



Excellence Cooperation Respect Courtesy
 Enthusiasm Responsibility
 Commitment
 Friendliness

The Lizard Link

Honesty
Caring

Murtoa College Newsletter

19th September
No. 14

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MURTOA COLLEGE IS A CHILD SAFE SCHOOL.

We acknowledge the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jardwadjali and Judpagulk 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 - celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and acknowledge their deep care and ongoing connection to land, water and community. We extend this respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples joining us today.



Important Dates – more on last page!

TERM 3	20th September	End of Term Finish at 2.30pm
TERM 4		
Week 1	7 th October	First Day Term 4
	10 th October	GWR Track and Field
Week 2	14 th & 15 th October	BR Junior Cricket
	18 th October	Year 12 Students Last Day

Whole School Leadership Reports

Principal - Dr Bec Carter

Dear Families, Staff, Students and Community Members,

As we reach the end of Term 3, we recognise and commend the collective efforts, achievements, and positive attitude toward learning demonstrated by our students. Our dedicated staff have continued to support all students by providing a range of additional learning opportunities and programs that help them thrive in their educational journey. We also deeply value the contributions, feedback, and support from our families. By working together as a strong community, we can achieve the very best for our students.

WORKING BEE THIS SUNDAY 9.00AM (22.09.24)

At Murtoa College we love to have families of our students involved in any way we can. Starting **9.00 am this Sunday (September 22nd)** we will reinstate regular opportunities for our families to participate in a range of working bees throughout each school year. This will do much to support our broader efforts to ensure we are providing our students with high quality grounds. The majority of our working bee activities are of a non-skilled nature which means everyone is able - and encouraged - to help out. If you are interested in helping out you will be warmly welcomed! This Sunday our focus will be on tidying up our grounds, so a **good pair of gardening gloves, a broad brimmed hat, water supply, big smile and a can-do attitude** is all you need to bring!

IMPORTANT – SCHOOL SAVING BONUS (\$400) FOR VICTORIAN FAMILIES

The Victorian Government recently announced a once-off \$400 School Saving Bonus per current Foundation - Year 11 students, and new Foundation and Year 7 (plus other year levels) in 2025. Its purpose is to help families with the cost-of-living pressures for all Victorian families. It will be provided to schools and families in Term 4 2024.



Families do not need to apply for the School Savings Bonus. Rather, the school that a student is enrolled at for the 2025 school year will receive the School Saving Bonus. This includes Prep enrolments for 2025 and students transferring between government schools (future students). Students completing Year 12 in 2024 will not receive the bonus.

The Bonus is designed to be used to help families meet 2025 school costs, including:

- Excursions, incursions and camps
- Sporting and swimming programs
- Outdoor education programs
- School uniforms
- Textbooks

The Department of Education will email families in 2024 with information on how to access the \$400 School Saving Bonus in November 2024. Families can decide how to allocate the \$400 bonus based on your family's needs via the online system. The bonus can be split between approved uniform and textbook suppliers, used through State Schools Relief, or transferred to your School account. Any amount you choose to allocate to school uniforms or bookshops will be valid until 30 June 2025. It will then transfer to your child's school account for future activities.

What to do now? To ensure your family receives the School Savings Bonus email, it is vital that you **check your contact details are up to date at Murtoa College no later than Friday October 11 2024 (end of Week 1 of Term 4)**. Parents/Carers/Guardians of students starting at a new school, or Year 7 or Foundation in 2025 must also make sure their contact details are accurately recorded by our office no later than Friday October 11 2024.

If you believe your contact details (email) require updating, please contact our friendly team at the front office **(03) 5385 2381** or send an email to murtoa.co@education.vic.gov.au (use the **Subject line: Please Update Contact Details**) to advise us to update your email contact details.

Families can read more about the School Savings Bonus here: [**School Saving Bonus Parent and Carer information sheet.**](#)

STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

The recent statewide release of Student Attitude to Schools data (ATOSS) has given schools across the state a very real sense of encouragement and affirmation of the quality of work being done in Victorian schools. Significant improvements in all stages of schooling compared to 2023 were reported, with the largest improvements for health and wellbeing factors, many of which were the most positive results since health and wellbeing questions were added to this Student survey in 2021. There were improvements across all year level groups for emotional awareness and regulation, peer relationships, and help seeking. This reflects and is a real tribute to the focus we have had on ensuring our students are aware of how and where to seek help when needed, our whole school focus on behaviour and regulation and our determination to support every student in their efforts to build respectful relationships.

VICTORIAN CURRICULUM UPDATE 2.0 (F-10)

The new Victorian Curriculum 2.0 was launched in late Term 2, and staff at Murtoa College are currently in the process of familiarisation. This updated curriculum is designed to equip students with the tools they need to thrive in an ever-evolving world marked by rapid technological advancements. Benefits for students include:

- Gaining access to essential knowledge and skills needed to become successful lifelong learners.
- Smoother transitions in learning from the early years through to primary school.
- Acquiring the necessary knowledge and skills to pursue their chosen senior secondary pathways.
- A more streamlined curriculum that enhances the quality of teaching and learning provisions.

VICTORIAN TEACHING & LEARNING MODEL 2.0 (VTLM 2.0)

Next term, all teaching staff at Murtoa College will turn their attention to implementing the revised Victorian Teaching and Learning Model (VTLM 2.0) from the beginning of 2025 and, for those with students in the early years, the revised Victorian position on teaching reading (more information [HERE](#))

Designed to help teachers reflect upon and improve their teaching practice to ensure their craft positively impacts student learning and wellbeing outcomes, the new VTLM 2.0 will see all Murtoa College classroom teachers across all year levels crafting their lesson plans using four (4) Elements of Learning and four (4) elements of Teaching (see below).

