

Email murtoa.co@education.vic.gov.au Internet www.murtoasc.vic.edu.au

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 - next two weeks!

Week 5	14 th May	Banyena Weir Excursion, Outdoor Ed
	16 th May	Senior Boys Football, Horsham
	17 th May	Black Ranges Snr AFL & Netball, Horsham
	17 th May	Year 10 Longerenong Excursion
Week 6	20 th May	Year 9 Skillinvest VET Road Show
	21st May	Girls Football, Hamilton
	23 rd May	Visual Communication & Design Critique
	23 rd May	Commemoration Assembly
	24 th May	Black Ranges Intermediate AFL & Netball

Please see end of newsletter for more upcoming dates

Principal - Dr Bec Carter

Staff Professional Learning Day

On Tuesday May 7th, all Teachers and Education Support staff attended the West Grampians Network Conference "Improving outcomes through student engagement" held in Horsham. Commencing with a keynote address by Adam Voigt (Founder and CEO of Real Schools), our staff then engaged with presentations delivered by Ben Tait (Principal of Horsham Special School), Anthony Cain (Principal - Stawell West Primary School), and school leaders from Stawell Primary School Russell Marland (Principal), Scott Rathgeber (Assistant Principal), and Treen Slorach (Learning Specialist). Feedback from our staff thus far indicates our attendance with more than 300 other educators from our region was highly beneficial in terms of equipping our staff with valuable tools that we can all use to fortify our current efforts to improve student engagement with their learning, and schooling more generally. We sincerely thank all families for making this important professional learning day possible for all Murtoa College staff.









School Savings Bonus



School Saving Bonus

The School Saving Bonus provides \$400 in support for every child at government schools, and eligible concession card holders at non-government schools.

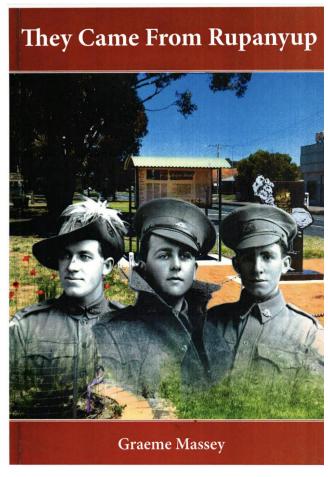
Families may have seen the recent announcement of the School Saving Bonus, as part of the Victorian Budget 2024/25. We are now sharing more information about how families will be able to access and use this support. https://www.vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus

This one-off support will include \$400 for each eligible student to help families cover the costs of school uniforms and activities in 2025. It will be available to parents and carers of every child

enrolled in a Victorian government school in 2025. Cash will not be paid directly to individuals or families. Instead, families will receive the bonus as credits on their school accounts that will help meet the costs of your children's activities and uniforms.

The School Saving Bonus support will be in addition to existing and continuing means-tested supports for camps, sports, excursions and uniforms. The application-based Affordable School Uniform program, through State Schools' Relief, will continue to be available to families experiencing financial hardship or other forms of vulnerability and short-term crisis. This program allows schools to make multiple applications for support on parents' behalf throughout the year if needed. More information and guidance about the School Saving Bonus in Term 3, 2024, ahead of its implementation in 2025.

Community Partnership - Local History Project



I am thrilled to announce a new partnership between Murtoa College students (Years 5-12) and the Rupanyup RSL. Following a meeting with Sonny Johns from the Rupanyup RSL, we have agreed to collaborate on the next edition of Graeme Massey's 'They Came from Rupanyup'. This text documents the contributions of all individuals from the Rupanyup District who served in the Great War.

This new long-term partnership with the Rupanyup RSL will provide our students with an invaluable opportunity to develop local history skills whilst also making a meaningful contribution to our community. The project's focus will be on recognising and documenting all men and women who have served in the armed services or peacekeeping missions from the post-WWI years until today. This project will begin with our interested students and staff meeting with Graeme Massey in the coming weeks to learn about his local history research methods and plan out this project. Students or staff members in Years 5-12 interested in participating in this lunchtime multi-age extracurricular activity email me at bec.carter@education.vic.gov.au

Additionally, we encourage any community members who know of servicemen and women (armed forces or peace keeping) who have served in the post-WWI period (1918 - present) who have ties to Rupanyup to share this information with us using murtoa.co@education.vic.gov.au

Thanks so much everyone Dr Bec Carter - Principal

Assistant Principal's Report -Chad Frost

Our students have hit the ground running this term, with numerous events taking place in and around Murtoa. From our Primary students attending Shrek the musical to a host of sporting events in the region. It is great to see students take heed of the opportunities presented to them, to test themselves, to develop resilience and to create connections with others.

