



Excellence Cooperation Respect Courtesy
 Enthusiasm Responsibility
 Commitment
 Friendliness

The Lizard Link

Honesty
Caring

Murtoa College Newsletter

28th March, 2024
No. 4

Principal Dr Bec Carter
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MURTOA COLLEGE IS A CHILD SAFE SCHOOL.

We acknowledge the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jardwadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk peoples as the traditional custodians of the Wimmera lands upon which Murtoa College is situated. We pay our respects to their elders - past, present, and emerging - and acknowledge their deep care of the lands we live on, their ongoing living culture, and the excellent teaching and learning practices they have engaged in for tens of thousands of years, including our present day. We express our gratitude that we share this land today, our sorrow for the costs of that sharing, and our hope and belief that we can move to a place of equity, justice, and partnership together both now and into the future.



Important Dates

Week 8	28 th March	End of Term 1
	29 th March	Good Friday Public Holiday
Week 1 TERM 2	15 th April	Resume Term 2
Week 4	7 th May	Student Free Day (Staff Professional Learning)

Principal - Dr Bec Carter

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

Welcome to the end of Term 1! It has been a wonderful collective effort by all families, students, and staff to successfully complete the first Term of our Centenary Year of Education at Murtoa College. Whilst not without its challenges, all staff and students across F-12 have shown steely determination to complete this term's individual commitments and are now ready to enjoy a well-deserved break.

Education Support (ES) Staff

This week I would like to make a special mention of our wonderful team of Education Support (ES) staff. This year we have expanded our team to include former students (alumni) who are now assisting our staff and students in our library and IT areas, and in Term 2 will draw on the expertise of Education Support staff in our Flexible Learning In-School Program (FLIP) programs. From the commencement of Term 2, these programs will see a number of our Education support staff working with students, families, and teachers in two key areas: (i) FLIP I&E (Intervention & Extension) Tutoring program; and (ii) FLIP-HOL (Hands-On Learning) program. Both programs will be overseen and supported by our Assistant Principal and myself as we together do all we can to provide all our students with every opportunity to grow, be their personal best and experience success.

Parent-Teacher Interviews

It was great to see many of our parents/guardians/carers attending our parent teacher interviews this week. My thanks go to our dedicated teaching staff, and all staff working behind the scenes to ensure this important occasion ran as seamlessly as possible. If for any reason families were not able to catch up with your child/ren's teachers, we encourage you to contact teachers directly to discuss your child/ren's progress at a mutually convenient time in early Term 2.



Staff Update

At the beginning of next term, we will welcome Amber Chambers who is taking up the role of Classroom Teacher for Year 9 English, Year 9 Humanities, VM Literacy and VM Personal Development Skills. Amber is coming to us from Queensland and is bringing a wealth of experience in all of these areas. We will further introduce Amber in our first newsletter in Term 2.

Also joining us for Term 2 and Term 3 is Anthony Taylor who will specifically work two days per week with our FLIP-HOL program. We are indeed fortunate to have Anthony join us as he too brings with him many years of industry and teaching experience in similar programs in our region (see also the Assistant Principal's report).

To further strengthen our FLIP-HOL team, we will also soon be advertising for a second industry (trade) Education Support staff member (non-teacher) to join our FLIP-HOL program (e.g. Automotive, Construction, Boilermaker etc.) in a full-time capacity. If this is of interest to you or you know someone who may be looking for a career change and considering taking a step from Industry into the classroom (no teaching or classroom experience necessary), please contact our Front Office and/or feel free to email me your EOI (Expression of Interest) (bec.carter@education.vic.gov.au). We are also very keen to re-boot our Volunteer program in the College from the commencement of Term 2- please stay tuned!

Work Experience Employer Acknowledgement

This week our Year 10 student cohort is undertaking a week of workplace experience in a variety of industries in our local region. My thanks go to our Year 10 Pathways Teacher (Paige Martin) and our Director of Student Futures & Pathways, Shaun Bray for the huge amount of organisational work they have undertaken, and all employers whose generosity have made our real-world student learning experiences possible.