Four (4) Elements of Learning	Four(4) Elements of Teaching
1. Attention, Focus and Regulation 2. Knowledge and Memory 3. Retention and Recall 4. Mastery and Application	1. Planning 2. Enabling Learning 3. Explicit Teaching 4. Supported Application



In this sense, the introduction of the new VTLM 2.0 will support our teachers to design engaging and challenging learning experiences for every child, and therefore further lift the levels of positive learning growth that we are committed to supporting every individual student to achieve (more information [HERE](#)).

On behalf of all staff at the College, we wish every student and their family a happy, safe and restful break, and look forward to our students' return on the first day of Term 4 classes on Monday 7 October 2024. *Please be reminded that onsite teacher supervision for students commences at 8.30am.*

Assistant Principal – Chad Frost

Assistant Principal – Chad Frost

SCHOOLTV IN TERM 4

SchoolTV is an innovative platform designed to support the wellbeing of students by providing schools and parents with valuable resources. As the challenges of parenting and education evolve, SchoolTV aims to foster a collaborative environment where schools and families can work together to promote the mental and emotional health of children.

SchoolTV offers a diverse range of wellbeing resources tailored for parents. These resources are intended to help parents navigate the complexities of raising resilient children in today's world. The platform emphasises the importance of partnership between schools and families, ensuring that both parties are equipped with the tools and knowledge necessary for supporting student wellbeing.

One of the key features of SchoolTV is its commitment to providing ongoing support. The platform releases new monthly editions from February to November each year, covering various topics relevant to student wellbeing. Additionally, all past topics are archived, allowing schools and their communities to access them year-round. This continuous availability ensures that parents can always find relevant information and guidance whenever they need it.

SchoolTV is a vital resource for schools and parents aiming to enhance the wellbeing of students. By providing accessible, high-quality information and fostering collaboration, SchoolTV plays a crucial role in helping families raise happy, healthy, and resilient children. As the landscape of education continues to change, platforms like SchoolTV are essential in supporting the community's efforts to prioritise student wellbeing.

FRIDAY LAST DAY OF TERM

On the last day of term all students from Foundation – Year 12 will participate in a range of activities focused on improving student connectedness. The idea came about from a Student Voice meeting held last week, where students identified that they would like to do more as a whole school. The event will be a fun way to finish off the term while building student connectedness.

YEAR 7 TRANSITION

Thursday 19.09.2024 we are hosting our first transition event for our 2025 Year 7 class. Students will be attending their first full day of Secondary College, participating in PE, cooking and Digital Technology. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities to familiarise themselves with each other and the school environment.

SPORT AND RECREATION

Students in Sport and Recreation are currently investigating and improving their knowledge of the sport and recreation industry. Teaming up with our Unit 2 PE students, we ventured into Horsham to gain a first-hand understanding of recreation and fitness related businesses and access in our region. We started with a gym session at Snap Fitness, where students were put through their paces, focusing on with er legs or upper body strength. Our guide, Jackie, worked with the students to develop their understanding of how gyms operate before introducing them to a broad range of fitness equipment.

We then ventured to Weir Park to investigate the recreational facilities and walking tracks developed by the local council to promote an active lifestyle. We went for a brief walk before heading to the YMCA for a group cross fit session. Our leader, Casey, didn't hold back and put our students through their paces.

It was a great opportunity to have a snapshot of what is available within our broader community.

Our Sport and Rec students will continue to work with students from our feeder schools, leading them through a range of recreational and sport related activities. Students have regularly worked with the students of Our Lady Help of Christians and will head to Minyip Primary School on the first Wednesday of Term 4.



HATS IN TERM 4

A friendly reminder for parents and students that school hats are compulsory in the yard in Term 4. If you cannot find your hat from Term 1 new hats can be purchased from our administration office.

ADELAIDE REPORTS

Year 8 Adelaide Camp 2024

Written by Molly

Mr Sachse organised the 2024-year 8 Adelaide camp. The point of the camp was for all the students to socialise and make our friendships stronger. There were five teachers that came along to the camp, the five teachers being Mr. Sachse, Mr. Frost, Mr. McClure, Vincent, and Mrs. Baker. We stayed at the Big 4 Caravan Park in West Beach. It took around six hours to get there but we did take regular breaks in between. There were two buses from our school that went and one bus from Edenhope, but our buses were based more on friendship groups and the people we spend time together with.

The first thing we did on the first day was we went to the Monarto Zoo which is the largest zoo in the Southern Hemisphere. We got split into two groups and one group went on a tour around the zoo and the other group got to have some food and go for walks around. We then swapped so the other group could go on the tour and the other group could go for walks and have food. We got to see a bunch of cool animals like Bisons, Giraffes, Zebras, Lions, and way more. There were also wild Emus and Kangaroos that were just roaming around.

After that we then went back to the caravan park to organise all the cabins. We all got our room keys and our bathroom cards as we got all our things out of the trailers. In my cabin there was Clare, Amba and myself. After we got everything organised, we just got to have some free time around the park. There was a park that we could go to, there were also jumping pillows, basketball hoop and a lot of grass where you could kick the footy or play with the vortexes. We then got some pizza for dinner.

That night we then got to go to the escape rooms. There were five different rooms that we could go to. We were split into five groups, and we all got to do two rooms each. The types of rooms were A Deadly Dinner, Picture Imperfect, Wild West, Jubilee heist and one about a science lab. My group did the Deadly Dinner one and Picture Imperfect. You were only given an hour to try an escape, my group was so close to escaping the Deadly Dinner, but we just ran out of time, but we did escape the Picture Imperfect one with only five minutes left.

The next day the first thing we did was we went to the Battle of Waterloo Gel Blaster Skirmish. We all got to choose a gun to use, we got given a bunch of little white gel balls. We then got put into two teams red and blue and did around five different game modes. You got a team base where you could keep bottles of gel balls, you could not get hit from inside your base. If you got shot, you had to put your arm up so people could see you were out then you would just have to go back to your base and kick a metal barrel. To end it we did a teachers verse students. Students only got one life, and teachers got three lives each.

