**IMPORTANT DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>February</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9th</td>
<td>School Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10th</td>
<td>Year 7 Camp to Roses Gap commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 12th</td>
<td>VCE English study day – Horsham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 15th</td>
<td>Year 7 Camp to Roses Gap finishes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16th</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17th</td>
<td>House Swimming Standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 19th</td>
<td>‘Catch up’ School Photos</td>
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**Year F-6 Information Night**

Parents of students in F-6 are invited to the Information session next Monday February 15 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. Please bring questions to ask the teachers!

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**Week 3 Term 1**

Congratulations to all the students for positive way they have settled into school. Last week was the transition back to a full week of school with 34 new students trying to find their feet. 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 some of the students and 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.

**Working Bee**

On Sunday January 24 the college ran a very sucessful working bee. Ms Anne Sudholz organised families and staff to come in and help prepare the college for the new school year. The work that was achieved was amazing and helped make the start to the 2016 school year so much better. It was remise of me not to thank all concerned last week but I am doing that now. So, THANK YOU, in a big way to the following families and staff:

Mr Ross and Mrs Lynell Sudholz and family, Mr Justin and Mrs Wendy Moore and family, Mr Rod Hammond and family, Mr Paul and Mrs Kellie Gardy and family, Ms Anne Randall, Mr Paul Demillo, Mrs Nicole Noonn and family, Mr Brad and Mrs Sally Venn and Ms Anne Sudholz.

**Horsham Buses**

Now that the bus service has been running for a whole week we have a much better picture of the student usage. As it turns out the bus service is not at capacity at this stage but is very close. So, with limited extra seats we will be able to accommodate a limited number of casual users. We are prepared to offer casual usage on the following basis. Firstly, the request is for a regular weekly trip (not 1 off), secondly, the request is made at least 3 days in advance and finally the casual user cost per trip is $5.
**Foundation Students**

Our 12 new foundation students had a fantastic start to their school life. Their first full week saw them happy and enjoying school life. Here is a happy snap of them.

Back Row: Alicia Nash, Diesal Harris, Charlie Maher, Sean Bird, Logan McDonald, Emelia Martin and Callum Wheeler  
Front Row: Charlie Coote, Mathilde Gardy, Ruby Castleman, Matilda Moore and Molly Gawith.

**50th Anniversary Spectacular**

Last Friday night I attended one of the Horsham Arts Council 50th Anniversary Spectacular. It was a great production in the new theatre. I thoroughly enjoyed myself. Better than that I was able to marvel at the wonderful talent of three of our staff members who were performing. I would like to congratulate Ms Amy Anselmi, Mrs Jan Dunlop and Mrs Sally Venn who all had starring roles and showed they are not just very good teachers or a very good teachers aid but are also excellent stage performers.

**Photos**

School Photo day is next Tuesday. Would all families please note that and make a special effort to get students to school in their uniforms. 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 please get all the possible photos completed (eg family photos) and organise to buy them when you can afford to purchase the photos. There will be a catch up day where the photographer will come back to the college and take any extra photos.

**Photo Catch-up day**  
Friday February 19
School Council Elections

Nominations for parents have now opened and a nomination form available at the office. Nominations close 4pm on Monday February 22. Please see the information in last week’s newsletter.

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.

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 2016, the number one lesson for all parents needs to be: children who attend school every day will be more successful adults.

Every day does matter!
**Murtoa College Relay for Life**

Murtoa College has once again entered in a college team in the Horsham and Wimmera Districts Relay for Life. We are hoping that families of Murtoa College and wider community can get behind our team and help us reach our goal of raising $1500. Our team will consist of students, staff and family members from the college community.

The event commences on Friday, 18th March at 5.45pm and concludes on Saturday 19th March at 12 noon. This year the location for the event is Dock Lake Reserve (Taylor’s Lake Football ground) in Drung.

