



Excellence Cooperation Respect Courtesy
 Enthusiasm Responsibility
 Commitment
 Friendliness

The Lizard Link

Honesty
Caring

Murtoa College Newsletter

1ST March, 2024

No. 2

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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.



Important Dates

Week 6	4 th March	Deakin Visit
	5 th March	Year 5-10 Wimmera Machinery Field Days Excursion
	6 th March	Welcome BBQ – 6pm Marma Lake Rotunda
	7 th March	Athletic Standards at Murtoa College
	8 th March	GWR Swimming Horsham
	8 th March	Year 10 Longerenong Visit
Week 7	13 th – 15 th March	NAPLAN testing
	14 th March	Year 9/10 Stawell Gold Mine Visit
Week 8	18 – 22 nd March	NAPLAN continues
	18 – 22 March	Year 12 OES Camp
	19 th March	Athletics Sports at Dudley Cornell in Horsham
Week 9	25 th March	BR Snr & Inter Volleyball
	25 – 28 th March	Year 10/11 Work Experience
	27 th March	Parent Teacher Interviews
	28 th March	End of Term 1
	29 th March	Good Friday Public Holiday

Dear Families, Students and Community members of Murtoa College,

Executive Leadership Reports

As indicated in our first Newsletter for 2024, this year our Newsletters will contain information from all Executive Leadership team members rather than only the Principal. This week our Newsletter begins with our Assistant Principal’s letter to all families across the College.

Assistant Principal, Mr Chad Frost

I am writing to you today to address an important matter regarding our school's commitment to maintaining a safe and secure learning environment for all students. I want to emphasise our zero-tolerance approach to violence within our school community.

Violence in any form goes against the core values of our school and our greater community. We believe that every student has the right to feel safe and respected while on our campus. Therefore, any act of violence will be met with swift and decisive action in accordance with our school's Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy.



It is crucial for all members of our school community to understand that we take a strong stance against violence and will not tolerate any behaviour that jeopardises the well-being of our students. We are committed to fostering a positive and inclusive environment where everyone can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

During the investigation of a recent incident, CCTV footage revealed there was a significant number of student bystanders who did not intervene or seek help, but also a number of students who attended the area where the altercation took place to specifically be a spectator prior to this incident taking place. Bystander behaviour in such situations is concerning, and it is important for us to address this issue together, as ensuring every student's safety is a foundational pillar of our duty of care obligations.

It is crucial that our students understand the importance of being an upstander rather than a bystander. This means we encourage students to seek help from a teacher or adult, or to find a peaceful way to intervene and prevent any form of violence, provided they are not putting themselves at physical or psycho-social risk by doing so.

I urge all families to have open conversations with your child/ren about the importance of treating others with kindness and respect. Encourage them to seek help from a teacher or staff member if they ever feel threatened or unsafe. By working together, we can create a safe and supportive environment where all students can reach their full potential.

We have advised all students that bystanders will undertake additional training with our Respectful Relationships partners from the Department. We will also be using our Peer Support program which takes place on a weekly basis whereby senior students work with younger students to assist our efforts to ensure a cultural shift toward zero tolerance for any and all behaviours which place the safety of any student or staff member at risk, at any time.

We sincerely thank you in advance for your assistance in addressing this matter. If you have any concerns or would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact us.

Hats and Uniform

A timely reminder for all students and families the importance of adhering to our uniform policy. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. A specific reminder that broad brimmed hats are to be worn outside in Term 1 and Term 4 and that our school shoes are to be plain black.

Leaving School during the school day

If at any stage, students need to leave school for appointments, we ask that parents/guardians present to the office to meet your child - our duty of care means we need to ensure that we have accurate lists of who is on site in case of emergency. If a student meets a parent/guardian at the car without notifying anybody, our assumption would be that they are on site. As always, we encourage open communication and collaboration between home and school. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Mobile Phones

From Term 1 in 2020 the Victorian Government introduced a mobile phone policy for all Victorian government schools. The policy means phones (including apple watches and similar devices) brought to school must be switched off and stored securely during the school day. i.e. From arrival at Murtoa College in the morning to departure at the end of the day. Mobile phones need to be stored in lockers and turned off.