After that we went back to the caravan park to freshen up so we could go shopping at the Marion shopping center. We all got given \$20 from the teachers so that we could get some food. We then just got to go walking around the shopping center with our friends. In my group there was Clare, Amba, Mathilde and myself. We got to bring our own money so that we could buy things that we liked. We were shopping there for around three hours before going back to the camp to have fish and chips for dinner.

After that we got to go to a place called Lukoumades. At that place we got given a giant platter of delicious dessert. There were tubs of white chocolate, milk chocolate, dark chocolate, and peanut butter that we could dip the treats in. After that we then went to an ice-skating rink. There were two rinks, one for beginners and one for people who have experience, you could go in either one. You were also provided with frames and little penguin things to help you get used to the ice. The ice was extremely slippery, so we all kept slipping. Some people got the hang of it quickly and others not so much, but it was genuine fun.

That next morning, we got to do the activities that we chose a couple of months before camp. Some people chose to go kayaking with dolphins in a river and others chose the Mega Adventure high ropes course. The people that went kayaking with dolphins went to a river in Port Adelaide Harbour. My friends and I chose the Mega Adventure. There were three different height levels and all of them had so many different obstacles to go on. There was also a giant three person swing that you and our friends could go on all together. The park workers had a remote that would take you higher and higher and then the person sitting in the middle of the swing got to pull a rope to make the swing drop.

After that we all then went to The Beach House. The Beach House had an arcade, water slides and bumper cars. We all got given a card each that had unlimited credits so we could do whatever we wanted to do. The cards paid for all the arcade games, bumper cars, and the waterslides. There were a lot of different arcade games to play and there were three diverse types of water slides. After we finished there, we got to go for a small walk around one of the main tourist areas. We got to go down to the beach and we also got to go look in shops.

That night we went to the Watermark Restaurant which is an all you can eat buffet. There were so many different things to choose from and you could get as much as you want. You also got to help yourselves to drinks from a drink dispenser and there was also an ice cream dispenser so you could have ice creams with multiple different toppings to choose from. You could go for more after you finished the first plate. There was also a games room where you could play claw machine games and you could win plushies, chocolate, lollies and more.

After we all had dinner, we went to the cinema to watch the movie called Trap. The movie was about a father and daughter went to a concert not knowing that they whole concert was a trap to catch a serial killer. The movie went for about an hour and forty-five minutes. The movie was interesting, and it kept you watching with all the events that were happening. I feel like they could've out more at the end of the movie because the end cut off at an interesting part of the movie.

With the Edenhope kids coming I feel like it was a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and make more friends. It was good to meet them because they were nice, and we all made friends with some of them. It made us socialize more and talk more because we had to do activities with them, which was good to get to know them. I made some more friends and got to know more people, which was an enjoyable experience, and I would love to see them again.

A couple of things I learnt about myself were that I do not get as scared as I thought I would be of some things. Things like the high ropes course and just being that far away from home. It was good to have some time away from school and to just have fun with my friends. It was an amazing experience to go on and I would go there again. It helped build more friendships and made make some friendships stronger. Even on the bus rides it was good to talk to people and when we had music it was good to sing with your friends. I loved being able to have an enjoyable time with my friends when we aren't at school because we could just do whatever we wanted to do, and we were all together.

Year 8 Adelaide Camp 2024

Written by Cathy Hovey

The Year 8 Adelaide trip was organised by Mr Sachse. Camps are important as it allows students to step out of their comfort zones, and socialise with each other. The Year 8's from Murtoa Secondary College and Edenhope Secondary College went on the camp. The teachers that went from Murtoa were Mr Sachse, Mrs Baker, Vincent, and Mr Frost. Mr McClure / Polar was the only teacher that went from Edenhope. We stayed at the Big 4 West Beach Caravan Park. It takes 6 hours to drive from Murtoa to Adelaide, however we took longer as we made regular stops. The buses were organised by friend groups.

Our first activity was the Monarto Zoo. We stopped there on the way to the Big 4 West Beach Caravan Park, and spent 3 hours there. All the year 8's was split into 2 groups, and one group went on a safari tour, whilst the other group walked around the zoo and waited. I was in the group that waited. We went on the swings, and then looked at the chimpanzee enclosure. There was one chimpanzee that was aggressive, and hit another chimpanzee. After the other group finished the tour, the group I was in went on the tour. We started at the passive animals, then went to the more hostile animals.

Next, we arrived at where we were staying, the Big 4 West Beach Caravan Park. We were right next to the beach, and some of us walked over to the beach later in the camp. The camp had many rooms, each with 3-4 people in them. We set our beds up, and then met up in the middle seating area to eat dinner. We had pizza for dinner, and then got ready for the next activity.

The next activity was the escape rooms. There were 5 escapes rooms, so we split into 5 groups. Each group got to do 2 escape rooms. The group I was in did Deadly Dinner, and Picture Imperfect. In Deadly Dinner, we had to figure out who was murdered, and who the murderer was at a dinner party. We were close to finishing, but just ran out of time. Then we did Picture Imperfect. In this one, our sister had been kidnapped by a photographer. We had to find out where she was, and get the emergency services to save her to escape. We finished with 2 minutes left.

After getting 6 hours of sleep, we went to the next activity, called The Battle for Waterloo Gel Blaster Skirmish. It was a massive arena were we all chose a gel blaster, put on eye protection and got to shoot each other. There were 2 teams, Red and Blue (I was in Red), and different game-modes. The first game we played, we got to respawn, and simply had to "kill" the other team players. The we played a game-mode where we had to keep our teams flag up on 5 poles, whilst the other team tried to keep theirs up. We then played a game-mode where we couldn't go back to base to respawn, and had to have our teammates heal each-other. The final game we played was students vs teachers, were no-one could respawn.

After getting back to the camp, and freshening up, we went to the Marion Shopping Centre. We had 3 hours to have lunch, and buy whatever we wanted (within legal reason). Mr Sachse gave us \$20 each, but I brought extra. We got to

choose our groups. I went with Callum, but we ended up walking around with Clare, Amba, Mathilda, and Molly. Callum and I had KFC for lunch, and then walked around and spent money on other stores.

