



ISSUE #1
10 February 2023

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Merredin College Weekly Community Update



A message from the Principal

Dear parents

Welcome back to our students and families for the 2023 school year. I have really enjoyed seeing the excitement on the children's faces last week as they were welcomed into their classrooms and re-connected with friends after the summer break. I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for supporting your child/ren to have a great start to the year. It was wonderful to see well rested students arriving in school uniform with all the necessary equipment that they need to have a productive start to the school year.

We welcome a full class of new Kindergarten children this year and as well as a number of new families to our school community. We trust that your children's journey at Merredin College empowers them with the skills and confidence to become life-long learners and encourage you to build strong relationships with your children's educators and the Merredin community.

We also welcome several new teachers onto our staff in 2023. Ms Rosemary Paterson has taken on the Student Service Deputy Principal role replacing Mr Sam Dawson. Teachers will be making contact with parents over the next few weeks.

Whilst we are operating as usual, we would like to remind parents about the prevalence of COVID and other viruses in our community.

The key points for you to note are:

- Events and programmes such as Classroom Information Sessions, Swimming lessons and carnivals, volunteering and incursions will proceed as normal unless we advise otherwise.
- A focus on Hand hygiene and ongoing increased cleaning regimens remain in place.
- Any students showing possible symptoms of COVID-19 while at school will be isolated from others until they are picked up by parents/carers.

Our goal this year is to continue on the trajectory of maintaining quality teaching and learning programs and building a strong school community and culture. Over the course of this year Merredin College staff will be reviewing our current Business plan and refining the direction leading into our next 3 year Business Plan. We will be requesting feedback via student voice, School Board, P&C and parent feedback via surveys during the Semester.

Please note that the Department has issued schools advice around the use of the Artificial Intelligence ChatGP programs. These have been blocked from school access. Please read attached information. [LINK](#)

With a new year is a fresh start for all. We look forward to working with parents to ensure your child enjoys their school experience. Please don't hesitate to contact the school on 9041 7520 should you have any queries or concerns or wish to book a time to speak to a staff member.

Tracey Pickering - Principal

Follow us at:

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/Merredin-College-256760021333175/)

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IMPORTANT DATES:

TERM 1

- 13-24 Feb** Year 3-6 Swimming Lessons
17 Feb Year 7 Big Day Out
21 Feb P&C Sundowner at Merredin Pool 5pm
23 Feb Primary Assembly
School Board Meeting 6.30pm
27 Feb P&C Meeting (AGM) 6pm
27 Feb-10 Mar OLNA Testing—Year 11-12
28 Feb Year 11/12 ATAR Parent Information Night
2 March Year 3-12 Swimming Carnival
3 March Year 8-10 Tennis Carnival (Merredin)
6 March Labour Day Public Holiday
8 March Primary Interschool Swimming Carnival (TBC)
8-10 March Year 9 Shooting Stars Camp
9 March Secondary Assembly 9am
10 March Y7-10 EASA Interschool Swimming Carnival
12 March High School Beach Volleyball Cup (Perth)
14 March Secondary Interim Report Interviews (4-6pm)
15-24 March NAPLAN Year 3, 5, 7 and 9
20 March P&C Meeting 3.15pm
23 March School Board Meeting 6.30pm
27 March Follow the Dream Opening 3-5pm
29-31 March Year 9 Shooting Stars Camp
1 April Merredin Show
6 April ANZAC Ceremony
Last day of Term 1

TERM 2

- 24 April** Students Commence Term 2
25 April ANZAC Day Public Holiday

2023 SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

- Term 2** Friday, 2 June 2023
Term 3 Monday, 17 July 2023
Term 4 Monday, 9 October 2023
Friday, 15 December 2023



BYOD (BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE)

Parents and students are reminded that BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) Forms are to be signed and returned to Student Services or Primary Admin before we are able to allow student device access to the school internet.

Forms were mailed out at the end of last year with Contributions and Charges or they can either be accessed on our website (link below) or the Primary Administration and Student Services.

<https://merredincollege.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/BYOD-Plan-2023.pdf>

NAPLAN (National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy)

NAPLAN is scheduled to commence Wednesday 15 March and will run for two weeks for Year 3, 5, 7 and 9. Participation by all students is expected; however, in certain circumstances students may be withdrawn from the testing program by their parent/carer. Ultimately, this is a decision for parents/carers but is best done in collaboration with the school. A formal application must be received by the principal prior to the testing. Withdrawal forms can be collected from Deputy Principal—Mr David O'Neill in the front office (Year 7 and 9 students) and Primary administration (Year 3 and 5 students). Forms need to be returned by the Friday, 24 February (Week 4).