We would like the College Community to get behind our team and support them. If you would like to support them you can make a donation by logging onto the Horsham and Wimmera Districts Relay for Life website and click on Teams, search for Murtoa College and select donate. Otherwise there will be a box for donations in the foyer of Murtoa College Administration building and at the Murtoa Post Office.

If students are interested in joining our team, they will need to fill in a consent form which will be given out at Form assembly this week and complete the online registration as mentioned above.

We are also keen for any community members to join our team. If you wish to participate in this event and help support the students please contact Mrs Noonan at the college.

Nicole Noonan

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**Sport Dates for 2016**

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<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 4</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>February 17</td>
<td>Period 5-6</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 5</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>2pm – 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 6</strong></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>All day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 7</strong></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>All Day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 8</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>Period 1-4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 9</strong></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>All day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 9</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>All day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 9</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>All day</td>
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**Dear Parents**

The school has the ability to email family statements. If you would like to receive your statement, by email please return the completed permission slip below.

If you prefer to continue to receive your statement by mail, please ignore this request.

**STATEMENT OF INTENDED PURPOSE:** Should you wish to receive your statement online, the email and any attachments will be confidential and will be intended solely for the information of the individual to whom it is addressed.

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Yes, I agree to receive my statement via email.

*insert Parent / Guardian Name:*

*Email address:*

*Signature of (Parent / Guardian):*
We are incredibly proud of the way our new students have settled in and of the assistance given by returning students. I had the pleasure of spending some time at recess and lunch in the yard with the students last week and their inclusive nature is very pleasing. We will continue with our values box again this year to reward students who are demonstrating these excellent values at recess and lunch times.

On Monday 15th February we will be holding a Foundation to Year 6 barbeque dinner for our current students and parents/guardians. The evening will commence at 6pm with dinner and we’ll then move inside for an informal information session. We hope this will give families a chance to mingle and strengthen our community. Furthermore, our Parents and Friends group will also be discussing a number of initiatives and ideas for 2016. A letter will be sent home today, so that we are able to order food in advance. We look forward to a casual and informative evening.

If you do have any queries or concerns you would like to discuss before next Monday, please contact the classroom teachers, Mrs Venn (Foundation to Year 6 Coordinator) or myself.

Mr Brad Venn
Assistant Principal

Students of the Week

Ayden and Mikaela

Foundation to Year 6 Assembly Schedule

Our Foundation to Year 6 Assemblies are held every Thursday afternoon from 2:30pm in the Year 1/2/3 classroom of the BER. All parents and family members are welcome to attend any or all of the assemblies. They are a fantastic opportunity to see students share and celebrate their recent learning in a range of learning areas. Furthermore, they are student run, promote speaking and listening, and the college values.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assembly</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 – 11th February</td>
<td>Year 3/4 with Ms Boehm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4 – 18th February</td>
<td>Year 1/2/3 with Mrs Venn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5 – 25th February</td>
<td>Year F/1 with Miss Barratt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6 – 3rd March</td>
<td>Year 5/6 with Mrs Noonan</td>
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Birthdays

February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Matilda E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tyler W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Montana P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Emily M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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We will be continuing to utilise the ongoing reporting functions of our Student Management System – Xuno this year. They have promised an app later in the year, however the upgraded portal is phone and tablet friendly too. New families will receive their login information in the coming weeks and will be invited to contact the school if they require assistance accessing the portal. As the year progresses we will be using more of the functions to improve our communication with students and parents. However, we also understand that some members of our community have different opinions in regard to the software, so we will be calling a large number of parents/guardians to improve our practice this year.

**NOTE:** Please ensure Murtoa College has your current contact information, including postal address, phone number and email address.

