I would like to extend to the whole Murtoa College community a warm welcome to term 1 2015. I am excited to be back and continue to feel privileged to have been asked to fill the role of Acting Principal. I am looking forward to working with the community to continue the good work that occurred in 2014. It is great to have the college back to normal with nearly 300 students attending and doing what they do best……learning! I am happy to say that the start has been fairly smooth. I have been wandering the yard at lunchtime and talking to the students. They are all in a happy space and I have enjoyed hearing about their holiday exploits.

New Students

I would like to welcome the 37 new students into the college. They are as follows with their grade or form:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harvey</td>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>7B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barney</td>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>F/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby</td>
<td>Batchelor</td>
<td>7B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtis</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>7A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bevan</td>
<td>Brooke</td>
<td>7A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charli</td>
<td>Callaby</td>
<td>F/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie</td>
<td>Castleman</td>
<td>7A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily</td>
<td>Clarke</td>
<td>2/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan</td>
<td>Clarke</td>
<td>F/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethan</td>
<td>Cox</td>
<td>7B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea</td>
<td>Eagle</td>
<td>7B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our new students have had a comfortable transition into their new school. Our new foundation group are finding their feet and starting to understand school. For those that have been to school before the transition has been smooth as they have been buddied up with a mentor who is looking out for them. Our new staff comments are that they are very happy and that they find the students very friendly and reasonably easy to engage.

**New Staff**

There are some interesting staff changes to the college for 2015. Firstly, there are five new staff members joining us for the start of 2015. They are as follows:

- **Mrs Leanne Jenion**  
  Teaching Visual Communication in year 12, VCAL-Personal Development in year 12 and Art in F-6

- **Mr Shane Williams**  
  Teaching Technology (Wood/Metal) in years 8 to 12

- **Ms Jenna Barratt**  
  Teaching as a generalist primary teacher in the foundation/grade1 classroom

- **Ms Charlotte Glick**  
  Teaching English and Humanities in years 9 to 12

- **Ms Whitney Kingston**  
  Working as the Science Laboratory Assistant

To add to this we welcome back from family leave, in part-time positions the following staff:

- **Ms Amy Anselmi**  
  Teaching year 8 Science and year 9/10 Dance

- **Ms Sonja Barlow**  
  Teaching year 11 English and year 8 Humanities

Also, the two acting Assistant Principals, Mrs Anne Sudholz and Mr Brad Venn will continue in their new role until after the new ongoing Principal is appointed in term 1.

We are a small and caring school. Our No. 1 value is respect. We expect all staff and students to respect each other, to respect our school facilities and to respect our school culture. We want every student to look forward to coming to school and we want them to become better people. We want to see every student recognized for their achievements, whether academic, sporting or through demonstrating our values. Good Luck to all students this year!
Welcome pack

We sent out a Welcome to School pack to all students, new and returning. Please let us know if this was useful or if we missed any information you needed. We were missing contact details for a couple of new families, so apologies if you didn’t receive a pack, spare copies are available at the office. We did misquote the EMA. Please note that there is NO EMA this year directly available to families.

Attendance

This is quite a difficult issue for schools. We want to encourage every student to attend every possible day, but at the same time it is not appropriate to send a sick child to school. We also recognise that some families will take a family holiday outside of school holidays for financial or scheduling reasons. The DET policy does allow for this but parents are expected to notify the principal in writing IN ADVANCE for approval.

Legally it is expected that principals would excuse absences for:
- medical and dental appointments, where out of hours appointments are not possible or not appropriate
- bereavement or attendance at the funeral of a relative or friend of the student, including a student required to attend Sorry Business
- school refusal, if a plan is in place with the parent to address causes
- cultural observance, if the parent notifies the school in advance
- family holidays, where the parent notifies the school in advance and the student completes any Student Absence Learning Plan agreed by the school, student and parent.

There is also provision for unforeseeable or unexpected events.

However, it is very important for students to attend regularly. This is both for their learning and for social reasons. We are focusing on attendance again this year as our data shows that there are some students have a large number of absences and that this is impacting on their learning.

It is really important that students get into good habits as early as possible and plan to attend every day except in cases of illness. Please let us know if we can help in any way. Mrs. Rachelle Chapman and the Year Level Coordinators or the F-6 classroom teachers should be the first point of contact about student non-attendance issues.

