



MC Link - Term 4, Week 7

28 November 2025

Principal's Address

2026 Teaching Staff

With availability of teachers being low across Australia, recruitment of teaching staff is an ongoing activity for our school.

I am pleased to share that we have successfully attracted the following teachers to join our team in 2026.

- Melani Goosen, English
- Jenae Miller, Primary
- Zoe O'Malley, English
- Emma Riley, Home Economics

Jenae will be visiting our school next week with Melani arriving in town next year. Zoe and Emma are local to our school.

Despite advertising throughout the year, we have not found a suitable applicant for the vacant Design and Technologies teacher position. We know how important practical subjects such as Design and Technologies is for our students and therefore have partnered once again with School of Distance and Isolated Education (SIDE) to offer Woodwork and Technical Engineering for Year 7-12 in 2026. Students should be proud of the high quality observed in their work this year. I have seen significant improvement in the standard of work.

We will continue to seek a *quality* Design and Technologies teacher for our school.

Holidays/vacations during the School Term

We understand that from time-to-time families may need to travel during the school term. Whilst we discourage in-term family holidays we do value receiving advance notification of student absences.

- Where holidays/vacations are notified in advance and are of 5 or less days, the absence will be recorded as an *Authorised Vacation*.
- Where advance notification has not been provided or the vacation is longer than 5 days without approval of the Principal, the absence will be recorded as an *Unauthorised Vacation*.

Although teaching staff are not expected to provide work when students are away on holidays or for other voluntary absences, we do encourage students to discuss this absence directly with their teacher(s) to ensure they understand upcoming learning and assessments.

We appreciate your support in planning future family vacations during scheduled school holiday periods wherever possible, as this supports student learning and attendance consistency across the school.

Social Media Age Restrictions

From 10 December 2025, many social media platforms won't be allowed to let children under the age of 16 create or keep a social media account. This will include:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Kick](#)
- [Reddit](#)
- [Snapchat](#)
- [Threads](#)

- [TikTok](#)
- [Twitch](#)
- [X](#) (formerly Twitter)
- [YouTube](#)

Social media companies will seek information about if the person ordinarily live in Australia, and if the person is over the age of 16. It's important to know that age-restricted platforms can no longer just rely on a user providing a birthdate at account sign up. The platforms are expected to have ways to stop users faking their age using false identity documents, AI tools or deepfakes. They are also expected to try to stop under-16s from using VPNs to pretend to be outside Australia.

There are many ways that social media companies might check a person's age. Check out the eSafety Website for more information.

There is useful information about '[Talking with your child about age restrictions](#)' on the [eSafety website](#).





Thank you, P&C

I would like to offer a big thank you to the Parents and Citizens Association (P&C), led by Dionne Alberti, for their fundraising contributions and commitment to inclusion and community. Contributions this year have supported new furniture in the library, Y12 Graduation, Y6 shirts, Y12 Leavers' jacket, Year 6 Camp, MerryDin Concert, athletics carnivals and much more. To all the parents behind the scenes that supported the work of the P&C, thank you, your time is greatly appreciated and has wide benefits across the school.

Lastly, I encourage all primary age students to get involved in the disco tonight, hosted by Y5 parents and supported by the P&C. Further information can be found later in the Upcoming Events section of this newsletter.

The Merredin College P&C and Collgar Renewables have generously supported a refresh of the Wahlsten Library. The new furniture has been a wonderful edition providing a flexible, colourful and purposeful learning space.

Mrs Kylie Cattaway

Principal



General Information

2026 CONTRIBUTIONS & CHARGES

Individual Contributions, Fees and Charges Statements for 2026 have been mailed out this week along the Contributions and Charges Booklet which contains additional information on Extra Cost Options, Personal Items and Voluntary Approved Requests.

Please note:

- **Campion Education Year 11 and 12 ATAR book orders must be submitted by Friday 12 December** for students to receive their items in time for the beginning of next year.
- **Calculator orders must be placed by midnight 1 February 2026** and will be delivered direct to the College.
- Personal Item Orders can be submitted to Nexta Newsagency Merredin after from the beginning of December.

All information regarding 2026 Contributions and Charges and Extra Cost Items can be found on the Merredin College [website](#).

CANTEEN OPERATING HOURS - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Please be advised that the canteen will operate with **amended trading hours** on the **last day of school**.

Break 1: Full service available

Break 2: Drinks and icy poles / frozen yoghurts only

Thank you for your understanding and support.

CARPARK REMINDER - KISS AND DROP AREA

A reminder to all parents and carers to please **avoid stopping or waiting at the bottom of the ramp** in the primary **Kiss and Drop** carpark. Stopping in this area blocks parking bays and disrupts the flow of traffic during the busy afternoon pick-up period.