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=pzlrtDR84KY&feature=emb_logo

ORIGO MATHS WORKBOOK

Student booklists for 2023 included a student workbook for Mathematics, 'Stepping Stones' Student Journal. This book is an integral part of all student's numeracy learning program in Pre-primary to Year 6 and an absolute necessity. These books are available from Nextra Newsagency in town and we also have a limited number available from primary administration. Please contact me if you are having difficulty with the purchase of the book so we can make arrangements or payment plans.

YEAR 7 BIG DAY OUT

Our Year 7's will be celebrating the start of their secondary education with a day of fun get to know you activities and a trip to the pool on Friday 17 February. Permission notes have been handed out today.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Student uniforms can be purchased from the P & C uniform shop located in the administration of the College. Information regarding the uniform policy requirements and order forms can be found on our website:

<https://merredincollege.wa.edu.au/uniform/#1497936253361-de06b630-3c80>

USED UNIFORMS

If you have uniforms that your children have grown out of or no longer require, we would be appreciative of any donations here at the college. They can be dropped to the front office.

HEALTH CARE PLANS

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



Save the Date.....

Year 10-12 School Ball

29 April 2023 (Term 2)

you are invited

P & C

BBQ SUNDOWNER

21
February | 5:00 - 6:30 PM
Merredin Pool

Bring your family along to the Merredin College P&C sundowner.
Free Pool Entry
Sausage Sizzle Provided
Meet the P&C Committee

P&C UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Times:

(Starting from Tuesday 14 February)

Mondays 8.30-11.30am

Wednesdays 8.30-11.30am & 1-3.30pm



PRIMARY ASSEMBLY

Our first primary assembly for the year will be held on Thursday, 23 February and will be run by the Year 1/2 Class. We look forward to seeing our families there.

SCHOOL HOURS

School hours are between 8.30am-3.30pm. Students are not permitted to be on school site out of these times. Students should not be arriving any earlier than 8.30am. Breakfast Club is available from this time in the Canteen area if required.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child/ren are going to be absent from school for any reason, please advise Merredin College as soon as possible.

Student Absence(s) can be advised to Merredin College in the following ways;

- **SMS:** Student Name, date & reason for absence to: 0419 199 331
- **Email:** Merredin.College@education.wa.edu.au
- **Phone:** Administration and request Student Services or Primary Admin Office on 9041 7520.
- Complete a **Note** and drop to Student Services (Secondary) or Primary Admin Office as soon as possible.

SWIMMING CARNIVALS

Please save the dates to help us out and/or come along to support your child at these events. We will be advertising for parent helpers over the next few weeks.

Year 3-12 Swimming Carnival

The Merredin College Year 3-12 Swimming Carnival will be held on Thursday 2 March. All primary students will be attending. Secondary students who would like to compete/attend the carnival must sign up on the registration sheets in students services. Students must register for 2 or more events to attend. Registration closes Monday 20 February 3.30pm (Week 4).

Interschool Carnivals

Primary Interschool Carnival will be held on Wednesday 8 March and the Secondary EASA Interschool Carnival will be held on Friday 10 March.

SWIMMING LESSONS

Year 3 – 6 students will be involved in In-term Swimming Lessons beginning on Monday, 13 February (Week 3). Notes 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.

SUNSMART

For primary students we have a 'NO HAT-NO PLAY' policy. Wide brim hats are available from the uniform shop and the Primary office for \$14, please remember to mark your child's name on the inside. For Secondary students it is not compulsory to wear a hat outside but we do encourage the students to be SUNSMART especially in Term 1 and 4. Parents can you please also remind your child/ren to bring a water bottle to school daily especially in these extremely hot conditions.

PRIMARY HEALTH NEWS

Scoliosis

Year 6 students have been given a pamphlet to take home about Scoliosis. It is recommended that parents check their child's back at home. Please see information in pamphlet and contact GP if there are any concerns.

Colour Blindness

Pre-primary/Kindy students have been given a pamphlet to take home about Colour Blindness. Please see GP for any concerns.

SCHOOL DENTIST

The school dentist will be back on site from Monday 27 February. Contact number is 0459 241 543 or email merredinmobile@health.wa.gov.au

Relief Staff required!

Merredin College is seeking casual relief staff to backfill cleaning and education assistant roles for K-12 special needs.

Must have current Working With Children and Dept of Education screening.

Please contact Susan Coomber in the Front Office for further information.

KindiLink

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
9041 7520
clare.smith2@education.wa.edu.au



KindiLink is a free play and learn program. Join us for a morning filled with activities, craft, songs and stories.


WHO: Children aged 0-4 and their families

WHERE: Merredin College Kindy Room

Bring along a piece of fruit to share for morning tea and enjoy a yarn with other families.


WHEN: Tuesdays & Fridays 9-12





Amity Playgroup

Starting back on Monday 13th February



Meeting Times
Monday 9-11am
Thursday 9-11am
During School Terms

kashwin@amityhealth.com.au



SCHOOL SPEED ZONE

To ensure that our children are safe, we request that members of the general public observe the 40 km/hour speed limit on all roads around the school perimeter.

