



MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

Valuing individual potential - achieving personal best

Term 4 Week 6, 2022

## Principals Report

We have experienced some very wild weather recently with a lot of local flooding of rivers and causeways. Please remember to take care on the roads and keep up to date with advice from Cowans about disruptions to bus services.

## COVID

The State Health Minister has announced advice about the next wave of COVID outbreaks across the country. Living with COVID is about remaining vigilant and up-to-date with vaccines. In preparation for the new wave RAT kits will be distributed to students this week. If your child tests positive please let the school know and keep them at home until they are well and symptoms have disappeared.

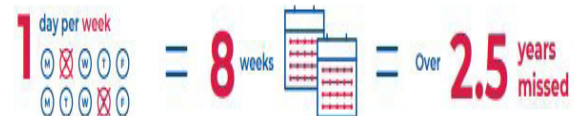
## Attendance

At this time of year we often see student attendance start to decline. Each day lost means a student can never catch-up. Just one day per fortnight adds up to one year of schooling lost over a child's school life. Remember the school year does not finish until December 16.

## Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just... they miss weeks per year and years over their school life



education.nsw.gov.au

## Year 7 Transition

The Year 7 2023 transition program has come to an end with a BBQ and some fun activities. Thank you to Miss Wenzel Year 7 Advisor who organised the program of lessons and activities for students. The students really enjoyed the opportunity to experience what secondary school will be like next year, with new teachers, subjects and specialist classrooms.

## Presentation Assembly

Each year we celebrate student achievement at our annual presentation awards. The infants assembly is held during the day and whole school assembly in the evening at the School of Arts Hall. Please keep an eye on the calendar Tuesday, December 13 for our presentation day.

**Darren Noonan**  
Principal

NSW Department of Education

## Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn



Build friendships



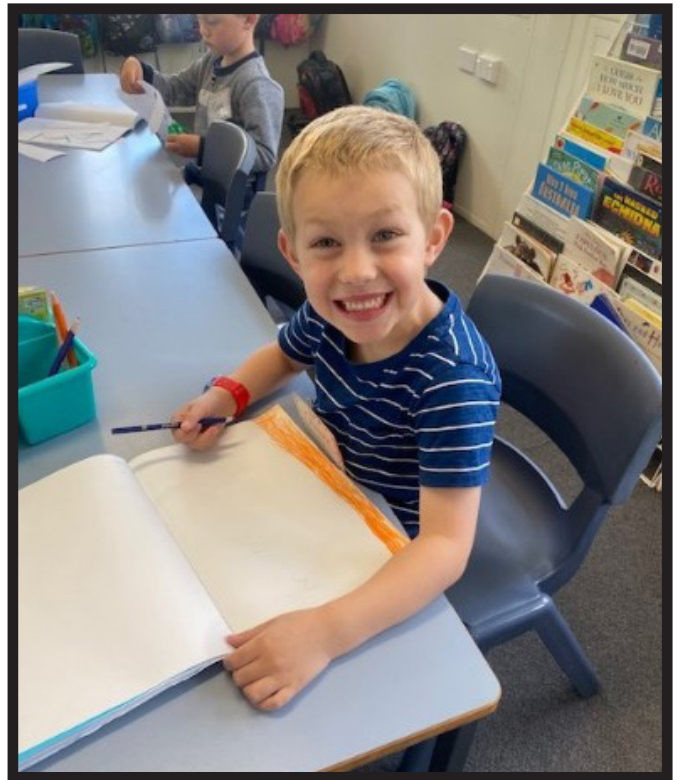
Develop life skills

education.nsw.gov.au



# Primary News

## Kindergarten Transition 2023



**Infants Excursion to Inflatable World**



On Thursday, 27 October infants students went to Inflatable World in Maitland. It was a fabulous day of jumping, bouncing, running and lots of smiles! Students were very polite and respectful of facilities and staff. We had lots of students falling asleep on the way back, proving it was a good, fun, active day!

**Lisen Olsson  
Kindergarten Teacher**

What a fantastic few weeks our pre-2023 Kindergarten students have had. Students have settled in to Kindergarten routines and have enjoyed being a part of primary school. We have completed many activities, including working on their cutting and colouring skills and enjoyed learning new games.

Parents and carers, a friendly reminder that school shirt vouchers are in the office ready for your collection. Thank you again to our P&C for supporting our families by providing these vouchers.

