



ISSUE #2
24 February 2023

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Merredin College Weekly Community Update



A message from the Principal

Dear parents/carers

The extreme heat earlier this week has taken its toll with a number of very tired primary school children and staff completing their final sessions of swimming lessons. It was terrific to see Mrs Low's Year 1/2 class perform at the first primary school assembly on Thursday and Mrs Adamson got everyone involved in an animated music item.

This week we welcomed Mr Paul Morris into the English/HASS teaching position in secondary. We also welcomed another 7 new students between primary and secondary. It is fantastic to have so many new students and families move to Merredin.

Earlier this week a couple of students displayed some appalling aggressive behaviour. Violence is not an acceptable way to manage your emotions and will not be condoned. The Education Department has a clear stance on not tolerating violence in schools or the use of devices to video and/or distribute images of fighting or other acts of aggression. The maximum penalty for both acts is 10 days suspension. Please support the school by encouraging your children to use appropriate methods of conflict resolution and comply with the Mobile Phone policy (no phone use between 8.50am – 3.00pm). The school will be working with the Merredin Police, School Nurse, Youth groups and community organisations to deliver curriculum related to a variety of issues throughout the year ie., cyberbullying, alcohol/drug awareness, relationships, personal development and hygiene etc.

On Tuesday the P&C hosted a Sundowner Meet and Greet and the swimming pool. It was terrific to see so many students and parents enjoying a swim and a free sausage sizzle. Next Tuesday the P&C will be hold their Annual General Meeting 6pm Wahlsten Library.

The Merredin College School Board held the first meeting of the year last night. Two long serving parent members tenures will finish at the end of this term. Expressions of interest will be called for in the next newsletter. if you are interested in some additional information about being a School Board member email MerredinCol@education.wa.edu.au.

Kind regards
Tracy Pickering
Principal

Follow us at:

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



IMPORTANT DATES:

TERM 1

- 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** Year 10 Curtin Ahead Excursion
- 15-24 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
- 6 April** Last day of Term 1 (Thursday)

TERM 2

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

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

P&C UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Times:

(Starting from Tuesday 14 February)

Mondays 8.30-11.30am

Wednesdays 8.30-11.30am & 1-3.30pm



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>

YEAR 11&12 ATAR PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

Tuesday evening, 28 February, in the library 5:30pm – 6:30pm will be an information session for parents and students to the ATAR Pathway run by David O'Neill and Tracey Sutherland. This session can be attended in person or if you are unable to make it in person we will have the session running on Webex so parents and students can still hear the information and ask questions if necessary. There will also be a member from the AHEAD Team who will be able to answer any university related questions that you may have. If you are attending either in person or via Webex please notify the office.

The link to the session is below:

<https://educationwa.webex.com/educationwa/j.php?MTID=mfb7926ec415bdec1b10fa0198bcbbdee>

OLNA TESTING

Testing for the standard achievement levels in both numeracy and literacy will be held over the next few weeks. These are very important tests and should be taken seriously by students and it's highly advised that students **do not** miss the testing window. Students who do not pass these tests will result in not attaining their Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) at the completion of Year 12. Students needing to sit these tests have notified. The testing schedule is below:

ONLINE LITERACY AND NUMERACY ASSESSMENT (OLNA) TIMETABLE

WRITING – Monday 27 February 2023	TESTING WINDOW OPEN
Year 11/12 - Period 3 Room 5	27 February 2023 – 1 March 2023
READING – Wednesday 1 March 2023	
Year 11/12 - Period 2 Room 5	27 February 2023 – 10 March 2023
NUMERACY – Wednesday 8 March 2023	
Year 11/12 - Period 1 Room 4	27 February 2023 – 10 March 2023

**Please note that the testing window for Writing is only open for three days. If students miss this testing window they will not be able to sit the test in this round*

AHEAD (Addressing Higher Education Access Disadvantage Program)