Horsham Buses

85% of our students rely on school buses to get to and from school. They are a very important part of the college community and the scheduling of programs run around the bus timetables. The college runs 3 buses from Horsham. Our student numbers coming from Horsham are increasing all the time. As I write this article the 3 buses are at their capacity. We are making plans for future increases but right now we will NOT be able to accommodate students using these buses on a casual basis. We will let parents know when this changes.

School Council

School Council Elections 2015 – Information for Parents

School council elections will commence very soon. We have members retiring so we are looking for new representatives. Please consider nominating. Nomination forms will be available in next week’s newsletter.

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:
A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
A mandated elected DEECD employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
An optional Community member category – members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.
Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

**Why is Parent membership so important?**

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

**How can you become involved?**

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

**Do I need special experience to be on school council?**

No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

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**VCE Parent Information Night**

You are invited to a VCE Parent Information Night for parents and students commencing Year 12 in 2015. The meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd of February starting at 7.00pm at Murtoa College in Rooms 3 & 4. The purpose of the evening is to inform parents of the format and administration of the VCE for Year 12 students in 2015. The night will help parents to understand the terminology of the VCE, VET and VCAL. It will introduce the processes and procedures students will undertake in their final year of schooling.

The Agenda for the night will include:

- The VCE Challenge – Mr Tony Goodwin.
- VCE Rules and Procedures, (What happens if I am sick?) – Andrew Vague.
- School Expectations – Anne Sudholz, Brad Venn.
- Careers Planning – Andrew Vague.
- A Parents Perspective – Anne Randall and others.

A light supper will be served after the meeting.

I hope both students and parents can attend this important event and look forward to talking with you about any concerns on the night.
Welcome to the 2015 academic year at Murtoa College. We are really excited to have a number of new families join our community and of course, our returning families too. I’ve had the privilege of visiting all of the classes so far and am very proud of how well the students have settled in. This is a credit to our wonderful staff and of course your assistance in preparing them for this year too.

We are once again hitting the ground running with School Photos tomorrow and a Primary Information Session next Monday (9th February). If you have any queries before the information session please write a note in your child’s diary or call the school at your convenience.

Hats are required for terms 1 and 4 and it is imperative that they are clearly named, so they we can avoid any confusion and allow students to enjoy playing outside. As of this week, if students do not have a hat they will need to sit in one of the two designated shade areas at break times – the deck or fake grass. I encourage parents to use whiteout or a similar product for the labelling of hats, because it is clear and permanent.

Uniforms are widely available at the office, however, we often sell out of particular items at the start of the year and we are currently reordering and preparing for winter uniforms too. In regard to winter uniform, we will no longer be stocking navy track pants as they can be sourced locally at more competitive rates than we can offer i.e. large department stores.

Once again, welcome to the 2015 academic year. We are already preparing a number of exciting educational activities, so please keep an eye on the weekly primary calendar entries as well as the whole school calendar entries in the newsletter.

Mr Brad Venn
Acting Assistant Principal

New Students
We would officially like to welcome the following new students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation</th>
<th>One</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matilda E</td>
<td>Zachary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilda H</td>
<td>Ari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josiah</td>
<td>Three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebony</td>
<td>Emily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke</td>
<td>Felicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kobe</td>
<td>Five</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barney</td>
<td>Anai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilley G</td>
<td>Aiden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charli</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students of the Week

This week we would like to acknowledge two students for being incredibly welcoming, friendly and caring. Congratulations to Ayden in Year 1 and Lucy in Year 6.

Grade F/1 and 2/3:

On behalf of Jenna Barratt and myself, welcome back to students and families in the Early Years at Murtoa College! We look forward to another wonderful year of fun and learning.

PE

The F/1 and 2/3 classes are timetabled together for PE each Friday. They will be participating together in a PMP program (Perceptual Motor Program). This program helps to develop student’s gross motor skills (running, jumping, throwing, catching, kicking, rolling, crawling etc.) and research also links practising these skills with brain cognition and overall development. Students rotate around a series of fun activity stations and help each other along the way. The stations are set up to promote maximum participation, so no students are sitting and watching others, they are all having a go. PE lessons on Monday will be skill based lessons, in individual classes. Students are reminded to either to wear black sports shoes or bring sports shoes to school on PE days. Students will be assisted with changing their shoes if needed. Please assist your child with practising to tie their own shoe laces at home.

