**IMPORTANT DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 6th</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 9th</td>
<td>F-6 Parent Information session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 13th</td>
<td>Year 7-12 House Swimming Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 14th</td>
<td>School Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 15th</td>
<td>Year 7 Camp to Roses Gap commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 16th</td>
<td>Year 12 Parent Information session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 17th</td>
<td>VCE English study day – Horsham Year 7 Camp to Roses Gap finishes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### School Photos

**Tuesday February 6 is school photo day.**

All students will have their individual photo taken along with either their class or year level group. Families can request family group shots.

Please make sure that the order envelopes are returned on Tuesday.

### Year 12 Information Night

All year 12’s and their parents are invited to the Information Night on Thursday 16th at 7pm in Rm 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.

---

**Week 2 Term 1**

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the whole Murtoa College community to term 1 2017. I am excited to be back and continue to feel privileged being the Principal of this wonderful college. I am looking forward to working with the community to continue the good work that occurred in 2016. It is great to have the college back to normal with nearly 270 students attending and doing what they do best and that is learning!

Can I extend a warm welcome to the new families? I would personally like to welcome the 27 new students into the college. I am happy to say that the start has been fairly smooth. I have been wandering the yard at lunchtime and talking to the students. They are all in a happy space and I have enjoyed hearing about their holiday exploits.

We are a small and caring school. Our No. 1 value is respect. We expect all staff and students to respect each other, to respect our school facilities and to respect our school culture. We want every student to look forward to coming to school and we want them to become better people. We want to see every student recognized for their achievements, whether academic, sporting or through demonstrating our values. Good Luck to all students this year!
New Students

Our new students have had a comfortable transition into their new school. Our new foundation group have been tested and will find their feet quickly and starting to understand what school is all about. For those that have been to school before the transition has been smooth as they have been buddied up with a mentor who is looking out for them. Our staff comments about the new students are that they are very happy and that they find the students very friendly and easy to engage.

They are as follows:

**Year 11:** Nye Nye Hit and Bailey James.
**Year 9:** Imiggin Fischer and Mi Hit.
**Year 8:** Billy Dalziel
**Year 7:** Blake Downer, Caitlin Funcke, Emily Hotker, Nikita James, Lateasha Joyram, Charlotte Loats, Tuskan McAlpine, Brazer McKenzie, Patrick Rabl, Annie Robbins, Ty Starick, Lachlan Weidemann and Georgia Zolj.
**Foundation:** Alex Bird, Max Elliott, Tyler McFarlane, Sway Millar, Harry Noonan, Chris Okely, Bentley Pendlebury, Edan Ritchie and Kayne Sartori

Senior College Student Leaders

I would like to re-introduce you to our Senior College Student Leaders for 2017. They will lead the student body of the college this year and represent them in many different forums. I look forward to working closely with this group and making the 2017 a great year for the students at Murtoa College. In the photo from left to right are the following leaders:

- Denby Lingham: SRC Treasurer
- Abbey Riddell: College Vice-Captain
- Karina Drum: College Captain
- Tom Petering: College Vice-Captain
- Cassie Dunlop: SRC Publicity Officer
- Bonnie Delahunty: SRC Secretary
- Chris Eagle: College Captain
Junior College Student Leaders
I would like to also re-introduce you to our Junior College Student Leaders for 2017. They will lead the student body of the college in the F-6 area of the college. I look forward to working closely with this group and making the 2017 a great year for the F-6 students at Murtoa College. In the photo from left to right are the following leaders:

Archie Gawith   College Vice-Captain
Oscar Gawith   College Captain
Jorja Gardy    College Captain
Olivia Ritchie   College Vice-Captain

F-6 Welcome pack
We sent out a Welcome to School pack to all F-6 students, new and returning. Please let us know if this was useful or if we missed any information you needed. We were missing contact details for a couple of new families, so apologies if you didn’t receive a pack, spare copies are available at the office.

Foundation Students
The foundation students have had a great start to their school year. The happy smiling faces most of the time have indicated that their transition has been okay. To assist with this transition they will not be attending school on Wednesday for the first 6 weeks of term one. Their first Wednesday that they are required to attend will be Wednesday March 15 which is in week 7. That week is a short week with a public holiday on the Monday and a Staff Professional Development day on the Friday. Week 8 and 9 will be their first 2 full weeks.