As we are acutely aware, phones can be an extremely useful tool, but equally distracting and destructive when misused. The mobile phone policy aims to provide:

- a safe environment to learn without inappropriate mobile phone use (including cyber bullying) or distractions.
- greater opportunities for social interaction and physical activity during recess and lunch times.

Essentially, the policy states that:

- Students found using a mobile phone at school at break times or in class time without teacher permission, will have the phone confiscated in the first instance,
- Parents will be contacted and asked to collect the phone for a second offence,
- A further offence may lead to increased disciplinary action,
 - Mobile phones are not permitted to be taken on excursions/camps without permission from the coordinating teacher and approval by the Principal,
- Staff may permit students to use mobile phones for educational purposes whilst being supervised,

- Staff have the right to request a student mobile phone unconditionally,
- Mobile phones must be handed to the Teacher in Charge when requested,
- Staff are expected to confiscate student mobile phones if they see them being used during break times or without explicit teacher permission during a learning experience.

Please note, staff will also confiscate mobile phones if students are found to be hotspotting their mobile phone data plans to bypass the College Network so they can access sites that are banned by the Department. We ask you to remind your child/ren that using a VPN on their devices in conjunction with a mobile phone hotspot is in breach of our Mobile Phone Policy.

Students Driving to School

With a number of Senior students beginning to get their P plate licences it is worth noting that students are only to use their car for travelling to and from school. Students are not permitted under any circumstances to drive from the school grounds during the day. It is an exciting time for young people at this time, the sense of adventure and freedom certainly kicks in, but it is imperative that students follow this policy so we can ensure a duty of care for our young people.

Director of Learning (Students & Staff) – Joel Beggs

Since the beginning of Term, staff have been busy organising lesson plans online for parents and staff to access on Xuno. Students who are absent can see what they have missed by accessing these lesson plans.

Additionally, our 2024 NAPLAN timetable has been prepared. Tests will run from March 13th through 18th, with catch up tests running until March 22nd. More information is being sent home to families of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Director of Responsive Instruction (F-12)- Dr Cindy Thompson

Students in the Year 9 Crossroads program have started using Maths Pathways as part of their in-class and at-home learning in Mathematics. This program addresses individual gaps in student knowledge and allows them to consolidate skills in order to build confidence. It means that when students are asked to complete Maths homework, this work is pitched at their level rather than having a one size fits all approach to homework. Class time will be divided between individualised pathways work and explicit at-level teaching of key Year 9 content.

Continuing with a Maths flavour, Thursday 14 March is Pi Day. In order to increase student enthusiasm for all things number-related, we are encouraging students in Years 5 to 12 to learn as many digits of the pi as possible prior to this date. We will run a competition on this date to see how many students can recite 20 or more digits of pi. Any student who achieves this feat is eligible to have their name and achievement listed on the World Pi Ranking list. The Australian record is currently 10553 digits, an impressive feat! If one of our Murtoa College students could achieve 30 or more places, they would achieve a place in the top 30 for Australia.

Director of Student Futures & Pathways (7-12)- Shaun Bray

Congratulations to the three students who spent 2023 in Year 11 working with Hamish Gawith (Headstart) and have now begun a School Based Apprenticeship (SBA) as part of their final year of schooling and VCE Vocational Major (VM) certificate. They are:

- Riana Warrick - The George Salon
- Thomas Elliot - Emmetts Rupanyup
- Declan Clark - Morrows Horsham

Noah Coutts (currently Year 11) has also started a School Based Apprenticeship with Laser Electrical.

Year 10/11 Work Experience

All Year 10 and 11 students have 4 days of work experience in the last week of Term 1. Forms have been given out and students should be working on finding a placement.

