



Excellence Cooperation Respect Courtesy  
Enthusiasm Responsibility  
Commitment  
Friendliness

# The Lizard Link

Honesty  
Caring

## Murtoa College Newsletter

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17<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
No. 7

**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.



### International Education Support Day

Yesterday was ESP (Education Support Personnel) Day wherein we publicly acknowledged the hard work and dedication of all Education Support staff working at the College by shouting them a coffee'n'cake for morning tea. This recognition of the unsung heroes who provide the backbone to our College included all Operational, Administration, Wellbeing Support and Classroom Support staff who everyday quietly get on with the many tasks occurring in the background that support the upkeep of facilities, smooth running of operations (including technology and canteen) and administration, finance, and communications of the College. This is in addition to providing vital assistance to students and teachers inside many, many classrooms across the College, in the form of academic and wellbeing support. By recognising our ES staff yesterday, we hope each and every ES staff member felt - and continues to feel - appreciated and valued whilst working with us at the College.

### Year 8 and Year 12 Feedback Superstars!

At the beginning of this week, three Year 8 (Bronwyn Van Zelst, Elizabeth Benbow, Maddie Talbot) and three Year 12 (Alexander Boan, Maddison Agius, Kianah Grace) students participated in two very important feedback sessions with students from metropolitan Melbourne schools that was run by Professor Helen Cahill, author of the Department's Respectful Relationships Curriculum Resource which will soon be delivered in all Victorian schools. The purpose of these student feedback sessions was to gather student thoughts on the appropriateness of the resources and teaching program of this new curriculum, and to trouble shoot from a student's perspective any potential areas of concern which students believed could pose a problem for student engagement more broadly. I'm so very proud to report that our student representatives not only maturely engaged in the two-hour feedback sessions with great maturity, but also presented their thoughts, ideas, and questions with a quiet yet determined dignity; truly leaving a very positive and lasting impression with other students, Professor Cahill, and her team. Well Done!

### MAY SURVEY SEASON

This month, our College community will receive a number of invitations to participate in information-gathering surveys. The purpose of these surveys is to provide an authentic opportunity for members of our community to have their voice, thoughts, ideas recorded, thus providing an invaluable source of information that is then used in the College's operational, wellbeing and academic decision-making processes. I therefore strongly encourage each and every member of our community to participate in these short and quick surveys whenever possible using your mobile phone, iPad, laptop or desktop computer.



**Survey #1: Gathering Whole-School interest in changing our College Uniform:** In the last newsletter I flagged our intention to investigate whether there is sufficient interest amongst students and their families to change our current uniform offerings and - if there is - shortly thereafter call for expressions of interest for student, parent/guardian/carer, and teacher representatives on a "Uniform Working Party." Yesterday an invitation was posted via Xuno messages to all students, parents/carers/guardians/carers, and staff to partake in this first very quick survey. Please visit this link which will remain live until Friday 26 May 2023, 12 noon if you have not yet participated, and wish to lodge your views: <https://forms.gle/GY9RFsQq8oZxieK47>