Attitudes to school survey

In the coming weeks we will be running the Attitudes to school survey in Student Connect classes to gain feedback and to give students a voice. All schools must participate in the Attitudes to School Survey, providing the opportunity for students from Year 4 to Year 12 to complete the survey. The survey provides data that is invaluable in understanding the student perspective of their school and to improve the schooling experience. A Xuno post was sent out last night that contains a letter for families. This letter explains the purpose of the survey, and information for families who may be considering withdrawing their child/ren from survey.

National Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week 2024 is an annual celebration held in Australia from May 27 to June 3. The theme for 2024 is "Now More Than Ever", which serves as a reminder that the fight for justice and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples must continue, no matter what challenges arise.

The dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey - the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision. It's a time for all Australians to learn about shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and explore how each person can contribute to achieving reconciliation.

Further information and resources can be found in the link below. https://www.reconciliation.org.au/our-work/national-reconciliation-week/

Sport and Recreation Update

As previously mentioned, three of our Sport and Rec students (Marli Arnold, Issy Hemley and Lili Wilson) have been training our male students in the art of netball and finally we were let loose on the courts against our opposition. We learned quickly that boy's netball is very popular in our region and collectively, we were lacking in height, but not in determination. We did see improvement every game (until we met the Warrack A side who were walking giants) and managed to defeat Stawell A which was a testament to the boys work rate, having had to play 6 games on the trot. Huge shout out and thank you to Sophie Delahunty for supporting the girls with their coaching leading up to the day and on the day as well as to Marli Arnold for umpiring each game. I would also like to acknowledge the parents who came to support their young people, it is always warmly welcomed for the kids but also appreciated by the school.



From back left: Sophie Delahunty, Jesse Walker-Binks, Max Finnigan, Taylan White, Archie McQueen, Alex Dertilis, Jake McKenzie, Hugh Weidemann.

Front left: Oliver Barker, The Waterboy, Issy Hemley, Marli Arnold, Lili Wilson, Keanu Mehmet, Logan Liao



Sophie Delahunty instructing the team

Primary Visits

Most students in Sport and Rec have been supporting their local clubs through coaching Auskick and Net-Set-Go, however students not connected to clubs have developed session plans to run a range of sports with local schools to support transition and to promote cluster collaboration. Last week and for the next few weeks, Keanu Mehmet has developed a series of session plans focussed on soccer for the students of Our Lady Help of Christians. Our whole class went across to support Keanu, with Max Finnigan taking the lead to run a range of basketball related activities for those students not involved in soccer. We look forward to continuing to work with our partner schools to support with engagement and potential transition.



Max Finnigan running knockout



Keanu Mehmet, with support from his peers, taking OLHC student through paces

Finance, Operations and Facilities Team

Facilities, Grounds and Maintenance Manager - Colin Winch

As classes return to the Tech wing of the College, we're finalising details with our new contractor. We are very excited to let our community know that we anticipate this work will be completed within this term. Additional projects around the College will also begin this term and continue through the end of term school holidays. These include:

- Stadium path work
- Science path work
- Stadium rooms
- Admin building restumping and levelling

In addition to these important projects, the College continues to make improvements to other facilities and grounds.

To ensure the safety of all students and staff, the College will conduct drills for our emergency management plans. This will allow us to refine and implement necessary changes to improve our response to any potential emergencies.

Digital Platforms & Services Manager - Vincent Liao

Year 9 and 10 students enrolled in the Cert III in ICT for VET program are actively acquiring workplace knowledge and skills every Wednesday. Their engagement thus far includes participating in various practical tasks such as:

- Teamwork projects
- Being familiar with computer parts
- Disassembling and assembling a desktop computer
- Installing, configuring and maintaining Windows 11
- Installing software applications
- Workplace ergonomics
- Using word processing, spreadsheet and presentation software. (Microsoft 365)

This VET course is empowering the next generation, equipping them with essential skills and knowledge to enhance their digital literacy capabilities.