Student leadership positions

The applications for the student leadership roles have closed. Digital presentations were viewed by students and staff alike, with all parties voting for who they would like to see in each role. Interviews with Dr Carter, Mr Frost and myself will follow, and appointments will be made thereafter. Successful applicants will be presented at the next whole school assembly.

School Assessed Coursework (SAC's)

As many VCE subjects approach the end of the first unit of work, a SAC will be due. Some of these will be scheduled on a Wednesday during study periods. It is important that students attend Wednesday's (except VET students) so that they can be assessed and their work authenticated (as per the VCAA study designs). Please refer to the subject course outlines for when a SAC is due. On Wednesday 13th March, Mikala from Deakin University is coming to the college to talk to students about tertiary education (TAFE/University). There will be a group presentation to VCE students and an opportunity for Year 10, 11 and 12 students to talk to her individually as well.

We are also currently investigating opportunities for external consultants to visit our Senior students to run a 'Study Skill' bootcamp so our students can make more efficient use of their study periods when onsite.

F-6 Curriculum Coordinator & Literacy Leader – Grace Coustley

All students in the F-6 area have done their 'Cold Writes'. A consistent picture prompt was used across all classrooms of a cat in outer space. Students were given time to showcase their writing skills. Teachers then collect these pieces of writing as an assessment piece and mark it against VCOP criterion marking scale. This will allow staff to attain where students are currently at and furthermore to assist in their future planning. Foundation and grade one students are currently doing their English Online Interviews. This is where they sit in a one-on-one interview style and go through different Literacy activities that assess the three areas of English: Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening. This will also assist teachers of these classes with their planning.

Digital Platforms & Services Manager – Vincent Liao

Thank you to all parents, guardians and carers for jumping on board with the school's BYOD program. For those that still haven't been able to purchase a device, you can still lay-by a device and pay it off within 6 months. Keep in mind that the device has to be paid off in full before it will be delivered to the specified address. We have partnered with Learning With Technologies (LWT) to provide us with an online portal to purchase and lay-by devices. Here is the portal: <https://mc.orderportal.com.au>. This week the department is providing the school with an upgraded internet connection. This upgrade is focused on improvements to internet bandwidth, internet content filtering and student management system security. Ultimately it improves the safety and security of the online environment for students and staff.

Director of Student Wellbeing, Inclusion & Engagement – Allyssa Wilson

Programs

We have had a busy start to the year with the introduction of the Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships program and our four new school Values: **Community - Inclusion- Respect- Integrity**. Our (4R) Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships is a program designed to be delivered in primary and secondary schools to develop students' social, emotional and positive relationship skills.

Over the last few weeks students have been working on establishing their emotional literacy and highlighting individual personal strengths. VCE students have been spending their time looking at time management and goal setting skills which will benefit them in their studies. In the next few weeks, we will be starting to complete Student Support Group meetings and developing Individual learning plans for students. For some families, you will receive a letter in the mail with the time and date of attendance. If these dates and times don't suit you please feel free to contact me directly at school and we can arrange another time.

Headspace

After recent events it's a good reminder that Natural disasters can be incredibly stressful, and bush fires are no different. Right now it's important to focus on you and the young people in your lives, physical and emotional safety. It's also ok to switch off from all the news and take a break. However you may be feeling, we encourage you to connect with your family, friends and community. Remember, that headspace Horsham is there for any young people directly or indirectly affected by the bushfires in the local community. Headspace doors/phones are open Monday to Thurs- 9am - 6pm and Friday 9am-5pm. Please call 5381 1543 or email info.headspacehorsham@vt.uniting.org should you or young people in your life need any help through this difficult time.