- **Survey #2: Support for Primary School families (Transport/Supervision) to Dunmunkle Athletics in Marnoo (01.06.23):** Yesterday afternoon families of our primary students were sent a link to a very quick survey to determine if our F-6 families need assistance with transport and/or supervision of their child/ren on the day of the Dunmunkle Athletics Day on Friday 01.06.23 (all day). Providing this assistance recognises the increasingly complex dynamic of family/work responsibilities that our families are navigating in today's challenging economic context. The link to this survey is: <https://forms.gle/s6GqvPiohC7jb4SN8> which will close Monday 22.05.23, 12 noon so that we meet as a priority all requests for transport and/or supervision in our forward planning for this event.
- **Survey #3: Potential New Wellbeing Resource to support Parents/Guardians/Carer:** In the last newsletter I advised we are considering investing in Dr Michael Carr-Gregg's "SchoolTV" Wellbeing website as a parenting resource to help our families hold conversations with their child/ren on topics including: cybersafety, managing screen time, online gaming, mental health, youth anxiety, healthy bodies, exam jitters, surviving the final year of high school (plus more). Dr Michael Carr-Gregg's site can be viewed using the link <https://schooltv.me/>. We now invite our Parents/Guardians/Carers to indicate whether they are interested in using this resource via this very, very quick survey: <https://forms.gle/wjhwQJQa2HmPYJNr9> This survey will close on Friday 26 May, 12 noon. Results will be reported back to our College community in our first June newsletter; including whether we will go ahead with the purchase of this resource to support our families.
- **Survey #4: Students Attitude to School Survey (AtoSS)** Like all other government schools, Murtoa College values listening to our students (student voice) as a means to improve student engagement, wellbeing and quality instruction. The AtoSS is an annual student survey designed by the Department to assist schools to gain an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school whereby the survey gathers the thoughts and feelings of our students in relation to their school, their learning, peer relationships, resilience, bullying, health and wellbeing, physical activity, and life in general. This year, students at Murtoa College will complete the AtoSS survey in Week 5 of Term 2. The following is a synopsis of information the Department provides for parents/guardians/carers to help them better understand the AtoSS:
  - *What are the benefits of AtoSS?* Young people enjoy having a say! This survey has been running for nearly 20 years and is invaluable in helping schools understand student views to plan programs and activities to improve your child's schooling experience. The survey responses also help the Department of Education understand how student's learning experiences can be improved.
  - *What are the risks of AtoSS?* While we do not anticipate many risks of participation, some students may find some of the survey questions personal and sensitive in nature. Should you agree for your child to participate, they are still free to skip questions or to withdraw at any stage if the survey makes them upset or uncomfortable. A teacher will be present during the survey to support students. The questions are selected from validated survey instruments used in Australia and around the world, are strength-based, and tailored for each year level group.
  - *What will my child be asked to do in the AtoSS?* Your child will be invited to complete the survey online during class time using a purpose built secure online survey tool. It is important to note that we are not in any way "testing" your child. Please note: Student participation in the survey is voluntary and students may withdraw at any time; with the survey taking around 20-45 minutes to complete.
  - *How is my child's confidentiality protected?* Your child will be provided with a unique login to complete the survey from their teacher. The student login is an assigned identifier that may be used to link data for statistical and research purposes only. Personally identifiable data will not be recorded in the survey response file to ensure the confidentiality of your child's responses is protected at all times.
  - *How will results be reported?* The survey results will be reported back to the school in aggregate form throughout the survey period. All survey data that is made available in reports are for groups of students only so that no individual student can be identified. Data suppression rules are used for schools with low student numbers per year level. Your school may share the results of the survey with parents, in documents such as the School Annual Report.
  - *Options for participation:* Participation in this survey is **voluntary**. If you **do not** wish for your child to do the survey, please opt out via email to [bec.carter@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:bec.carter@education.vic.gov.au), please do so **before 9.00 am Monday May 22**, stating that you wish to opt out of your child's participation, along with your child/ren's name and year level. NOTE: If we do not receive a Refusal of Consent email from yourself before the survey commencement date mentioned within this letter, it means that you give your consent for your child to participate in the 2023 Attitudes to School Survey.

# F-6 News

Important dates to remember for Term 2:

17 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> of May	Gr 5/6 Camp to Anglesea
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	CEP: Alpha Shows
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Science Afternoon
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	F-6 Dunmunkle Athletics in Marnoo
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Grade 2 Sleepover and School Social
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Pupil Free Day: Report Writing Day for Staff</b>
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Public Holiday: King's Birthday</b>
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Last day of term 2

## Pupil Free Days in Term 2

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June we have a Pupil free day happening across the school. Staff will be doing report writing. Furthermore, there is a Public Holiday, the King's Birthday weekend, Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

## Gr 5/6 Camp: Anglesea

The 5/6s are off to Camp Wilkin in Anglesea. Students will be departing on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May and return on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May. Stay tuned on Facebook for photos.

## CEP: ALPHA Shows

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May students from F-6 will be off to watch a CEP Performance by Alpha Shows. Permission forms have gone home on Monday.

## Science Afternoon

Students have been working hard on some projects in class with Ms Boehm. More information will be coming home soon, but for now please keep June the 1<sup>st</sup> from 1:30-3:15pm available to come and see their magnificent work.

## F-6 Athletics in Marnoo

The athletics will be held on Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June in Marnoo. All students need to make their own way there, any issues please contact the school and speak to Miss Coustley or Mrs Noonan. More information will come out as soon as we have it about the event.