School Diaries, Home Reading and Notes

Students have been supplied with their 2015 school diary. This diary is to be used as a communication tool between teachers and parents, as well as a way to record home reading. Teachers check diaries each day. Please keep the diary and take home book in the blue bag provided. This protects their diary and books from any damage. Any notes that come to and from school also need to be kept in the student’s blue bag.
There will be further information at the upcoming Primary Information Night, but please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments. We look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Sally Venn
Grade 2/3 Teacher
Early Years Co-ordinator

Welcome to a very exciting 2015

U17’s

Coaches – Derek Cameron, Angus Trethowen.

Training will start this Wednesday night, 5pm at Murtoa.

We need a Team Manager, please contact Malcom Schier 0429 852 788

Derek Cameron 0428 316 319
derekjcameron30@gmail.com

U14’s

Coach – Gavin Young

Training will be 10:30 Sunday’s 15th Feb at Minyip. 1st March at Murtoa - time at pool to follow if hot enough.

If you can’t make these sessions you’re more than welcome to join in with the U17’s on Wednesdays.

Gavin Young 0417 372 120

Team Manager – Leigh Bell

Auskick/U 12’s

Nat will again undertake the managers role, training will commence at a later date, we still need a coach or coaches, if you are interested please contact Nat as soon as possible.

Nat Johnston 0428852308 natalie.johnson8@bigpond.com

Netball Should have an update next week, by all accounts numbers are looking fantastic and everything tracking as it should.
HOUSE CAPTAINS 2015

Degenhardt Dragons

BOYS – Corey Chenoweth (C)
Corey Morgan (VC)
Jayden McQueen (JC)

GIRLS – Madeleine McQueen (C)
Caitlin McQueen &
Josie Hutchinson (VC)
Cassie Dunlop (JC)

Meier Leprechauns

BOYS – Fergus Schier (C)
Adam Schache (VC)
Chris Eagle (JC)

GIRLS – Tarlee Jenkins (C)
Elsie Kingston (VC)
Abbey Riddell (JC)
Waterson Pirates

BOYS – Max Koschmann (C)  
Connor Marsh (VC)  
David Horvat (JC)  

GIRLS – Gemma Morgan (C)  
Erika Ritosa (VC)  
Karina Drum (JC)  

Basketball

Basketball resumes this week. Two hamper raffles will be held at Jung Market and Grand Final Day. Donations & hamper item donations can be left at the Stadium. Ticket will be handed out to each family.

Annual General Meeting

Monday 2\textsuperscript{nd} February (tonight) at Railway Hotel at 7pm
# Sport Dates for Term 1 2015

**as at January 28 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>HOUSE Swimming Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2pm-7pm</td>
<td>HOUSE Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Black Ranges Inter &amp; Senior Volleyball (Horsham)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>All</td>
<td><strong>Murtoa convening</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Black Ranges Swimming (Warracknabeal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>HOUSE Athletic Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Black Ranges Intermediate Basketball (Ararat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Black Ranges Senior Basketball (Ararat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>GWRegion Swimming (Warrnambool)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information and details of GWR and State events please refer to SSV website. See below.

www.ssv.vic.edu.au

The place to go to find all information regarding Victorian School Sport

“Save it in your favourites”

Once in the site, navigate your way using the blue rectangular buttons down the left hand side. You will find; dates, draws, competition conditions, results and photos.

On the ‘Home’ pages you will find a calendar as well as important competition dates and Coordinator contact details.

For the Greater Western Region information:

- Sports Regions
- Greater Western Sports Region
- Greater Western Sports
- (Select the required sport)
  For your Division information:
  - Sports Regions
  - Greater Western Sports Region
  - Greater Western Secondary Division
  - (Select your Division name)
  - (Select ‘Division Name’ Sports)
  - (Select the required sport)

Please look at any other relevant pages on the website.