Term 2 and Winter Uniform

Students will commence Term 2 on Monday 15 April, and conclude Friday 28 June 2023. From the start of Term 2 through to the end of Term 3, all students are expected to wear Winter Uniform and follow our College Uniform Policy. Staff will monitor students wearing the correct uniform as per our College Policy from Day 1 of Term 2 (ongoing). Our uniform policy ([CLICK HERE](#)) - along with our 2023 Uniform Price List for new items ([CLICK HERE](#)) - can be found on our College Website under the tabs for 'Our School' (2023 Uniform Pricelist) and 'Policies, Plans and Reports' (School Uniform Policy) respectively. Qualifying families are reminded that the State Schools Relief Fund is available to assist with the purchasing of new child/ren's school uniform items, and we also support all families across the College by providing free quality Second-Hand Uniform stock. Here we welcome the donation of good quality used uniform items that your child/ren may have outgrown or no longer have use for. This not only assists our families and students across the College, but also importantly ensures we are being environmentally sustainable.

All uniform items are handled through our General Office at the front of the College. At the beginning of Term 2, we will also be launching the work of our Uniform Action Working Party, which will focus on bringing to life the changes advocated by students, staff and family members who were surveyed in 2023. More information will be distributed for interested students, staff, and family members at the beginning of Term 2.

Facilities Upgrade

We are very excited to announce that from the beginning of Term 2 our Year 8-10 FLIP-HOL and all Year 9 students will begin to use the Technology Building precinct as their 'home base'. Indeed, it was this time last year that we announced to our school community that our long-awaited building renovation works would commence in last year's Term 1 school holidays. In saying so, please be aware that our VSBA (Victorian Schools Building Authority) funded works are not yet finished, and the staged process of completing these works will continue for the foreseeable future. In this regard, please be assured we are determined to minimise disruption to both staff and student learning. My sincere thanks here goes to our Manager of Facilities, Grounds and Maintenance (Colin Winch) and our HR/Business Manager (Jenny Huebner) who continue to work tirelessly - and very patiently - behind the scenes to keep our much needed building and facilities improvement works on track.

Nets behind Football Goal Posts and Oval Regeneration

This time last year we also announced to our football loving student cohort that we would be investing in nets behind the football goal posts on the Senior Oval to help make more 'efficient' their lunch time football activities. This week this investment has been realised, with the nets going up yesterday, ready for our students in Term 2. We are also thrilled to see the restoration of our Primary and Secondary ovals, and particularly the green grass flourishing thanks to the combined efforts of a determined local family member who has the magic touch with irrigation pumps, our maintenance manager, and our FLIP-HOL students who have hand shovelled barrows (and barrows) of sand into the innumerable cracks that have appeared in both the primary and secondary ovals over the past year.



On this happy (green) note, on behalf of all ES and Teaching Staff I sincerely wish all F-12 students and their families a most enjoyable, safe and relaxing break.

Thanks so much everyone,

Dr Bec Carter - Principal

Assistant Principal's Report (Chad Frost)

In recent times, the issue of poor student behaviour, violence, and a general lack of respect in schools and within the Victorian community has become a growing concern, gaining much media attention. Addressing this complex challenge requires a collaborative effort involving schools, families, and the wider community. By working together, we can create a safer and more nurturing environment for students to thrive academically and emotionally.

Schools play a pivotal role in shaping students' behaviour and attitudes, but we cannot do this in isolation. Implementing proactive measures rather than reactive responses is essential to fostering a safe learning environment for all students.

We are in the process of implementing School Wide Positive Behaviours (SWPBS) across Murtoa College. The purpose of SWPBS is to help schools improve social, emotional, behavioural, and academic outcomes for students from Foundation to Year 12. SWPBS is a long-term commitment, 3-5 years to fully implement. Alongside the implementation of SWPBS we will develop and implement a behaviour management plan focusing on how we manage challenging behaviours using restorative practices model.

