This is the last week of the school year. The semester has been packed full of activities and there have been plenty of things to celebrate. As we head to the holiday period we will celebrate all the major student successes at the presentation evening on Wednesday night. So, please make an effort to come and help the Murtoa community celebrate the 2015 year.

It is time to say Merry Christmas and a Happy New year to the Murtoa community! Hopefully, everybody enjoys the festive season and has a relaxing and safe holiday period.

**Note:** Friday – last day. School will finish at 2pm and it is a casual clothes day.

### 2015 Final Reports
Parents and Carers are reminded again that the final Accelerus Light report for each of your children who attend the college will be handed out to all students at presentation night rehearsal on Wednesday afternoon December 16. All students who attended the college this year are expected at the rehearsal for presentation evening and then to attend the presentation night.

### 2016 school year
The college will be open on Wednesday January 27 and staff will return that day. All students will return to school on Thursday January 28.

**Note:** Parcel collection from Ballarat books is on Wednesday January 27 from 12noon until 2pm.

### ‘Step’ day
All our 2016 new students attended the state wide ‘step’ day on Tuesday. We welcomed into the college the new foundation students, the new year 7 students and various others throughout the F-6 area. The day was a chance for the new students to transition into a new school environment and meet new peers and new staff. They all had a very smooth transition and this will help them feel comfortable and welcome on day one in 2016.
F-6 celebrations day
The F-6 students had their celebration day last Friday. They asked parents and carers to join them for lunch then had their presentation afternoon in the school stadium. The students did a great job in showing their work from 2015 and then receiving awards. Thank you to Mr Venn and the F-6 years staff members who assisted in organising and running the afternoon. This was followed by the grade 6 student’s graduation night at the Railway Hotel with family and friends. Mr Venn and Mrs Noonan organised the students to speak, get a certificate and basically celebrate the end of their F-6 schooling years. I look forward to seeing these students start year 7 and progress through the year 7-12 area of the college.

Camps week that was!
What a big week last week was for camps! 47 students from year 8 to 10 attended the Gold Coast trip. Thank you to the following staff for making the week a huge success. Thanks first to Mr. Metelmann who organized and ran the week. Thanks also to Mrs. Chapman, Ms. Lewis and Ms. Kelly for assisting in making it a very memorable week. Congratulations to the Under 17 volleyball team that came 5th at the Australia Volleyball Cup. Thank you to Mr. Bray for organizing and coaching the team. He was assisted by David Berry. Also, Mr Argall and 4 senior students attended Thursday and Friday’s games to support the team. Finally, the whole of the year 4, 5 and 6 cohort went on camp to Melbourne from Monday to Wednesday. Thank you to Mr. Venn, Mrs. Noonan, Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Gellatly for organising and running the camp.

Activities Week and Advance camp
Monday and Tuesday this week will be activities days for all students who attend the college. Also, the Advance students from year 9 will head to Geelong for their 2 day rewards camp. Good Luck for the activities and the camp.

Working Bee
The Facilities sub-committee of the School Council has decided to it is time to do another ‘Working Bee’. They have decided to a day of work around the college just prior to the start of the new school year. I would like to encourage parents, students and friends of the college to come and help the college community tidy up the grounds prior to the students coming back to school. Mr Ross Sudholz will coordinate the day’s work and if you can attend please inform the Assistant Principal, Mrs. Anne Sudholz.

The details of the day are as follows:
Day: Sunday
Date: January 24
Time: 9:30am

Tony Goodwin
Principal
**Murtoa College 2015 Magazine**

The college magazine will be given out with the reports on Wednesday 16th December. This magazine is a great reminder of the amazing opportunities, events and achievements of our students over 2015. We would like to acknowledge the work of Emma Schache who created the amazing eye catching cover for 2015. The students selected this cover following a voting process. We also would like to thank Jan Dunlop for collating the information and taking photographs of our students throughout the year.

**2016 School Diary**

The diary will be given out on the first day back- Thursday 28th January 2016. This year, students in Year 11 Visual Communication designed the diary cover as one of their tasks. Halle Brown’s cover was chosen from a selection of pieces. We would like to acknowledge and congratulate Halle on her effort. Well done.

**PRESENTATION EVENING**

**Wednesday 16th December 2015**

MURTOA MECHANICS HALL
Commencing 7pm.

Students to be in full uniform and sitting in their designated seats by 6.45pm

**Other awards to be presented at the Presentation Evening include:**

- **Murtoa CWA Award**
  This award is sponsored by the Murtoa CWA to the value of $200. The criteria for this award includes the successful recipient being a Year 7 to 9 student who resides in Murtoa or the local area, portrays a willingness to become involved in the local community and has the potential to gain positive outcomes from school programs. They must demonstrate respect and tolerance towards others. The money is held by the college and put towards programs and activities of the chosen student.

- **VET / VCAL Awards - Personal Development Skills Award, Work Related Skills Award, and VET Award**
  These three awards are sponsored by WSMLLEN (Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network) and are valued at $50 each. The three awards recognise the individual achievements of students in showing initiative in organising their placement, their effort, skills and positive attitude, and the completion of all relevant studies to a high level.

- **Australian Defence Force Leadership and Teams Awards**
  These awards are presented to a Year 10 and Year 12 student and are valued at $250 and $550 respectively. They are based on the values upheld by the ADF, which include Leadership, Teamwork, Values, Problem Solving, Resourcefulness, Communications, Co-operation and Community involvement. The recipients chosen by the college demonstrate these values in all aspects of their college and community life.
Over the last few weeks we have mentioned a number of awards. These are just some of the awards presented to our students at the Presentation Evening on Wednesday 16th December.

THANK YOU TO SUPPORTERS OF MURTOA COLLEGE

Murtoa College would like to take this opportunity to thank our valued sponsors of the evening, without their continued support we would not be able to acknowledge and celebrate many of the achievements of our students. We would also like to thank the many supporters throughout the year, from organisations such as the Murtoa Lions Club for their support of the Breakfast Club, local businesses such as Tyler’s Hardware and Rural Supplies to individuals who willingly gave up their time to support our students or to help improve the grounds and facilities.

SPONSORS OF MURTOA COLLEGE PRESENTATION EVENING

Anonymous supporters of Murtoa College
Abalooloom Pty. Ltd (Craig and Katrina Heard)
Ballarat Books
Creations by Misty and Andrew
Department of Defence
Department of Education and Training
Federation University Australia
K & J Baker Cartage Pty Ltd
Minyip/Murtoa Football and Netball Club
Murtoa CWA
Murtoa Progress Association
Schier Cabinet Makers
Skillinvest
University of Melbourne
Wimmera Office Equipment
Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN

Merry Christmas to all and a Safe and Happy New Year in 2016.

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<th>Class</th>
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<td>Reading</td>
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<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
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<td>2/3</td>
<td>ICT</td>
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<td>5/6</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Statistics &amp; Probability</td>
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Primary News

Last week was an incredibly exciting week for our staff and students with Urban Camp, Statewide Steps Day, Foundation to Year 6 Celebratory Assembly and Year 6 Graduation Dinner. We were very proud of the students for their efforts across all of the activities they were involved in. It was a fantastic way to wind down the term. To all of the community members who were involved last week’s events – Thank you! We really appreciate your attendance and involvement.

It is also an important time to thank our dedicated staff for their efforts this year. We are very proud of the educational program we have delivered this year and have seen fantastic growth across the classes. It would not be possible without the dedicated and caring approach from:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year F/1</th>
<th>Year 2/3</th>
<th>Year 3/4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Barratt</td>
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<td>Mrs Noonan</td>
<td>Mrs Coutts</td>
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<td>Ms Hagedorn</td>
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<td>Mrs Jenion</td>
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<td>Mrs Venn</td>
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<td>Mr Venn</td>
<td>Ms Hagedorn</td>
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<td>Miss Lewis</td>
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<td>Mrs Dingwall</td>
<td>Mrs Jenion</td>
<td>Mr Sachse</td>
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<td>Mrs Keel</td>
<td>Mr Venn</td>
<td>Mr Argall</td>
<td>Mrs Dingwall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Jordan</td>
<td>Mrs Crawford</td>
<td>Miss Lewis</td>
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<td>Mrs Crawford</td>
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Finally, I would like to wish everybody a safe, joyous and memorable festive period and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2016.

Mr Brad Venn
Assistant Principal

Students of the Week

Back row: Mikey, Darcy, Jai and Roland.

Front row: Tyler, Noah and Matilda.
Reading Awards

Back row: Lochie, Tilda, Seth and Makai.
Front row: Charli and Logi.

QuickSmart Graduates

Deacan, Darcy, Finley and Alyssa.

Art Awards – Christmas Card Designs

Emily and Regan.

Birthdays
December 11th – Lochie and Ryan H
December 14th – Clare
December 27th – Ryan
January 5th – Eli
January – 12th – Zachary
January 14th – Cameron
January 20th – Luke
January 21st – Wayne
Foundation to Year 6 Celebratory Assembly
GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITY/AFTER SCHOOL WORK

We are currently seeking staff to work as swim teachers at our Swim School. A current Austswim Qualification is required. We are willing to financially support the right candidates in obtaining this qualification if necessary.

We are seeking people who are passionate about the industry and love working with children. Flexible hours and above award wages will be paid to successful candidates.

Please email or phone for further details.
State Schools' Relief
Year 7 uniform package initiative

Fact sheet for parents

The Affordable School Uniform Program

Program background
Each year, State Schools' Relief (SSR) provides tens of thousands of children with school clothing, shoes and other essential items. For the first time, SSR has received government funding so that it can help more families needing financial assistance, and ensure no one is left behind. As part of the Victorian government's uniform package program, Year 7 in 2023 government school students who are enrolled with the Campas, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) automatically qualifies for a free uniform pack.

Eligibility requirements for SSR can be found at www.education.vic.gov.au/ssr.

What's included in the uniform pack?
The uniform pack includes:
- 10 Polo T-shirts
- 5 Long Sleeve Tops
- 5 Short Sleeve Tops
- 5 Long Pants
- 10 Pj Sets
- 10 Underwear Sets
- 10 Socks
- 10 Pair of Shoes
- 10 Pair of School Shoes
- 10 Pair of School Boots

What can parents apply for the packs?
The 2023 SSR recipients can apply for a pack from 1 December 2022, by contacting the secondary school where their child will attend. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents.

What if parents have already purchased their children's uniforms?
Eligible parents who have already purchased their children's uniforms for 2023 are entitled to a winter package available in early 2023.

Can parents who are eligible for CSEF, Sports and Excursion Fund or who have already purchased uniforms for 2023 apply for assistance from SSR?
Yes. Applications for parents seeking financial assistance for uniforms, text books or shoes are encouraged via the regular SSR service — www.education.vic.gov.au/ssr.

For more information, please visit www.education.vic.gov.au/ssr.