Learning & Teaching Executive Team

Director of Learning - Students & Staff (F-12) - Joel Beggs

With schools across the country now completing NAPLAN online, we are fortunate to receive results earlier in the year than ever. Preliminary results for reading, numeracy and spelling have been released to the school confidentially (parent reports will be distributed later in the year once all the writing tests have been marked).

Our teachers will spend the next few weeks identifying students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 who either require additional support with their reading and numeracy skills, or have shown outstanding results and would benefit from extension and enrichment work in these areas. Having access to these results so early in the year will allow our teachers to be responsive to the individual needs of our students, and allow us to design learning programmes that build and enrich the confidence of students of all abilities.

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

On Friday 17th May, Year 10 students are going to Longerenong College to experience an Ag industry and Study tour. We would like to thank the LLEN in advance for organising this tour and we look forward to the conversations are Agriculture and Pathways that it will generate.

On Monday 20th May, all Year 9s are going to Warracknabeal Secondary College for the Skillinvest VET roadshow. This will give our students an opportunity to learn more about VET and experience some courses that Skillinvest offer. This roadshow will assist our students in deciding the VET course that they would like to enrol in Year 10.

VET Certificate II Kitchen Operations Dinner: Mia, Liam, Ashley and Charlett and the Kitchen Operations VET class ran a dinner service at Horsham College on Wednesday 8th May. They all did a fantastic job and here are a few photos of the evening.



















F-6 Curriculum Coordinator & Literacy Leader - Grace Coustley

It has been a busy week in the F-6 area.

On Wednesday the 8th of May the F-6 students and staff travelled to Horsham to watch Horsham Arts Council production of "Shrek". I would like to commend all students on their behaviour for the day. It was a big day out where students spent a lot of time sitting including travelling to and from the Horsham Town Hall and during the show which was about 3 hours long with a small intermission time. It was wonderful to see and hear students' excitement for the show.

On Thursday the 9th of May, the F-4 students participated in a fire drill. This was to allow students to become familiar with the sound that they would hear during a fire drill and the knowledge on what they would need to do if one was to occur. This is especially important with so many new students to our school including the Foundation students. Students are taught to line up, remain calm and follow teacher instructions so that we can make it to the safety point. The 5/6 students will be participating in a fire drill at a later point.

Today, the 10th of May, students have been participating in our Dunmunkle Athletics Sports in Rupanyup. It has been wonderful to see students competing in all of the events and cheering for our school. Furthermore, it is fantastic to see students in a different environment to the normal classroom and trying their best at each event.

Director of Responsive Teaching - Dr Cindy Thompson

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Year 10 Students: Regional Science Exchange Program

Talented Year 10 students from across regional Victoria with a passion for science are invited to attend John Monash Science School (JMSS) in Melbourne for a three week block as part of their 2024 Regional Science Exchange Program. There is no cost for this program.

Applications are now open for Term 3 (21st July - 9th August 2024). The application window closes on 24 May 2024. Details can be found by following the link below:

https://johnmonashscienceschool.cmail20.com/t/j-e-gliiyuk-duujsiha-k/

Year 11 Students: National Youth Science Forum

Applications are now open for the 2025 National Youth Science Forum. The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) Year 12 Program gives students that are about to start Year 12 a broader understanding of study and career options available in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

In January 2025, the NYSF Year 12 Program will run two summer sessions at:

- The Australian National University, Canberra (6 −14 January)
- The University of Queensland, Brisbane (15 23 January)

Staying on campus at university colleges, students are immersed in science and technology. They have the opportunity to:

- participate in tours of science and technology facilities,
- learn about cutting-edge research,
- engage with industry partners and research providers,
- learn about university, training and STEM career pathways,
- mix with like-minded students their age from all over Australia,
- participate in social and team building activities, and
- network with former NYSF participants.