By adopting whole-school approaches that promote positive behaviour and social-emotional learning, schools can create a culture of respect and support that deters violence.

Family involvement is paramount in student behaviour in schools. Parents and caregivers must be engaged as partners in promoting positive practices and reinforcing the values of respect, integrity, inclusion, and community taught at school. Collaborative efforts between schools and families can bridge the gap between home and school environments, creating consistency in behavioural expectations for students.

Beyond the school and family unit, the broader community also plays a crucial role in tackling student engagement and behaviour in schools. By fostering a culture of respect and understanding within the community, schools can benefit from a supportive network that reinforces positive behaviours among students.

Marrung Program

The Marrung program is a significant initiative in Victoria aimed at enhancing Aboriginal education and fostering cultural inclusivity and respect. Murtoa College is committed to supporting the Marrung Vision by celebrating First Nations peoples' culture, providing individualised support for Koorie students, embedding Koorie experiences in curriculum planning, and acknowledging the contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the college environment.

Our Marrung group came together for the first-time last Friday, attending Stawell Secondary College to learn from and with their students. Stawell Secondary students worked with our students to understand their own culture, to learn

indigenous symbols and to create their own stories through art. It was great to see our students engaging with others and developing their network. We will continue to expand our networks to provide opportunities for our young people.

Prior to our arrival at Stawell our students were taken to Bunjils Cave in the Black Range just south of Stawell. It is a significant Aboriginal cultural site with the ancient shelter featuring a unique painting of Bunjil, the creator-being in many Koori cultures, along with two dingoes. It is considered one of the most prominent Aboriginal rock-art sites in the region, with estimates suggesting that the artwork is over a thousand years old.

The day proved to be a fantastic foundation for ongoing work for our students.

Sport and Recreation

To bring VET Sport and Recreation to life, Murtoa College students are engaging in a comprehensive program that offers practical experiences, industry links, and real-world projects. By immersing themselves in these experiences, students can apply their knowledge in practical and real-life situations. Our program has a strong focus on coaching and this year our students will be working with Rupanyup FNC and Minyip-Murtoa FNC to support the implementation of Auskick and Net Set Go. Our students will work together with the support of club coordinators to roll out their session plans and develop their skills as coaches. Our class has also entered a boys netball team for the winter sports program coached by Lili Wilson, Marli Arnold and Isabelle Hemley. The girls are taking the male students through weekly training sessions to condition the team for competition, which is another key learning area of the course. The girls are doing a fantastic job and getting a strong understanding of the challenges faced by coaches.



FLIP-HOL Off-Site Experiential Learning

Industry excursions and volunteering play a crucial role in flexible learning programs by providing students with real-world experiences that enhance their learning outcomes and personal development. These activities offer students the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge in practical settings, gain hands-on experience, develop essential skills like teamwork and communication, explore potential career paths, and build confidence. Industry excursions expose students to different work environments, industries, and professionals, helping them understand the relevance of their studies to the workforce. Volunteering, on the other hand, fosters a sense of community engagement, social responsibility, and empathy while allowing students to contribute positively to society. Overall, these experiences enrich the educational journey of flexible learning students by bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-life applications.

With the support of the Local Learning and Employment Network our students have the opportunity to visit the Tiny Homes Park nestled within the Grampians Edge caravan park. Dale and Katey Exon, the managers of the caravan park and owner/builders of the Tiny Homes took the students on a tour through the vans and took the students through a Q&A about a range of industries, owning and operating their own business and potential opportunities for our young people. Both Dale and Katey were great with our students and made no bones about their expectations of their employees.

From here we met with Lyn from Blaze Aid who discussed with our students the history of Blaze Aid, how it works and let the students through a Q&A. Volunteers cooked lunch for the students, engaged in discussions individually with students before leading them through one of the equipment trailers. The fencing process was discussed with students who will have the opportunity to volunteer alongside Blaze Aid this coming week.