We had fish and chips for tea that night, and then went ice skating. When we got there, we were given ice skates, and waddled over to the rink. There were things that beginners could use to help keep balance. I started off slow, and fell over, but got better by the end of the session. I fell over once, at the start. It was very difficult to get back up, as the ice was very slippery.

The next day, we were split into 2 groups which we chose prior to camp. One group went canoeing with dolphins, and the other group (the one I was in) went to a high ropes course called Mega Adventure. It was a big course, and almost looked surreal because of its design. There were 4 levels, each one with different ways and paths to get across. I did not like most of the course, as it was wobbly and I felt like I was going to fall. I skipped most of it and climbed up to the very top. At the top you could see the beach, ocean and the city. To get down, there was a jump you could do that slows down your fall. I didn't do it, because it looked sketchy. Next to the high ropes course was a giant swing. Libby and Chloe talked me into doing it with them, and it was scary. The first time, we didn't go all the way to the top, instead we went about halfway. Chloe counted down from 3, struggled for about 10 seconds, and then pulled the release cord. We got flung backwards, then quickly flung forwards. Once we stopped swinging, the staff said that we were going to do it again, but instead go the top. Libby and I were trying to convince the staff to lower us, but Chloe pulled it anyway. It was even scarier, because it was way higher and I didn't expect it.

In the afternoon, we went to a place called the Beach House. It had an arcade, bumper cars, bumper boats, and waterslides. I didn't do any of the water activities, because I can't swim. We had 2 hours there, where we could go on any of the arcade games, and no-one else was there. My favourites were the bumper cars and the air hockey. After the Beach House, we had 20 minutes to walk around Glenelg beach.

That night for tea, we went to an all you can eat buffet called Watermark Restaurant. We were given a cup, which was all you can drink. Then we got a plate and chose our food. First, I got prawn chips, Asian noodles, and dim sims. Secondly, I got fish and chips. Then I got dessert. I ate a lot.

The last activity that we did, was watching a movie. The movie was called 'Trap'. It was a psychological thriller, about a serial killer, who was going to a concert with his daughter. The serial killer, called Cooper and nicknamed 'The Butcher', didn't realise that the government knew he was there. They knew he was there, but didn't know who he was. Once he realised that the government was after him, he quickly came up with ideas and ways to escape. He tricked everyone, and managed to escape by telling the performer, 'Lady Raven' that he would kill his victim if she didn't help him escape. He got back to his house, but couldn't get Lady Raven to leave. She managed to get the government to know his whereabouts and they came arrest him, except he escaped through Lady Raven's limo. He went back to his house, tried to kill his wife, but then saw his mother, his first victim and tried walking over to her. The FBI arrested him, and the movie ended with him picking the lock on his handcuffs in the back of the SWAT vehicle, setting up for a sequel.

The Edenhope Year 8' came along with us for the camp. It made the camp more affordable, and meant we got to meet new people.

Year 8 Adelaide Camp 2024

Written By Chloe Richards

The teacher that had organised the trip was the Edenhope principal, Mr. McClure and Mr. Sachse. Some of the other teachers from Murtoa College were Mrs. Baker, Mr. Frost and Vincent. Most of the year 8 Murtoa class went on the camp, same with Edenhope. On the trip, we had assigned buses. There were three, the Edenhope bus and the large and small Murtoa buses. We had regular stops, so the trip lasted for around six hours. Some of the places we stopped at were parks and gas stations.

While we were still on the buses, we went to our first activity, the Monarto Zoo. It was so good! We saw giraffes, rhinos, zebras, ostriches, hyenas and even red deer. Some of the animals had to be kept in private enclosures, due to other animals taking care of their offspring and the fact that they can't come up close to the buses. The ride lasted for about an hour and a half. Then we were finally on our way to the West Beach Caravan Park.

We arrived at this large parking site at first, until we drove a bit more into the Big 4 Caravan Park and found our cabins. It had a beach-y vibe to it, with an enclosed eating area right outside of each dorm. We got a key to our rooms and a key to be able to access the bathrooms. The bathrooms were a separate area, the part of our building had a led-out verandah that pointed in the direction of where the bathrooms were located. Right in front of our building was a playground, behind all the parked caravans and cars. It was probably like a five-minute walk there and back.

After we got settled in, we headed off to the escape rooms. The company that designed these rooms was 'Excplex'. Each group got put into one of the five rooms that each had a unique style to them. There was Jubilee Heist, Wild West, Deadly Dinner, Science Lab and Imperfect Picture. The groups were already made before we arrived, so all we had to do was wait to get called into a room. The two ones that my group got put into were the Science Room and the Wild West. Afterwards, we headed back to our cabins and went to bed.

We woke up early in the morning to go the Battle for Waterloo Gel Blaster Skirmish. Everybody got gel blasters at a small counter inside and went through some of the rules. We soon headed out to the field. There were two teams, red and blue, each having their own bases on either side of the field. We played a lot of games, one of them being students vs teachers. Of course, the teachers won. We finished up and went all the way back to camp to get cleaned up.

Next stop, Marion Shopping Centre. We had around three hours of wandering around in groups, buying lunch and buying things with our own money if you had any. I bought a vinyl POP of Darth Maul for Star Wars for my dad, some clothes from Jay Jays and just a few little things. We all had to meet up within that three-hour time slot to go to the next activity.

Camp is where we had our dinner that night, and pizza was on the menu. There were about five pizzas for everyone to dig into. I just had pepperoni. Not long after, the bus took us down to the Ice-Skating rink. There were two rinks, one for the beginners and one for the more advanced skaters. I had some experience with skating, but not on ice. All of us were there for around two hours just skating. We all got called out of the rink. It was bound to happen at some time, then headed back on the bus to go to the cabins to sleep.