### Kindergarten Transition Dates and Times

- **Tuesday 22 November**  
9.00am-2.00pm
- **Tuesday 29 November**  
9.00am-3.00pm
- **Tuesday 6 December**  
**Post Transition Meetings for Parents**

## Grandparents Day



What a marvellous day we all had on Friday, 28 October to celebrate Grandparent's Day. Students were delighted to put on performances for their Grandparents, entertaining them with songs, poems and stories. All special guests on the day were treated to a delicious morning tea, thank you to our generous P&C and the many helpers who baked for the occasion. It was very special to see students and their loved ones enjoying this time together after not being able to gather for the last couple of years. To finish off the exceptional morning, classrooms were opened up for students to show their families where they spend their school days and to complete some fun activities together. The morning was filled with huge smiles and a lovely atmosphere, thank you to all who joined us.



**Primary Exhibition at the Merriwa Gallery**



Students from Kindergarten to Year Six have had the wonderful opportunity to display their own artworks in the Merriwa Gallery. The exhibition ran for two weeks and was open to the public. All classes greatly enjoyed visiting the gallery

to see their work on display and to view the creations from other classes. For all students, a memorable highlight was seeing their artworks blown up on the big screen. Again, we would like to thank Ellie from the Merriwa Gallery for organising this show for our students.



**Keirra Hourn**  
Relieving Assistant Principal-Infants

## K-6 Sport

This term in sport we have been learning new skills in Gymnastics. Students have enjoyed developing strength, flexibility and movement techniques while participating in a range of activities. We learnt techniques for performing tuck rolls, split jump, cartwheels, handstands, scissor kicks, just to name a few. Students also got to experience swinging on the bar working on forward and backward flips and walking and balancing on the beam. Thank you to Nicky Western for coming and running the gymnastics sessions with us.



## Mixed Tackle Football Training

Students from Years 3-6 have been participating in tackle football training sessions on Wednesday afternoons. We are very thankful to Dan and Sarah Bidner for volunteering their time to help build our skills. Students will be taking part in a Mixed Tackle Football Gala Day on Wednesday of Week 7.



**Alyssa Moore**  
Sports Coordinator

**Merriwa Central School  
P&C  
Ham Raffles  
Thursday 8 December  
at  
7.30pm  
Merriwa RSL**

Please come along and support our major fundraiser. Monies raised will purchase a new fresh fruit slushy machine for the secondary canteen and will also help us purchase primary Student of the Week Books for 2023.

## Remembrance Day



This Remembrance Day, our Year 6 SRC leaders, Ashton Marchese, Thomas Kneeves, Grace Collits, Paige Walker and Year 11 SRC Josie Porter walked down to our local Cenotaph to attend the service and pay their respects.



Our primary SRC, Olivia Purcell, Braith Hunt, Claire Bidner and Jack Purcell did a wonderful job at leading a school Remembrance Day assembly. Each class paid their respects and laid a wreath under our school flags.

**Sarah Fleming**  
SRC Coordinator Primary

## Primary Assembly Dates Term 4

Reminder for the upcoming Primary Assemblies

- Week 9 - Friday, 9 December 10.00 am

We will also be holding our annual Scripture assembly Thursday, 15 December at 9.30am.

Parents and Caregivers are welcome to attend this assembly in the Great Hall.

### Year 6 Dinner

The Year 6 dinner will be held on Thursday, 15 December at 6.00pm Merriwa RSL Club. All costs towards the dinner have been generously paid for by our P&C. Students are reminded to complete their dinner order and return by Friday, 2 December.

### 2023 School Leaders

On Thursday, 24 November nominated Year 5 students will participate in captain speeches for school leadership roles in 2023. Year 5 parents are welcome to attend these speeches in our Primary library at 11.30am.

### Intensive Swimming



Intensive swimming will commence on Friday, 2 December. All students will be attending the program, as students will either complete the 'Learn to Swim Program' or the 'Swim and Survive Program.' There are no associated costs towards the program, yet students are reminded to please return their permission notes.

### A Case of Discovery

On Friday, 25 November students in Years 3-6 will participate in a Science Incursion, called 'A Case of Discovery.'

The gold is gone! The jewels are too! An Auction House Robbery seems to have gone well for a gang of thieves who have made off

with rare coins, gold and jewellery. Later that day, the security guard from the Auction House is attacked on his boat and the police need the help of the forensic scientists to track down the suspects and recover the stolen items. But when they are arrested, the gold is nowhere to be found. What on earth happened to the stolen goods!?

