



Excellence Cooperation Respect Courtesy
Enthusiasm Responsibility
Commitment
Friendliness

The Lizard Link

Honesty
Caring

Murtoa College Newsletter

30th January 2023
No. 1

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MURTOA COLLEGE IS A CHILD SAFE SCHOOL.



We acknowledge the Wotjobaluk peoples of the Wimmera region as the traditional custodians of the lands upon which Murtoa College is situated. We pay our respects to their elders – past, present, and emerging – and we acknowledge their deep care of the lands we live on. We also acknowledge that for tens of thousands of years our First Nation's peoples have engaged in – and passed on – excellent teaching and learning practices on the spaces the Murtoa College community learns today.



It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity as the new Principal of Murtoa College to welcome everyone to the 2023 school year; particularly our new families, staff and students who are joining our learning community for the first time. The start of a new school year invites us all to bravely say hello to a bright new period in our lives, rekindle old friendships and forge new relationships. It also offers an opportunity for us to both individually and collectively look ahead and imagine all that we can - and will - achieve over the next twelve months.

My name is Dr Bec Carter and as a committed advocate of the many educational advantages our students experience by undertaking their education in a small rural school, I am thrilled to join the Murtoa College community as the new Principal. Already I have received a warm welcome from staff (including cupcakes last Friday!) and benefited from undertaking a thorough handover with the outgoing Acting Principal Shannon Argall in the closing months of 2022. This transition work with Shannon made clear the need for me to be resolute in sustaining (and advancing) the outstanding work of past Principals and staff, both of whom have long dedicated themselves to making sure every student is known, cared for, and valued not only for their academic results, sporting achievements or extra-curricular activities but also their capacity to put a spring in the step and smile on the face of others.

The work I will be undertaking in my new role as Principal will be greatly informed by my twenty plus years' experience working in K-12 schools, my personal experience of growing up in, leaving, then returning to the surrounding area of a small country town as an adult, and raising four children along the way, with my youngest son completing his Year 12 studies this year. Originally a senior English and Humanities teacher of VCE English, VCE History (Revolutions), VCE Geography and VCE Global Politics with longstanding VCAA assessor expertise of NAPLAN, the GAT and the aforementioned VCE studies, I have been purposeful in seeking out opportunities to hone my leadership skills by undertaking a range of middle, senior, principal class and executive leadership positions in an array of educational settings –



rural and urban, K-12, senior secondary and university, big and small, low, and high socio-economic areas - most often with oversight in the portfolio areas of School Policy and Operations, Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, Assessment and Feedback, and Staff Management.

Indeed, my passion for education and lifelong learning - which today sees me seeking out new opportunities to coach students (particularly girls) to expand their problem solving and project management skills, grow their resilience and curiosity and perhaps consider a career in a Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics after collaboratively building and programming robots and drones or creating fancy e-textile fashion items in a makerspace environment - can be traced back to the high-quality government school education I received. Central here were my dedicated teachers who inspired me to think beyond the front gate of my own home, school, state, and country; beyond social and cultural expectations and dared me to imagine - and realise - I could achieve things no one else in my family or local community had ever considered, let alone attempted or achieved. Today I know that this early schooling experience was foundational to where I am today as it fostered within me a feeling of confidence, adventure, belonging, worth, aspiration and growth - feelings that now greatly inform my own determination to ensure the same conditions and experience is created for all learners at Murtoa College - including all students, and our staff who work with and for them - by responsibly leveraging our school and community resources to nurture a school culture that focuses on growth, care, empowerment, inquiry and community.

I believe wholeheartedly that the quality education every student at Murtoa College deserves only happens when the school, families, and local community work in partnership. Accordingly, over the next several months, I look forward to getting to know and understand the culture of the College by supporting the work of my teaching and non-teaching colleagues, bedding down the structural and program changes which commenced in 2022 under the stewardship of Shannon, observing the learning - and socialising - of students around the yard, corridors or at the buses, and engaging with families and the local community. With the latter in mind, please be assured my door is always open for families or members of the local community to make contact to discuss concerns, suggestions, or share ideas - and that I am more than happy to catchup either onsite at the College or another mutually convenient place.