You will find the most up to date information on all aspects of School Sport in Victoria.
SECONDARY Swimming Standards & Twilight Swimming Carnival

- **SWIMMING STANDARDS** Wednesday February 18 Periods 5-6

Every student will be timed at swimming two laps of Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke, and Butterfly. If students aren’t strong swimmers, they are encouraged to jump in and have a go to get a point for their house. If students don’t get in the water and do a couple strokes, their house will MISS OUT ON THE POINTS. If students absolutely can’t swim, they may use a kick board or a life jacket to move a couple of metres then hop out. If students swim fast (within the standard times for their age group), they may be awarded extra points, either 2 or 3 depending on their time.

YEAR 7 students will be on the Year 7 Camp when the Swim Standards are run, however they will have their times taken during swimming lessons in Phys Ed/Sport classes.

- **SWIMMING CONSENT FORMS**

These are to be handed back to your FORM TEACHERS or in the box inside the STUDENT ENTRY by THIS FRIDAY. Also pool memberships (if you don’t already have one and prefer not to pay $3 as you go), this money is to be taken to the GENERAL OFFICE. Information will be given to students this week.

- **TWILIGHT SWIMMING CARNIVAL** Tuesday February 24 2pm - 6.30-7pm

There is no school in the morning on this day. Students are expected to attend the carnival from 2.00pm to approx. 6.30 - 7.00pm at the Murtoa Pool. There will only be a special Horsham bus with specific pick-up times run for Horsham students, all other bus travellers will need to arrange their own transport to and from the event.

ROLLS will be marked at the pool and it is a compulsory activity for students to attend, even if they aren’t swimming.

PARENTS, FRIENDS & FAMILY ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND TO SUPPORT THEIR STUDENTS.

We are also looking for PARENT SWIMMERS to volunteer for the STAFF v STUDENT v PARENT relay race.

- **HOUSE T-SHIRTS**

Students are encouraged to purchase a t-shirt in their house colours from the office for $10. They come in PURPLE for DEGENHARDT HOUSE, BRIGHT GREEN for MEIER HOUSE and BRIGHT ORANGE for WATERSON HOUSE. They are to be worn for any house competition such as swimming standards, swimming sports, athletics standards, athletics sports & cross country. Students may decorate them if they choose.

- **MURTOA COLLEGE SWIMMING CAPS**

This year we have purchased new swimming caps with the Murtoa College logo. Students will wear these for the Black Ranges Swimming Carnival this term. They are white silicone caps with navy writing. Students may also purchase their own for $10. See Joanne Baker if you are interested.

- **POOL FEES**

Students will need to pay $3 each time they go to the Murtoa Pool for Phys. Ed. classes or whole school activities like the Swimming Standards and the Swimming Carnival. Some students may already have a pool membership at the Murtoa Pool, which you should indicate on your Swimming Consent Form. If students do not have a Season Pass, they may wish to purchase a STUDENT PASS, which costs $20 per student or $35 for two or more students in the one family. These memberships may be paid at the GENERAL OFFICE. Please put the correct money in an envelope with your name clearly marked on the outside.
2015 is the International Year of Light

Optical fibres pervade everybody’s day to day lives in Australia. Optics has been studied and written about for over 1000 years. It all started with Al-Hassan Ibn al-Haytham (pronounced Alhazen). So who was he?

Alhazen was born in 965 at Basra and died in Cairo in 1040. This was during a creative period known as the golden age of Muslim civilisation that saw many fascinating advances in science, technology and medicine. These ideas spread over a huge area from Spain to China. Alhazen was a pioneering scientific thinker who made important contributions to the understanding of vision, optics and light. His methodology of investigation, in particular using experiment to verify theory, shows similarities to what we now consider the modern scientific method.

Through his Book of Optics he influenced European scholars including those of the European Renaissance. Today, many consider him a pivotal figure in the history of optics and the “Father of modern Optics”.

for more information: www.light2015.org
RUPANYUP NETBALL CLINIC

NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE

SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2015

RUPANYUP RECREATION RESERVE

JUNIORS
9.00 AM

Seniors
10.00 AM

Net Set Go
11.30 AM

With former ANZ championship players:

JOHANNAH CURRAN and JANELLE LAWSON

- All players new and old are invited to attend
- Full day of activities for all
- Parents and supporters welcome
- All ages and abilities welcome
- Lunch provided

Limited places available.

No charge if RSVP received by the 8th February. Contact Julia for more information or to reserve your spot!

JULIA 0400 011245