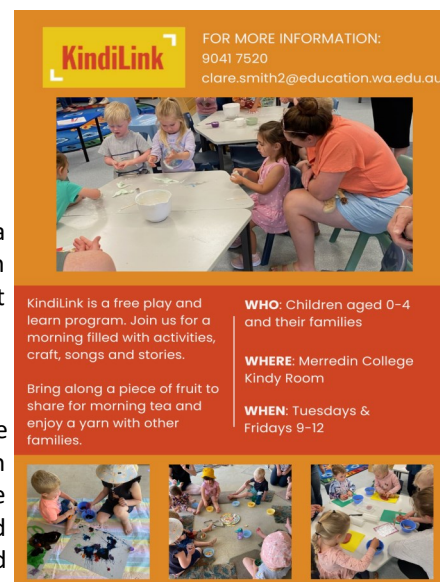
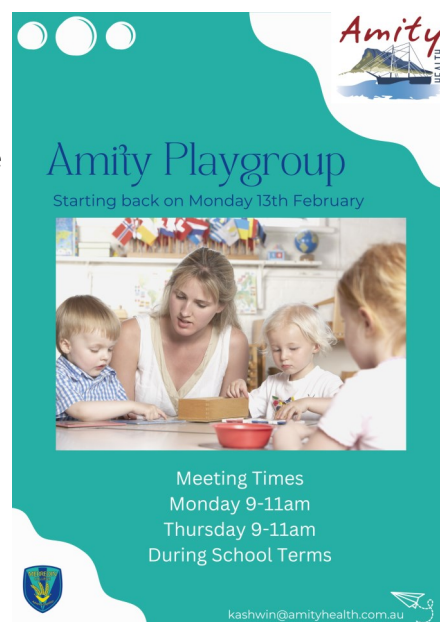
Next week Tuesday, 28 February Year 11 ATAR and Cert IV Nursing students will participate in a Study Skills workshop and on Wednesday 1 March Year 7 students will engage in a Growth Mindset Session delivered by the AHEAD team. Information regarding these have been sent out earlier this the week via email.

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=pzlrDR84KY&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.

SWIMMING CARNIVALS

The Merredin College Year 3-12 Swimming Carnival will be held on Thursday, 2 March. Registrations have closed for Secondary students and those not attending are expected to be at school. Only secondary students competing in more than two events are eligible to attend the carnival, please collect and return to Student Services.

Year 3 – 6 students attending the carnival has been restricted to those students who are able to confidently swim 25m. Permission notes were sent home Thursday for Primary students. Unfortunately, the number of students meeting this milestone has fallen over recent years, reducing participation in the carnival however we do have to put the safety of our students first.

Lunch orders need to in by Wednesday 1st March 10am parents can send money and forms to the school or order via TryBooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/CGGSW>. We need community volunteers to help with time keeping, starter, photographer and ribbon presenting. If you can help please contact Miss Bryant - kylie.bryant@education.wa.edu.au, or phone the Primary Office.

Parents of swimmers are welcome to attend this event but will need to remain in the bays allocated to spectators on the northern side of the pool and maintain social distancing. We are still looking for helpers on the day. Lunch order forms have gone home as well and parents can send money and forms to the school or order via TryBooking:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CGGSW>. (Please note the 50c TryBooking surcharge has been incorporated into the food costs and is not additional charge to parents).

ATTENDANCE PROCESSES

Currently we are running two platforms of attendance data, until we get a directive from the Department of which platform we will be required to adapt as our main system. We do apologise for the errors which have occurred since the start of the year with new timetable set-up and data transfers not correctly processing which have generated some errors. Please ensure that we are working our hardest to keep our student attendance data as true and accurate as possible and thank you for your patience until it is all running smoothly again.

YEAR 12 LEAVERS JUMPERS

In consultation with the Class of 2023, the Year 12 Student Council have designed the leaver's jumper for the 2023 cohort. Students have been sized up and chosen their preferred nickname ready to place the orders.

The total cost is **\$100** per jumper. However, I would like thank and acknowledge the Merredin College P&C who have donated \$30 to each Year 12 student to reduce the cost of their leavers jumpers in 2023. Therefore cost to students is **\$70.00** for the initial jumper and **\$100** for any additional orders.

Payment needs to be received no later than Friday 3 March 2023 to Student Services. If a student wishes to order a jumper, but cannot make the payment deadline due to financial difficulty please contact our MSC Janelle Lane to discuss alternative arrangements.



STUDENTS DRIVING TO SCHOOL

Any student wishing to drive to school MUST collect Student Driver Policy paperwork from Student Services if you have not already this year. Once paperwork is signed, returned and approved by the SS DP you will be issued with a parking permit. – Any questions, please see Mrs Alvaro or Mrs Major at Student Services.

CONSENT2GO

This week you would have received a notification to update your child's information in Consent2Go. 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.

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

