



MERBEIN SECONDARY COLLEGE

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Newsletter No. 5

5th March, 2009

Coming Events.....

9/3	Public Holiday – Labour Day
20/3	Northern Zone Swimming Carnival
23/3	School council meeting at 7:30pm

Term Dates for 2009

Term 1 -	28 th January - 3 rd April
Term 2 -	20 th April - 26 th June
Term 3 -	13 th July - 18 th September
Term 4 -	5 th October - 18 th December

....FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

The Department of Education and Early Childhood's response to the potential extreme weather conditions forecast for this week certainly had significant implications for our school. On Sunday we were notified that all camps for government school students were to be cancelled for the week. This directive resulted in us cancelling the Year 8 Surf Camp scheduled for Ocean Grove. This was obviously very disappointing for those students as this Camp has been extremely successful in recent years. On Tuesday all contract school bus services were cancelled in the Loddon Mallee Region. This resulted in the cancellation of 2 of our 7 buses affecting 74 of our students.

Year 8 Surf Camp – Rescheduled

We are pleased to advise that the Year 8 Surf Camp to Ocean Grove will now take place from Monday 30th November to Friday 3rd December. These were the only dates that suited both the proprietors of the camping park and the surf school and we were fortunate to get this week. The costs will remain the same for students. The school will retain all monies paid unless a parent specifically requests a refund. Any student who does not participate in the Surf Camp will get a full refund. Students who were unable to attend on the original dates but are now able to participate should see Miss Rankin for details.

College Council

At the close of nominations the following nominations had been received:

Parent Category

- Chris Davis
- Helen Robertson
- Geoff Stevens

As there were three parent vacancies and three nominations I declare the above three nominations elected as members of College Council.

The first meeting of the new council will be on Monday 23rd March.

Interschool Swimming

Congratulations to all students who represented our school at last Thursday night's interschool swimming competition. Kate Robertson again showed that she is the outstanding female swimmer in Sunraysia, winning her four individual events all in record time. Kate and Simone Godfrey have earned the right to compete in individual events at Northern Zone in Swan Hill on Friday 20th March. Three girls relay teams also qualified for Northern Zone. We did really well to finish 3rd in the School's Competition finishing ahead of schools with much larger student enrolments than ours.

STUDENT ILLNESS

If a student falls ill while at school he/she must notify the office staff so that parents can be contacted. Students are **not** permitted to contact parents via their mobile phone during school hours.

MATHS TEXT BOOKS

Developmental Maths Books 3 and 4 are now available for collection from Merbein Newsagency. If you ordered one of these books and have since bought it elsewhere, could you please notify the newsagency.

ROCK EISTEDDFOD 2009

Auditions will be held for the dancers in the 2009 Rock Eisteddfod on Friday 13th March from 4pm to 5.30pm for Year 9 and 10 and on Sunday 15th March from 4pm to 5.30 pm for Year 7 and 8.

All students who collected and returned the Rock Eisteddfod permission note will be taught the audition piece next Wednesday 11th March from 9.15 to 10.50 am by Jamie Lee Hansen and Morgan Appleby. Students need to collect the permission notes from Mr Rhodes and return them to the general office as these notes have more detail about the process.

UNIFORM

Parents are asked to please ensure that their child is wearing the correct school uniform. The cooler weather resulted in a number of students wearing various coloured jumpers, hoodies etc. The College regulation windcheaters and woollen jumpers can be purchased from School and Fashion on Lime or Totally Workwear. We also have some secondhand windcheaters available for \$10 each.

VICTORIAN PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the 44 students who have already voluntarily registered to participate in this year's Reading Challenge. It has been very pleasing to hear students discuss the titles they have been reading and to see the enthusiasm participating students are displaying. A printed copy of the list of titles chosen by the Challenge organisers is available in the Library or online at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/>.

Parents are asked to encourage their child to register to 'take the challenge' before school or at lunch time in the Library.

ENGLISH NEWS

The Child

*I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young student's mind.
And they fashioned it with care.
One was a teacher, the tools she used
Were books and music and art;
One was a parent with a guiding hand
And a gently loving heart.*

*Day after day the teacher toiled
With touch that was deft and sure
While the parent laboured side by side
And polished and smoothed it o'er.
And when at last their task was done
They were proud of what they had wrought
For things they had moulded into the child
Could neither be sold nor bought.*

*And each agreed they would have failed
If they had worked alone
For behind the parent stood the school
And behind the teacher, the home.*

A great start to the year by all! Congratulations to those doing the Premiers Reading Challenge. Reading is an essential life skill for your child. In order for them to succeed it is essential that they read each night for 20-30 minutes.