Applications close 15 July 2024. Details can be found by following the link below:

https://www.nysf.edu.au/programs/year-12-program/

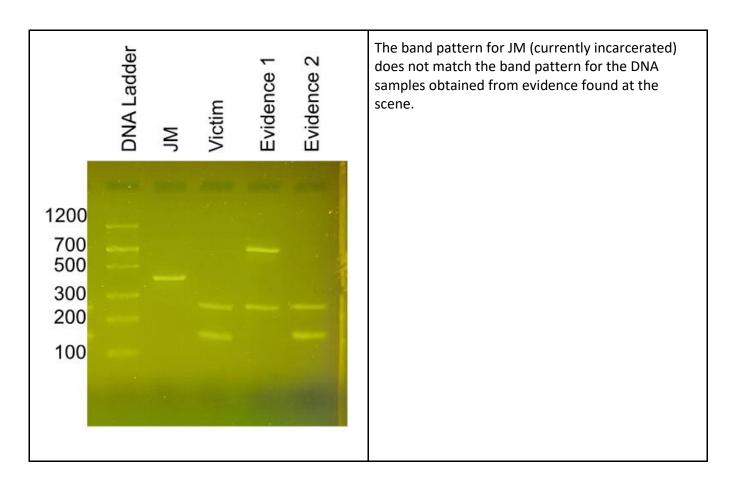
SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

Murtoa College is a vibrant learning community, and I know that even as a teacher I am not aware of everything that is going on in our classrooms. For this reason, myself and Lily Adler (STEAM Leader) are going to work to shine a spotlight on the everyday happenings in our classrooms in every newsletter. Lily is interviewing individual students about their learning while I will share a snippet about what has been happening in a particular class, subject or learning area.

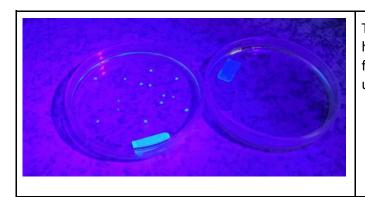
What's been happening in ...

Year 12 Biology

In the last few weeks our Year 12 Biology students have been developing their understanding of DNA and gene technology through practical activities in the classroom. They have used gel electrophoresis and DNA analysis to determine that an individual had been wrongfully convicted of a crime. We were very excited to unpack our gel electrophoresis equipment, pipettes and mini-centrifuge to carry out this experiment. Many schools have to rely on computer simulations or excursions to Melbourne to experience these techniques, so Murtoa College is proud of the fact that we can provide this experience in-house.



With the support of a STEM kit from the Gene Technology Access Centre in Parkville our students were also able to work through the process of transforming bacteria with green fluorescent protein as they explored how recombinant DNA technology can be used to develop products such as vaccines.



The plate on the left shows bacterial colonies that have been successfully transformed with the green fluorescent protein. These colonies glow green under UV light.

We have been lucky enough to secure free access to the BioBrain learning platform for the remainder of this year for VCE students studying Biology and Physics. BioBrain is a web-based application that can be used to consolidate student understanding and identify gaps in knowledge. BioBrain can be used by teachers to assign work or students can use BioBrain independently to review their knowledge.

Why Students Love BioBrain







Illustrated glossary to explain concepts

Short answer questions to consolidate learning

Can revise on the go, bus, train, tram or wherever they are!

Spotlight on Student Learning

Student: Katya Williams (Year 12)

Teacher who is making a difference to my learning: Mr Metelmann

Subjects: Health Units and Human Development 3 & 4, Foundation Maths Units 3 & 4

"Mr Metelmann has helped me and accommodated to my learning style; he's very supportive and encouraging. His teaching style is unique and works well with me, which results in me getting my best marks in both of his classes. He's friendly and charismatic, which shows how much he enjoys teaching. His passion is admirable".

Student Wellbeing, Inclusion & Engagement Team

Director of Student Wellbeing, Inclusion & Engagement - Allyssa Wilson

Breakfast club- At Murtoa College, we are proud to be able to provide our students with breakfast and ensure that each students has the best start to their day. Having a healthy breakfast each morning is essential to students growth, health, development and their concentration in the classroom. Our wonderful volunteers who assist with this program alongside Sheryl, each day have asked if there are any families who are able to donate either Milo, Butter or Jam to this fabulous program- It would be greatly appreciated.



All donations can be brought to school and placed in the Home Eco room.

Headspace- From time to time we all experience times when we need to lean on people for support. Reaching out and gaining support for our mental health is just as important as if we need to see a professional for our physical health. Headspace is always there for any young person who needs it.

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:





Director of Student Voice, Empowerment & Participation – Tara Crowe

In our recent Student Voice, Empowerment, and Participation (SVEP) meeting, students took centre stage, sharing their ideas to enrich our school community. Among the suggestions voiced was a desire for more lunchtime activities.