There will be 12 stations and students will have the opportunity to explore the following:

- Impression evidence
- Toxicology Testing
- Digital Microscopy
- DNA Modelling
- Ultra-Violet Examinations
- Code Breaking
- Medical Report
- Fingerprinting

### Primary Years 3-6 Excursion



In Week 8, students in Years 3-6 will be attending an excursion to Nobby's Beach. Students will participate in a Surf Fun Safe program. This program is a fun experience for the students to learn beach education. They will have options to participate in sand and water activities.

This program includes:

- Beach Walk (identification of hazards, rips, wave types and beach signage)
- Water Skills (wading, dolphin dives, negotiating the surf and catching waves)
- Surf Skills (use of body boards and nipper boards)
- Sun Protection
- Beach Games (beach soccer, volleyball, flags)

Please ensure all permission notes and money have been handed into the office.

**Talia Morgan**  
**Relieving Assistant Principal- Primary**

# Secondary News

## Secondary Sports Wrap

### Combined High Schools Rugby League

On Friday, 21 October Brooklyn Blackadder represented our school in NSW CHS at the U16's Rugby League All Schools Carnival in Cabramatta. Brooklyn was part of the winning side on the day who defeated NSW CCC 12-10 in the final. She was able to score points with the boot and touching down for a try as well. Congratulations Brooklyn.



**Lachlan Vaughan**  
PDHPE Teacher  
Year 12 Advisor | Sports Coordinator | ROAR  
Coordinator

### Year 7 2023 Transition



Over the last three Thursdays, Year 6 have completed Transition days to get a taste of High School and to help prepare them for Year 7. Students engaged in a wide range of subjects and activities and had a wonderful time building knowledge, confidence and friendships. Students are to be congratulated on their excellent behaviour and their willingness to approach new experiences with enthusiasm and dedication.



**Laura Wenzel**  
English Teacher

## GET Smart and CARS



On Thursday, 20 October Upper Hunter Community Health presented a whole day workshop called 'GET Smart' (Girls Empowering Themselves) for all girls in Years 9 and 10. The informative workshop was presented by Jodie Duffel and Linda Bates, Women's Health Nurses from Upper Hunter Community Health. The presentation was aimed at educating girls on a range of issues including health, relationships and safety. Our students were commended on their maturity, insightfulness and engagement with the program.

Linda and Jodie will be returning on Tuesday, 29 November to present a similar workshop, CARS, to all Years 9 and 10 boys.

**Emma Piper**

**Head Teacher (Mentor) | English Teacher  
Girls Adviser | ROAR Coordinator**

**Support Faculty**



Jack has undertaken his first round of work experience in the Secondary Canteen. Donna, his supervisor has been very pleased with his enthusiasm and efficiency in completing his tasks each week. Jack is excellent at arriving on time each week without being reminded demonstrating an excellent work ethic. We would also like to thank Donna for supporting Jack and our Work Experience program

## SRC

The 2023 Merriwa Central School Student Representative Council (SRC) has been elected for secondary (8-12). Congratulations to the students listed below, Year 7 and primary elections will take place early next year.

The secondary SRC will run their planning day next week in preparation for an exciting and prosperous 2023 including electing office bearers; President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Publicity Officer .

- Year 8 - Torah Coles
- Year 9 - Katana Magnus and Isabelle Pike
- Year 10 - Sanita Turner and Lily Swan
- Year 11 - Mia Jacobs and Kaylee Ballantyne
- Year 12 - Josie Porter and Jack Goodear

## Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day services were held at both campuses with all students showing respect and honouring the day, taking a moment to remember those who served, are currently serving and those who have lost their lives.

We would also like to thank Ildi Papp and Matthew Scarr for stepping in to host the secondary ceremony in the absence of SRC representatives. They both did a fabulous job and completed their roles with dignity and pride on this special occasion. SRC representatives, Josie Porter, Grace Collits, Ashton Marchese, Paige Walker and Thomas Kneevs represented the school at the Merriwa Remembrance Day Service. Josie shared "The Farmer Remembers the Somme" by Vance Palmer and the students lay a wreath.



## Years 9/10 Food Technology

We have been exploring the concepts of equity in the distribution of food around the world this term. We have looked at reasons for food and water scarcity and investigated measures to help improve and support people around the globe. In practical classes we have looked at a range of skills such as our knife skills when making chicken stroganoff.



