

MURRUMBURRAH  
HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL:  
MR DALE RANDS

# Mercury



Mercury

5 June 2020



## Principal's Report

Welcome to Week 6.

It has been fantastic to be able to get all our students back to school and learning in a more regular way after such a long break and learning from home. The Covid-19 lockdown certainly had its challenges with staff, students and families, when it came to the education of our students. Can I say firstly, on behalf of all our staff, thank you. Thank you for the time and patience many of you have given in these tough times and the perseverance to get your children to keep up with their schooling. Thank you also for your continuing understanding of many of the changes we have had to make to ensure everyone is safe at school by contacting the school by phone or email and not coming directly into the school buildings. We all know that things have been difficult, but thanks to the adherence of Australians to lockdown procedures we have done very well to combat the spread of the virus and make our country safe.

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Many students have been coming to school this term on various days and when they were allowed one day per week we saw most of our students coming on their recognised day. Some even came to school on multiple days. The general feeling from many students was that it just felt right to do their schoolwork at school. I think that many students actually missed school but won't admit to it.

During the lockdown time tradesman have been able to continue planned works at the school and many jobs have been able to be completed or advanced over the last few weeks. The school continues to improve the buildings with now fresh paint and bathroom upgrades done to add to the many other jobs being worked on. The interruptions will continue but they are certainly worth the effort as the school is a very fresh and inviting place to learn.

Mr Cotter has had his technology room renovated so that his new furniture and new equipment will be available for teachers and classes to use to continue their much-improved access to modern technology. Three 3D printers have been purchased and are now operational, 6 Lego robotics kits have been purchased along with our virtual reality headsets and a new additional set of laptops and other furniture to support the continued improved educational outcomes for students at our fine school. Mr Cotter now claims to be a guru in 3D printing and a robotics wizard! We will have to wait and see but some of the samples he has produced do look very exciting for students to try. Now he has to work with our teachers to add these new skills into class programs.

Unfortunately contact sport, assemblies and excursions are still on hold but hopefully we will get access to these back some time soon.

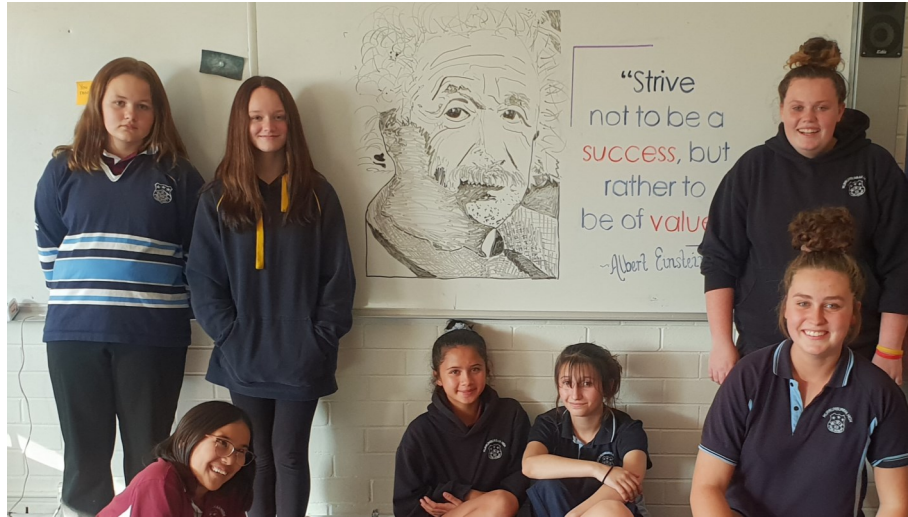
Enjoy your long weekend and hopefully you can get away for the weekend. I know I am going to enjoy the fishing on the coast.