## F-6 School Social

What: The school social  
When: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June  
Arrival: 4:30pm  
Pickup: 6:00pm  
Where: The Murtoa Mechanics Hall (Supper room)  
Theme: Fancy Dress so come in your best  
Cost: \$5 (a light supper is provided)



Note: Any students who do not live in Murtoa and who cannot go home before the social will be supervised at the school and bused down to the hall. Also, students need to bring named water bottles to the event.

## F-6 Assembly Award Winners

### Value Awards

Over last two weeks classes have been looking at our school value of Cooperation. Students who received this award demonstrated this value both in and out of the classroom.





George A



Poppy F



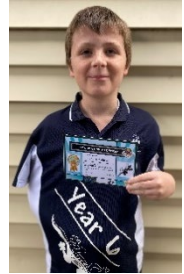
Haile C-F



James C



Lily N



Brodie M

Congratulations to all the award winners for this fortnight.

### Reading Awards

Please remember to read nightly, record the nights of reading into the diaries and bring them to school daily. Bag tags are awarded to students when they read 50, 100, 150 and 200 nights.



Congratulations to Max, Poppy, Pippa, and Chris for reaching their 25 nights reading award.



Congratulations to Jaxon, Levi, Braxton, Posie, Charlie K, and Judith for reading 50 nights and receiving their bag tags.



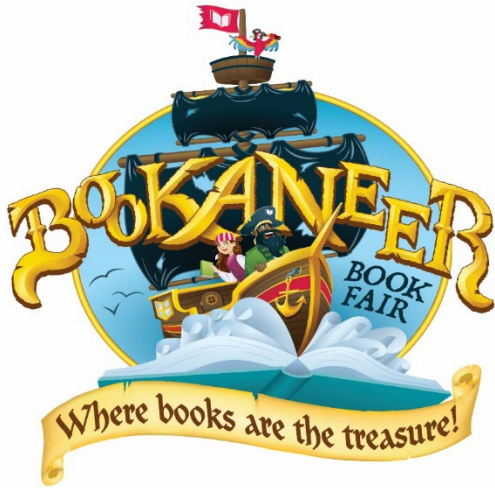
Congratulations to Braxton, Addison and Charlie K for reading 75 nights.

# Premiers Reading Challenge

Still not too late to enter. We already have a number of students who have completed the Challenge, and others who have the finish line in sight. I have uploaded all our eligible student's names, so you just need to register on-line.

Go to the following website for more details: <https://www.vic.gov.au/register-and-log-in-premiers-reading-challenge> or see Jen Reading in the library.

## THE BOOK FAIR IS HERE!



**When: Monday the 15th May until Friday 2nd June**

**8.15am to 4.15pm (or by appointment)**

**Murtoa College Library**

# SCHOOL

# LOCKIN

*Mums and Dads can stay and bowl for same price !*

## **FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MAY**

### **2 SESSIONS**

**First time slot - 4pm -6.30pm**  
(Great for younger kids)

**Second time slot - 6.30pm -9pm**

**\*\*\* UNLIMITED \*\*\***

**TENPIN BOWLING**

**&**

**INFLATABLES**

**\$ 15.00 ENTRY (per session)**

**FOR ALL SCHOOL AGES**

6 Jenkinson ave Horsham  
53825022





## YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL

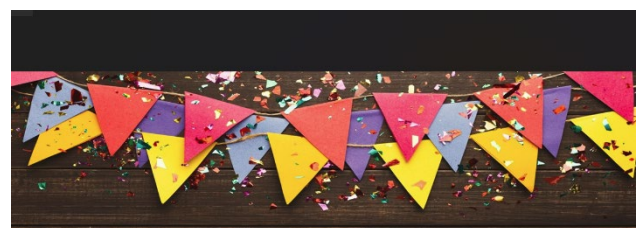
Are you 12 - 18 years old and live in Yarriambiack Shire?  
Have your voice heard at Council!

NOMINATIONS FOR  
YARRIAMBIACK YOUTH ACTION  
COUNCIL ARE NOW OPEN!



Visit [www.yarriambiack.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarriambiack.vic.gov.au) to  
nominate online or scan QR code

**JOIN US!**



CHAPLAINCY

## BOOK FAIR

•BOOKS \$1

•FRI 19 MAY NOON- 9PM

•SAT 20 MAY 9AM - NOON

•HORSHAM COLLEGE

•MAROSKE HALL