Next morning, got up and got ready to head down the road to the Mega Climbing Adventure. There were multiple levels to climb up to, as you could see from afar. But before we could go climbing, we had to watch a quick video to explain how to be safe when going from one activity to another. Another safety thing we had to learn was how to use our clips. The clips were a part of the harness that helped us be safe and attached to the wire. After all of that, we finally got to go off and go through some of the activities! Once we got to the top, you could choose if you wanted to go to the peak, which was a little deck you had to climb using a rope. A maximum of two people were allowed to go at the same time, Cathy and I went up together since we were the first two people to make it up there. The view up there was awesome! We eventually came down, and some people went on the giant swing, including me, and it was great. It was time to go back to camp and have salad rolls for lunch.

Everybody went to the 'Beach House', located not that far from the shore. We had access to everything, considering that we had this massive place to ourselves. The access that we had were bumper cars, arcade games and waterslides. I didn't go on the waterslides, mainly because I didn't want to get my hair wet and must wash it. On the bright side, I got to play some arcade games with Cathy. We played air hockey, car games, and even games that tested our strength. After our time was up at the Beach House, we got to wander around the area for around twenty minutes, so Sophia, Libby, Cathy, and I went down to the beach. We got splashed by the wave's multiple times all the way to my thighs! So did other people. We did meet other groups that came down as well. Not long after, we went back to camp and had some free time.

For dinner, we went to the 'Watermark Restaurant'. This restaurant was an 'all-you-could-eat' buffet. I got little bits and pieces such as dim-sims, fried rice, nuggets and more on my plate. There was a whole lot of chatter, considering that it was busy and popular. After we all ate up, we headed down to the movie theatre.

We had tickets to go and see the movie 'Trap' [M]. Spoilers, the dad was the murderer all along. He was trying to get out of the concert that he had brought his daughter to. In my opinion, it was a good movie! I think that everyone there enjoyed it as well. Then we headed back to camp to get ready for bed.

Then the next morning we got up and left the site to go home. Edenhope, I personally had no troubles with and rarely communicated with them during the trip. But each time I got to speak with them, they were nice! I think they enjoyed the trip.

One thing I have learnt while on this trip to Adelaide is to try and communicate with people you barely hang out with, form new friendships, big or small. It's good to talk with others to get to know them better. It also gives you an opportunity to expand your social interactions, learning new ways to start conversations and make them last for a while. Overall, I really liked the trip and experience. Hope I can go back there one day.

Learning and Teaching Executive Team

Director of Responsive Teaching – Dr Cindy Thompson

AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION

At the beginning of August a number of students from Grade 3 to Year 10 challenged themselves by participating in the Australian Mathematics Competition. This competition is Australia's longest running, largest and most well-known maths competition for school students. It contains unique problems designed each year by leading educators and academics to challenge and extend student problem-solving skills. Although certificates are yet to arrive, we have received the results of this competition and would like to acknowledge and congratulate those students who elected to take on this challenge.

Participation:

Grade 4: Charlie Agnew

Grade 5: Billie Coote, Pippa Wilson

Grade 6: Indyanha Mitchell

Grade 7: Kayne Sartori-Billman

Grade 8: William Foster, Michael Franklin, Molly Gawith, Libby Griffiths, James Hemley, Amba Zolj

Grade 9: Hayley Parsons, Shanyka Penny-Roberts

Proficiency:

Grade 3: Jaxson Crittenden

Grade 4: Caleb Doyle, Spencer McDonald, Alira Sherratt

Grade 6: Noah Foster

Year 7: Maeve Delahunty, Bentley Pendlebury

Year 8: Sophia Butler, Chloe Richards

Year 9: Marli Arnold, Lillian Hovey

Year 10: Matthes Gardy

Credit:

Year 7: Celia McGrath, Lyra Reardon

Year 8: Navraj Dhillon, Alejandra Plasencia Camargo

Distinction:

Year 7: Lenny McQueen

Year 8: Lewis Gellatly

Year 9: Hugh Weidemann

Junior Science Olympiad Training Squad

Congratulations to Year 8 students Alejandra Plasencia Camargo and Cathy Hovey who have received invitations to join the Junior Science Olympiad Training Squad. The Training Squad is an acceleration program for students under 16 years of age in regional and remote schools, and lower-income city schools. Alejandra and Cathy were identified as potential participants based on their performance in the Big Science Competition earlier this year.

As part of the JSO Training Squad, Alejandra and Cathy will participate in an online extracurricular learning program that includes:

- a series of masterclasses on key areas of science, delivered via Zoom
- talks from guest speakers (working scientists and academics)
- simulated practical activities from the Pivot Interactives platform
- curated lessons provided on the Stile Education platform, covering Year 7-10 with some extension
- individual support and feedback from Junior Science Olympiad staff.

This is an exciting opportunity for Alejandra and Cathy and we wish them the best of luck!

Agricultural Science News – Tara Crowe

VCE AGRICULTURE UPDATE

Our VCE Agriculture students are making critical decisions for our school's competition trial with AgXtra. Given the ongoing dry conditions and the paddocks previous crop of lentils, they've opted for a lighter application of urea at growth stage 32, using 75 kg/ha. If the dry weather persists over the next week, they plan to apply another light dose at growth stage 39. We'll be visiting the trial crop site on October 8th for a field day, and it will be exciting to see the growth since our last visit and compare it to other plots.

Currently, our students are delving into animal production, exploring the challenges and issues that various enterprises face.

PRIMARY AGRICULTURE UPDATE

Our primary students are actively learning about poultry and egg production. Both the Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 students enjoyed designing and building chicken enclosures in Minecraft, incorporating fun and safety features for their virtual chickens.

Continuing this theme, they visited the woodwork room to construct their own chicken houses. Their hammering and nailing skills have improved, with only a few minor mishaps along the way! This week, they will paint their creations in preparation for display at the Murtoa Big Weekend.



The Year 3/4s had a fantastic time cooking and tasting mushrooms on toast after harvesting their very own mushrooms that they have been growing in the classroom.