Director of Student Voice, Empowerment & Participation – Tara Crowe

As we move through the student leadership application process, anticipation is building at Murtoa College. This year, student leadership will play an even stronger role in representing the vibrant voices of our student body. We recognise the importance of nurturing student leadership and empowering our students to be active participants in shaping their educational journey. This year, we are committed to further developing this aspect of our school community. The selection process is well underway, and we are excited to see the effort that has gone into the applications and quality of the student applicants. We want to thank all students who have taken the initiative to apply and express their interest in leadership roles. Next week, short-listed applicants will be notified of interviews, which will be followed shortly thereafter by our announcement of students who have been selected for a 2024 leadership role. After this the real work will begin as we continue to foster a culture of leadership, engagement, and student voice here at Murtoa College

Director of Transitions and Community Engagement – Nicole Noonan

We have had a very busy but productive start to the school year at Murtoa College. Welcoming and settling students new to the College into their daily school routine has been a central focus for not only our 12 new Foundation students, but also students who have joined us in other primary and secondary year levels.



Two weeks ago, our Year 7 students enjoyed a 3-day camp to Roses Gap. They participated in fun and challenging outdoor activities which promoted personal development and skills such as leadership, resourcefulness, resilience, and built friendships. These included abseiling, archery, bush walking, and the giant swing. The Year 12 students visited our Year 7s on the last evening of their camp, sharing a meal with our Year 7s and running a fun quiz night for the students.



A key focus of our community engagement works this year is to form more productive partnerships with our families. To assist these efforts, we are pleased to invite all families of all new students to the College to a Welcome BBQ at the Marma Lake Rotunda, Murtoa on Wednesday 6th March at 6.00 pm. Our College leadership team and staff are very much looking forward to meeting our new families.

This year also marks the first year that we are running our Year 9 Crossroads program which requires all Year 9 students to complete their VET Certificate II in Active Volunteering. This ensures every Year 9 student who attends our College gains authentic, hands-on insights into not only how others in our community selflessly give back to our local community, but also how they can do the same. The starting point for this program in Term 1 has seen our Year 9 students assisting in the delivery of Meals on Wheels.

Thanks so much everyone,
Dr Bec Carter - Principal

Family Welcome BBQ

We would like to invite ALL families to a Welcome BBQ to meet our Foundation, Year 7 and new families to Murtoa College.

*Wednesday 6th March @ 6pm
Rotunda at Marma Lake*

Come along and meet other new families and College staff.



Swimming Carnival – Wednesday 14th February, 2024

First and foremost, I extend my congratulations to all the students who participated in the Murtoa College swimming carnival. Whether they were in the water competing or cheering from the sidelines, their collective efforts made it a truly fantastic day. Witnessing so many students surpass their own abilities and support their house teams by participating in higher-aged events was nothing short of incredible. The camaraderie between senior and younger students, as they encouraged and cheered each other on, created great moments that captured the essence of the day.

Secondly, a big shout-out goes to the house captains who played a crucial role in organising the events. Their assistance made my job significantly easier, and their dedication did not go unnoticed.

Thirdly, I express my gratitude to the parents who travelled to be there for their children. Although the crowd was small, their unwavering support was wonderful.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge all the staff members who worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of the carnival. Their commitment and teamwork contributed to its success.

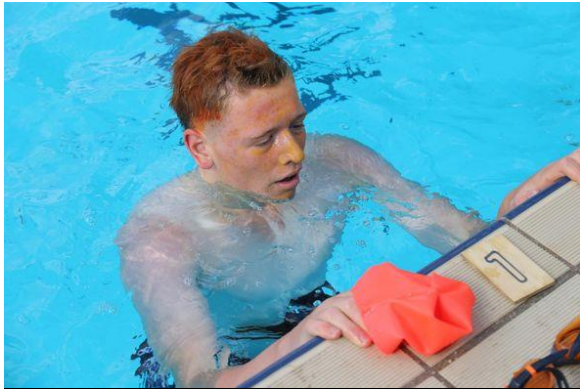
And let's not forget the friendly competition between staff and students in the relay race. The staff emerged victorious, enough said!!





Congratulations to **Meier** house, the proud winners of the trophy!

