



MERBEIN SECONDARY COLLEGE

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Newsletter No. 31

15th October, 2009

Coming Events.....

- 21/10 District Speak-Off Finals @ TAFE
- 29/10 Outdoor Ed Camp (29th - 30th Oct)
- 3/11 Melbourne Cup Day public holiday
- 9/11 Advance Camp (9th - 12th Nov)
- 24/11 State Basketball Final in Melbourne – Year 7/8 Boys
Year 9/10 Performance Night @ MSC
- 26/11 Music Fest for Instrumental students @ Senior College
Year 10 Maths exam
- 27/11 Year 10 English exam
- 30/11 Year 8 Surf Camp (30th Nov – 4th Dec)
- 1/12 Orientation Day for Grade 6 students
Orientation Day for Year 10 students to Senior College
- 3/12 Year 10 Graduation Evening
- 10/12 Presentation Night
- 16/12 Reports issued at 3.20pm
- 18/12 Clean up / last day of school year.

Term Dates for 2010

- Term 1 1st February - 26th March
- Term 2 12th April - 25th June
- Term 3 12th July - 17th September
- Term 4 4th October - 17th December

....FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

National Secondary Schools Computer Fund

During the recent school holidays 64 new computers were installed in our classrooms as part of the National Secondary Schools Computer Fund. These computers were placed in our 2 computer labs and the library. These modern widescreen computers are faster than previous models and ensure that our students continue to have access to the best in Information and Communications Technology. The computers that were previously in our main computer lab (Room 15) were only 2 years old and are now in the Music Room providing an additional area of IT.

Elective Information Evening

A very successful evening was conducted last night. A number of parents and students took the opportunity to talk to staff about the different electives and learn of the Curriculum Structure for next year.

Current Years 8 and 9 students are reminded that elective choices should be submitted to Mr Hankinson by next Friday 23rd October.

Friday Show Day – NO Holiday

For many years the Friday of Show week has either been a holiday or a curriculum day. Under the new guidelines about student free days this year Friday Show Day (tomorrow Friday 16th October) is **not** a student free day. As a result classes will operate as usual tomorrow. It should be noted that Tuesday 3rd November (Melbourne Cup) is a gazetted public holiday and the school will be closed on this day.

SPEAK-OFF FINALS

On Monday the 12th October, chosen representatives for years 7-10 participated in the Speak-Off Finals. The Speak-Off had started at class level, with all students reading out their speeches. Out of each class, one person was chosen to go to the next level and compete against other finalists in their year level. Year 7 students wrote a speech about what they thought '*the Greatest Invention ever*' was, while the Year 8 students wrote their speech on '*things I have learnt from*'. Time limits for the Year 7 and 8's had to be between 1:50 – 2:30 minutes.

The participants included: Holly Mazza, Rebecca Gowers, Amy Hartley, Bree Henkel, Rheanna Oppenlander, Jessica Cavallaro, Carina Spangenberg, Jess Morello, Kyle Knight and Kimberley Linklater. The winner for Year 7 was Bree Henkel and the winner for Year 8 was Jess Cavallaro.

Years 9-10 had to write a longer speech that went for 2:50 – 3:30 minutes. Year 9's topic was '*The Important Things in Life are...*' and the Year 10's speech was about '*The Biggest Challenge Facing Youth Today is...*'. The participants for Year 9 and 10 included: Gabby McDonald, Lucy Young, Michaela Raggett, Maryann Ridings, Marlon Fraser, Carla Piscitelli, Shae DeGoumois, Jarrod Lever, Tegan Kemp, Jem Kilicaslan, Brodie Henderson and Daimon Breeding. The winner for Year 9 was Michaela Raggett and the winners for Year 10 were Brodie Henderson and Tegan Kemp.

....Bree Henkel & Mikaela Saunders

YEAR 8 SURF CAMP

Year 8 Surf Camp is on again! The time has come for us to attempt to get our camp up and running for the second time this year. The rescheduled camp will run from Monday 30th November through to Friday 4th December. We are currently assuming that all students who were down to attend the camp in March, will be attending this time around. We have already had a few students withdraw, so there is room for any students new to the school or for any other students who have reconsidered, to now come along. We would ask that all students have confirmed their attendance by the end of week 4, Friday 30th October. There are spare copies of permission forms and equipment lists in the front office should any students need a new form. All students attending will be attending camp meetings in the three weeks leading up to camp. Should you have any questions, please contact Tim Rix or myself.

...Liz Rankin

Year 8 Coordinator

LIBRARY NEWS

Overdue Library Books

Lists of overdue library books were included in today's roll. Parents are asked to encourage their children to check for these items in lockers, bags, under the bed and in the car and return or re-borrow them as soon as possible.

At the end of last term accounts were sent home for books and magazines that were not returned last year! If you received an account please also encourage your child to search for these items. If found they can be returned to the Library. If they are definitely lost or damaged we ask that you pay for them at the office. Students can then bring the receipt to the Library to have the item removed from their Library record. Library staff will then be able to purchase a replacement.

Mildura Show

Many students have entered articles in the Mildura Show that they have made at school in Food, Jewellery and Mosaics, Textiles and Metals. If your family is attending the Show please take the opportunity to look at their work.

NORTHERN ZONE ATHLETICS

Last Wednesday afternoon a group of 20 enthusiastic students and 2 teachers travelled to Bendigo for the Northern Zone Athletics. We arrived in Bendigo at around 6 o'clock and enjoyed a delicious meal at Noodle Box. After stopping to get breakfast supplies we soon arrived at the McIvor Highway Caravan Park. Students were separated into cabin groups and everyone was in bed by 10:30pm. We were able to have a sleep-in as the first event wasn't until 9:45am, unlike other schools, who left Mildura on Thursday morning at 4am! After breakfast we headed for the track. The students were lucky enough to compete on a rubberised synthetic track and not grass as they are accustomed to in Mildura. Some students were only competing in one event however many students were competing in 2, 3 or even 4 events! The results on the day were as follows:

Results

Madison Carter – 1st 16 yrs Shot Putt

Lachlan Carter – 1st 13 yrs Javelin

Georgie Whitehead – 1st 16 yrs 800m, 2nd 1500m, 4th 400m

Matt McGinty – 1st 16 yrs 800m, 2nd 400m

Tahni Skewes – 3rd 14 yrs 200m, 6th 1500m

Elyse Carter – 3rd 15 yrs 400m, 4th 800m

Rachael Brade – 4th 15 yrs 1500m

Jack Wilson – 4th 14 yrs 1500m

Josh Rogerson – 4th 15 yrs 800m, 6th 1500m

Letitia Maher – 5th 16 yrs Long Jump

Jack Arney – 5th 14 yrs 800m

Josh Hay – 5th 13 yrs 1500m

Aiden Blow – 6th 15 yrs High Jump

Jason Gregory – 6th 15 yrs Javelin

Corbin Weston – 6th 14 yrs Long Jump

Rebekah Gowers – 6th 13 yrs Shot Putt

16 yrs Girls Relay team – Amy Ryczel, Georgie Whitehead, Letitia Maher and Tahni Skewes came 5th.

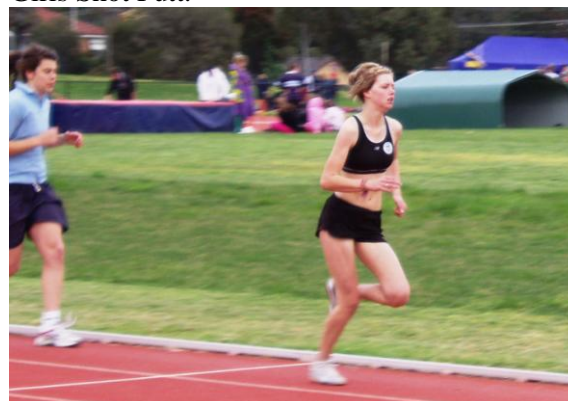
13 yrs Boys Relay team – Stefan Cifra, Geoff Hill, Alex Mitchell and Josh Hay were unfortunately disqualified.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the students on their fantastic behaviour and efforts on the day. You should all be very proud of yourselves; you were a pleasure to take away. Also, a big thank you must go to Mr Hankinson for driving the bus the entire trip! Good luck to Madison Carter, Lachlan Carter, Georgie Whitehead and Matt McGinty who will be competing at the State Championships to be held in Melbourne next Tuesday 20th October.

...Mrs Hayley Brewel.



Madison on her way to winning the 16 Years Girls Shot Putt.



Georgie running in the 16 Years Girls 800m.



Matt winning the 16 Years Boys 800m.

Northern Zone Boys Basketball

Massive congratulations to the Year 7/8 Boys Basketball team who won the Northern Zone Final on Wednesday. The boys have now qualified for the State Finals to be held in Melbourne on the 24th November. It is the first team from our College to qualify for the State Finals in Basketball - an excellent effort!

NB: A more detailed report will be published in next week's newsletter.

Northern Zone Girl's Hockey

Our girls team have continued their dominance in regional hockey with another Northern Zone Finals win and have qualified for the State Championships in Melbourne on Tuesday 17th November.

NB: A more detailed report will be published in next week's newsletter.

'RIDE TO SCHOOL' DAY

Yesterday we had a ride to school day, as part of the state wide ride to work day. It was a wet and windy morning so the conditions weren't the best, however 42 students were brave and energetic enough to get on their bikes and ride to school.

At recess we had a free raffle for the cyclists, with \$230 worth of cycling equipment given away. The prizes and winners were: \$50 helmets to Shalee Muller and Chris Telfer, \$20 grips to Josie Barraclough, Gus Wilkens, Addison Price, James Collihole and Rebekah Gowers, and \$5 repair kits to Sean Peterson, Braidon Davy, Brad O'Loughlan, Aiden Muller, Jake Waddingham and Jordon Scheele.

After recess the SRC fired up the BBQ and started cooking up a storm for the hungry bike riders. In Room 10 at lunch, the students each received 3 sausages, some fruit and a bottle of water.

Well done to the students that rode to school. Thanks to Hodgson's Cycles for supporting us again with discounted equipment.

...Mr Rix

TAX FILE NUMBERS

A reminder to all Year 9 students that the deadline for applying for a tax file number is **TOMORROW** (Friday).

If your child is working or thinking of getting a part time job it is a great advantage that they obtain a tax file number through the school, as it is much more difficult to obtain once they leave school. This will be the last batch of applications sent to the tax office this year.

...Glen Stephen (Careers Coordinator)

EMA CHEQUES

There is still a large number of EMA cheques awaiting collection from the College office. If you are unsure of your entitlement to this semester's portion then please contact the College office.

LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS CAKES

The College has a number of Lions Club Christmas cakes for sale. They can be purchased for \$13 each from the College office and all moneys raised go to a worthy cause.

FREE LIGHT BULBS FOR MERBEIN

Our largest community-engagement activity is being switched on during October & November.

Under Bendigo and Adelaide Bank's **Generation Green™** Ban the Bulb campaign Energy-hungry light bulbs are feeling the heat. The campaign offers Victorian home and business owners the opportunity to replace their incandescent light bulbs with energy-saving ones, installed **free of charge** by our local community volunteer groups, the Merbein Lions Club.

Home and business owners register at our branch and then volunteers from the Merbein Lions Club will swap the old bulbs for new ones.

For each one exchanged the Merbein Lions Club is paid \$2 through the Ban the Bulb program, money the group can use to reinvest in their local region.

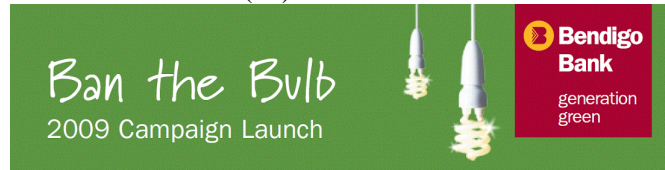
The exchange started on 3rd October & will run to 14 November ending when the globes run out and best of all Ban the Bulb is open to the entire community, not just Bendigo Bank customers and staff.

Ban the Bulb will...

- Exchange 300,000 globes in 17,500 homes and 2,500 businesses
- Involve 50 Victorian communities
- Save 150,000 tonnes in carbon emissions (the equivalent of taking 35,000 cars off our roads for a year)
- Engage 2,000 volunteers
- Raise up to \$600,000 for participating community groups
- Save participating households and businesses roughly \$30 million in future energy bills

Ban the Bulb is an initiative of Bendigo Bank's **Generation Green™** program and is being implemented in partnership with AGL Energy, Low Energy Supplies and Services, Carbon Down, VECCI and the Victorian Government's Sustainability Fund.

For more information or to register for the campaign please contact the Merbein & District **Community Bank** @ Branch on (03) 5025-1377.



ALLERGIES SEMINAR

Learn how to detect the causes of allergies and how to effectively treat them with diet and nutrition at the Mildura Private Hospital Conference Room **tonight** from 7:15pm. The cost is \$15. Please contact Jemuna Jackson on 0423 778225 or 5021 3197.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Costello'.

Mr Garry Costello
PRINCIPAL