*Mr Dale Rands*  
*Principal*

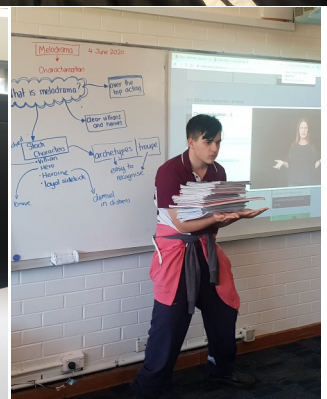
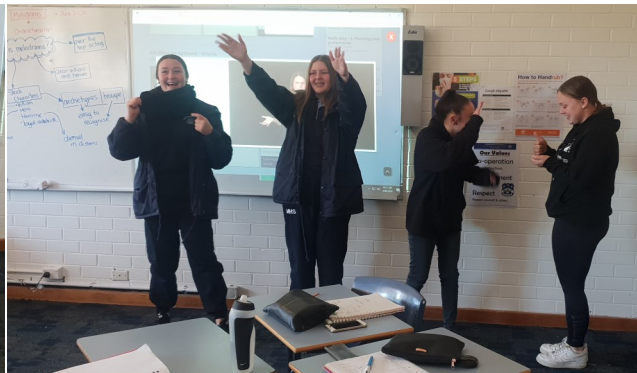
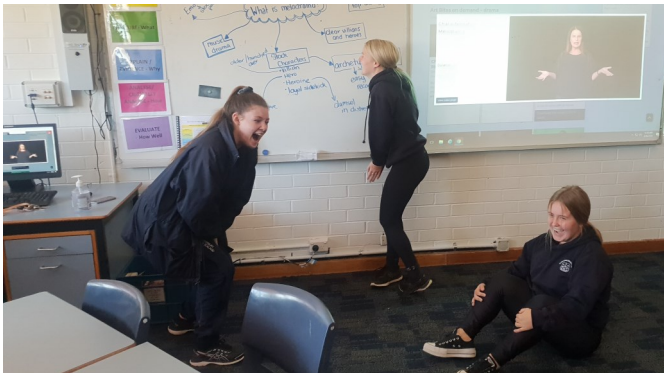


# DANCE

The dance group has been busy working on choreography during sport.



# STAGE 5 DRAMA



## ENGLISH WRITING

### *"We learn more in crisis than in comfort"*

My comfort place is school. I don't need to push my brain as hard because I have support around. When our world learnt we were heading into a deadly crisis I knew my life would become a lot harder. I learnt more about myself, how tough schoolwork can be when alone and how appreciative I am for my school teachers and staff.

Wow, I never realised how tough schoolwork can be when not having teachers and classmates around to help you. Home learning was difficult. I had to teach myself new topics and context, which was hard. Trying to teach myself a new science or math topic wasn't as easy as it sounds. I will admit I struggled to keep on top of my work and get it all right but it has its benefits, I learnt more about myself and my ability during this time.

I never knew my true ability to learn, I would rely on my teachers and classmates when work got tough, instead of having another go. I understand for some students being an independent learner is normal and easy for them but I struggled. During lockdown I had to go out of my comfort zone and challenge myself. Yes, I had access to email and contact my teachers (which I did) but why not take the opportunity to extend my learning as an independent learner?

What great teachers I have! During lockdown I really got to realise how many lengths our teachers go to so we students can get the best education we can. They set work that we can do ourselves but also push our learning so we don't fall behind during this crisis. But even just realising how much effort and crazy hours they put in to be by our sides and help us achieve the best marks we can. I'm so appreciative for my teachers, schooling would be so challenging without.

This crazy Covid-19 crisis was a challenge but I'm also thankful for this time because it gave me the chance to take a step back and realise that I can be an independent learner and give myself more credit. Even when work gets tough I can get it done and that I should be so much more thankful for all my teachers and the effort and time they put in for me to do the best I can!

*Chloe Wade*

### *Writing about Lockdown*

'We learn more in crisis than in comfort', due to our minds needing to focus because we are in an unfamiliar situation that takes us out of a comfortable routine that your mind is used to.

When learning in comfort it causes our minds to lack certain brain power, as we mentally form a routine that we become comfortable with using. By constantly applying this routine, we become less motivated and discover more distractions in the environment surrounding us.

However, if we find ourselves working in crisis, it is common to find yourself learning more and adapting to the situation you are in. When learning in a crisis, the mind will soon try to find a pattern/routine it can apply to the crisis, which will cause the mind to use more brain power and possibly assist you to gain motivation while in a crisis situation.

Therefore, we learn more in crisis than in comfort as we need to adapt in situations.

*Coralie Vasquez*

## ENGLISH WRITING

### *Writing about lock down*

“We learn more in crisis than in comfort”. Do I agree with this? Well to be completely honest I see this quote from different perspectives favouring and disagreeing. We do learn more in crisis as determination and persistence is developed but learning in crisis can be overwhelming. When in comfort, it is easier to be focused, however, it is also easier to both lose motivation and gain distraction.