Some strategies:

- Independent reading
- Shared reading -read together a page each
-read at the same time

Don't forget to discuss what your child is reading.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Game Console Review

Congratulations to Matthew Roberston and Sharni McPhail for writing awesome game console reviews. Matthew reviewed the Xbox 360 giving it a score of 6 out of 5 stars. He covered some important points such as the family safety feature of the Xbox 360 and the great games available for it. Sharni decided to go 'old school' and review the old classic the Nintendo 64. She wrote about the old favourites of Super Mario, Zelda and

Donkey Kong. They will each receive \$5 internet credit to be used at school. Thanks to all who entered.

The topic for the next review is: 'What is the best role playing game?', with a major prize of a USB drive. Entries are due by Friday 27th to fetherstonk@merbeinsc.vic.edu.au

...Mrs Fetherston

CONTAINERS WANTED!

Students in all Food subjects are required to bring a container to transport their food home in. This need not be expensive – a 4 litre or 2 litre ice-cream container would be satisfactory.

If anyone has clean 2 or 4 litre containers that they would like to donate to the Home Economics room, they would be most welcome.

SKATE RAMPS

The skate ramps will be set up on Friday, lunch time only. Students are to ensure they use the ramps safely and responsibly. We also encourage students to bring along safety gear such as knee, elbow and wrist pads.

SSSSA SWIMMING

Last Thursday night saw a fantastic roll up of keen swimmers, supportive parents and helpful staff members to the interschool swimming at Mildura Waves. We had some fantastic results and a record breaking machine & age group winner in Kate Robertson.

Results were:

<u>13 years:</u>	Matthew Robertson	3 rd Butterfly
	Matthew Rix	3 rd Freestyle
	Lucy Boseley	3 rd Freestyle
<u>14 years:</u>	Simone Godfrey	2 nd Butterfly
		2 nd Freestyle
		2 nd Backstroke
<u>15 years:</u>	Dane Costa	3 rd Breaststroke
	Anthony Gowers	3 rd Freestyle
		2 nd Butterfly
		2 nd Backstroke
	Elyse Carter	3 rd Backstroke
		3 rd Freestyle
<u>16 years:</u>	Jayden Milner	3 rd Butterfly
		3 rd Breaststroke
		3 rd Backstroke

Kate Robertson 1st Butterfly (New Record)

1st Breaststroke (NR)

1st Freestyle (NR)

1st Backstroke (NR)

Relays:

2nd 16 yr Medley relay (Kate Robertson, Amy Collihole, Ashlee Matthews & Elyse Carter)

2nd 14 yr Freestyle relay (Tahni Skewes, Olivia Young, Tayla Stevens & Simone Godfrey)

2nd 16 yr Freestyle relay (Kate Robertson, Amy Collihole, Cassie Malic & Jasmin Hurst)

All winners (and second place getters to St Joes swimmers) have now qualified to participate at the Northern Zone finals in Swan Hill in a few weeks time. Well done!

...Miss Priest



SAINTS BASEBALL CLUB

Club Training and Fees

Training for all junior grades resumes on Wednesday 18th March at Chaffey Park, Merbein. Fees for this season are \$90.

4-5pm	8 & Under	Tee Ball
	10 & Under	Coach Pitch
	12 & Under	Baseball
4:30-6pm	14 & Under	Baseball
	16 & Under	Baseball
6-7:30pm	Seniors -	A Grade
(Mon & Wed)		B Grade
(Begins 23 rd Feb)		C Grade

Brochures with all relevant information regarding the Saints Baseball Club can be obtained from the College Office.

IRLEN VISUAL PERCEPTUAL DYSLEXIA

Irlen visual perceptual dyslexia affects nearly 20% of our population. Mildura now has a clinic with a diagnostician and several screeners in schools to identify and treat the problem.

Symptoms to look for are:

- Print distortions
- Light sensitivity
- Print contrast
- Restricted reading span
- Attention deficit
- Poor depth perception

If you have any concern or would be interested in an information seminar please contact Jan Male on 043832 7764 or by email jmale@ncable.com.au

Mr Garry Costello
PRINCIPAL

MERBEIN JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Registration Day will be held on Sunday 15th March at Kenny Park from 12noon to 3pm for Under 10's to Under 16's including Colts sides. Fees are \$75 for first child, \$55 for second child and \$40 for third or more children. For further details contact Michael Vartuli on 0438 539020 or Paul Mulder on 0417 566132.

JUNIOR GOLF CLINICS

The Sunraysia Golf Range with assistance from the Victorian Golf Foundation is offering Junior clinics aimed at ages between 10 and 18 years who have little or no golf experience and want to learn about the fundamentals of golf. The first clinics are planned to be held during the school holidays with dates and times to be determined. To register your interest please collect an application form from the College office.