To conclude, please know I feel truly honoured to be given this opportunity to lead Murtoa College as its new Principal and that I am very much looking forward to us writing together the next chapter of the Murtoa College story.

Thanks so much,

Dr Bec Carter

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IMPORTANT DATES

February	
Tuesday 7 th	Swimming Standards (Years 7-10) periods 5&6
Wednesday 8 th - Friday 10 th	Year 7 Camp – Roses Gap
Friday 10 th	Swimming Standards (Years 5/6) periods 3&4
Tuesday 14 th	School Photo Day – see below how to order Year 12 Information Night
Friday 17 th	Swimming Carnival (during school hours)

NEW STAFF

2023 has seen 5 new staff join the college. I would like to welcome them and look forward to their involvement and contribution to the Murtoa College community. The new staff are:

- Dr. Bec Carter, principal.
- Mrs. Jenny Huebner who is our new business manager.
- Ms. Emma Geyer who will be teaching Year 9, 10 and VCE English.
- Ms. Paige Martin who will be teaching VCE Psychology.
- Norm Hager who will be teaching Technology and Work-Related Skills.

YEAR 7 CAMP – Roses Gap

The Year 7 camp to Roses Gap is fast approaching, Wednesday 8th to Friday 10th February. All Year 7 students will be receiving relevant information and forms regarding this camp this week. Can families please return these forms ASAP to the front office.

YEAR 5-12 SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The 2023 Year 5-12 swimming carnival will be held on Friday 17th February during school hours. We anticipate the starting time to be 10am (however will confirm via FB and XUNO) and conclude the day by 3pm.

We look forward to seeing all students in Year 5-12 attend the day and welcome families and wider community to join us to see which house team will take out the Murtoa College Swimming Sports.

Who will it be

Degenhardt

Meir

Waterson

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

School photo day is Tuesday 14th February. All students will have their individual photo taken along with either their class or year level group. Families can request family group shots.

(Note: ALL orders are on-line. Please contact the office if you need help ordering photos.)

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY 2023

All orders for School Photo's this year can be made online using this **School Access Key** below

Murtoa College ~ Access Key *R6CBTVAD*

To place an order, follow these easy steps:

1. Go to - **www.creationsphotography.com.au**
2. Click on "Order your Photos" and enter this code
3. Follow the on screen advice to complete your order

- All online orders are secure
- Easy tracking of all orders placed
- No need for cash to be sent to School

**Family Photographs must be ordered online before 6:00pm
the night before photo day
No family orders can be received after this time**

Creations

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY
64 Peppertree Lane, Horsham VIC 3400
Ph: (W) 0353 820802 (M) 0417 538 633
E: info@creationsphotography.com.au



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education.

Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

If your child is unwell or absolutely cannot attend school for some reason, it is important to let the school know of their absence and the reason why **prior to the day if planned or at the start of the day if not.**

The easiest way to do this is via:



If you do not have a Xuno login, please contact the school.

or you can phone the school on 53852381.

If your child is absent and we haven't been notified, you will receive a text message asking you to contact the school with an explanation. **If we do not receive a reply to our text message, we will be following up with a phone call.**

Any questions can be directed to Jan Dunlop, Wellbeing Coordinator on 53852381.

F – 6 NEWS

Welcome to a new school year. We hope all families had a wonderful holiday. Today we welcome our 15 new Foundation students and new families to Murtoa College, we are sure that you will have an enjoyable first day of school.

The following staff will be the main classroom teacher and point of call for all your child's needs. You can contact the teachers through Xuno or by making a phone call to the school and organising a time to meet with them in person.