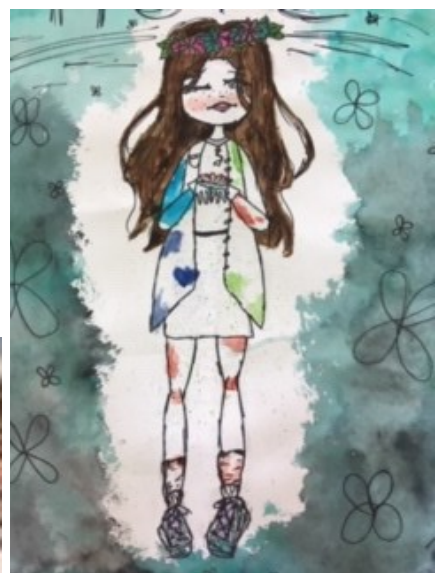
As I have stated, learning in crisis impacts positively on an individual as the challenge builds determination and persistence. When learning with challenges like less access to resources, little to no interaction with teachers and a different atmosphere; these force one to overcome those challenges with determination to complete requirements and persistence to ensure they do everything to their best. Whilst in lock down, I had difficulties with understanding certain tasks set for completion. I'd normally go see my teacher and discuss my issue. But I couldn't do that in lock down, so my determination grew and I had to thoroughly read through the tasks and questions and with that I gained persistence to better my understanding and to complete all tasks to my best. Being quite an independent individual, I found it easy to adapt to the new learning environment whilst in lock down. However, with the challenges such as limited resources, limited teacher interaction and a change in atmosphere/environment, some individuals can become overwhelmed as they are not used to the 'lock down learning environment'. Being overwhelmed potentially pushes people away from wanting to work in order to avoid stress and worry. Learning in crisis impacts both positively and negatively.

Learning in crisis has its beneficial aspects and negative impacts when it comes to learning more, but so does learning in comfort. When learning in comfort, individuals are capable of focusing more on what's needed. During lock down, I was able to focus strongly on my work because I had no noise around me - this was preventing distraction. I'd set my laptop up, grab my pens, pencils and books and would then sit down and complete my work for the day. With no one around me and limited noise, I was able to complete my work adequately and efficiently. Whilst it may be easier to focus, it is more beneficial to those who are more independent with their learning; others are too easily distracted. When learning in comfort distractions are too often gained and individuals are not learning. Distractions are more powerful than self motivation in an individual's mind and it results in comfort being too much of a 'cruise'. Less is learnt due to the lack of routine, lack of social interactions and minimal access to beneficial resources. Learning in comfort has both positive and negative aspects.

“We learn more in crisis than in comfort”. There are so many advantages and disadvantages to learning in both comfort and crisis. Everyone has their opinions as we all view from several different perspectives. The determination and persistence gained from learning in crisis is great, but the potential of individual's becoming overwhelmed is not. And distractions whilst learning in comfort are too powerful to overcome. However, those who find it easier to focus would say it's great. Learning in either comfort or crisis will tend to benefit or negatively impact an individual depending on their overall characteristics, strengths and weaknesses.

