority of students have ridden the wave well maintaining high attendance, constantly displaying positive GROW values and keeping up to date with their class work. Well done to those students. For those who have struggled this term, Term 2 is a fresh start.

I am very pleased to announce that I will be continuing on as Principal for the remainder of 2022. I am looking forward to getting to know more families as the year progresses. Throughout this year staff will be developing the Merredin College 2023-2025 Business Plan. We will therefore be sending out surveys in Term 2 to seek staff, student, parents and community feedback. Please ensure your email details are up to date so you have the chance to receive the surveys.

Kind regards  
Tracy Pickering

### WINTER UNIFORMS

Make sure you get your winter uniform order in as soon as possible. Winter is upon us and there is a lot of students arriving to school out of uniform. Long sleeve shirts under polo's, denim and tights are not a part of the schools dress code policy. Dress Code Violations will be given to students wearing incorrect uniform.

P&C Uniform Shop opening hours are:

MONDAYS: 8.30-11.30AM

TUESDAYS: 8.30-9.30AM

WEDNESDAYS: 1-3PM

If you cannot get there during these times then order forms are available from administration and Student Services.

Order Form: [2021-ORDER-FORM.pdf \(merredincollege.wa.edu.au\)](https://www.merredincollege.wa.edu.au/2021-ORDER-FORM.pdf)

### IMPORTANT DATES:

#### Term 1

- 1 April** Country Week Big Day Out (P5)
- 5 April** Glass of Class Luncheon (Primary)
- 7 April** Primary Assembly 9 am (Online)
- 8 April** Last day of Term 1

#### Term 2

- 25 April** ANZAC Day (Public Holiday)
- 26 April** Term 2 commences for staff & students
- 10-20 May** NAPLAN Testing
- 16 May** P&C Meeting 6 pm
- 19 May** Primary Assembly 9 am (Online)  
School Board Meeting 5:30 pm
- 24 May** Year 10 Health Incursion
- 3 June** Cross Country
- 6 June** WA Day (Public Holiday)
- 7 June** Pupil Free Day School Development Day
- 13 June** P&C Meeting 5:30 pm
- 16 June** Primary Winter Carnival  
School Board Meeting 5:30 pm
- 23 June** Primary Assembly  
Year 10 Get into Resources Incursion
- 24 June** Year 7-12 Academic Excellence Award Assembly
- 1 July** Last Day of Term 2

#### Term 3

- 18 July** Term 3 commences for staff
- 19 July** Term 3 commences for students

## 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

*learning close to home*

## SCHOOL GROUNDS

Reminder to parents/carers and students that school grounds are out of bounds to the community out of school hours. Students are to arrive at school no earlier than 8.30am and should not access playgrounds or basketball courts after school unless for a school event. We now have CCTV Cameras installed throughout the school and are able to determine people using the school as a thoroughfare after hours and on the weekends when damage does occur.

## LUNCH DELIVERIES

We ask that parents dropping school lunches off throughout the day should be dropping them at either the Primary office or Student Services. Your child/ren can then collect it from the appropriate office at the beginning of lunch or recess. Carparks and out the front of the school are out of bounds to students during the school day due to safety reasons and duty of care, so please do not encourage your child/ren to access these areas when they are not supposed to.

## PRIMARY ASSEMBLY

Our second primary assembly for the year will be held on Thursday, 7 April and will be run by Mrs Postans Year 5/6 Class. Due to Covid Restrictions we will be streaming the assembly live on our School Facebook Page from 9am. We are hoping to have some of the sound issues sorted for this next event.

## ATTENDANCE FOLLOW UP

Attendance Follow-up letters are sent home with students fortnightly. These letters should be filled in with a reason for your Child/ren/s absences from School. It is a Department of Education requirement reasons for absence are provided and recorded on your child's attendance record. Letters should be returned to Student Services for Secondary students as soon as possible.

## YEAR 7 SCHOOL BASED IMMUNISATION PROGRAM

The year 7 Vaccination Program will be happening early in Term 2. Parent consent forms have been handed out this week and will need to be handed back to student services by Friday, 8 April. The program provides protection against several diseases and will be provided onsite at the College. The program commences with two vaccinations in Term 2 and then the last vaccination in Term 3 or 4. The consent form provides written information about the diseases and you can consent to both vaccinations on the one form. Any concerns or for further information please contact Bec Waye – School Health Nurse on 0429 061 109.

## NAPLAN EXEMPTIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students will be undertaking NAPLAN Online in Term 2 between the 10-20 May. 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, 29 April. Exemption and Withdrawal Forms can be collected from primary administration or through Student Services.

## GOODBYE FROM THE CANTEEN STAFF

Nita and Nat will both finish working at the canteen on Friday 8th April. They would like to thank you for your support over the past 10 years. They will miss serving your lovely children.

# COVID-19 vaccination clinic

## Merredin

Merredin Library  
Room 9, 22 Coronation St, Merredin, 6415

Tues 5 - Thurs 7 April, 2022

Tues 12:30pm - 6:00pm  
Wed 10:00am - 7:00pm  
Thurs 8:30am - 1:00pm

Ages 5+ eligible

Get your Booster (16+) to ensure you have the best protection against COVID-19, including the current Omicron strain.

Eligible for COVID-19 vaccine includes: People aged 5+ years are eligible. Receive your first COVID-19 dose within the 12-week window. (Source: WA)

**Roll up for WA COVID-19 Vaccination**

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

ECU EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY | THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA | Curtin University | MU Murdoch University

### Online Parent Information Evening

Combined University Presentation and Q&A



Thinking about university?

#### Online Parent Information Evening

To help parents/ guardians and students prepare for university, representatives from four of the WA universities will be running an information session. Come along if you have questions about courses, admission entry pathways, the application processes, financial support, and what to expect when going to university.

**Date:** Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2022  
**Time:** 6.00pm – 7.00pm (log into the session anytime from 5.50pm)  
**Where:** Microsoft Teams – please click [here](#) to join the session



## FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Troy Longmuir Football Academy  
12th - 13th April, 2022  
Merredin

Proudly supported by  
ELDERS MERREDIN | THE LONGMUIR FOOTBALL ACADEMY | Elders





# Asymptomatic close contact protocols

## Very high caseload settings

Students in school or early childcare, who have been identified as a close contact but are asymptomatic:



Can attend school, before school care and after school care



Can travel between home and school with family – avoid public transport unless no alternative available



Can attend school-based sporting, cultural training or school events at their school



Must isolate at all other times until 7 days has passed.

**If students become unwell, they should stay at home and get tested.**

**These settings do not apply to students who are household close contacts – in this case, students will need to isolate for seven days and follow the regular close contact protocols.**