MURRAYVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Persistence Respect Independence Determination Excellence

Welcome back –
There has been a wonderful positive vibe all around the school since the students' return on Thursday. I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas break and is looking forward to a fabulous year full of learning in 2025. We are in a very unique position to not be starting the year with any brand new staff, but we are thrilled to welcome back Sonya Inglis and Julie Cowley from leave. It is fantastic to start the year with a full staff of outstanding teachers.
Thanks also to Pete Sporn and our new cleaner Murray Schroeder for their work over the holidays to prepare for the students' return.

Building upgrades –
The start-up meeting with the builders and the architects is being held on-site next Monday afternoon. I will hopefully soon have some more information about timeframes and the schedule of the stages of the works.

When students are unwell -
We just ask that if students are feeling unwell (have symptoms such as fever, headaches, muscle aches, fatigue) that they stay home, but if they have symptoms such as sniffles and coughs but otherwise feel well, it is fine for them to be at school. We will continue to use the air purifiers and encourage good hygiene at school.

Instrumental Music –
Music Alive from Loxton will again be offering instrumental music fortnightly at school. If your child would like to learn an instrument please let Mrs Inglis know.

Newsletters -
Will again be fortnightly in 2025, generally going home on a Friday depending on my movements and the school program. Our newsletter will again be supplemented by flyers, compass and facebook posts, sms messages and emails. As always the website contains a wonderful wealth of information.

Compass –
This is a new digital learning management tool that we will be using across the school. This will go live on Monday the 24th of February. This will change the way that we mark attendance at school, deliver resources to the students, report to and communicate with parents and keep student information together in one place. I will have more information for parents in subsequent newsletters.

Looking ahead –
We are very optimistic about 2025 and have an exciting and busy year planned for the students, with many opportunities for families to be involved in our programs and events. The first event that we would like to invite parents, carers and students to is our **Back to School BBQ and information night** to be held on **Thursday 13th of February.**
It is always fantastic to see parents, carers and extended family supporting the students at the **House Swimming Sports (Tuesday 18th of Feb).** We would love to see you there.

Anaphylaxis & Asthma -
Just a reminder that we have students attending our school who could potentially have a fatal anaphylaxis attack from exposure to nuts. Although I can never guarantee that school is nut free, I ask that nuts and nut products are not brought to school. Students that have Asthma need to have a care plan, signed by their doctor, and their reliever medication (puffer) and spacer accessible to them at school, at all times.

Child Safety –
The staff and I take our obligations to Child Safety very seriously.
All staff are trained as Mandatory reporters of Child Abuse.
The Child Safety policy can be found on our website.

Cont...

College Council Elections –
Although it feels as though we have just settled back into school, I need all parents to begin thinking about the 2025 College Council. As our school has gotten smaller it has been getting increasingly difficult to fill the positions on College Council over the years and last year we successfully applied to reduce the number of School Councillors required. The tenure of a number of School Councillors is about to expire. The expiring parent reps are Serena Jenzen, Kathleen Crane and our school council President of many years, Carly Heintze. The expiring staff rep is Stacey Morzer-Bruyns. I want to thank them all for their contributions but I would like to make special mention of the effort that Carly has gone to as School Council President to ensure the best outcomes for our students.
I ask that all parents please consider nominating for this very important role in our school community. The College cannot operate without a full council. It is important to note that if you have been on College Council previously, you can nominate again – this includes the members whose tenure is expiring. Nomination forms are available from the school and are also downloadable from the Council section of the school website. The timeline for this election is published below.

Communication & Feedback -–
As a school we endeavour to maintain open lines of communication with parents about the things that are going on at school and welcome any feedback at any time. If you have any concerns or queries about your child's education please feel free to contact me to discuss.

Student records & Consent –
Coming home today with the newsletter is a Student Enrolment information form and permissions form. On the **white** Student Enrolment information form please check the student details and make any changes to address, phone numbers, medical details etc. If all is correct please just initial and return to school. (Some parents have already completed this.) The **yellow** permissions form covers local excursions and publication of student names and photos etc. Please read this carefully and complete each section.

Learning Technology Agreements –
The Acceptable use agreements for technology will also come home today (if the students have not already brought them home) for parent signatures. We ask that you read this, sign it and return it to school. Most students will have already signed this form. We have gone through the agreement with students at school to ensure that they understand it. Please sign the forms and send them back to school with the Enrolment information and yellow consent form.

Breakfast club –
This initiative has gone statewide in 2025 and we can now order weekly supplies of fresh fruit, breakfast items and lunch items, at no cost to the school. These will be made accessible to the students during break times.

Bushfire procedures –
Given the ongoing heat and the risk of dry lightning this week, we have run a fire drill today and also discussed the bushfire procedures for buses with the students. Please read the page of information carefully and put it on your fridge or somewhere prominent if you do not have it already.

Natasha Mudie
Principal

The timeline for our School Council election process is as follows:

Notice of election: February 3

Closing date for nominations: February 23

Distribution of ballot papers (if required): February 24

Close of ballot: March 7

Declaration of Poll: March 11

New Council meets: March 25

Ordering uniforms using your SSB (School Saving Bonus) money

For those parents who have allocated the SSB to school activities at Murrayville Community College, we're happy to offer a bulk uniform run, for the entire school - this way you can use your SSB funds in your family account to pay for the uniforms.

There are a few SSB Portal allocations that still require your completion. You can only participate in this for each of the children for whom you've made the allocation to the school (School Activities).

We do have some uniform held at the school, and we'll be using this in the first instance. What we don't have we will order through our uniform provider, TriState Graphics in Renmark.