On our journey home we stopped at The Wimmera Kart Racing Club. Our new FLIP teacher, Anthony Taylor, is an avid go kart racer and member of the club and discussed an array of karting nuance, future possibilities for our students in and out of the classroom. Anthony is a mechanic by trade and is an experienced metal and automotive teacher and will provide students with the opportunity to gain valuable industry experiences.



Finance, Operations & Facilities Team

Facilities, Grounds & Maintenance Manager (Colin Winch)

The following works have been (and continue) across the College:

- AgHort Program power and data installation work completed.
- Cleanout and Concrete slab laid to create AgHort teaching and storage space.
- Lawns and grounds work on back and primary ovals.
- Technology wing painting of rooms 5 and Careers/Head start Office area.
- New Bubbler Tap replacements across the College will take place in School Holidays
- Streamlining of Locks across the college.
- Installation of Goal Post Nets on the Senior Oval

Learning & Teaching Executive Team

Director of Learning and Teaching (Students & Staff) – Joel Beggs

Monday March 25 was the last official day of 2024 NAPLAN testing. At the time, some 1,131, 318 NAPLAN tests had been submitted in Victoria, with Murtoa College committing all 223 NAPLAN tests after conducting 41 test sessions to ensure our completion rate of 100%. We sincerely thank all students, families, and our IT staff for assisting us to achieve this excellent result.

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

Year 10/11 Work Experience: All Year 10 and 11 students will undertake 4 days of work experience in the last week of Term 1. We look forward to hearing about their experience when they return in Term 2.

Deakin University visit: Mikala from Deakin University presented to Years 10, 11 and 12 on Wednesday 13th March. She spoke about courses, scholarships, university life and how to apply. Students also had the opportunity to talk to her one-on-one. If any families would like more information on Deakin University, or any tertiary education, they can contact me at school.

F-6 Curriculum Coordinator & Literacy Leader – Grace Coustley

As the end of term approaches, I would like to encourage all families to log onto Xuno and check their child's progress reports that teachers have been writing. This allows families to have an accurate idea of where their child is at, goals to work on and what they have achieved in class.

Use chalk to draw a game of hopscotch	Ideas for Holiday Activities		Go for a bike/scooter ride or a walk.
Design a postcard of Murtoa and include some icons of the town e.g The Stick Shed	Gather twigs, branches, leaves, pebbles and other natural materials that are on the ground to make a piece of art.	Alphabet hunt. Go around and see if you can take a photo/write/draw an item for every letter of the alphabet	Write a book or movie review. Remember to include why you recommend it, a rating and a picture
Write a letter or a story for a family member	Make an obstacle course, this can be done inside or outside. See if you can improve on your own time.	Make a collage Using newspapers, magazines and other papers create a picture of yourself or	Do a job to help to help a family member

		your favourite animal etc.	
<p>Melbourne Zoo Virtual Tour: https://www.zoo.org.au/animals-at-home/#visit_mz</p> <p>go to the link above and watch a tour of the zoo or watch videos to learn about different animals they have. Lastly, you could also watch real time videos of what the animals are up to in their enclosures.</p>	<p>Help to cook your family a meal, or a delicious snack. Make sure to have adult supervision.</p>	<p>https://toytheater.com/</p> <p>Using an iPad or computer go onto website above and discover maths, art, science and more activities</p>	<p>Keep a holiday diary.</p> <p>Write/ draw something that happens each day that you enjoyed doing.</p>

Student Wellbeing, Inclusion & Engagement Team

Director of Student Wellbeing, Inclusion & Engagement – Allyssa Wilson

Last week we recognised Harmony week. A week to recognise diversity and Inclusion. This year the theme ‘Everyone belongs’ brings people together from many different backgrounds. Australia is home to people from more than 200 nationalities, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the world's oldest continuing culture. Harmony week was an opportunity for us to all come together to reflect and celebrate inclusiveness, respect and sense of belonging for everyone.