To help keep everyone safe and to ensure a smooth departure for all families, we ask that parents remain patient and follow the designated traffic flow. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

LOST PROPERTY

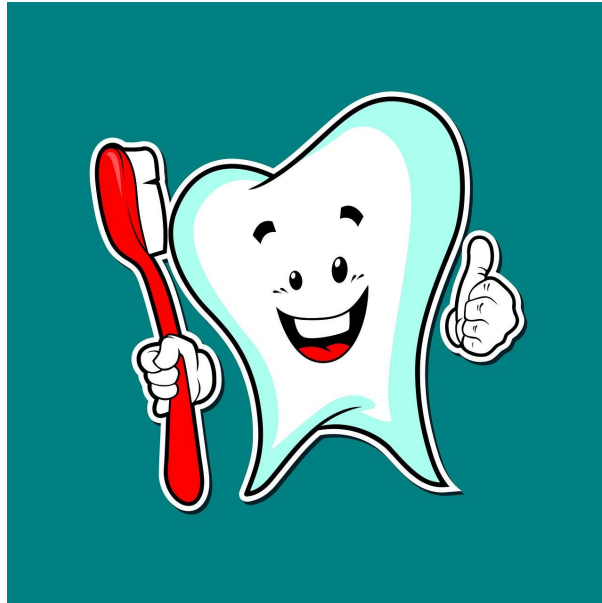
We have a large collection of lost property items waiting to be claimed in both Primary and Secondary administration offices. If your child is missing any clothing, drink bottles, lunch boxes, or other personal items, please check the lost property area. Any unclaimed items will be donated at the end of the term.



School Dentist Services will be onsite from next Tuesday 2 December.

Ph: 0459 241 543

E: merredindtc@dental.health.wa.gov.au



Upcoming Events





Our school Calendar is accessible through the [Compass App](#)

Primary News

As we approach the final weeks of Term 4, we would like to thank all our families for their support throughout the year. We have several exciting events and important reminders to help us finish 2025 on a positive note.

PRIMARY CLASS PARTIES – Wednesday 17 December

Class parties will be held on **Wednesday 17 December**. Your child's teacher will provide further details about food, activities and any items students may need to bring.

END-OF-YEAR PACK-UP

During the last week of school, classes will be organising and packing away resources. Please send an **additional plastic bag** so your child can bring home their books, stationery and personal items.

MERRYDIN CONCERT – 'At the Disco!' – Tuesday 16 December

Our much-loved MerryDin end-of-year concert will also take place on **Tuesday 16 December**. This year's theme is **'At the Disco'**, and students are very excited to share their performances with you.

Families are encouraged to bring a **picnic blanket** and get comfortable on the grass quad to enjoy the show. We look forward to celebrating our students' achievements in this fun, community-focused event.

PRIMARY REPORTS – Friday 12 December

Primary student reports will be sent home on **Friday 12 December**. If you have any questions after receiving your child's report, please reach out to their classroom teacher.

Thank you again for your ongoing partnership. We look forward to celebrating the end of a wonderful year together.

Secondary News

GIFTED AND TALENTED

Students in Gifted and Talented programs learn with like-minded peers, following an enriched curriculum designed for their needs, delivered by teachers with expert skills and knowledge. Access is provided to universities, industry bodies and mentoring programs with opportunities to take part in national and international competitions.

These Gifted and Talented academic, arts and languages programs are available for country students via online learning.

Applications for the 2027 intake are now open. Applications close 6pm Friday 6 February 2026.

For more information you can contact the Gifted and Talented Selection Unit on 92644307 or at gtsu@education.wa.edu.au

[Gifted and Talented - Department of Education](#)



2026 SECONDARY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

The Secondary Assistance Scheme is available to secondary students whose parents hold a concession card. The scheme includes the Clothing Allowance (\$115 paid to school or parent) and Educational Program Allowance (\$235 paid directly to the school).

If you think you are eligible for the Secondary Assistance Scheme, you are able to apply through the school at the beginning of next year.

The Secondary Assistance Scheme is available to students up to and including the year in which they turn 18, and only if they have a parent who is a holder of one of the prescribed cards listed below:

- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card; or
- Centrelink Health Care Card (Family card only – not for a specific child for medical purposes, viz: “CDA” type [Child Disability Allowance]); or
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card.
- Cards that are not eligible are TPI and Gold Cards.

Students in receipt of ABSTUDY are eligible for the Secondary Assistance Scheme.

[APPLICATION FORM](#)

A vertical poster with a yellow background and abstract purple and orange shapes at the bottom. It contains text about the Secondary Assistance Scheme for Years 7 to 12, mentioning a \$350 allowance towards school expenses and listing eligible concession cards. The Department of Education logo and the slogan 'Shaping the future' are at the top.

 Department of Education **Shaping the future**

Secondary Assistance Scheme

Years 7 to 12 you may be eligible for up to:

\$350

towards school expenses

If you hold a:

- Centrelink Health Care Card
- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card
- Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card.