Additionally, the Year 5/6 students have been divided into teams, taking turns managing various school enterprises. Responsibilities include feeding the chickens, watering mushrooms, tending to earthworms, and caring for the plants in the hothouse. It's a hands-on learning experience that promotes teamwork and responsibility.



'Are You Okay?' Day was held on Thursday, 12th September. This was a day in which staff discussed with students the importance of checking in on friends and asking the question "Are you ok?" Staff also discussed that it was ok to NOT be ok and what we all could do, to support our friends who may be struggling.

“A CONVERSATION CAN CHANGE A LIFE”

R U OK? inspires and empowers everyone to meaningfully connect with the people around them and start a conversation with those in their world who may be struggling with life. You don't need to be an expert to reach out - just a good friend and a great listener. Use these four steps and have a conversation that could change a life:

Ask R U OK?

Listen

Encourage action

Check in

The infographic is a vertical yellow rectangle with a black header and footer. The header contains the 'Ask RU OK? ANY DAY' logo and the title 'The 4 steps of an R U OK? conversation'. The main body is divided into four horizontal sections, each with a large number, an illustration of two white, egg-shaped characters, and a text box. Step 1: '1' followed by two characters, one with a question mark above its head. Text box: 'Ask R U OK? How are you travelling?'. Step 2: '2' followed by two characters, one with its hand to its ear. Text box: 'Listen I'm here to listen if you want to talk more.'. Step 3: '3' followed by two characters, one pointing towards the other. Text box: 'Encourage action Have you spoken to your doctor about this?'. Step 4: '4' followed by two characters, one holding a bowl. Text box: 'Check in Just wanted to check in and see how you're doing?'. The footer contains the text 'Learn more at ruok.org.au'.

Director of Student Voice, Empowerment and Participation – Tara Crowe

EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS IN STUDENT VOICE

Last week, we held our inaugural Student Voice meeting, marking a significant step forward in ensuring our students' voices are heard. Approximately 20 students gathered during period 4 to share their thoughts and concerns, sparking an engaging discussion.

Several key issues were raised, including a desire for more opportunities to interact with primary school students, the reinstatement of regular assemblies, and updates on the proposed volleyball court. VCE students expressed the need for a quiet study space and the possibility of visiting the café in town during breaks. Additionally, many students expressed interest in school concerts or carols at the end of the year.

In response, Mikaela, our Student Voice leader, presented a proposal to the School Council addressing the need for improved study conditions on Wednesdays for VCE students and a request that Year 12 students in particular are allowed to leave school in their breaks to visit the local café. The Principal responded by discussing with the School Council the potential of creating a dedicated quiet study space for VCE students in 2025 in the front Administration building. This suggestion was fully supported by the School Council, particularly given the proposed dedicated space will be of particular value to our VCE students undertaking Virtual Learning subjects.

With regard to the prospect of Year 12 students going off site during the school day, discussions continue with the Principal about potentially allowing Year 12 students to visit the town café, contingent on a student's academic performance and the need for this arrangement to fulfil the Department of Education 'Supervision of Students' policy which states: *For students who seek to leave school premises during lunch or recess, procedures must be in place that incorporate: (1) written parent/carer requests for students under 18; (2) short- and long-term lunch passes.* (<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/supervision-students/policy>).

To further enhance student engagement, Mikaela, along with the Sports and Recreation students, has organized an activity afternoon for the last day of Term. This event will feature a variety of fun activities in mixed-year-level teams, fostering camaraderie across grades.

Looking ahead, we plan to hold Student Voice meetings every three weeks to keep the dialogue open and ongoing. We encourage all students to participate and share their ideas as we work together to make our school community even better.

Director of Transitions & Community Engagement – Nicole Noonan

LAKE COLOUR RUN 2024 – SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER, 2024 (MURTOA'S BIG WEEKEND)

- **Lake Marma Circuit,
Lake Street, Murtoa**
- **9.30am for 10.00am start**
- **Gold Coin Donation**

Proudly organised by Murtoa College, join in for a few circuits of Lake Marma to get loaded with colour! Come at 9.30am for a quick brekky and start the run (or walk!) at 10am. Four colour stations will be set up to explode colour on participants... Come and join in the fun!



Finance, Operations and Facilities Team

Digital Platforms & Services Manager – Vincent Liao

As we conclude the final class for Term 3, our CRT III Information Technology students have been hands-on with Raspberry Pi kits, diving into coding with Python. The kits, equipped with a Sense HAT, offer exciting features like an 8x8 RGB LED display, as well as humidity, pressure, and temperature sensors.

Students had a blast programming scrolling text and sensor data displays, making for a fun and engaging way to end the term.

What a fantastic way to close out Term 3!



Foundation – Grade 1 – Drawings on Display at Bell's Butcher Shop!

Phil our local Murtoa Butcher has drawings on display in his shop- drop in and have a look!



Library News – Jenny Reading

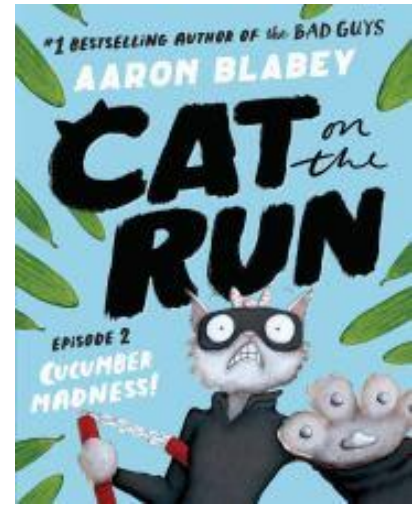
Scholastic Book Club:



Issue 5 orders have finally been distributed. I get to do 3 postage free orders per issue, so I delay sending off orders until I have received several. Usual turn around for orders is 7 - 10 days, but this time there was a higher-than-normal volume of orders, so they took longer than usual to arrive. Consider this when putting in an order, especially if it is for a gift. Then if you let me know via Xuno I may be able to accommodate this.