*Sam Emms*

# Art - Stage 5

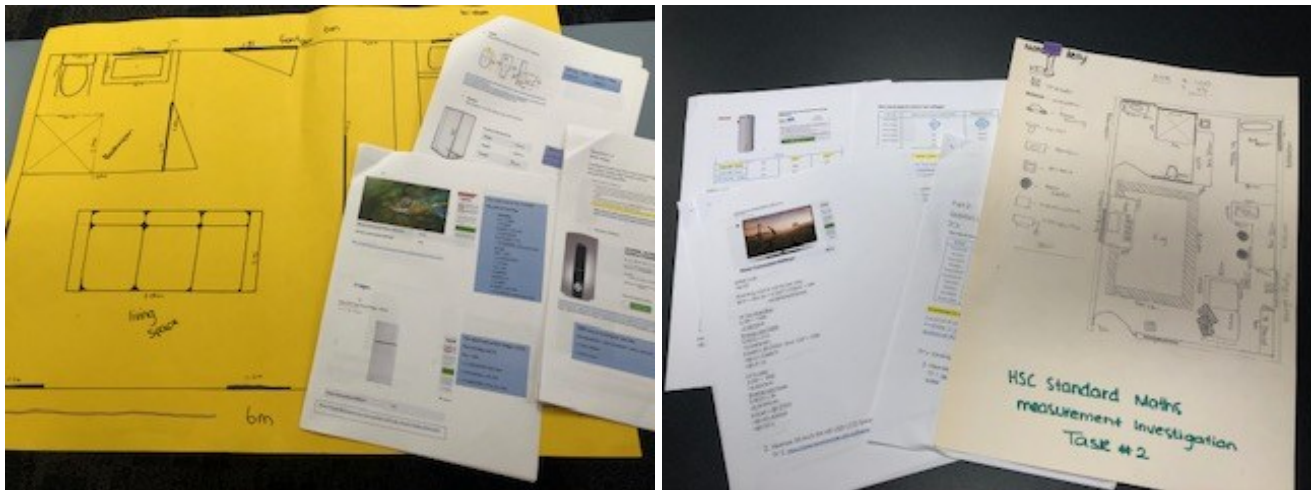


# MATHS

Stage 5 students using practical trigonometry to find the height of trees.



Year 12 Standard Maths assignments, students designed a teenage retreat and looked at water, power and heating needs.



Stage 4 students working with data.



## AG PLOT

Lambing is now drawing to an end with lots of healthy baby lambs bouncing around their mothers. Our rams "Woodley" and "Keith" seem quite relaxed about the new family they have created. Lamb marking is next on the agenda with ringing, ear tagging and vaccinating to be done. Then the babies are fed on their mums until October when the Illabo Show will hopefully hold their RAS Prime Lamb competition. We are looking good at this stage to score a ribbon.

On the note of lambs, we have a set of twin poddies, Mr Skits and Eliza, who are doing very well after they lost their mum due to post pregnancy complications. They will return to school when they are weaned along with an older merino ewe poddy who was donated to the school earlier in the year named "Barbara".

**Stage 5** have been back at school and finally are being put through tractor operations and safety course. Such a relief to be able to get back outside and do some hands on farming. (Although the tractor is gleaming from all the sanitising wipes between students.)

The Grow-a-Pea competition is heating up with students sent home to take a photo of their pea plants with a ruler placed beside to determine the accurate height....Winner, Winner Steak dinner to be announced in two weeks time. May need to call in "Costa" to judge this one.

**Primary Industries** have been back out in the paddock doing repairs and maintenance around the farm with the odd wire that needs to be re-joined and strained, a trough or two that need cleaning and a greenhouse shade structure that needs erecting. Work placement can recommence for these students to test their skills in an actual work site.

**Stage 6** Ag have been put straight to work with their practical assessment tasks which are related to our oat crops, measuring the effects of plant density and available light on crop growth. Year 12 will be scrambling to catch up their theory at the same time. Some hard work lies ahead for the boys.

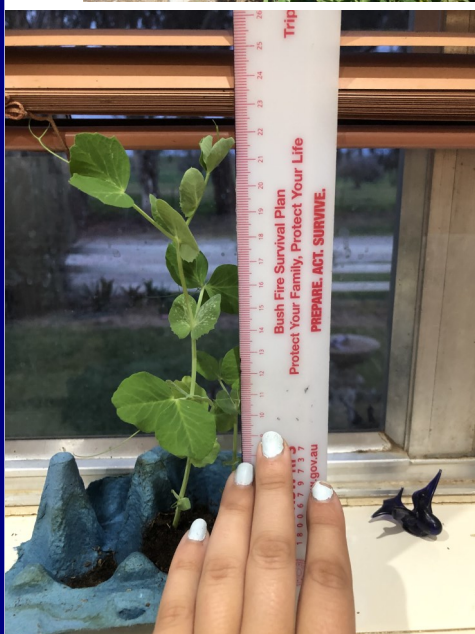
**Stage 4** TAS - Food and Ag have had a great start with cabbages and cauliflowers growing to great heights over the holidays. Now to plant all those winter vegies.....peas, spinach, onions, leeks to name a few. Mr 'Green Thumbs' Cronin will have some seedlings started very soon so watch this space for some upcoming sales.

We have also been lucky to secure 50 day-old Hyline Brown pullet chicks. Give us 15 weeks and we will be marketing some point of lay pullets for sale to the community. If you are looking for hens be sure to put your name and number required in quick to have some put aside for you. First in best dressed....limited numbers apply, \$25 a bird. We will be getting another 50 chicks in June so there will be another batch for sale in late October early November.

The Ag Plot can always take unwanted pots if you need to find a home for them. Please drop off at the school Ag building with Wal.

