IMPORTANT DATES

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<td>Tuesday 23rd</td>
<td>House Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Friday 26th</td>
<td>Casual Clothes day</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Tuesday 1st</td>
<td>Parent/Interviews F-6 CEP excursion</td>
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<td>Thursday 3rd</td>
<td>Black Ranges Volleyball – Senior and Intermediate</td>
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<td>Friday 4th</td>
<td>VCAL cake stall – Farmers Market</td>
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Week 5 Term 1

House Swimming
I would like to invite the whole Murtoa College community to the House Swimming carnival tomorrow. The carnival will be a twilight carnival and I look forward to seeing lots of people supporting the students as they compete for the best swimming house. The details are as follows:

House Swimming
Time: 2.00pm start with a 6.30pm finish
Venue: Murtoa pool

Drought Fund - CSEF
The Victorian government has announced a drought response package. In 2016, financial assistance will be extended to all primary and secondary students attending a registered Victorian school within 10 designated drought-affected areas. The State Government has identified our college as one of the schools that is effected by the drought and as such I am pleased to confirm that as part of the drought response package, all students at our college will be eligible for financial assistance through the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) program. Families will receive the CSEF payment which is a drought assistance payment of $375 per student.

To apply and receive the funding parents must fill out an application form and the $375 per student will be paid directly to the school. To assist the college in completing the application form the college has sent or will shortly send home the form for you to complete. We ask that parents/guardians take the time to fill in the form and return it to the college office.

The $375 per student that is received by the college will be directly deposited into each individual students account and used to pay for their educational needs.

Foundation to year 6 (F-6) uniform change
I would like to reinforce the uniform change that has been put into place for the F-6 area of the college. Students in Foundation to Year 6 can wear either white or black socks with their uniform. This change will be effective immediately.

Canteen
Our canteen has been managed and run by Marie Davis for a very long time. She is extremely devoted, hardworking and above all a very efficient operator. We at the college are very proud of the work she does and very lucky to have such a dedicated and hard-working canteen manager. Unfortunately, due to rising costs and declining student numbers and usage the canteen ran at a loss last year. If, it had not been for the hard work of Marie I believe the loss would have been much higher. Consequently as previously stated to assist in addressing this issue the following will occur:

The canteen will be closed on a Wednesday effective immediately.
School Council Elections
Nominations for parents/guardians remain open today. If, anyone requires a nomination form please ask at the office. Nominations close 4pm today.

The week that was! (Week 4 Term 1)

House Swimming Standards
Last Wednesday afternoon the Year 7-12 cohort participated in the house swimming standards at the Murtoa pool. It was fantastic to see the student leaders, especially the house leaders organising the trials. The number of students participating was very high and I am sure that the teams selected to represent each house will be very competitive at the house swimming competition. Thank you to Mrs Jo Baker and all the staff who assisted in making the afternoon program a success.

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE PAYMENT AVAILABLE – APPLY NOW

As part of the Victorian Government’s drought assistance package, all Murtoa College students are eligible for a drought assistance payment through the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

This includes parents and independent students that do not hold a means-tested concession card but are experiencing financial hardship as a result of drought conditions. Families who receive the means-tested CSEF payment are also eligible. A ‘one off’ amount of $365 per student will be paid to the school to be used towards education expenses for the direct benefit of your child.

HOW TO APPLY

Complete a CSEF Drought Package application form and return it to the school office.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent teacher interviews for the entire school will take place Tuesday March 1st, from 1:00 until 6:30 for F–6 students and from 4:00 until 6:30 for 7–12 students.

Bookings can now be made through the Xuno portal at the following address.


Bookings can be made until 9AM on Tuesday March 1st.

Casual Dress Day

This Friday 26th February is casual dress day. Students wearing casual clothes will need to bring a gold coin donation. All proceeds will go towards the Relay for Life – Murtoa College, who have a goal to raise $1500.

Cake Stall

On Friday the 4th of March, Year 12 VCAL students of Murtoa College are holding a cake stall for Relay for Life, outside of IGA Murtoa from 9am-12pm. Parents and Staff are invited to make goods to sell at the stall. All money raised will be going towards the Murtoa College Relay for life team to help reach their fundraising goal of $1500. If interested in making goods please contact the school on 53852381.
Last Wednesday secondary students completed their trials for the Swimming Standards. Each house had two lanes where House Captains timed and recorded students in their respective teams swimming 50m of freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly. The times were compared to an individual age group Standard for each stroke and extra points awarded if students matched or broke that standard. Students, who were not able to do the strokes, were able to enter the shallow end of the pool and attempt each of the strokes, under the supervision of teachers, to achieve a point per stroke for their houses. It was fantastic to see many students extending themselves sometimes beyond what they thought they could do! House Captains have been doing an amazing job working together and encouraging their students to have a go. Captains have been up late working on their teams to get them all in by the deadlines. Results of the House Swimming Standards will be announced at the end of the Twilight Swimming Carnival on Tuesday evening.
Students need to arrive at the pool by 2pm 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).

*Please note: The swimming carnival runs as a school day and it is expected that all students will attend. Any student who does not attend will be deemed absent and will need to provide a written note explaining their absence.*

**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.
**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, Inflatable Relay Race, Non-Swimming events

4.00 – Butterfly events begin

4.20 – Backstroke events begin

5.15 – 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

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**FYI: Breaststroke, Butterfly, Relay & Starting Rules**

**Breaststroke Rules**

Breaststroke 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**

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<tr>
<th>Backstroke</th>
<th>Breaststroke</th>
<th>Butterfly</th>
<th>Freestyle</th>
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**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.
Back row: Emily, Johnno, Oscar and Jorja. Middle row: Kobe, Zachary and Charli. Front row: Ruby.

