IMPORTANT DATES

February
- Monday 9th: F-6 Parent Information session
- Tuesday 10th: School Council
- Wednesday 11th: Year 11 Peer Support training
- Thursday 12th: Black Ranges Cricket – Inter Boys & Girls
- Friday 13th: VCE study day - Horsham
- Monday 16th: Year 7 Camp to the Grampians starts
- Wednesday 18th: Year 7 Camp finishes
- Thursday 19th: Black Ranges Cricket – Sen Boys & Girls
- Friday 20th: Photo catch-up
- Tuesday 24th: House Swimming

March
- Tuesday 3rd March: Parent-Teacher Interviews 1:30pm to 6pm
- Wednesday 4th March: School Nurse Visit for Foundation students
- Thursday 5th March: House Swimming

Year F-6 Information Night

Parents of students in F-6 are invited to the Information session today February 9 at 7pm in Rm 32.

This is an important night to set the scene for the year ahead and receive a variety of information about dates and events for the year.

 Congratulations to all the students for positive way they have settled into school. Last Tuesday was Photo day and the way the college community handled this process was a credit to them. Well done to all the foundation and year 7 students for the terrific way they have settled into class and work. I’m sure the students (and I know the teachers) are feeling a little tired but are coping with being back in routine. Please keep an eye on each other so we reinforce our caring nature here at Murtoa College.

Photos

After a successful photo day last Tuesday there were some concerned families who said they did not have the money to pay for the photos at the moment. Please note that the photos can be purchased anytime throughout the year by getting in contact with the photographer. This whole process can be dealt with online at anytime. So, for those who were concerned and did not get all the possible photos completed (eg family photos) there will be a catch up day where the photographer will come back to the college and take any extra photos.
School Council Elections

Nominations for parents have now opened and a nomination form available at the office. Nominations close 4pm on Monday February 18. Please see the information later in last week’s newsletter.

Horsham Buses

I would like to repeat what was said last week about the Horsham bus. The bus service is at the capacity at this stage. 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.

Music Program

The College Music Program for 2015 commenced on Monday, with lessons provided by Mr McLean. The music lesson groups are full at present, with secondary students being given first opportunity to participate. There are several primary students on a waiting list. They will be included in the program as vacancies arise during the year.

Sources of Individual Income Support for Parents

The funding in schools replacing the EMA is predominantly for education and teaching and learning. It is not in place as income support. The office has a booklet with material that will help families who might require income supports. It lists organisations that might be useful to parents. Some of these are as follows:

Commonwealth Government

- Family Tax benefit A & B
- Health Care Card
- SchoolKids Bonus
- Child Care Benefit
- Centrepay

Community Organisations

- Community Information and Support Victoria
- CRIS (Crisis Information Referral Information System)
- ER Victoria
- Good Shepherd Youth and Family Service
- State School Relief
- The Smith Family
- Saver Plus
- Farm Household Allowance

If, you are struggling to meet the costs of sending your child to school please ask the office for the booklet. Contacting one of these support agencies might just help.

Attendance

I would like to reinforce what was said last week about attendance. It is extremely important to make sure your children are at school.

I encourage everybody to read the following article.

Herald Sun February 02
Every day counts when children are learning to count

IF a parent was told their child has a 90 per cent school attendance rate, they probably wouldn’t be too worried. A few days off school with a tummy ache, a few days off school to catch up on sleep, a few days off school to visit relatives — what’s the big deal? But what if they were told that if their child stays home one in every 10 school days? By the start of Year 10 that means they will have missed a full year of school. Most parents would react with horror at the idea of missing a whole year of school. And rightly so!

While school attendance is primarily the responsibility of state governments and our schools, as students head back to the classroom, the Australian Government is keen to impress on parents the importance of sending their children to school each and every day. In Victoria, 178 schools had average school attendance rates below 90 per cent in 2013. Around Australia, almost one in five Australian schools has an average attendance rate of 90 per cent or less. Too many students are missing too many classes. This creates problems for teachers, who are forced to spend time playing “catch up” to bring absent students up-to-date. It creates issues for other students who sit down to finish a group project only to find one or two members of their group are constantly missing. But most of all, it creates serious difficulties for the student who is missing. A student’s level of school attendance has a major influence on their academic achievement. Studies have shown the more a student misses school, the lower a student’s NAPLAN test score. NAPLAN is not an end in itself, it is the way we measure whether students are learning how to read, write and do maths. These are essential skills necessary for further learning and the basic skills needed in a workplace.