Students Support Group Meetings - (SSG)

Thank you to all the families who have attended a Student Support Group (SSG) meeting over the past few weeks. Formalising these partnerships between school and home in this student-focused capacity is foundational to us all working together and as we mutually strive to ensure that individual learning needs are achieved for every student who attends Murtoa College.

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

Director of Student Voice, Empowerment & Participation – Tara Crowe

This week it is only fitting that I allow our two new Student Voice, Empowerment and Participation school leaders to introduce themselves to our College Community using their own 'voice'. I am very much looking forward to working closely with both Mikaela and Emily as their Mentor from the beginning of Term 2.



Senior Student Voice Leader: Hello, my name is Mikaela Wright. I'm currently in Year 11 and I am excited to be the 2024 Student Voice, Empowerment and Participation leader. I love my sports such as basketball, water skiing and I am a proud member of the Minyip-Murtoa Burras where I play netball. In the future I hope to go to the Airforce and potentially become a police officer, and know this opportunity to be a leader will help me with my future. In this role I hope to accurately demonstrate the needs and concerns of the student body and aim to create lunchtime sports programs such as basketball or volleyball. I've been at this school for my whole life and I am looking forward to being a part of the community even further. I encourage anyone with ideas and concerns to come and speak to me and I will do what I can.

Junior Student Voice Leader: My name is Emily Lesser and I am the junior Student voice leader for 2024. I am very interested in acting and performing, particularly in musical theatre. I also like art and music. I will be a good representative of the student voice at Murtoa College for the primary school as I am confident, approachable, friendly, responsible and creative. Some of the ideas that I have already collected from the primary students are improving the school uniform, so that it is warmer like getting puffer jackets, and including more creative subjects such as drama, craft and sewing. At the start of term 2 I would like to ask all classes to create a wish list which I can take to the school leadership team and work out the top 3 things to work on.



Director of Transitions and Community Engagement – Nicole Noonan

2024 College Leaders

On Wednesday, March 27th, we introduced our Centenary Year (2024) Student Leaders in a special assembly attended by the entire school community. Congratulations to all students involved. Our staff Leadership Executive Teams eagerly anticipates working with our new student leaders and supporting their leadership journey. This is particularly true when ensuring each 2024 student leader experiences opportunities to represent the College in the broader community and contribute to school improvement decision-making processes alongside our staff College Executive team members, all of whom will act as mentors. We are pleased to welcome the following students to their new positions:

Centenary Year 2024 College Captains:

- Junior School Captain: Ethan Maher (Year 6)
- Whole College Captain: Amelie Faulkner (Year 12)
- Staff Mentors: Dr Bec Carter (Principal) & Chad Frost (Assistant Principal)

Centenary Year STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts & Mathematics) Learning Leader

- Senior: Lily Adler (Year 12)

- Staff Mentors: Dr Cindy Thompson (Director of Responsive Teaching) & Mr Joel Beggs (Director of Learning - Staff & Students)

Centenary Year Student Voice Leaders:

- Junior: Emily Lessor (Year 6)
- Senior: Mikaela Wright (Year 11)
- Staff Mentors: Tara Crowe (Director of Student Voice, Empowerment & Participation) & Allyssa Wilson (Director of Student Wellbeing, Inclusion & Engagement)

Centenary Year Community Engagement Leaders

- Junior: Makayla Arnold and Braxton Maher (Year 6)
- Senior: Jed Warrick and Lily Snowden (Year 12)
- Staff Mentors: Nicole Noonan (Director of Community Engagement), Shaun Bray (Director of Student Futures & Pathways) and Grace Coustley (F-6 Curriculum & Literacy Leader)

Community Invitation

Monthly Assemblies – Celebrating 100 years in Education. 2024 marks the 100th year of education at Murtoa College (1924 – 2024). Early in Term 2, we will invite all community members to commemorate the first two decades of education at Murtoa College (1924- 1944) at our inaugural Whole School Centenary Community assembly.