Issue 6: Last postage-free order was sent off on **Monday September 1.**

Thank you to those who support Book Club. We get really good commission from these orders – five of our latest new additions have come from Scholastic reading rewards.



While we're waiting for 'Lost things' to arrive (purchased with the last of my rewards) there's always the new Aaron Blabey series 'Cat Run' to try or perhaps a new Ahn Do 'Ninja Kids' or "HotDog".

You don't need a login to visit and explore our library resource site: just go to <http://murtoasc.librarysolutions.com.au> to view all the latest additions to our library or search for resources.

Our next **Scholastic Book Fair** is due to start on **Monday October 7** and concludes **Wed October 24**

FREE

**Animal and human Kids First Aid
Course**

Murtoa Hall (Duncan st Murtoa)

Tuesday September 24th

6 – 9 years 9 – 12 pm

10 – 12 years 1 – 4 pm

Free gift bag for every child

Free fruit and water snacks during the course

Proudly sponsored by Murtoa Lions club



Bookings required at www.caseykoschfirstaid.com.au

(please click on the shopping cart to ensure order comes through)



Pirate Story Time & Activities

10:30am

We're celebrating
"Talk Like a Pirate Day"
Pirate attire welcome



SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Beulah Library/Post Office - Monday 23 September

Minyip Library - Tuesday 24 September

Woomelang Bush Nursing Centre - Wednesday 25 September

Murtoa SLAMM - Thursday 26 September

Warracknabeal Library - Monday 30 September

Rupanyup Senior Citizens - Tuesday 1 October

Patchewollock Playgroup - Wednesday 2 October

Hopetoun Neighbourhood House -
Thursday 3 October



Yarriambiack
SHIRE COUNCIL



- YARRIAMBIACK -
Libraries



Silent Disco

Do you want to contribute to the
playlist? Text 0428620843 for a Spotify
link OR call (03) 53981270 OR
email: library@yarriambiack.vic.gov.au



Please contact the library to book a spot

Parent supervision is requested for children under 12.

For more information contact Warracknabeal Library on (03) 5398 1270.

1:00pm

Destination:

MURTOA'S BIG WEEKEND
4-6 OCT 2024

SEYMOUR RAILWAY HERITAGE CENTRE
Heritage Railway Shuttle Rides available over Murtoa's Big Weekend!
srhc.org.au/tours/

2024 MAJOR SPONSORS

- FRRR Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal
- Australian Government
- DMS
- MURTOA RACING
- GrainCorp
- WIM RESOURCE Think Ahead, Move Ahead
- THE TIGERISHED
- Yarrambiack SHIRE COUNCIL
- CHRISSEY'S GIFTS
- FOODWORKS MURTOA
- EMMA KEALY
- RACV

Murtoa Events

[Murtoa Big Weekend](https://www.facebook.com/MurtoaBigWeekend) murtoabigweekend.com.au

Murtoa SHOW

Entertainment • Free Entry for Kids • Food

4TH OCTOBER | 10AM - 4PM
HORSES FROM 9AM

Featuring
Lego masters
Crazy hair Competition
Show persons
Level up gaming

Loads of free activities to explore!

Entry
Memberships \$30
Non members \$10
Pensioners \$5

Murtoa A&P Society
Founded 1981

For more information email: murtoashow@hotmail.com or find us on Facebook.

MURTOA'S BIG WEEKEND NEW & FUN YOUTH EVENT (12-18 YEARS)

DMS
A Subsidiary of Astron Limited

MURTOA DISCO

SAT 5 OCT 2024
7-11pm
Murtoa Hall, Duncan St

FREE ENTRY!
LIVE DJ
LIGHTING EFFECTS

Proudly supported by
Chrissy's CAFE

NO ALCOHOL EVENT • SNACKS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

Destination: MURTOA'S BIG WEEKEND
4-6 OCT 2024

Destination: MURTOALIGHTS
Proudly funded by FRRR | Australian Government

Experience Murtoa's Rabl Park as never before

FRIDAY 4 OCT
Rabl Park
6-11pm \$ Free

Delight in sights and sounds of a unique lighting trail event

Celebrate 40 years since the epic move of the historical Murtoa Railway Bridge to Rabl Park

Admire Community Workshop creations brought to life

PLUS! Be entertained by live music performances on Murtoa's Community Stage

GrainCorp MURTOA MUSIC

Thank you to Yarriambiack Shire Council for supporting this event

2024 MAJOR SPONSORS: FRRR, Australian Government, DMS, MURTOA RACING, GrainCorp, WIM RESOURCE, THE STICK SHED, Yarriambiack Shire Council, Chrissy's CAFE, FOODWORKS MURTOA

SUPPORTERS: Anne Webster, EMMA KEALY, RACV, Murtoa Events

Murtoa Big Weekend | murtoabigweekend.com.au



ALL·ABOARD

Don't miss your chance to board a Seymour Heritage Train Shuttle Ride during this year's Murtoa's Big Weekend!

FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER 2024	SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER 2024	
ONE-WAY TRAIN RIDE (Adult \$15, Child 5-15 \$7.50; under 5 free): Dept Murtoa 2:30pm; Arr Horsham 3pm RETURN BUS SHUTTLE TO MURTOA (Free): Pre-book essential by Wednesday 2 October (Ph: 0457 129 200)	RETURN TRAIN RIDE (Adult \$30, Child 5-15 \$15; under 5 free): Dept Horsham 8.45am; Arr Murtoa 9.10am Dept Murtoa 5.40pm; Arr Horsham 6.05pm	ONE-WAY TRAIN RIDE (Adult \$15, Child 5-15 \$7.50): Dept Murtoa 5.40pm; Arr Horsham 6.05pm RETURN BUS SHUTTLE TO MURTOA (Free): Pre-book essential by Wednesday 2 October (Ph: 0457 129 200)

GET YOUR TRAIN TICKETS! Visit <https://www.murtoabigweekend.com.au/friday>



FREE

LEADERS OF THE PACK

Western Bulldogs Community Foundation and Yarriambiack Shire are looking for 15 young people in grades 6 to 11 to participate in a free community Leadership program!