Attendance
This is quite a difficult issue for schools. We want to encourage every student to attend every possible day, but at the same time it is not appropriate to send a sick child to school. We also recognise that some families will take a family holiday outside of school holidays for financial or scheduling reasons. The DET policy does allow for this but parents are expected to notify the principal in writing IN ADVANCE for approval.
Legally it is expected that principals would excuse absences for:

- medical and dental appointments, where out of hours appointments are not possible or not appropriate
- bereavement or attendance at the funeral of a relative or friend of the student, including a student required to attend Sorry Business
- school refusal, if a plan is in place with the parent to address causes
- cultural observance, if the parent notifies the school in advance
- family holidays, where the parent notifies the school in advance and the student completes any Student Absence Learning Plan agreed by the school, student and parent.

There is also provision for unforeseeable or unexpected events.
However, it is very important for students to attend regularly. This is both for their learning and for social reasons. We are focusing on attendance again this year as our data shows that there are some students that have a large number of absences and that this is impacting on their learning.
It is really important that students get into good habits as early as possible and plan to attend every day except in cases of illness. Please let us know if we can help in any way. The Office, Mrs Jan Dunlop and the Year Level Coordinators or the F-6 classroom teachers should be the first points of contact about student non-attendance issues.

**Horsham Buses**
85% of our students rely on school buses to get to and from school. They are a very important part of the college community and the scheduling of programs run around the bus timetables. The college runs 2 buses from Horsham. Our student numbers coming from Horsham are consistent. As I write this article the Horsham Toyota bus is at capacity but the Horsham main bus is not at its capacity. Therefore **we will be able to accommodate students using that bus on a casual basis.** If, you wish to use the Horsham main bus for a casual trip please contact the office in advance. The cost will be $5 a trip. Students will not be able to get on the bus as a walk up. They must get a pass from the office.

**School Council**
School Council Elections 2017 – Information for Parents
School council elections will commence very soon. We have members retiring so we are looking for new representatives. Please consider nominating. Nomination forms will be available in next week’s newsletter.

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:
A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
A mandated elected DET employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.
Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider
• standing for election as a member of the school council
• encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.
We’re the Degenhardt Dragons,
Watch us strike!
We’re gonna fight with all our might!
Degenhardt, Degenhardt, make some noise!

Meier, Meier we’re on fire!
You can’t stop us going higher!
In the pool, on the field,
We are here to win the shield!

Waterson, Waterson, Waterson,
We are the best.
Waterson, Waterson, Waterson,
We’ll never rest.
SECONDARY Swimming Standards & Twilight Swimming Carnival

**SWIMMING STANDARDS** Monday, February 13 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.

**TWILIGHT SWIMMING CARNIVAL** Tuesday, February 21 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.
### Murtoa College

**Sport Dates for TERM 1 2017**

**as at November 8, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Period Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 3</td>
<td>Monday February 13</td>
<td>Period 5-6</td>
<td>HOUSE Swimming Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 4</td>
<td>Tuesday February 21</td>
<td>2pm – 7pm</td>
<td>HOUSE Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 4</td>
<td>Thursday February 23</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td><em>Back up date</em> HOUSE Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 5</td>
<td>Thursday March 2</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>Black Ranges Swimming (Warracknabeal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 7</td>
<td>Thursday March 16</td>
<td>Period 1-4</td>
<td>HOUSE Athletic Standards (PLEASE NOTE: this date may change)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 8</td>
<td>Thursday March 23</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>GWRegion Swimming (Ballarat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 9</td>
<td>Thursday March 30</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>HOUSE Athletic Sports (Horsham)</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](http://www.ssv.vic.edu.au)

The place to go to find all information regarding Victorian School Sport

“Save it in your favourites”

---

For your Black Ranges Division information:
- Sports Regions
- Greater Western Sports Region
- Greater Western Secondary Division
- (Select your Division name)
- (Select ‘Division Name’ Sports)
- (Select the required sport)

For the Greater Western Region information:
- Sports Regions
- Greater Western Sports Region
- Greater Western 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.

---

**Murtoa Swimming Pool**

**Annual Pool Party**

Friday 17th February
6 – 10 pm

Entry fee includes BBQ
Family $10  Single $5
Door Prizes & Raffle
Obstacle Course & Fire Truck
Fun for all the family
~ MMFNC JUNIOR FOOTY ~

14 & under & 17 & under Footy

TRAINING - is to commence Wednesday 22nd February @ 4.45pm in Murtoa
- registration information to follow next week - For Further information 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

12 & under Footy - TBA

NETBALL NEWS ~

Minyip Murtoa Netball Club
Membership Day
Sunday 12th February
12pm-3pm
M arma Lake Murtoa
All 2017 players, parents and supporters
are invited to join the Burras for a day at
M arma lake.
Please come along and hear from all
Junior and senior coaches, as we kick off
the 2017 season.
VNA and Memberships will also be
available to purchase on the day.
Could Seniors bring a salad and Juniors a
sweet to share please.

MMFNC JUNIOR COORDINATOR

Jess Whyte - 0428 847 381