IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 13th</td>
<td>Year 7-12 House Swimming Standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 14th</td>
<td>School Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 15th</td>
<td>Year 7 Camp to Roses Gap commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 16th</td>
<td>Year 12 Parent Information session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 17th</td>
<td>VCE English study day – Horsham</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Year 7 Camp to Roses Gap finishes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 20th</td>
<td>School Photo catch up day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21st</td>
<td>House Swimming for Year 7 to 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 24th</td>
<td>VCE English Study day in Horsham</td>
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<td>Casual Clothes day</td>
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Year 12 Information Night

All year 12’s and their parents are invited to the Information Night this week. The information night will be on Thursday February 16th at 7pm in Room 3. This is an important night to set the scene for the year ahead and to receive a variety of information about dates and events for the year.

Year 7-12 House Swimming Carnival

The year 7-12 students will be holding their House Swimming Carnival on Tuesday February 21. The Carnival is a twilight event starting at 2pm and going to 7pm at the Murtoa Swimming Pool. As such the year 7-12 students do not have to come to school on Tuesday.

I would like to invite Parents/Guardians and friends to join us for the carnival as all year 7-12 students are expected to attend. Students are also expected to make their own way to the pool.

Please note: The regular bus services will not be operating except for the Horsham big bus. It will be running on a revised timetable that will be passed onto relevant students.

Week 3 Term 1

Congratulations to all the students for the positive way in which you have settled back into school. Last week was the first full week of school with 28 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.

Term 1 is always very busy with activities and events happening outside the classroom. This week will see the following events occurring.

- House Swimming Standards
- School Council
- Staff First Aid Training
- Year 7 Camp to Roses gap

I especially would like to wish the year 7 students the best of luck on their 3 day camp at Roses Gap. I look forward to hearing the stories that will be brought back to school.
**Student Success – Volleyball**
Laelah Robertson and Cleo Baker have celebrated a great year in Volleyball. The year 9 and year 8 students were nominated as the joint Wimmera Sports stars of the month in back October 2016. As such they were invited to the Wimmera Sports Star of the year awards last Friday night. The girls attended the awards ceremony along with all the other nominated stars from 2016 and had a great night. They did not take out the major prize but were given their medals for the star of the month by Bianca Chatfield who played Netball for Australia. Congratulations to both Laelah and Cleo for a great year!

![Volleyball triumph](image)

**School Council Elections**
Nominations for parents have now opened and if you are interested a nomination form is available from the general office. Nominations close 4pm on Monday February 27. Please see the information in last week’s newsletter if you wish to know more about the role and the time requirements.

**Foundation Students**
Our 9 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.

![Foundation Students](image)

Back Row: Ms Grace Coustley, Chris Okely, Tyler McFarlane, Bentley Pendlebury, Max Elliott and Sway Millar
Front Row: Harry Noonan, Alex Bird, Kayne Sartori-Billman and Edan Ritchie.

**Buses – Casual usage**
Following on from last week I would like to reinforce that we will be able to accommodate students using the Horsham bus on a casual basis. If, a student wishes to use the Horsham main bus for a casual trip they need to go to the office in advance.
Students will be issued a pass upon the presentation of a signed note from their parent or guardian. The office requires approval from a parent or guardian before they will issue a pass. The trip cost will be $5 a trip. Casual bus using students will not be able to get on the bus without a pass.

Please note that casual use of all the other buses also requires a permission note but there is no cost involved.

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund help ensure that no student misses 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 achievements.

- CSEF will be provided to 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.
- 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 per student in the F-6 area of the college and
  - $225 per student in the year 7-12 area of the college

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form.

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 2017, 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!

SCHOOL NURSE

We are very excited to welcome our new school nurse, Katharine Francis. Katharine comes to us with a wealth of experience in both the health and education systems and also works at Donald High School and Rainbow P-12. She has already started working with several students and will be a great asset to the school. Katharine will be here every Tuesday and looks forward to getting to know all of the students.

BREAKFAST CLUB

We will be running the Breakfast Club again in 2017, starting this Wednesday. We have had great support from the Murtoa Lions Club in the form of financial assistance and Sheryl, Sharon and Leanne are always here on a Wednesday morning to prepare a lovely nutritional breakfast, providing our students with a great start to their day.

Students of the week.

Liam, Oliver, Olivia, Sway, Matilda & Emily.
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. Students who do not attend without a valid excuse are NOT eligible to participate in other sporting competitions.

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.

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.

The timetable is as follows:

**Horsham Main Bus to Murtoa**

- 1.00 pm  Cnr Mills Ave and Wawunna Rd
- 1.02 pm  Wawunna Rd Shops
- 1.04 pm  O’Connor and High St
- 1.06 pm  Churchill Rd and Berry Crt
- 1.08 pm  Cnr Natimuk Service Rd and Bennett Rd
- 1.19 pm  Haven Primary School
- 1.21 pm  Corner of Hamilton Rd and Golf Course 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 catch the 20-seat Toyota there will be no change to their travel arrangements. If your child/children normally catch 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:45 am</td>
<td>Corner of Bennett Rd and Natimuk Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:53 am</td>
<td>Corner of Hamilton Rd and Golf Course Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:56 am</td>
<td>McPherson St, Showgrounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:58 am</td>
<td>Dooen Rd Shops</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Horsham 20-seat Toyota to Horsham**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:30 pm</td>
<td>Depart Murtoa College</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:07 pm</td>
<td>Dooen Rd Shops</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

2.00pm Arrive at pool
2.30 - Freestyle events begin
2.54 - Breastroke events begin
3.34 - Novelty events – Life Jacket and Inflatable Relay Race
4.40 – Backstroke events begin
5.16 – Medley relay events begin
5.40 – Freestyle relay events begin
6.40 – Staff Vs. Students Vs. Parents Relay – Parent swimmers needed!!!
6.50 – Results announced

FYI: Breastroke, 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 for Medley Relay
- 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
Backstroke  Breaststroke  Butterfly  Freestyle

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.
Scholastic 'Bookaneer' Book Fair!

