



ISSUE #3
10 March 2023

MC link

Merredin College Weekly Community Update



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



A message from the Principal

Dear parents/carers

This past fortnight has seen a variety of events take place including Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessments for Year 11 and 12 students, Year 11 Study Skills program, Year 11 & 12 parent Information Evening, Year 7 Growth Mindset session, Year 3-12 Swimming carnival, Year 8 – 10 Interschool Tennis Tournament, Primary Interschool carnival, and today the Secondary Interschool Swimming carnival. I would like to thank the staff, P&C, parents and community groups involved in making these events happen and thank the students who were involved for their enthusiastic participation.

Student expectations: Over the past 5 weeks the school has had a focus on setting up **positive conditions for learning**. I would encourage parents to please support the school in ensuring your child has the necessary equipment to be a successful learner and that you reinforce the importance of maintaining a quiet and respectful classroom environment. In the secondary area the main focus areas have included:

Coming prepared to class; arriving at class on time; lining up quietly and greeting the teacher at the door; entering the room quietly and completing the DO NOW task whilst the teacher marks the role; Identifying and understanding the Learning Intention and the Success Criteria of the lesson.

Secondary hats: whilst not mandated in secondary school we are strongly encouraging students to wear hats at recess, lunch and at Phys Ed. Part of the Health Ed curriculum looks at disease and skin cancer is very prominent in Australia with 2 in 3 Australians being diagnosed with skin cancer in their lifetime. We would appreciate if you could also encourage your children to wear hats at school.

School Board Parent Representatives needed: At the end of this term 3 long serving parent members tenures will end. Renee Manning, Lesley Watson and Jenny Doncon have all served on the School Board for many years. We thank them for their service. The Merredin College School Board is looking for **Expressions of Interest** for parent representatives. If you are interested in being a member please complete the attached form <https://merredincollege.wa.edu.au/publications/> and drop it in to the Administration office or return email to MerredinCol@education.wa.edu.au. By **Thursday 23 March 3.30pm**.

P&C looking for additional members: I would like to acknowledge the incredible amount of work that Justine Low (President) and Phil Van Der Merwe (Vice President) have done over the years in driving the P&C. They have both decided it is time to hand over the baton. If you are interested in taking on either of these roles or would just like to come along and see what the P&C is about, the next meeting is Monday 20 March 3.15pm. Please refer to the P&C article in this newsletter.

Kind regards
Tracy Pickering
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES:

TERM 1

- 12 March** High School Beach Volleyball Cup (Perth)
- 13-14 Mar** School Photos
- 14 March** Year 10 Curtin Ahead Excursion
Secondary Interim Report Interviews (4-6pm)
- 16 March** Teddy Bear Hospital
- 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 (Thursday)

TERM 2

- 24 April** Students Commence Term 2
- 25 April** ANZAC Day Public Holiday
- 29 April** School Ball
- 1-3 May** Year 12 Outdoor Ed Camp
- 11 May** Year 7-12 Netball Cup
- 15 May** P&C Meeting 6pm
- 18 May** Primary Assembly (Year 4/5) 9am
School Board Meeting 6.30pm
- 2 June** School Development Day
- 5 June** WA Day - Public Holiday



SCHOOL PHOTOS

We would like to apologise for the late distribution of photo information to families, unfortunately we have only just received the package from the photo company yesterday. Unique Student Shootkey and online ordering instruction sheets have been handed out to all students today.

Family photo forms will be handed out on the day. Time slots for family photos are between 8.20am and 8.45am

- Monday 14 March - for family surnames beginning with letters between 'A-M'
- Monday 15 March - for family surnames beginning with letters between 'N-Z'

Further information regarding photo orders is attached below.

YEAR 11/12 SUBJECT CHARGES

Course fees for 2023 will be mailed out next week. Year 11 and 12 subject charges are compulsory payments and are due by the end of Term 1. Payment plans can be arranged by contacting the front office.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES

Although contributions are voluntary, the school relies on parent contributions being paid by the end of first term. Funds not received put significant strain on our annual budget. There are many student contributions and charges still unpaid. We do not receive a subsidy for unpaid contributions and charges. If you would like to make arrangements for a payment plan please contact Mrs Sandi Lee in the front office.

If you have a Health Care card then please don't forget to drop into the front office to complete a Secondary Assistance Scheme claim form for \$235 per child, before the 6 April (last day of term).

NAPLAN

Students in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 will sit their NAPLAN Online Tests next week. All testing will be online with the exception of the Year 3 writing test which will be a paper test. It is very important that students arrive on time to school on these days. Teachers have been working hard to familiarise students with the tests since the start of the year. Please see the timetable below for planned testing times.