**Elizabeth La Trobe  
Head Teacher Support  
SRC Coordinator Secondary**



## Year 7 Technology Mandatory

This term Year 7 have been exploring managed environments specifically focusing on the Dairy Industry. We then looked at managed environments around the school including our gardens and spent some time managing the garden behind the library by weeding and planting some new plants with the help of Mrs Sinderberry.



**Natasha Freeth**  
Head Teacher VET

SkoolBag 

Don't forget to download our school's SkoolBag app to ensure that you are kept in the loop on:

- ✦ School newsletters
- ✦ Notices
- ✦ Events
- ✦ Cancellations
- ✦ Reminders
- ✦ ...and more!

**INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Just download the "SkoolBag" app on your phone, open the app and add our school!

## Steward House Student Visit



On Monday, 24 October Tianah and Mia headed to Muswellbrook to catch the bus down to Manly beach to attend Stewart House. A little nervous the girls bravely headed off on their unknown adventure. On the bus they were accompanied by other students from rural schools in our local area.

On arrival to the “big smoke” they pulled up at the “ocean resort” grabbed their bags and headed inside. They were met by the many staff members who proceeded to explain to us what the next two weeks of our holiday was going to look like.

So, the most important factor of our journey was what the food was going to be like. We are pleased to report that it was amazzzzzinggggg, scrumptious, delicious, and plentiful. 10/10, we were even lucky enough that the chef was an ex-contestant from Masterchef, so our stomachs were in good hands.

Our two weeks went quickly, as the days were filled with eating and many adventures. Some of the activities we did included going to Taronga Zoo (not the day the lions got out we are happy to report) We imagined what it would be like to represent Australia at the Olympics when we headed for some swimming at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre. The weather was perfect for us on days where we ended down to Curl Curl beach for a swim and a hang out with our new country friends. We

participated in lots of hands on activities such as tie dying and some cooking. We jumped on the ferry and headed across the harbour to Darling Harbour to visit Maritime Museum and Ryde park. We met our favourite celebrities (in wax) at Madam Tussadeus. Then we popped next door to the Sydney Aquarium and hung out with our ocean friends. We finished our trip with some more delicious food on the barbee and competed against each other with some bowling.

Before we knew it, it was time to pack up and head back to the “sticks”. We were so lucky that we got to experience this once in a life time opportunity that many of our city peers just take for granted. We missed our family and friends, but it was so worth it. We would recommend anyone to go if they are selected.

**Tianah and Mia**

**SCPANSW**  
SCHOOL COUNSELLING AND  
PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATION NSW  
proudly presents

**SCHOOL & SCHOOL  
COUNSELLOR & PSYCHOLOGIST  
RECOGNITION DAY**

Thursday 10th November 2022



Merriwa Central School would like to thank Natalie Smith and Dianne Head for all of the work you do in supporting our student body and community.



## Senior uniforms are being revamped

We are currently in the process of upgrading our senior students lemon tshirt to a design that better accommodates the harsh water of Merriwa and student voice via the SRC committee. Consultation between the students, staff and community are currently being undertaken. As you can imagine such a change incorporates many facets. Moving forward senior students and students transitioning from years 10 into 11 should purchase the current lemon tshirt sold at Di's Clothing Patch. Students should continue to wear navy blue bottoms.

Another recent change has been the transition into trucker school hats. Due to ongoing Covid restrictions we are still awaiting their arrival.

Further correspondence will be communicated as the process progresses.

**Narelle Smith**  
**Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing**

## Careers News

### TAFE YES+ program Automotive and Hair and Beauty

On Thursday 3 and Friday 4 November, students commenced participation in the TAFE YES+ program. This program has provided students interested in the industry areas of Hair and Beauty as well as Automotive to gain insight into industry-specific knowledge and practices for potential career opportunities. Students in Hair and Beauty have been travelling to Muswellbrook each Wednesday to study at the Muswellbrook Tertiary Education Centre. They have experienced washing and treatment practices, blow drying and styling and will be colouring this week. Automotive students have been working out of the RFS shed in Merriwa on Thursdays and have experienced deconstructing an engine. Students enjoy the opportunity to extend their interests and passions beyond the classroom and represent our school with the utmost respect and care during this TAFE-delivered program.

Students will participate in the program for another 4 weeks with visits from TAFE program coordinators and Merriwa Central School's Careers Advisor.