Here are the total points:
1st Meier: 1672 points
2nd Degenhardt: 1450 points
3rd Waterson: 1160 points



Thank you to everyone who made this event memorable!

Nathan Sachse - Sport Coordinator

Black Ranges Swimming

Congratulations to the nine students who made it to the Black Ranges Swimming Carnival!

Although our performance in the water wasn't successful, it was truly inspiring to witness our students giving their all and competing against the region's finest.

Ryder Hudson deserves a special mention for securing 2nd place in his breaststroke event. However, in other events, we didn't manage to clinch a top-three position.

A big thank you goes out to Fiona Kerrins for her invaluable support and assistance throughout the day.



Swimming Champions

Congratulations to the individual swimming champions.

5/6 Boys – Ethan Maher

5/6 Girls – Pippa Wilson

13 Year Boys – Ryder Smith

13 Year Girls – Maeve Delahunty

14 Year Boys – Ryder Hudson

14 Year Girls – Molly Gawith

15 Year Boys – Hugh Weidemann

15 Year Girls – Zoe Tegelhuter

16 Year Boys – Archie McQueen

16 Year Girls – Lili Wilson

17 Year Boys – Baxter Hendy

17 Year Girls – Mikaela Wright

18 Year Boys – James Finnigan

18 Year Girls – Katya-Ann Williams



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Congratulations to the students for exceeding all expectations and achieving the Bronze Award in the Duke of Edinburgh program. Your dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment have truly paid off. Well done!



Tesselaar Fundraising with Bulbs

Tesselaar Fundraising

Get your hands dirty and see your fundraising dollars bloom!

Murtoa College Agriculture is running a bulb fundraising drive. We are hoping to raise money towards a Hydroponics trolley to grow hydroponic strawberries and other interesting foods.

You will receive a brochure from school shortly.

Orders can be made online before 11/4/20104

www.bulbfundraiser.com.au/MURTOACOL

OFFICE NEWS

School Uniform

School uniform can be purchased from the Office during school hours and the current price list and Uniform policy are displayed on the College website.

We do have supplies of used uniform available at the office and we are very happy to receive any donations of good quality uniform that is no longer needed. Please ensure uniform donations are washed prior to delivering to the school.



Lost property

Please note we still have a lot of jumpers in lost property from last year.

Please call in to the office during school hours to check the lost property box if you are missing any items.

School Magazine 2023

We still have copies of the 2023 School Magazine available for purchase for \$20.

Payment is required prior to pick up. Contact the office if you require any further information.

Bus Passes



Just a reminder if you wish your child to go on a College bus, you must provide a note requesting a bus pass. If your child is already a bus traveller but going on a different bus, you must also supply a note.

Cost for the Horsham bus only is \$5 one way.

Parent Payment Arrangements

Murtoa College is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of *Murtoa College's* voluntary financial contributions for 2024. We make every effort to keep the cost of items and activities to a minimum and affordable for all families.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum requirements and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students. We want to thank you for all your support, this has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer. Within our school this support has allowed us to have a wellbeing focus for our students, including having our beautiful Groodle Rosie in classrooms and reducing the cost of camps, excursions, and school activities.

School Councils can request payments or contributions for educational items and services from parents and guardians for students in Victorian Government schools in three categories-

Curriculum Contributions

Other Contributions

Extra Curricular Items and Activities

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached at the end of this form.

If parents wish to make a voluntary payment of their 2024 fees please review the Contribution schedule (available at the office and on Xuno) and return it to the office with your payment.

Payment Methods

- **Direct Deposit-** Murtoa College

BSB: 063 724

Account: 1002 6892

Please use family name, and payment details in reference field (please contact the office for further details)

- **BPay** – your individual reference number is on your Family Statement
- **EFTPOS/CASH/CHEQUE** – onsite payment or phone transactions available
- **Centrepay** – for eligible families (see below)

Centrepay instalments are available for families who receive Centrelink benefits to assist with Parent Payments/Horsham Bus fees. If your Centrelink online account is linked to MyGov you can sign in now to set up Centrepay deductions or contact Jenny in the Office if you would like further information about Centrepay or an application form.