Run over 5 Hours across three locations in the Yarriambiack shire, this opportunity is one not to be missed!

- Hopetoun- Tuesday 24th of September 10.30am-3.30pm
- Warracknabeal- Wednesday 25th of September 10.30am-3.30pm
- Murtoa- Thursday 26th of September 10.30am-3.30pm

What's in it for you?

- Leadership Skills – find your strengths, build confidence and learn how to work with others
- Networking opportunities with other young people and community leaders
- Receive Western Bulldogs merchandise

For more information, please email foundation@westernbulldogs.com.au



REGISTER HERE

IMPACT THAT *inspires*

Connect with us on social
@WBFCFoundation



SPRING

School Holidays

Horsham Regional Art Gallery for kids

Let your kids unleash their creativity at our sensational workshops! For ages 7+, our local artists will guide them through colourful adventures and artistic fun. Book now and let the creativity begin!

Week 1- Tuesday 24th , Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th September

Week 2- Monday 30th September, Tuesday 1st October.

Time: 10am - 12pm

Cost: \$12 per child, per session

[Purchase your tickets at horshamtownhall.com.au](http://horshamtownhall.com.au)



Beacon

4-DAY STUDENT HOLIDAY PROGRAM

October
1-4 2024

Tour Smart Cities

Invent in 3D

Explore VR

Design Solutions

Location: The Station
(16 Pynsent St, Horsham VIC 3400)

Sponsored by Lumination in partnership with BAE Systems Australia, the 4-Day free STEM program is giving Year 4, 5, and 6 students from any school the opportunity to solve real world problems around sustainability through the use of emerging technologies.



HORSHAM
Youth





VICTORIAN
INDIGENOUS
SURFING PROGRAM

GOOLUM GOOLUM

ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS
COMMUNITY

SUP PROGRAMS

What: Learn to be safe on the river while having fun. You'll go Stand Up Paddle Boarding, Learn about the river and rescue techniques.

Where & When

Sawyer Park - Horsham

Tuesday 15th October - 4:30pm - 6:30pm

TBC

Tuesday 29th October - 4:30pm - 6:30pm

Dimboola Rowing Club - Dimboola

Tuesday 12th November - 4:30pm - 6:30pm

All equipment provided,
please bring bathers and towel
To register contact Kym Bateson
Kym.Bateson@goolumgoolum.org.au

0447 846 250



Minyip Swimming Pool AGM Tuesday 17th September 2024 7pm at the Fire Station

**All positions will be vacated and the current Executive
will not be seeking re-election.**

MINYIP SWIMMING POOL COMMITTEE INC.

Inc. No. A0001043C

Is calling for expressions of interest for

LIFEGUARD POSITIONS

Season 2024/25

Casual employment opportunity from December 2024 – March 2025

Applicants will be offered financial support for lifeguard and update training.

Applicants are responsible for their own First Aid courses.

First Aid requirement: **HLTAID003** (Provide First Aid)

(Compulsory prerequisite for all Lifeguard Training)

Please visit the LSV Training Portal

LIFEGUARD TRAINING

Are you interested in becoming a lifeguard at the Minyip swimming pool?

Please contact Life Saving Victoria or visit their website to apply.

Horsham lifeguard update lifeguard training

27th October 2024 5th January 2025

4th January 2025 6th January 2025

Hopetoun lifeguard training lifeguard update

23rd November 2024 24th November 2024

24th November 2024

Fees for the training or training update will be covered by the Minyip Swimming Pool.



Mental Health Practitioner Position

Murtoa College, Warracknabeal Special Developmental School and Goroke P-12 College are looking for a qualified Social Worker, Psychologist, Occupational Therapist, Mental Health Nurse or Counsellor to work across the three schools.



- 4 contact days per week, paid for 5 days
- Paid school holidays (11 weeks)
- Ongoing position



Goroke P-12 College

For more information contact
Peter Clayton on 0428 254 828 or
peter.clayton@education.vic.gov.au

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 07/10/24

Apply via Recruitment Online. Job ID# 1436486
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/hrweb/careers>

CASUAL BUS DRIVERS NEEDED!!

If you, or someone you know, is interested in Casual Bus Driving for Murtoa College can you please contact Leigh McGinty on 0428 405 339.



All you need is a Medium Rigid License.

POSITIONS VACANT RAILWAY HOTEL MURTOA

The Railway Hotel is looking for kitchen staff who are available to work on Wednesday – Saturday nights. Please contact 03 5385 2241 (if no one answers please leave a message).



Important Dates-known at time of publishing

TERM 4	7 th October	Start of Term 4
Week 1	10 th October	GWR Track and Field
Week 2	14 th & 15 th October	BR Junior Cricket
	18 th October	Year 12 Students Last Day
Week 3	21 st October	BR Tennis
	21 st – 25 th October	Year 12 Exams Revision Week
	21 st – 23 rd October	Yr 3/4 Cluster Camp Creswick
	23 rd – 25 th October	Duke of Ed Camp
Week 4	29 th October	Year 12 English Exam
	31 st October	2025 Year 7 Transition Day 2
Week 5		
Week 6	11 th – 15 th November	Yr 11 Exam Week
	13 th – 15 th November	Duke of Ed Camp
Week 7	18 th – 22 nd November	Year 11 into Year 12 Classes
	19 th November	Year 12 Presentation Dinner (Horsham Golf Club)
Week 8	25 th – 29 th November	Year 11 into Year 12 Classes
Week 9	2 nd – 6 th December	Year 10 Melbourne Camp
	9 th December	2025 Year 7 Transition Day 3
Week 10	9 th – 11 th December	Yr 5/6 Cluster Camp Melbourne
Week 11	20 th December	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL 2024