Anzac Day Commemoration

Finally, we invite our school community to join us for our Anzac Day Commemorations on Wednesday, April 24th, at 9am. The commemoration will take place at the front of the school, near our flag poles. This brief service will allow students to reflect on the values displayed by Australian men and women from diverse cultural backgrounds in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations.

OFFICE NEWS

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 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.

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.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL – 19th MARCH

The Athletics carnival at Dudley Cornell was truly remarkable. Despite the occasional gusty breeze, the weather was nearly perfect. The students' excitement and enthusiasm were noticeable throughout the day.

I was delighted to witness so many students actively participating and giving their best. It's commendable that some students even competed in higher age levels to secure full points for their house.

A massive thank you extends to all the students who participated in the sports event. Witnessing some students embrace the spirit of the day by donning colourful outfits added to the enjoyment. Whether as competitors or non-competitors, their support significantly contributed to the success of the Murtoa College Athletics carnival.

Congratulations to the following students who broke existing records:

Ryder Hudson – 11-14yr. 800m - Beat the previous record by 1 second.

Ethan Maher – 12 yr. shot put – Beat the previous record by 1 metre.

Noah Crawford-foster broke two records:

- 12 yr. 200 metre - Beat the previous record by 3 seconds.
- 12 yr. Vortex (Javelin) - Beat the previous record by 80cm.

We also express our gratitude to the parents who attended to cheer on their students and provide overall encouragement.

A special shout-out to the dedicated staff members who diligently fulfilled their roles, ensuring that students competed at their best. Without your assistance in organising and overseeing the data, track and field events, the day would not have run as smoothly.

A heartfelt thank you to Seed & Sprout for providing parents and staff with a much-needed injection of caffeine, hot chocolate, and delicious muffins. Special recognition goes to Fi and MinK for organising the canteen, and to Mark for skilfully cooking up the BBQ.

As a result of Mr. Sachse's absence from school for the remainder of the term, the announcement of individual champions will be postponed until Week 1 of Term 2. Stay tuned for the exciting reveal!

Now, let's unveil the final results of the Athletics carnival:

Meier: 3,748 points and claimed the top spot. 🏆🎉

Waterson: 3,448 points, securing second place.

Degenhardt: 2,115 points, landing in third position.

Congratulations to all the participants and houses!







Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) Report

Hello and Happy Easter,

This term in OSHC we have been playing all sorts of different games, we have been playing many ball and hand co-ordination games as well as the children's favourite, at the moment, hide and seek jail, this particular game is for the kids to run and hide and then I find them and tag them, they then have to go to the special jail where they stay there until they get tagged by another player to let them free. The game is fast flowing and is a great way for the kids to burn excessive energy, and also a great way to wear me out!! Every morning the Before school kids and myself go down to the chicken coup and collect all the eggs and give the chickens their breakfast, the kids enjoy feeding the chooks although there is one cheeky chook that insists on jumping up and trying to get the food. When school resumes after Easter I would like to be able to get the children involved in outdoor activities such as establishing a mud kitchen, these kitchens are so much fun, and the endless playtime the kids get out of it is fantastic. So, if there is anyone who happens to have an old mud kitchen as such and would like to donate it to OSHC, we would be truly grateful, anything would help, including any old pots and pans, wooden spoons, old chopping boards, we would accept anything. Also, if anyone has any spare gum boots that would fit little kids feet they would like to donate would also be greatly appreciated.

Murtoa College OSHC has vacancies at the moment for Before School Care and After School Care , if you would like any further information please contact the school on 53852381 or myself on 0499 214026, we will answer any questions you may have. Feel free to come and have a look at how the OSHC works, just let us know so we can arrange a meeting.

Well that about it for me and the Oshclings for now, hope you all have a great Easter and safe and happy holidays.

Kind regards

Trina Gardy

OSHC Coordinator

0499214026

trina.gardy@education.vic.gov.au

Exciting Developments in Agriculture at Murtoa College!