Years 3 and 5	Wednesday 15 March	Thursday 16 March	Friday 17 March	Monday 20 March
Period 1-2 9.30 - 10.30am	Year 5 Writing	Year 3 Reading	Year 5 Language	Year 5 Numeracy
Period 3 11.30-12.30	Year 3 Writing	Year 5 Reading	Year 5 Language	Year 3 Numeracy

Year 7 and 9	Wednesday 15 March	Thursday 16 March	Friday 17 March	Monday 20 March
Period 1 8.50 - 9.50am	Year 9 Writing	Year 9 Reading		
Home Room 9.50 - 10am				Year 7 Numeracy
Period 2 10.00 - 11am		Year 9 Reading		Year 7 Numeracy
Period 3 11.30am - 12.30pm	Year 7 Writing	Year 7 Reading	Year 7 Language	Year 9 Numeracy
Period 4 12.30 - 1.30pm			Year 9 Language	Year 9 Numeracy

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 6 April 2023

Ask School Reception for More Information



2023
School Ball
Year 10-12

DRIPPING IN LUXURY

Saturday 29th April 2023
Cummins Theatre
Arrive from 6pm
Year 12 Entrance from 6:30pm
Tickets: \$80ea
On sale from 7 March - 14 April

SECONDARY INTERIM REPORT INTERVIEWS

Interim reports have been emailed out this week. Parent/teacher interviews will be held on Tuesday, 14 March in the school library 4-6pm. Interviews will be on a 10 minute rotation.

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>

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.

PRIMARY ASSEMBLY

Our second primary assembly for the year will be held on Thursday, 23 March at 9am in the undercover assembly area and will be run by Miss Kernaghan's Year 4/5 Class. We look forward to seeing our families there.

TEDDY BEAR HOSPITAL

'Teddy Bear Hospital' is a strategy used to help reduce children's fears of the healthcare system and teach them about health-related issues. It involves mock consultations where medical students play the role of a "teddy doctor" and children act as the carer of teddy (or another soft toy) requiring consultation. This provides medical students with the opportunity to interact with children and develop communication skills while children are introduced to the medical consultation process. The aim of this study was to evaluate the medical student experience of Teddy Bear Hospital as part of a paediatric curriculum.

The medical students will be visiting our Pre primary to Year 2 classes at Merredin College Early on Thursday, 16 March.

Students are asked to bring along their favourite teddy bear on the day to help with the activities being run by the medical students.

BATHER AND TOWEL LOANS

We loaned a number of items of swimwear and towels to students during the Year 3-6 swimming lessons last week and have a number not returned. If you have noticed some strays in your washing could you please return them to the school.

UNIFORM SHOP

School photos are next week 13-14 March (Mon/Tues)

The uniform shop will be closed Monday 13 March. If your child needs any new items, you will need to place and order by this Friday 10 March.

The uniform shop will be open between 2-3pm on Friday 10 March.

Email: merredincollegeuniforms@mail.com

Messenger: Merredin College P&C Uniforms

SMS: 0400 412 549

From Student Services

Contact details, addresses and telephone numbers

If you have changed your address or phone number, can you, please notify the school of your correct details. As I have tried to make contact regarding your child's health and wellbeing some contact details are not correct.

Unexplained Absences

Please let us know if your child is not attending school along with the reason why. You can respond via SMS, contact us by email: Merredin.College@education.wa.edu.au or by telephoning 9041 7520. **Every day counts!!**

School Uniforms

Thank you to the majority of students who are wearing the correct uniform, and the many students who are beginning to wear hats, this is great to see. The cooler weather is starting to come in, now is the time to please ensure you have warmer uniform pants and jackets organised. Thank you.

Telephones

Are not permitted to be used at school and should not be seen at school or used during the school day. All students can come to student services if they wish to make a phone call home.

Student Health and Well-being

Should you have any concerns about your child please do not hesitate to contact me to make an appointment to discuss this. My Mobile Number is 0436 668 778.

Rosemary Paterson
Deputy Principal
Student Services

P&C UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Times:

(Starting from Tuesday 14 February)

Mondays 8.30-11.30am

Wednesdays 8.30-11.30am & 1-3.30pm

NO HAT!! NO PLAY!!

Merredin College has a STRICT no hat - no play policy in Primary. 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 \$14.



ONLINE ORDERING SYSTEM

Merredin College

Our School Photos will be taken on:

Monday 13 March:

- Kindy–Year 6
- Primary House Captains & Student Leaders
- Choir
- Year 7 and Year 9

Tuesday 14 March

- Year 8,10,11 & 12
- Secondary House Captains & Student Councillors
- Primary Student Leaders

Class Photos/Portraits:

- Every Student will have their photo taken, whether they are purchasing photos or not.
- The school has chosen to use the on line ordering system. Your child will be given an on line ordering instruction slip
- and a unique student **Shootkey**.
- Log onto **www.msp.com.au** and follow the prompts to place your order.
- If you lose your **Shootkey** the school reception will have a copy to quote back to you.
- The expiry date for online ordering is the **Tuesday, 28 March 2023**
- Any orders received after this date will incur a \$30 archive fee.
- Spare order envelopes (green) will be available at the school reception if parents prefer to pay with cash.

Specialty Group Photos:

- Specialty Group Photos will be available for purchase after the main photo day packs are delivered to the school. Orders will be open for 4 weeks and ordering slips will be included in the students' photo pack.

Family Photos:

- Envelopes can be obtained from Administration.
- Family Photos are taken each morning before school.
- Please ensure that your family envelope and payment are handed to the photographers on Photo Day.
- If you do not have the correct money we will provide any change needed when photos are delivered to school.
- Family photos **cannot** be ordered online.
- Once your school has received photos, Family Photos will remain at Reception for parents to collect.

Please Note:

Late orders can be placed via our website www.mspwa.com.au

Individual and Family Photos are not available to view online for Students' Security.

If for any reason you need to contact MSP regarding your child's photos you will be asked to provide your child's **Shootkey**.