The implications of missing school are grave and long-term: fewer employment opportunities and lower wages throughout life. Unfortunately, research has also shown that students who miss lots of school tend to have things in common. They are more likely to come from disadvantaged backgrounds, they are more likely to have parents with a low level of education and they are more likely to be indigenous.

While government and school principals have a role to play in promoting school attendance, the prime responsibility is for parents to ensure their child attends every day they can, to ensure they are not left behind. Parents need to impress on their child the importance of attending school every single day. Parents should also talk to their child’s teacher if there are barriers in getting their child to school or if there are other factors that make school attendance a problem. A day off here and there might not seem important, but the effect of absence accumulates over time. Whether on the couch at home or hanging around at a shopping center, the more school students miss, the more their academic achievement decreases. In 2015, the number one lesson for all parents needs to be: children who attend school every day will be more successful adults.

Every day matter!

SENATOR SCOTT RYAN IS PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
We would like to thank all of the parents and guardians for ensuring that students are in the correct uniform and have labelled hats too. It was been a very smooth start to the year and these little things make a big difference.

The behaviour in the yard has been very positive and it is a credit to the students. They have been excellent in including others and we will continue to encourage such behaviour. It has also been wonderful to see older students guiding younger and new students to the correct areas and sharing our recess and lunch time expectations.

This Wednesday we will be taking the Year One to Six students to the Murtoa Swimming Pool for periods 5 and 6. We will be utilising this time to reinforce the skills obtained in term 4 and also give some of our upper students the chance to prepare for the Primary Black Ranges Swimming Carnival on Tuesday 24th February in Horsham.

Competitions

There are two fantastic competitions open to primary aged students which we are very interested in – Shoot for the Stars and Australia: The Story of Us – Primary School Challenge.

Shoot for the Stars - nbnc.com.au/stars

The NBN is about to launch two satellites into orbit. They will be used to help bring high-speed broadband to rural and regional Australia.

If you’re between five and twelve years old, we’d like you to come up with a drawing or painting to decorate the nose cone of one of the rockets that will carry a satellite into space. Your design should show 'How the NBN will make Australia a better country'.

See the website for further details.

Australia: The Story of Us – Primary School Challenge

HELP YOUR SCHOOL KICKSTART 2015 WITH A $10,000 GRANT PLUS GREAT REWARDS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Australia: The Story of Us Primary School Challenge is a weekly online quiz for primary school students and their parents.

Starting soon, watch Australia: The Story of Us on the Seven Network or affiliates every Sunday night, then come back to this website to answer the quiz questions related to that episode.

Students must be in primary school years 4, 5, 6 or 7 and aged 9-13 years to be eligible to play along.


Mr Brad Venn    Acting Assistant Principal

Students of the Week

Back row: Jai Sartori-Billman, Noah Coutts and Ryan Hart.
Front row: Logan Liao and Zachary Okley.

Birthdays

Charlie Gawith – Sunday 15th February
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, Breast stroke 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. 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 was given to students last 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.
SECONDARY

SWIMMING STANDARDS

Wednesday 18th February

Period 5 & 6

EXPECTATIONS

- It is expected that everyone will swim. If you cannot swim, you are encouraged to have a go either along the edge, down the shallow end only, with a kickboard or lifejacket.
- By simply having a go you will still earn a point for your house.
- When you are not swimming or being marshaled, you are expected to remain within your house area.

SWIMMING CONSENT FORMS

- SWIMMING CONSENT FORMS ARE OVERDUE! They must be handed in ASAP!
- Students who do not return their consent forms will be given chores to do at the pool.

SCHEDULE OF THE STANDARDS

- Periods 1-4 Normal
- Lunchtime 12.45 – 1.15. The gym will be opened for you to get changed into your swimming gear. Please put your uniform over the top of your bathers until it is your turn to swim
  - 12.45 – 1.00 – 1st half of lunch
  - 1.00 – 1.15 – 2nd half including yard duty
- The 1.15 bell will signal for you to assemble at the general assembly area
- Walk down to the pool as a group
- 1.45 – 3.00 Swimming Standards
- 3.00 – 3.15 Get changed back into uniform
- 3.20 Buses will pick students at the pool

OTHER IMPORTANT INFO

- The canteen will not be open on Standards Day
- Students including bus travellers must take everything with them, as they will be heading home from the pool. This includes schoolwork, lunch, water, snacks, bathers, towel, HAT, sunscreen and insect repellent.

AT THE POOL

- Student will sit in their house groups on the lake side and wait for further instructions.
- Each house will be given 2 lanes for the entire afternoon. The house captains will organise and time each individual for each stroke in their house. There will be no pressure to race, but to swim your best possible time.
- The two students with the fastest time for their age for each stroke will be selected for that event at the carnival.
- All strokes will be 50m.

POOL PASSES

- If you haven’t bought a swimming pass, you will need to bring $3 for Standards. This will be checked off along with your attendance in form groups.
Students need to arrive at the pool by 1.45pm at the latest. Secondary students are not required at school in the morning as there are no classes for secondary students on this day.

This is a compulsory school day and it is expected that all students will attend. Students who attend our sports days (swimming, athletics and cross-country) are eligible for participation in other sporting competitions such as basketball, tennis, etc. **Students who do not attend without a valid excuse are NOT eligible to participate in other sporting competitions. Students are not permitted to leave the pool during the sports.**

**Parents:** Parents, families and friends are encouraged to attend to support the students and their events. We are also seeking parents to swim in the PARENTS Vs. STUDENT Vs. STAFF relay, so bring your togs!

**Food:** It is yet to be confirmed whether or not the SRC students will be running a BBQ as a fundraiser. The pool canteen will be open for light refreshments.

**Seating:** Parents may wish to bring their own chairs.

**Sun safety:** Please remember to wear a **broad brimmed hat** and **t-shirt**, and apply **sunscreen** and **insect repellent** (if required) regularly throughout the day.

**Clothing:** Fancy dress in your HOUSE COLOURS as well as swimming gear, rash top, towel, goggles (if required).
Travel Arrangements

Parents of secondary student bus travellers (except those who travel from Horsham) are advised that they will need to provide students with transport to and from the pool.

Horsham Buses: The Horsham buses will run on altered schedules and routes.

All Horsham secondary students will travel on the 57-seat Main Bus on an altered route, and will arrive at the pool and depart for home after the Swimming Carnival. Students who normally travel on the 20-seat Toyota will need to meet the bus at either Wawunna Rd Shops or Dooen Rd (Edith St) stops.

Times in the evening for drop-off in Horsham have been estimated to the best of the driver's knowledge. Your patience will be appreciated if they are not 100% accurate on the day.

Travel Arrangements - Horsham Buses: The Horsham buses will run on altered schedules and routes.

The timetable is as follows:

**Horsham Main Bus to Murtoa**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.00 pm</td>
<td>Cnr Mills Ave and Wawunna Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.02 pm</td>
<td>Wawunna Rd Shops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.04 pm</td>
<td>O'Connor and High St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.06 pm</td>
<td>Churchill Rd and Berry Crt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.08 pm</td>
<td>Cnr Natimuk Service Rd and Bennett Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.19 pm</td>
<td>Haven Primary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.21 pm</td>
<td>Corner of Hamilton Rd and Golf Course Rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.24 pm</td>
<td>McPherson St, Showgrounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.26 pm</td>
<td>McPherson St (Roberts Ave)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.28 pm</td>
<td>Dooen Rd Shops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.29 pm</td>
<td>Dooen Rd (Edith St)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30 pm</td>
<td>148 Dooen Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.31 pm</td>
<td>Henty/Wimmera Hwy 200 metres north Riverside Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.33 pm</td>
<td>River Heights Rd &amp; Henty Highway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.53 pm</td>
<td>Arrive at Murtoa Pool</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Horsham Main Bus to Horsham**

7:00 pm  Depart Murtoa Pool
7:20 pm  River Heights Rd & Henty Highway
7:22 pm  Henty/Wimmera Hwy 200 metres north Riverside Rd
7:23 pm  148 Dooen Rd
7:24 pm  Dooen Rd and Edith St
7:25 pm  Dooen Rd Shops
7:27 pm  McPherson St (Roberts Ave)
7:29 pm  McPherson St, Showgrounds
7:32 pm  Corner of Hamilton Rd and Golf Course Rd
7:34 pm  Haven Primary School
7:45 pm  Cnr Natimuk Service Rd and Bennett Rd
7:47 pm  Churchill Rd and Berry Crt
7:49 pm  O'Connor and High St
7:51 pm  Wawunna Rd Shops
7:53 pm  Cnr Mills Ave and Wawunna Rd

All Horsham based primary students will travel on the 20-seat Toyota Bus on its regular route, with extra stops at the beginning of the run to pick up the travellers from the Main Bus, and will arrive at school and depart for home as per normal school times. If your child/children normally catches the 20-seat Toyota there will be no change to their travel arrangements. If your child/children normally catches the Horsham Main Bus they will be riding on the smaller bus for the one day as per the following times. It is important to let them know this will be the case to avoid confusion.

The timetable is as follows:

**Horsham 20-seat Toyota to Murtoa**

7:45 am  Corner of Bennett Rd and Natimuk Rd
7:53 am  Corner of Hamilton Rd and Golf Course Rd
7:56 am  McPherson St, Showgrounds
7:58 am  Dooen Rd Shops

The bus will then run as per its regular route and timetable.

8:30 am  Arrive at Murtoa College

**Horsham 20-seat Toyota to Horsham**

3:30 pm  Depart Murtoa College

The bus will run as per its regular route and timetable.
Schedule of Events – Below is a summary of the schedule for the Swimming carnival. Parents and families are encouraged to come along, cheer and support the students.

1.45pm Arrive at pool

2.30 - Freestyle events begin

3.00 - Breaststroke events begin

3.38 - Novelty events – Life Jacket and Inflatable Relay Race

4.00 – Butterfly events begin

4.20 – Backstroke events begin

5.56 – Medley relay events begin

5.45 – Freestyle relay events begin

6.45 – Staff Vs. Students Vs. Parents Relay – Parent swimmers needed!!!

6.50 – Results announced
**FYI: Breastroke, Butterfly, Relay & Starting Rules**

**Breaststroke Rules**

Breastroke is a symmetrical stroke, so both hands and legs must be doing the same thing at all times

- Shoulders and hips must be horizontal.
- You must touch with both hands simultaneously at the finish.
- You must be doing a proper ‘frog kick’, not a scissor or sidestroke kick.
- You may only complete one stroke underwater at the start.

**Butterfly rules**

Butterfly is also a symmetrical stroke: your feet must be doing either a ‘frog kick’ or a ‘dolphin kick’, and both your arms must come over together.

- You must touch with both hands simultaneously at the finish.

**Medley Relay Order**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Backstroke</th>
<th>Breaststroke</th>
<th>Butterfly</th>
<th>Freestyle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**False Starts**

Swimmers are not to enter the water until the starter has signalled with the starter’s gun. Swimmers will be disqualified if they cause a false start or enter the water following a swimmer in a false start. There will be no warnings issued.
## Murtoa College
### Sport Dates for Term 1 2015

**as at January 28 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>February 18</strong></td>
<td><strong>Period 5-6</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>February 24</strong></td>
<td><strong>2pm – 6.30pm-7pm</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>March 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>All day</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td><strong>March 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>All Day</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 8</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>March 18</strong></td>
<td><strong>Period 1-4</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 9</strong></td>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td><strong>March 23</strong></td>
<td><strong>All day</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 9</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>March 25</strong></td>
<td><strong>All day</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 9</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>March 25</strong></td>
<td><strong>All day</strong></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.
Basketball

Due to the Yr 7 camp & The Swimming Sports, the following are important date changes:

**Year 7 Camp changes**  *Note – these are changes only*

4pm Monday 16th February
Under 17’s (last round) White vs Red

Thursday 19th February
Intermediate (last round) 4.30 Red vs Blue
5.20 Black vs White
Bye Green

**Swimming Sports Changes**

**Semis**

Monday 23rd February
Juniors 1st Semi 5pm Purple vs
Intermediate 1st Semi 5.50

Wednesday 25th February

Junior 2nd Semi 5pm
Under 17 Semi 5.50pm
Men’s 1st Semi 7pm
Men’s 2nd Semi 8pm

Monday 2nd March
Intermediate 2nd Semi Blue vs

**GRAND FINAL – WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH**

Juniors 5pm
Intermediate 6pm
Under 17 7pm
Men 8pm

Any enquiries please contact Marie 5385 2604 0419 852 227
MMFNC Football/Netball Information

U17’s
Coaches – Derek Cameron, Angus Trethowen.
Training will 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

Minyip Murtoa Netball Club
Registration Night for both junior and senior players
18th February 2015
from 5pm
Senior training to follow starting at 6.15pm
At Murtoa

New players welcome
Building skills around:

- Developing new skills
- Promoting positive behaviours and relationships
- Stimulating the brain
- Promote self esteem
- Working with a well-developed art teacher & Respite Worker

Aim: To Provide Respite for families with a child with a disability and their siblings aged from 5 – 18 years under the Guidelines for eligibility based on DHS Types and Examples of Disability Groups.

WHEN:

The classes will run twice a month at the Ballarat UNI Horsham Campus Art room on a Saturday 10.00am—12.30pm.

Dates will be advised when registering to attend these classes.

For more information or to register your interest please contact Carer Respite Services on 53 819 336