All payments will be allocated to outstanding Extra- Curricular (OPTIONAL) items and Activities in the first instance. If there are no outstanding Extra – Curricular (OPTIONAL) items and activities on your family account, payments will be allocated towards family Curriculum Contributions, as per the schedule below. If you wish for payments to be allocated differently to this process, please contact the School Office on (03) 5385 2381 PRIOR to making the payment.

Financial Support for Families

Murtoa College understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund** (available to eligible families holding a valid means tested concession care or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. Application forms are available from the Office. Parents who currently receive the CSEF and who remain eligible will automatically have their 2024 application processed by the School).
- **State School's Relief Fund**
- **Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities**

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements or setting up a payment plan please contact our office:

Jenny Huebner, Meredith Delahunty or Sam Chenoweth
Ph: 03 5385 2381 | Email: murtoa.co@education.vic.gov.au

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/PAL/parent-payments-one-page-overview.docx>



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.**

PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY

ONE PAGE OVERVIEW



FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the requirements of the Curriculum. This includes the Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school.



PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:

Curriculum Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.

Other Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

- Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices).

Department
Education



FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

- Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot pay for items or activities so that their child doesn't miss out.
- Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements.



SCHOOL PROCESSES

- Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency.

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION WITH 12 MONTHS FREE INTERNET AT HOME

The Australian Government has established the School Student Broadband Initiative to provide free home internet for one year for up to 30,000 eligible families with school-aged students.

The initiative aims to boost education opportunities. NBN Co is leading the rollout of this initiative across the country.

How the School Student Broadband Initiative can help your child

Children who can access online learning at home as part of their education are more likely to engage in classroom activities.

Access to fast internet at home can also support children to build their digital skills, learn how to safely use the internet and take part in a world that is more reliant on digital technology.

Eligibility

To be eligible, families must:

- * have a child living at home enrolled in an Australian school in 2023
- * not have an active National Broadband Network internet service at their home* (having a mobile internet service does not affect eligibility)
- * live in a premises that can access the National Broadband Network through a standard connection. NBN Co will check this for you after you apply
- * register interest with your school and complete a consent form to be assessed for eligibility.
- * If an address has been disconnected within 14 days prior to an eligibility check – the address will be classified as ineligible. There may be cases where exceptions can be made, please contact the School Student Broadband Initiative team at SSBI@education.vic.gov.au to discuss further.

How the School Student Broadband Initiative works:

If you are eligible, your home internet service will be provided at no cost for one year with a participating internet provider over the National Broadband Network. Each internet provider has its own step-by-step process to get you connected, which may involve you providing identification.

Once you sign up, the internet provider will help you set up your connection. The initiative does not include devices such as a computer or tablet. Other members of your household can use the internet service provided through this initiative.

The one-year period will start from the day your service is activated with your chosen provider. At the end of the one-year period, you will not be placed onto a paid service by your internet provider without your consent. The Australian Government is considering options beyond the one-year free period.

How to apply

- * Ask your school for a copy of the School Student Broadband Initiative consent form.
- * Complete the consent form and return to the school.
- * NBN Co will use student address details on the consent form to confirm eligibility.
- * If you are eligible, NBN Co will issue a voucher for your family to use to sign up with a participating internet provider. This will be provided to you by your school.

Please note: NBN Co will review the home address for eligibility. No personal information other than your main home address will be shared with NBN Co. Please see the consent form for details about how personal information will be used.

Find out more-

For more information about the School Student Broadband Initiative, visit

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au>

BUS CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE 2024

IMPORTANT: For ALL families wishing to access the conveyance allowance for 2024.

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 1st March, 2024.

For families who have already received a conveyance allowance in the past you **WILL NOT** have to re-apply for 2024 as long as your details are exactly the same as last year.

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/>

For more information or to collect an application form please contact the General Office.