Mrs Allyssa Wilson

Foundation/One



Mrs Thalia Hopper

One/Two



Mrs Bree Childs and Mrs Christine Wills

Three/Four



Miss Grace Coustley

Four/Five/Six



Mrs Simone Coutts

Art, German, Library



Ms Joylene Boehm

Intervention, CCS



Mrs Nicole Noonan

Assistant Principal, 4/5/6 PE



This year we will also have 2 coordinators for the F-6 area. Mrs Allyssa Wilson for F-2 and Miss Grace Coustley for Yrs 3 - 6. Please contact the appropriate coordinator if there are any issues or concerns about your child.

F-6 Assemblies will run every second Thursday beginning at 2:40pm. All families are most welcome to come and attend. Celebrating their student's success and achievements. The first assembly will be held on the 9th of February.

Foundation Students

The new Foundation students are having a wonderful first day and will be coming home very tired tonight.

Foundation students will be having every Wednesday off until the long weekend in March, therefore, they will start attending every Wednesday on 15th March. Mrs Wilson will be sending home a timetable regarding time slots for Foundation student assessment. This will be occurring on those Wednesdays off. If you have any concerns surrounding the times if these assessments, please contact Mrs Wilson via Xuno.

Foundation students have received their new hats, reader bags and diaries today.



F-6 Reminders

- All students need to be wearing the school wide brimmed hat for the remainder of this term.
- We encourage all students to have a full water bottle each day.
- Please ensure all items are clearly named.

HOT FOOD

Party Pies – Lite	\$2.00
Four n' Twenty Pies – Lite	\$5.00
Four n' Twenty Pasties – Lite	\$5.00
Sausage Rolls – Lite	\$3.50
Potato Pies	\$5.00
Sweet Chilli Tender	\$2.50
Sweet Chilli Wraps	\$6.50
(chicken, lettuce, tomato, carrot, cheese & chilli sauce)	
Mini Pizzas - Ham & Pineapple	\$3.50
Pizza Toast	\$1.00
Steamed Dim Sims	\$1.00
Sav & Roll	\$4.00
Ricotta & Spinach Roll	\$3.00
Noodles	\$2.50
Chicken Parmi Burgers (lettuce, mayo)	\$6.00
Chicken Nuggets	\$0.50 NEW



CHICKEN BURGERS

Chicken Burger	\$2.50
Chicken Burger & Salad Roll	\$5.00

SANDWICHES / ROLLS / WRAPS

Ham & Salad	\$4.50
Roast Chicken & Salad	\$4.50
Ham & Salad Roll	\$5.00
Roast Chicken & Salad Roll	\$5.00
Chicken & Salad Wrap	\$6.50
Ham & Salad Wrap	\$6.50

SALAD BOX

With choice of	
Chicken Burger, Diced Chicken or Ham, Sweet Chilli Tenders	\$5.00



DESSERTS

Cake	\$1.00
Slice	\$1.00
Fruit	\$1.00



DRINKS

Cans Kirks (Diet)	
(Creamy Soda, Lemon, Lemonade)	
Pepsi Max Can	\$2.50
Sprite Zero Can	\$2.50
Coke No Sugar Can	\$2.50
Breakas	\$3.00
Ice Breaks	\$4.00
Water 500ml	\$2.50
Pump Water – Lemon and Berry	\$3.00
Juice Boxes	\$2.00
Oak (Choc, Strawberry, Banana, Iced Coffee)	\$4.00



ICE CREAMS - STREETS

Paddle Pops (Strawberry, Banana, Choc)	\$1.50
Paddle Pops Twist	\$1.00
Cyclone	\$2.00
Dixie's	\$1.00
Super Doopers	\$0.50



CHIPS

Variety of flavours – Small	\$1.50
Variety of flavours – Large	\$2.50

PLEASE NOTE

To Guarantee you don't miss out on your order.....

Year F – 6 Lunch Orders need to be in by 9.00AM

Year 7 – 12 Lunch Orders need to be in by RECESS



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 while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is 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

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