Applications close 2 April 2026

Ask School Reception for more information.

[Latest News and Events](#)

Jump Rope for Heart

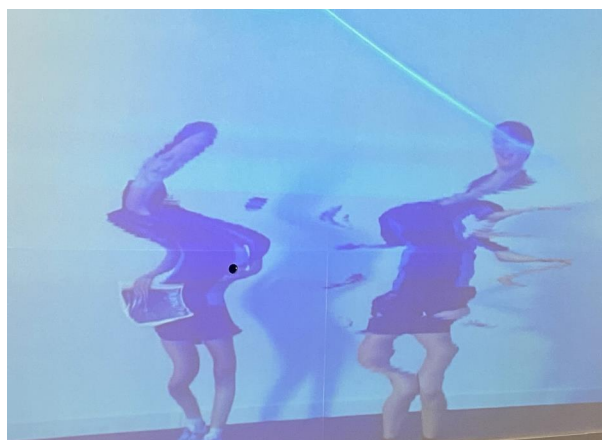
Congratulations to all the Primary students for completing the Jump Rope for Heart skipping program. Our fundraising total was \$9,107 for the Heart Foundation





Harry Perkins Institute of Research and BodyWorks Excursion - Year 10 Science





Community

Merredin College P&C presents...



Summer Vibes

K-6 Disco
Friday 28th November

Merredin College Primary Undercover Area

K-2 students 3:30-4:30 pm
3-6 students 4:30-5:30 pm

\$5 entry OR \$10 entry (includes 3 snacks)

Snacks and drinks available to purchase - cash only

Prizes for the best dressed!

Fundraising for the Yr 6 2026 Camp

Adult must sign in/out to attend
Any enquires please contact the P&C

MERREDIN COLLEGE PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION INC.



POSITION VACANT

CANTEEN ASSISTANT - PART TIME

WE HAVE AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR A DEDICATED AND ENTHUSIASTIC INDIVIDUAL TO JOIN OUR SCHOOL CANTEEN IN THE ROLE OF CANTEEN ASSISTANT (PART-TIME).

PREFERRED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE:

- CANTEEN / KITCHEN-HAND EXPERIENCE.
- SALES AND SHOP MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE.
- GOOD INTERPERSONAL SKILLS, AND THE ABILITY TO INTERACT WITH PARENTS, STUDENTS, SCHOOL STAFF AND SUPPLIERS.
- CASH HANDLING EXPERIENCE.
- ABILITY TO WORK INDEPENDENTLY, AS WELL AS UNDER PRESSURE, AND MEET DEADLINES.
- COMPETENT IN BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS.
- EXCELLENT TIME MANAGEMENT.

REQUIREMENTS:

- KNOWLEDGE IN FOOD PREPARATION.
- ABILITY TO WORK AS PART OF A TEAM.
- CERTIFICATE IN FOOD SAFE, OR WILLINGNESS TO OBTAIN.
- WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK, OR WILLINGNESS TO OBTAIN.
- FIRST AID CERTIFICATE, OR WILLINGNESS TO OBTAIN.

BENEFITS:

- ON THE JOB TRAINING.
- BE PART OF A WARM, SUPPORTIVE AND FAMILY FRIENDLY TEAM.
- SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY.
- A ROLE THAT WORKS WITHIN SCHOOL HOURS.

HOW TO APPLY:

- APPLICATIONS CONTAINING A COVERING LETTER AND RESUME ARE TO BE SENT IN WRITING TO MERREDINCOLLEGEPC.SEC@GMAIL.COM
- APPLICATIONS CLOSE **WEDNESDAY 03/12/2025** AT 5:00PM
- FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT P&C PRESIDENT, DEE ALBERTI ON 0439 383 840

**P&C Uniform Shop
Opening Days**

Friday 5th December 2–4pm
Monday 15th December Closed
Tuesday 16th December 2.30–3.30pm
Wednesday 17th December 1.30–2.45pm
Thursday 18th December 1.30–3.30pm
Friday 19th December 10am–12pm
Monday 5th January 4–6pm
Tuesday 6th January 10am–12pm
Thursday 15th January 4–6pm
Wednesday 21st January 4–6pm
Sunday 1st February 2–4pm
Monday 2nd February 8.30–10am
Tuesday 3rd February 8.30–9.30am
Wednesday 4th February 8.30–9.30am & 1.30–2.45pm
Thursday 5th February 8.30–9.30am
Friday 6th February 8.30–9.30am
Festive Night Out 18/12/25
13 Bates St (Old IGA Variety Store)
5–8pm

Contact Information

Phone: (08) 9041 7520

Website: merredincollege.wa.edu.au

Email: Merredin.College@education.wa.edu.au

Compass: merredincollege-wa.compass.education