School Council Elections

Next week we will commence our School Council election process to fill student, parent and school employee vacancies for the 2024 - 25 Murtoa College School Council.

This process must be completed by 31 March 2024.

Please therefore be on the lookout via a Xuno post later this week wherein we will call for nominations and outline the process by which these very important elections will take place.

Given the decisions of a well-informed and effective school council are vital to the future success of our learning community, I would strongly encourage all community members to consider putting themselves forward to partake in this important - and ultimately very rewarding - work.

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:

- \$150 for primary school students
- \$250 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.





What's On?

SPARK SCHOOL PROGRAM TERM 1, 2024

March 1

VCE Creative Arts -
Workshop Day 2024

FREE Seminars for VCE students Units 1-4
Zart Art, Career Panel, Exhibitions
Inc Lunch

March 13

The Sunshine Club
An Australian Aboriginal WWII Story

Performance suitable Year 7+ students
Cross Curriculum links
\$10 per student

March -
May

Know My Name
Australian Women Artists Exhibition

FREE Gallery Tours & Education
Resources available
All Ages

February
- June

Don't Define Me
Wotjobaluk Female artists Exhibition

FREE Gallery Tours & Education
Resources available
All Ages

Horsham Town Hall and Horsham Regional Art Gallery with funding from Department of Education are thrilled to announce SPARK will continue to deliver Arts Education programs in 2024 and 2025.

Look out for high quality performances, exhibitions and artist workshops available locally for students.

Follow us on socials, email or call the gallery to speak to Cindy or Jacinda
53829575

cindy.francis@hrcc.vic.gov.au jacinda.o'sullivan@hrcc.vic.gov.au



For more info



SPARK would like to acknowledge the five traditional owner groups of this land on which we live and work; the Wotjobaluk, Joadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupogulk people. We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.





*Come and Try &
Registration Night!*

Thursday 18 April 2024

**9 WEEK
PROGRAM!**

Minyip Ground - NEW TIME - 4:30pm

Registrations and Q&A after training with the coaches - BBQ for participants
Each Thursday for 9 weeks following the training program of all other footballers

Any questions call Rebecca 0477 852 552



Need help with Uni or TAFE costs?

Our 2025 Scholarship program will open 2 December 2024.

We're committed to supporting young Australians. Each year we award scholarships to first year tertiary students. You need to be studying at an Australian university, college or TAFE campus for the first time.

Applications for the 2025 Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, Rural Bank, Bendigo Bank TAFE and Indigenous scholarships will open 2 December 2024. Some localised Community Bank scholarship programs are open all year round. Find your [local Community Bank program](#).

-Community Bank Scholarships

-Bendigo Bank Indigenous Scholarship Program

-Bendigo Bank TAFE Scholarship for rural and regional students

-Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Uni Scholarship for rural and regional students

-Rural Bank Agribusiness Scholarship

Have any questions? Please contact us

Call us for more information 1300 304 541



Tuning into Teens™ at headspace

Want to create a closer, more connected
relationship with your teen?

Enquire about our **FREE** Tuning into Teens
program and register your interest TODAY!

P: 53811543

E: info.headspacehorsham@vt.uniting.org

Next program beginning online Wednesday March 13th 6pm-8pm
Registrations close February 19th

Six session parenting
program for parents and
carers of young people.



Uniting



Come and play Volleyball

A COMPETITION FOR EVERYONE

- A grade
- A Reserve grade
- B grade
- C grade
- Women
- Juniors

ENQUIRIES

DAVID 0487824599
www.volleyballhorsham.com.au

ABOUT US

Volleyball is played at St Brigid's College Stadium each Monday and Wednesday night. Juniors, A Reserve and C grades play on Monday with A, B and women's competitions played on Wednesdays.

SUMMER SEASON ENTRIES

Teams or individuals are welcome to enter by visiting the website and submitting an entry. Entries close on February 21, 2024 for the season commencing on February 26 and 28, 2024.