Last week I was checking students' uniforms and was incredibly pleased to see all students in the correct uniform. Thank you to our families for supporting our uniform policy. We understand that this cannot always be the case, so please keep us informed if you have any concerns - we appreciate the diary notes.

On Tuesday 1st March, we will be holding our Parent Teacher Interviews from 1:30pm to 6:30pm. Please ensure you use the Xuno - Student and Parent Portal to make a booking. If you have difficulties, please send a range of appointment options in the diary or contact the classroom teachers directly.

Also on Tuesday March 1st, we will be attending our first Country Education Program performance of the year. The musicians 'Bold as Brass' will be playing at the Minyip Town Hall from 11:00am - it is vital that all permission slips are returned promptly. Please note that the excursion cost will be directly deducted from the Drought Assistance Program fund allocated to all families once the form is completed and sent back to school.

Tomorrow our Year 5/6 students will be attending the 7-12 House Swimming Sports to observe some events in period 6. This is a great opportunity for our students to see what the sports are like before participating in Year 7. However, a number of students have been asked to participate to assist with numbers for relays. It should be a fun afternoon and students will need to have a water bottle with them.

Zooper Dooper Friday

The F-6 SRC will be once again having Zooper Dooper’s for sale this Friday. An order form will be sent home shortly to assist in this fundraiser. All proceeds will go to the Relay for Life.

Foundation to Year 6 Assembly Schedule

Week 5 – 25th February - Year F/1 with Miss Barratt
Week 6 – 3rd March- Year 5/6 with Mrs Noonan
Week 7 – 10th March- Year 3/4 with Ms Boehm
Week 8 – 17th March - Year 1/2/3 with Mrs Venn

Birthdays

Mathilde - Foundation - 25th February
Sport Dates for 2016

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<th>Term</th>
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<th>Time</th>
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<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>2pm – 7pm</td>
<td>HOUSE Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>Black Ranges Inter &amp; Senior Volleyball (Horsham) <strong>Murtoa convening</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Black Ranges Swimming (Warracknabeal)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>Period 1-4</td>
<td>HOUSE Athletic Standards</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>Black Ranges Senior Basketball (Ararat)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>Black Ranges Inter Basketball (Ararat)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>GWRegion Swimming (Ballarat)</td>
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Scholastic Monster Book Fair!

The Scholastic truck will arrive on **Tuesday March 1** with a **Monsterous** selection of books from as little as $1. The Fair concludes on **Tuesday March 15**. All sales earn the school commission to purchase books for our school.

Scholastic Book Club

Issue 1 orders have been sent off and should be arriving next week. For those parents new to the system, cash or cheque payment orders need to be given to Mrs Reading in the library. If you have a credit card it really is easy to order on-line through the Linked Online Ordering & Payment system, (LOOP). Scholastic Book club website: [http://www.scholastic.com.au/schools/bookclub](http://www.scholastic.com.au/schools/bookclub) is worth a visit as there are competitions to enter and all the brochures can be viewed online. Once the goods arrive I distribute them to the classroom teachers or student.

If you would prefer to collect the items, especially those choosing the LOOP option, please let me know if you would like me to hold the order at school for you to collect. My apologies for not mentioning the Book club in previous newsletters.

Jenny Reading

Basketball

Semi Finals Draw  
Tuesday 1st March

Juniors:  
4.30pm  White vs Blue  
5.15pm  Orange vs Bendigo Bank

Intermediate:  
6pm  White vs Blue  
6.50pm  Green vs Red

Men:  
7.45pm  White vs Maroon  
8.30pm  Blue vs Black

Grand Final  
Tuesday 8th March

Juniors:  
6pm

Intermediate:  
7pm

Men:  
8pm

Hamper Items for Jung Market (Sat 27th February) & Grand Final Night (Tuesday 8th March).  
Contact Marie 53852604 - 0419 852 227
MMFNC Football/Netball Information

All training will be at Murtoa until the Change rooms are completed at Minyip.

Football

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

U17’s
Coaches – Derek Cameron, Angus Trethowen. 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
A big thank you to Rod Hammond – U12’s Coach and to Guy Asplin – Auskick, both have put their hands up to help guide our willing participants.

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
Training same as last week

13’s @ 4.00pm 15’s & 17’s @ 4.30pm

I would like to say a big thank you to Lucy Young for taking on the role of coaching the 13 & under girls I’m sure the girls will have a great year under Lucy’s guidance.

Hopefully dresses will be available at training Thursday night ” new players are required to pay a small hire fee for their dress, which is a once off payment

Details of upcoming Prac Match.
At Quantong vs NQ. Weds evening March 2nd.

6pm A Grade and Under 17’s Warm Up 5.30pm.

7.15pm B and C Grade Warm Up 6.45pm.

We have to supply umpires for each game, so anyone interested let myself or Luci Pidgeon know.

Any questions don’t hesitate to contact myself Jess Whyte - 0428 847381 MMNFC - Junior Coordinator
On Friday the 26th of March VCAL students will be holding a coin line activity. This event will be held at the start of lunch time in the quadrangle. The coin line will run from the year 7, 11 and 12 locker shed to the 8, 9 and 10 locker shed. To be involved bring your loose change and contribute to the line. All money raised will go toward the Murtoa College Relay for Life Team to help reach their goal of $1500.