**Horsham Arts Council’s 50th Anniversary Spectacular**

The Horsham Arts Council will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in style, and will be the first staged theatre production to be held in the new Horsham Town Hall Theatre. We have a few staff members appearing in this amazing production. See the dates and times below, and follow the link for tickets:

**Event Information**

**DATE**
05 February 2016 - 13 February 2016

**TIME**
Friday 5 February 2016 at 8pm
Saturday 6 February 2016 at 8pm
Sunday 7 February 2016 at 2pm
Thursday 11 February 2016 at 8pm
Saturday 13 February 2016 at 2pm

**VENUE**
Horsham Town Hall Theatre

**DURATION**
Two hours plus interval

**MURTOA SWIMMING POOL**

**FAMILY POOL PARTY**

**FRI FEB 12TH**  6 – 10 pm (under lights)

Obstacle course up 6 – 8 pm

**Entry fee:** (includes BBQ)
Family $10  Single $5

**Door Prizes, Games, Hamper Raffle**

Music playing

Kiosk Open

SECONDARY Swimming Standards & Twilight Swimming Carnival

- **SWIMMING STANDARDS**  Wednesday, February 17 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 for at least a couple of strokes 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.

- **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 $2 as you go), this money is to be taken to the GENERAL OFFICE. This information was given to students on the first day of school. Spare forms can be collected from the Student Entry.

- **TWILIGHT SWIMMING CARNIVAL**  Tuesday, February 23 2pm - 6.30-7pm

There is no school in the morning of 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. There will be MORE NOVELTY EVENTS this year for students who aren’t able to swim in the traditional competitive stroke events.

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 $2 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.**
HOUSE CAPTAINS 2016

Degenhardt Dragons

BOYS – Corey Chenoweth (C)
Joe Gardy (VC)
Jordan Weyburg (JC)

GIRLS – Olivia Matthews (C)
Lily Williams (VC)
Eadie Garth-Lindsay (JC)

Meier Leprechauns

BOYS – Fergus Schier (C)
Chris Eagle (VC)
Jordan Weidemann (JC)

GIRLS – Alyce Campbell (C)
Abbey Riddell (VC)
Emma Schache (JC)

Waterson Pirates

BOYS – Nic Kelson (C)
Jake Ballagh (VC)
David Horvat (JC)

GIRLS – Erika Ritosa (C)
Bonnie Delahunty
Ellen Huebner (JC)
Welcome to a very exciting 2016 – All training will be at Murtoa until the Changerooms are completed at Minyip.

**Football**

U14 & 17 training will start this Wednesday 10/2, 4.30pm at Murtoa.

**U17’s**

Coaches – Derek Cameron, Angus Trethewen.

Derek Cameron 0428 316 319  
derekjcameron30@gmail.com

**U14’s**

Coach – Gavin Young

Training will start 10th of Feb

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

Gavin Young 0417 372 120

**Auskick/U12’s**

These groups have been split up for this season:

Auskick – Manager/Registration, please see Penny Golder 0419 371 051, register online.

U12’s – Manager/Registration, Rachel Howson 0467 251 702. Club membership is $20 per player, this is heavily discounted by the club (actual cost is $75)

*Please note:*

Auskick registration is with the AFL, not our club, in order to play U12 a club membership only is needed. If you want to play Auskick and U12 you will need to be registered with both.

**Netball**

Please note change of time for training & registrations for 13’s & 15’s for next Wednesday 10th Feb time now will be from 4.30pm, again please be sure to register online before this night and bring printed copy along, payment & indemnity forms can be done after training, as long as you have registered online you are able to train.

For those families that have year 7 kids on camp, please be sure to still register your child online & your payment can be made next week along with filling in your indemnity form, thank you!

**Club Membership Cost:**

Senior Player $145.00

Tertiary Student $ 115.00

Under 18 $75

Under 15 $60

EFTPOS will be available on Wednesday night

*“Dates to note”*

Weds evening Mar 2 - prac match vs Norad Quan. Under 17, C, B and A Grade. At Quantong.

Sat March 19 - prac match vs Beulah. Grades to be determined. At Murtoa.

Further details to be confirmed re times etc.

Jess Whyte ~ MMFNC - Junior netball coordinator 0428 847381
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
• $125 for primary school students
• $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef