



MERBEIN SECONDARY COLLEGE

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Newsletter No. 28

10th September, 2009

Coming Events.....

Fri 18/9 - Last day of Term 3
Mon 5/10 - First day of Term 4
Thur 8/10 - Northern Zone Athletics at Bendigo

Term Dates for 2009

Term 4 - 5th October - 18th December

....FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

New Merbein P-10 School

At a public briefing last week it was announced that Merbein Secondary College will be the site for the new Merbein P-10 school. We are hoping that the Master Plan will be finalised early next Term.

Parent / Teacher / Student Interviews

Please note that parent / teacher / student interviews will be held next Tuesday 15th September between 4:00pm and 7:00pm in the Activity Centre. Mid Semester 2 reports will be issued on arrival by Mr Costello and Mr Rhodes. They will also be available to assist parents with the arrangements for the interviews. It is important that interviews be kept to a maximum of 5 minutes to avoid queues forming. Where a longer time for discussion is required a further appointment can be made with the teacher or coordinator concerned. Mr Stephen and Mr Watson will be unavailable as they are on leave.

Australian Mathematics Competition

Results are again very pleasing. Two students achieved a High Distinction which places them in the top 1% of students nationally in their year level.

High Distinctions

Year 10 – Aaron Bell

Year 8 – Jack Arney

Distinctions

Year 10 – Jarrod Lever, Amy Ryczel

Year 8 – Danielle Coluccio

Credits

Year 7 – Lachlan Kelly, Josh Hay, Alex Mitchell, Bree Henkel, Oliver Clementson, Torben McFarlane, Trent Branson, Josef Moisisidis, Mikaela Saunders, Brodie Harding, Amy Hartley, Claire Collihole, Kate Vartuli

Year 8 – Geoff Hill, Fraizer Mulder, Josh Vartuli, Lucy Boseley, Alex Dawson, Pia Davis, Tom Holcroft, Jessica Tisler, Maddie Matthews, Zach Stanbrough, Jessica Morello

Year 9 – Lucy Young, Abbie Mangan, Carla Piscitelli, Ellen Ferguson, Maryann Ridings, James Herbert

Year 10 – Laura Maher, Brianna Smyth, Alex Biggs, Kelsey Matheson

Rock Eisteddfod

Thanks to all the parents who were able to travel to Adelaide and witness our very successful Rock Eisteddfod performance at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre on Thursday 27th August. When the performance was changed to the Thursday evening it made it difficult for many parents.

Awards

- Second Place – South Australian Grand Final
- Entertainment Award

Excellence Awards

- Drama
- Set Design and Function
- Lighting Design
- School Community Support

Work Experience

Congratulations to the Year 10 students who have just completed 2 weeks work experience. Feedback indicates that this time has been very valuable and has certainly increased their understanding of issues related to work. Many reports from employers are the best we have ever received.

Last Day of Term 3

School will finish on Friday 18th September at 2:30pm. Buses at the end of the day will be one hour earlier than usual.

Interschool Athletics

Approximately 40 Merbein Secondary College students competed in the Interschool Athletics earlier in the week and they performed exceptionally well. A detailed report will be published in next week's newsletter.

EMA

Second semester EMA cheques are now available to collect from the College office.

CHESS – HELP WANTED

Chess Club is growing at Merbein Secondary College. As a result, we are looking for some experienced chess players from the community who would be willing to volunteer some time to act as mentors to our students. We have students who are new to the game and others who are looking to advance their skills. If you would be able to come during our lunch period and share your expertise and love of the game, please contact Tracy Wright to discuss details.

ROCK EISTEDDFOD

The following newsletter item was written by Kelsey Matheson when she completed her Work Experience at the Sunraysia Daily. This piece was published in last Saturday's (5th September) Sunraysia Daily.

MANY people thought such a small Victorian School wouldn't have a chance winning a rock eisteddfod against the top schools in South Australia.

With 80 other Merbein Secondary College students, I went there believing we could win.

With this belief, and hard work, we managed to be placed second in the entire state in a competition out of 22 schools.

To compete in the rock eisteddfod you need to have an eight minute soundtrack and portray a story/theme of your choice.

The planning for this year's rock eisteddfod started what seems like so long ago -- November 2008.

Five selected students (including myself) and a choreographer from Melbourne met frequently to decide on a theme and storyline.

Each decision took about two hours or even more.

The theme was decided to be about bullying, dreams and friendly monsters.

The whole idea of friendly monsters was to go against stereotypes -- don't judge a book by its cover.

The storyline followed a girl, Lucy, and her passion for dancing and the will to stand up against bullying from the terrifying 'b-gang'.

There would be three main groups of dancers -- the scary school-girl 'b-gang', colourful crazy monsters and and carefree dreamy silk-people.

Once we had a storyline we started working on a soundtrack.

This took a very long time to put together, only being completed at the start of February. If you listen hard you can hear my voice and scream featured on the soundtrack.

Auditions were another stressful thing because the school was coming down hard this year -- if you didn't do well then you wouldn't be in it.

I was one of the lucky 80 kids who were successful.

I was picked to be one of eight b-gang leaders -- the spot I wanted.

The props were absolutely amazing.

We had a massive bed that could have fitted our whole crew, a clock twice the size of a normal person, super-large breakfast bowl, hairbrush, toothpaste and toothbrush.

I was also the "lucky" one to have a picture of my face blown up to fit onto a gigantic mask designed to scare Lucy in a nightmare sequence.

We practiced a lot -- twice a week during our lunchtimes and on some occasions, Sunday afternoons. The week leading up to the rock eisteddfod we practiced up to five hours every day.

The actual day of the rock eisteddfod was massive for us.

We had to travel to Adelaide to perform as Melbourne is too far away.

We were meant to leave at 6am but didn't until 7am because we had to wait for a trailer to fit the rest of the

props. Then a tyre blew so we had to stop two hours later to get a new one.

Road works slowed us down just on the outside of Adelaide and it was 12.30pm when a bunch of weary students and teachers finally arrived at The Adelaide Entertainment Centre.

We were the last ones to have our rehearsal so the other schools got to watch us and we didn't get to see what our competition would be like.

We got to have three rehearsals and every one we mucked it up.

This didn't help our nerves as we'd never been able to get through the eight minutes without at least one mistake.

We were picked to go second last. Brighton -- who had won four times in the last six years -- was chosen to finish the night off.

When we finally got to perform, it seemed our nerves floated away.

We did it flawlessly. Everything was done perfectly, everyone had the right timing, expression was shown with atmosphere and dancing was done to the best of the individual's ability.

Excitement was flowing through all the dancers as the host announced the awards.

As soon as they announced, "And second place goes to... Merbein Secondary College!" we were jumping on our seats and screaming to the heavens.

There were actually tears in our eyes -- we'd never come so close to winning before.

And we may still get that chance with a possibility of a wildcard entry into the grand final.

All in all, that eight minute performance is one of the biggest achievements in my life so far.

However, none of the dancers could have made rock eisteddfod what it was without the help and support of our assistant principal, Greg Rhodes.

Other teachers definitely did a lot of work too, Mr Hankinson, Mrs Bettison, Mr Watson and Miss Priest but Mr Rhodes was the one to organise a choreographer, practices and rehearsals, auditions and the actual entry. Mr Rhodes was the one to get everyone motivated, ask the teachers and parents to be involved and organise sponsors.

He gave up the most time to do this and gave others a chance to do something fantastic.

Mr Rhodes was the heart and soul of this rock eisteddfod and I on behalf on everyone involved thank him to the very bottom of my heart for being there for us and always trying his hardest to help make the eisteddfod the amazing experience it was.





NAPLAN 2009

In May this year most year 7 and 9 students sat the NAPLAN Literacy and Numeracy tests. The NAPLAN test results are expected to be delivered into the school sometime early next week. These results will be distributed to students next Wednesday 16th or Thursday September 17th, depending on when they arrive at the school.

MERBEIN MARLINS SWIMMING CLUB

A registration and training day for the Merbein Marlins Swimming club will be held at the Mildura Waves on Sunday the 27th of September.

Registration will be from 3.30 – 4 pm

Training will follow from 4 – 5 pm.

Cost of the registration for each competing member is \$150, correct money or cheques made payable to Merbein Swimming Club would be appreciated on the day.

All interested swimmers are urged to attend.

DEMONS BASKETBALL

Tryouts for the Demons Basketball Summer competition will take place at the Mildura Basketball stadium on the following dates and times:

TRAINING TIMES – Saturday's 12th & 19th September, girls & boys

- U10 11am – 12noon
- U12 12noon – 1pm
- U14 1pm – 2pm
- U16 2pm – 3pm

FOOTBALL FEDERATION SUNRAYSIA

Football Federation Sunraysia is pleased to announce the Harvey Norman Grand Final Series which will see a Festival of Football over the weekend of September 19th and 20th. The Harvey Norman Grand Final Series kicks off on Saturday night with the Senior Women's Grand Final under lights at the Aerodrome ovals followed by the Senior Men's Grand Final. Discussions are under way to have the games called live on local radio and catering will be available on the evening. Sunday sees the balance of the games being played with free amusements for the kids.

WORKERS GOL GOL CRICKET CLUB

Workers Gol Gol Cricket Club registration day for the 2009/2010 cricket season will be held on Tuesday 15th September 5.00 - 6.00 pm at the Alcheringa Club Rooms.

FUTSAL IS COMING!

Fast, Fun Indoor Football is here so get your team together now. Less than \$7.50 per week to play.

Go to www.footballfedsun.com.au for further information or phone 0429 200 193.

Mr Garry Costello
PRINCIPAL