*Jan Young*





Maci Wilkinson Pea plant competition

# AROUND THE SCHOOL

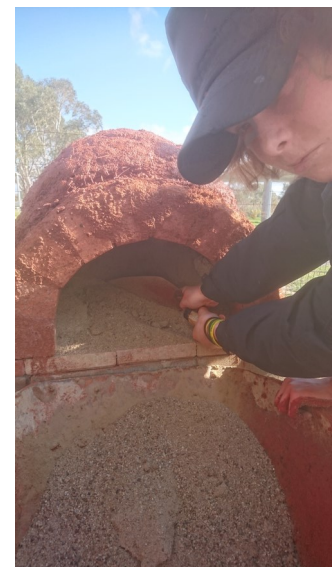


# PDHPE



# IVY

"Mr Cronin's IVY class has completed work on a cob pizza oven for the school. The students did a great job and can't wait to try it out. Ms Irons' food technology class is kindly assisting with making the pizza bases and there looks to be many a winter feast ahead!"



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## ATTENTION PARENTS

- Students are to attend school 5 days a week unless they are unwell.
- Following department advice, all parents and carers should remain outside the school grounds unless absolutely necessary. Non-essential visitors are not permitted on school grounds.
- Students must bring their own water bottle as they can no longer use the bubblers.
- Follow health advice and keep your child home if they are unwell.

### P&C News

Keep up to date with the MHS P&C through their Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/Murrumburrah-High-School-PC-Association>

### Keep up to date with MHS



School Website - <https://murrumburr-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/> - To view newsletter, photos, events and more.



School Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/murrumburrahhigh/>



Newsletter - The school newsletter is uploaded to the School website and Facebook



Parent Portal [murrumburrahhs.sentral.com.au](https://murrumburrahhs.sentral.com.au)





## Higher School Certificate (HSC) minimum standard

### Information for parents and carers

#### What is the HSC minimum standard?

The HSC minimum standard was created to help ensure that students have the key literacy and numeracy skills for life after school. Students in New South Wales will need to demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to receive the HSC credential from 2020.

The HSC minimum standard is set at level 3 of the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF). These skills are essential for everyday tasks and learning after school such as writing a letter for a job application or understanding a mobile phone plan.

The standard is assessed through online tests across three areas: reading, writing and numeracy.

The minimum standard online tests are 45 minutes long and include a multiple choice reading test, a multiple choice numeracy test and a short writing test based on a choice between a visual or written prompt.

Examples of the tests are available on the [NSW Education Standards Authority \(NESA\)](https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa) website. Practice tests are available for students to sit at school to help them become familiar with the online test structure and for schools to help determine student readiness to meet the minimum standard.

#### Who needs to complete HSC minimum standard online tests?

##### Students who complete the HSC in 2020:

To show a student meets the HSC minimum standard the student needs to have

- achieved Band 8 or above in reading in Year 9 NAPLAN in 2017 or achieved level 3 in the HSC minimum standard online reading test and
- achieved Band 8 or above in writing in Year 9 NAPLAN in 2017 or achieved level 3 in the HSC minimum standard online writing test and
- achieved Band 8 or above in numeracy in Year 9 NAPLAN in 2017 or achieved level 3 in the HSC minimum standard online numeracy test.

Students who have not met the standard by 2020 may sit the tests during the first few years after school.

##### Students who complete the HSC in 2021 and beyond:

All students must sit the NESA HSC minimum standard online tests in reading, writing and numeracy.

#### When can students take the HSC minimum standard online tests?

Students will have four opportunities per year to sit the HSC minimum standard online tests in each area of reading, numeracy and writing, in Year 10, 11 and 12.

Students will also have up to 5 years from the time they start the HSC courses to sit the minimum standard online tests.

#### Disability provisions and exemptions:

Students with additional learning needs may be eligible for extra provisions for the minimum standard online tests or be exempt from meeting the HSC minimum standard in order to receive their HSC. Parents should contact the school to find out more information.

Life Skills courses are designed to provide an equitable pathway to the HSC. Students taking four or more Life Skills courses can be exempt from meeting the HSC minimum standard. Please contact your school for more information.

#### Telephone Interpreter Service

If you need an interpreter to assist you to contact the school, please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 13 14 50 and ask for an interpreter in your language. Tell the operator the phone number you want to call and the operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with the conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

#### Further information

NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA)  
<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/hsc-minimum-standard>