The Scholastic truck will arrive on **Tuesday March 7** with a *bountiful* selection of books and stationary. Scholastic gives us vouchers to offer as incentives and prizes.

The Fair concludes on **Tuesday March 21**. All sales earn the school commission to purchase books for our school.

**Issue 1: Scholastic Book Club**

Scholastic Book Club gives the school a 20% commission on all purchases. The Issue 1 brochures were sent home last week and those wishing to make purchases need to be completed by **Tuesday February 15th**. For those parents new to the system, orders with cash or cheque payments need to be given to Mrs Kingston or 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](http://scholastic.com.au/LOOP) (LOOP). You can download a free app to take you there or visit [scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://scholastic.com.au/LOOP) - worth a visit as there is useful advice on reading, as well as competitions to enter, and 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.

Jenny Reading

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**CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE 2017**

**IMPORTANT:** For **ALL** families wishing to access the conveyance allowance for 2017.

To be eligible a student must:

- A Victorian resident
- School aged and enrolled (3) three or more days per week at a school, and
- Attend their closest government or non-government school/campus, appropriate to their year level, at which admission is permissible, and is located outside the Melbourne metropolitan conveyance boundary
- **Reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from that school/campus attended**

If approved the allowance payable is based on the one way distance to make the journey to and from school.

If you feel you are eligible please contact the office to receive an application form before **Friday 24th February, 2017**.

For families who have already received a conveyance allowance in the past you must **REAPPLY**. **NEW APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE DONE**.

It is also the parent/guardian responsibility to supply a map of distance travelled to your nearest bus stop. Bing maps will be a good internet site to do this and the website is [http://www.bingmaps.com/](http://www.bingmaps.com/)

For more information or to collect an application form please contact the General Office.
PERMANENT-PART TIME POSITION

JUNIOR STAFF MEMBER

Dunmunkle Lodge Inc. is a 36 bed Aged Care Facility in Minyip

We are looking for enthusiastic staff to join our Environmental Services Team working 21 hours per month.

Applicants must be 16 years age.

Successful applicants will be honest, reliable, responsible and be able to work well independently as a part of a team and follow directions.

This position will have a three month contract review.

Salary and conditions will be in accordance with the appropriate Awards

For further information and a copy of the position description, please contact Dunmunkle Lodge on Ph: 53857463
E-mail: emma.hudson@dunmunklelodge.com.au

Applications Close: 24th of February 2017

Environmental Services Supervisor
Dunmunkle Lodge Inc.
1 McLeod St.
Minyip Vic 3392
MMFNC Football/Netball Information

FOOTBALL NEWS

Western Bulldogs - are coming to Horsham for a Community Camp.

As part of the camp, the players will be spending some time at junior trainings sessions.

Date: Monday 20th Feb  
Time: players to be picked up at 4:30pm, for a 5:00pm start, return the players by 6.00ish

FOOTBALL REGISTRATION

All football registrations need to be done online, if you follow the link/s below & simple instructions you should be able to register without to many problems

The link to our website is:  http://websites.sportsg.com/club_info.cgi?clubID=81050&amp%3Bc=1-6210-0-0-0

When you get into it you will see on the right hand side the members access button.

It should take you here
https://membership.sportsg.com/v6/regoform.cgi?aID=12649&pKey=b038f66d295eefbf282f047b1fa075541&cID=37507&formID=36056

The player should enter the e-mail address they registered last year in the box.

Once you have entered the correct e-mail address it will ask to enter your password from last year. If you don’t know it you can request a new one.

Once you have logged in using your password it will run you through a series of questions and ask you to fill out some details. Once that’s done they will be registered.

This need to be done for every footballer from under 12s to seniors. It is separate from the membership payment and forms the club requires to be filled out. If anyone needs help they can call me. The sooner it’s done the better for everyone.

Any questions contact:

14 & under  COACH  Gavin Young - 0417 372 120  
TEAM MANAGER  James French - 0427 179 639

17 & under  COACH  Matt Fridge - 0478 199 619  
TEAM MANAGER  Leigh Bell - 0427 861 401
NETBALL NEWS

The 2017 season will officially kick off next Thursday the 16th of February for junior and senior netballers @ Murtoa.

Under 13s and 15s: 4pm till 5pm
Under 17s: 5pm till 6pm
Seniors: 6.15pm till 8pm.

Please note that all coaches understand players may have other sporting commitments on a Thursday night, but if you are unable to make training please let your respective coaches know so they can plan training according to numbers.

Big thanks to those families that made it for the membership/registration day, was great to see you there.

For those that were unable to attend, please be sure to register online before Thursday & bring your payment to training Thursday, along with the printed out copy of registration form, (Thursday will be the only other available payment day) indemnity forms will be available to fill in on Thursday also, so you'll need your Medicare card, Ambulance & private health numbers if applicable any questions with any of the above, please contact me.

Thanks and we'll see you all at training Thursday night, except for most of the 13's as they'll be away on camp

GO BURRAS

Any questions on above information please contact myself Jess Whyte - 0428847381

MMFNC JUNIOR COORDINATOR