Currently, we're collaborating with Reclink and Activ Vic to explore options for engaging lunchtime activities. Additionally, we extend an open invitation to members of our community who are passionate about enriching student experiences to reach out to the school. Together, we can create vibrant lunchtime offerings that cater to diverse interests.

In the interim, our student leaders are stepping up to the plate, actively planning a potential tournament schedule for basketball, ensuring there is no shortage of sporting excitement during breaks.

Another popular request was the revival of the traditional BBQ on casual clothes days. The responsibility of organising this event falls into the capable hands of the Vocational Major WRS students, as part of a communication and collaboration project. Be prepared for some surprises along the way!

While progress is underway, we recognise the importance of amplifying student participation in SVEP meetings. It's imperative that every voice is heard, and we're committed to creating an inclusive environment where all ideas are valued.

Director of Transitions and Community Engagement – Nicole Noonan

Century Celebration Assembly

We invite our wider community to come and join us to celebrate the century of laying the foundation of learning.

We also welcome our past principal Laurie Bester as a guest speaker. A morning tea will be shared followed by a tour of the school.

Where: Murtoa College Stadium

When: Thursday 23rd May

Time: 9am

Agricultural Science News

Celebrating Seasonal Bounty

As the summer season wanes and we embrace the cooler months ahead, our market garden continues to thrive, and will be offering an abundance of produce for our community. Here's a roundup of what's happening in our agricultural endeavours.

Queensland Blue Pumpkins:

Our pumpkins have flourished, and we're excited to announce that they are now available for purchase in our front office. These Queensland Blue Pumpkins, known for their robust flavour and long shelf life, are perfect for hearty soups and stews as we edge closer to winter. With just four left, be sure to grab yours soon. Remember, every purchase supports our market garden, allowing us to further our agricultural initiatives.



Ag Room Renovation:

Our ag room has undergone a transformation. With new lino and cabinetry in place, courtesy of Wilson's and Schier's respectively, and KLM's contribution of concrete flooring for our shed, our ag room is nearly fully functional space for our students. Plumbing works are underway to ensure its complete functionality.





Winter Season Planting:

Our primary students have wasted no time in preparing for the winter season. They've been hard at work planting garlic, dwarf peas, lettuce, spinach, cauliflower, and broccoli in our wicking beds. This hands-on experience not only teaches them valuable gardening skills but also fosters a deeper connection to the food they grow.









As we bid farewell to the summer harvest and usher in the bounties of winter we're grateful for the support of our community and the dedication of our students. Together, we continue to cultivate knowledge, nurture growth, and sow the seeds of a sustainable future.

Black Ranges Cross Country @ Murtoa

A congratulations to all the students who participated in the Black Ranges Cross Country event held in Murtoa on May 9th! Fre sunlit day provided the perfect backdrop for a run around our picturesque scenic lake. Traditionally, we tend to receive about an inch of rain either on the day or the day prior, so this sunny weather was a delightful surprise.

Our dedicated students gave it their all, resulting in some truly pleasing outcomes. Their commitment and hard work are commendable!

I'd like to extend a special thank you to the Year 9 & 10 students who assisted with timing and checkpoints. Their support is invaluable, and without them, hosting such an event in Murtoa would be nearly impossible.

Lastly, let's acknowledge the small group of staff members—Chad Frost, Jen Hagedorn, Vincent Liao, and Mark Arrowsmith—who played crucial roles in ensuring the day ran smoothly. Their efforts behind the scenes are truly appreciated.

Top 10 place results for the girls:

Molly Gawith – 9th Isabelle Hemley – 5th Abby Oxbrow – 9th Adelle Weidemann – 5th Charlott Saligari – 10th

Top 10 place results for the boys:

Hugh Weidemann – 4th Archie McQueen – 7th Logan Liao – 9th Zac Oxbrow – 10th

NOTE: GWR Cross Country in Warrnambool

Monday 27th May













Black Ranges Athletics

Congratulations to all the students that competed at the Black Ranges athletics at North Park in Stawell. It was a wonderful day and the students tried hard. We appreciated Sam Gawith, Jo Hemley and Chad Frost for giving up their time to help the students.