In recent weeks, our Agriculture department has been abuzz with activity. Our VCE students had the privilege of hosting insightful sessions led by industry experts. Holly from Australian Wool Innovations (AWI) delved into the dynamic landscape of domestic and export markets, highlighting challenges and the latest innovations in the wool industry. Meanwhile, Sam from Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) shared invaluable insights into the meat industry, discussing its challenges and market dynamics.

Our Primary Ag Science students have been getting hands-on experience with nature's unsung heroes: earthworms. Through close observation and study, they've gained a deeper appreciation for the vital role these creatures play in our ecosystem. Additionally, they've embarked on the exciting journey of setting up worm farms and preparing our school garden plots for winter vegetable crops. Kudos to our FLIP students for lending a hand in constructing more wicking beds, soon to be flourishing with a variety of winter vegetables.



We're thrilled to announce that we've been proactive in seeking funding opportunities to enhance our agricultural initiatives. With several grants in the pipeline, including two Junior Landcare grants, we're poised to implement a compost and permanent worm farm system. Additionally, we're gearing up to acquire a propagator to streamline the process of growing our own veggie seedlings. Furthermore, our Kitchen Gardens Grant application is in progress, aiming to upgrade our primary garden area with wicking beds for easier maintenance and enhanced safety measures against snakes and rabbits.

As our bulb drive draws to a close, we're eagerly anticipating the arrival of orders in April/May. The funds raised will contribute to the acquisition of a hydroponics setup, essential for advanced investigations in our VCE Ag class. Orders must be completed online by April 7th.

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

HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE!





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, Joodwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk 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



In Tim Winton's book 'Dirt Music' he makes reference to 'anything you can play on a verandah, you know, dirt music'. This idea of music made by everyday people during their everyday lives is behind the **Rupanyup Dirt Music Festival** and will give amateur musicians and performers of all kinds, an opportunity to 'strut their stuff' in a caring and nurturing environment, where the emphasis is on having fun making music and listening to it. The Festival aims to promote the ideals of participatory music at all levels and ages of society.

The 12th annual **Rupanyup Dirt Music Festival** will be held on **Sunday 7th April, 2024** in a range of spaces including suburban front verandahs and gardens, the inside of a church, some lovely grassed areas and the town hall. The event is largely acoustic, or un-amplified, with a focus on music that can be played anywhere, any time.

Anyone wishing to attend, perform or wanting to know more about the festival should contact either Lynette Teasdale 0429 855 033, Ash Teasdale 0422 608 570, Carmel Healy 0427 368 243 or email rupdirtmusic@gmail.com

AFTER SCHOOL FUN

After School End of Term Program
For Grades 2 - 6
@ "The Station" Pynsent Street
Wednesday 27th March 4pm - 6pm
Free Family BBQ at 5.30pm

FREE

Games, crafts, stories and more.
Contact Helen Simmons - 0429821171

SU Australia
ChildSafe
Supported by the local churches. A Christian values based event open to all.

Murtoa Early Learning Centre

Opening January 2025

Community Update

Wednesday 17 April 2024
Commencing at 5.00 pm
Murtoa Neighbourhood House

Presented by the Department of Education and Yarriambiack Shire Council.

Come along and discover more about the early childhood education and childcare programs in your area.

New Centre is being built on the Murtoa P-12 College site and will be operated by the Department of Education.

DRAMA UP!

**HOLIDAY
POP UP!**

Drama Workshop

Book now, limited spots

2 - 4 year olds | 9:30am - 10:15am | \$10

5 - 8 year olds | 11am - 12pm | \$15

9 - 12 year olds | 1pm - 2:15pm | \$20

13 - 17 year olds | 2:45pm - 4:15pm | \$25

INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA

Movement & Physical Literacies

Teamwork & Character Development

+ HEAPS MORE = FUN!

Tuesday

9th

April 2024

@ Murtoa

Neighbourhood House

To bring - water bottle

For more information and bookings

WWW.DRAMAUP.COM.AU