Please choose the items you wish for each child from the TriState Graphics Portal link below (Selecting Murrayville Community College) **DO NOT ORDER THROUGH THEM DIRECT**.

Instead, please email Brenda Brenda.oster@education.vic.gov.au with the items you'd like for each child specifying who the items are for, as I must allocate the items to the correct student. Unfortunately, Reader Folders aren't classified as uniform, therefore the SSB funds can't be used for this item.

School Uniform Portal | Tri State Graphics

Can you please have these orders to us by Friday 14th February at the very latest. *Dana Lumb (Business Manager)*

A productive first week for the 2/3 students - they enjoyed decorating their new classroom

CANTEEN

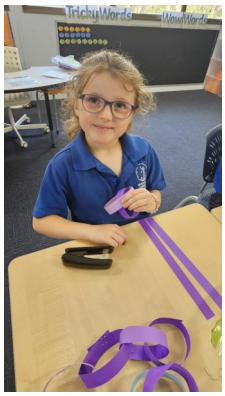
ALL ORDERS TO Front Office BEFORE SCHOOL

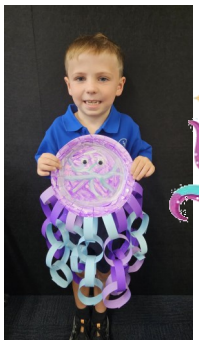
Late orders may not be filled as requested

Please - no more than $5 in your envelope

Ham Sandwich $2.50
Ham & Cheese Sandwich $3.00
Cheese Sandwich $2.00
Cheese & Tomato Sandwich $3.00
Ham, Cheese & Tomato Sandwich $4.00
Tomato Sandwich $2.00
Vegemite Sandwich $1.50
Pies/Pasties $4.50 : Party Pies $1.20
Sausage Rolls $3.50
Sauce 20¢
Pizzas (Ham & Pineapple
or Bacon & Cheese) $2.50
Ham & Cheese Toasties $2.50

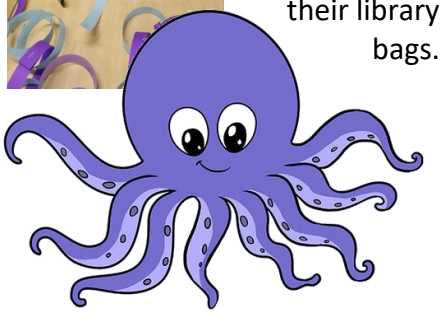
Milk Drinks and Yoghurts to be purchased at the canteen - not delivered with primary orders





Prep/One students have enjoyed opening their first day bags with family, exploring their new 'Under the Sea' classroom, creating their own octopus and making new friends. You are welcome at all times to come and visit our ocean, where learning is always in motion!

During their Art lesson they had fun decorating their library bags.



School procedures for the bushfire season

Each year, to prepare for bushfires and grassfires, schools and early childhood services complete a range of activities.

The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).

All schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will also close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district.

When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating forecasts or fire weather warnings, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries.
Our school is in the **Mallee fire weather district.**
As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan.

What does this mean for our school?
Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 3 school.
Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in the **Mallee fire district.**

What is the department's policy?
The department's Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?
Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in **the Mallee fire district.**
Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by email, text and if possible a note home.
Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Families are encouraged to action their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**
For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, checking our website [www.murrayvillecc.vic.edu.au], by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the CFA's website.
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.

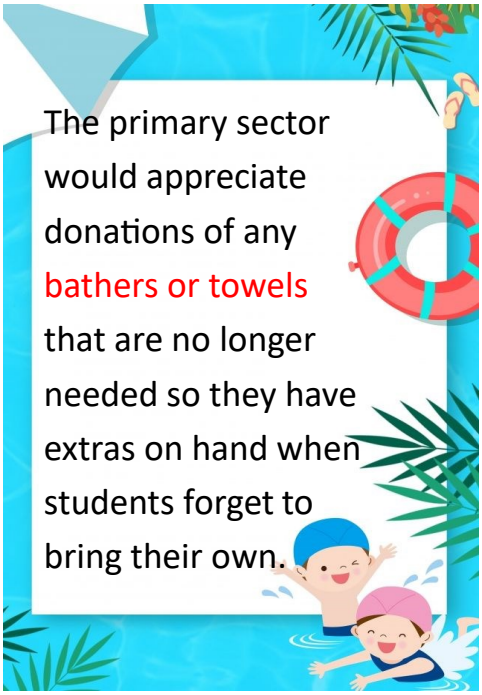
You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website https://emergency.vic.gov.au
- Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency)
- Twitter (https://twitter.com/vicemergency)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

website *www.murrayvillecc.vic.edu.au*
email murrayville.cc@education.vic.gov.au
(03) 5095 2001
SMS 0457 518 394

COLLEGE CALENDAR

13/2	College Council BBQ
18/2	House Swimming Carnival
21/2	UDSSA Swimming at Murrayville
25/2	College Council
26/2	Mallee Division Swimming
3/3	7,8 & 10 immunisation program
5/3	Sunraysia South Swimming
11/3	Regional Swimming
4/4	End of Term 1
18/4	Good Friday
20/4	Easter Sunday
22/4	Term 2 commences
23/4	School Photos
25/4	Anzac Day
6/5	Sunraysia South Cross Country
14/5	Mallee Division Cross Country
15/5	P-6 Arts activity
23/5	P-6 Arts activities
27/5	Regional Cross Country
9/6	King's Birthday
17/6	Student Free Day

There is no elevator to success, you have to take the stairs

We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the first peoples and traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We pay our respects to the Elders, both past, present and future, for they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hopes of Indigenous Australians.