Top three place getters for their event.

Sienna Finnigan 3 rd – 100m sprint 2 nd – Long jump	Hugh Weidemann 2 nd – 1500m run	Ryder Hudson 1 st – High Jump 2 nd – Triple Jump 3 rd – 200m sprint	Jarvis Mitchell 2 nd – 400m run
Archie McQueen 3 rd – 1500m run	Georgie McQueen 3 rd – Discus 3 rd – Javelin	Logan Liao 3 rd – 100m sprint	Zoe Tegelhuter 2 nd – Shot put
Ruby Wilson 3 rd - Long Jump	Ryder Smith 2 nd – Shot put	Jono Polo 2 nd – Shot put 2 nd – Javelin throw	Isabelle Hemley 2 nd – 800m Run
Jimmy Finnigan 2 nd – High Jump 3 rd – Discus throw	Lili Wilson 1 st – High jump		





























HOT FOOD

Party Pies	\$2.00
Four n' Twenty Pies – Lite	\$5.00
Sausage Rolls – Lite	\$3.50
Sweet Chilli Tender	\$2,50
Sweet Chilli Wraps	\$6.50
(chicken, lettuce, tomato, carrot, cheese &	chilli sauce
Mini Pizzas - Ham & Pineapple	\$3.50
Pizza Toast (RECESS ONLY)	\$1.00
Steamed Dim Sims	\$1.00
Sav & Roll	\$4.00
Ricotta & Spinach Roll	\$3.00
Chicken Parmi Burgers (lettuce, mayo)	\$5.00
Chicken Nuggets	\$0.50

CHICKEN BURGERS

Chicken Burger	\$2.50
Chicken Burger & Salad Roll	\$6.00

SANDWICHES / ROLLS / WRAPS

Ham & Salad	\$4.50
Roast Chicken & Salad	\$4.50
Ham & Salad Roll	\$5.00
Roast Chicken & Salad Roll	\$5.00
Chicken & Salad Wrap	\$6.50
Ham & Salad Wrap	\$6.50

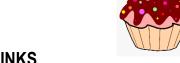
(Summer time ONLY) SALAD BOX

With choice of Chicken Burger, Diced Chicken or Ham, Sweet Chilli

Tenders \$5.00

DESSERTS

Cake	\$2.00
Slice	\$2.00
Muffins (when available)	\$3.00



DRINKS

Cans Kirks (Diet)	
(Pasito, Lemon, Lemonade)	\$2.50
Pepsi Max Can	\$2.50
Water 500ml	\$2.00
Juice Box	\$2.00
Oak 200 ml (Choc, Strawberry, sed Coff	ee) \$2.50

ICE CREAMS - STREETS

Paddle Pops (Straw	berry, Banana, C	hoc)\$2.00
Paddle Pops Twist		\$1.50
Cyclone		\$2.00
Dixie's - Vanilla		\$1.50
Frozen Yoghurt	//Cunch/	\$2.00
Mini Callipo		\$1.50
•	CHOCO	

CHIPS

Variety of flavours – Small	\$1.50
Variety of flavours – Large	\$2.50
Vege Chips	\$2.50

SOUP - Tuesdays (Winter Time ONLY

Variety changes weekly \$3.00

PLEASE NOTE

Canteen NOT OPEN on Wednesday

To Guarantee you don't miss out on your order..... Year F - 6 Lunch Orders need to be in by 9.00AM Year 7 - 12 Lunch Orders need to be in by RECESS







Amportant Dates-known at time of publishing

Week 7	27 th May	GWR Cross Country @ Warrnambool
	29 th May	BR Junior AFL & Netball @ Horsham
Week 8		
Week 9	10 th June	King's Birthday Holiday
	11 th – 14 th June	Year 11 Exams
Week 10	18 th June	VCAA GAT (General Achievement Test)
Week 11	25 th June	Careers Expo
	26 th June	Flinder's University Visit for Year 10 – 12
	28 th June	Last day of school for Term 2
TERM 3 -	15 th July	Start of Term 3
Week 1	16 th July	Morrisby Profiling
	18 th July	BR Senior Basketball
Week 2	22 nd – 26 th July	Year 12 OES Camp
	22 nd July	Black Ranges Intermediate Basketball
Week 3	1st August	LLEN Year 90 Industry Immersion Excursion