## Upcoming Events

### Barista Training (Week 10)

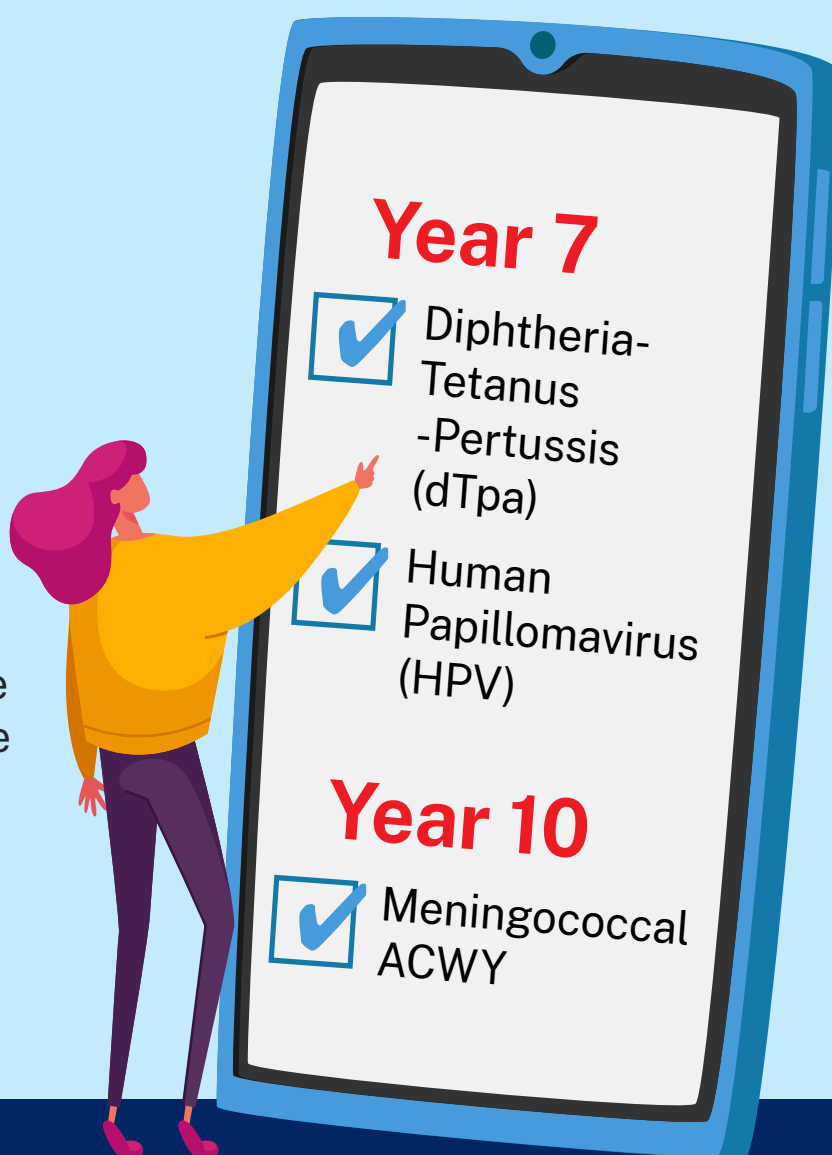
Several students will be involved in a TAFE-run barista course across two days in Week 10. This will be an invaluable course for students in Years 10-12 looking to build their resume and qualifications. Student expressions of interest are required due to limited capacity. Students should check their emails or the Careers News Google Classroom – code: v2fafwu.

**Hannah Waters**  
**Careers Advisor**

# Will your child be in year 7 or 10 next year?

You can provide  
consent for  
your child's  
routine school  
vaccinations  
online in 2023.

At the beginning of  
the school year, your  
child's school will share  
the link to complete the  
online consent form.



More information on the school vaccination program:  
[health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination](https://health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination)

Merriwa Central School P&C

# HAM RAFFLES

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Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December

7:30pm

Merriwa RSL Club

Hams supplied by Merriwa Farm Fresh Meats,  
Alexander Downs and Merriwa IGA

Other prizes include Gift Vouchers, WLT cards,  
Restaurant Vouchers  
and much more.





Term Four	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
November	6	Primary Homework Club library 3.15pm-4.15pm 14	Kindergarten Transition 9.00am-1.35pm 15	YES Program Hair and Beauty 8.30am Muswellbrook 16	Secondary Homework Club library 3.30pm – 4.30pm  YES Program Automotive 9.00am RFS Merriwa 17	Australia Training Awards – Tahli Gleeson South Australia 18	19/20
November	7	Primary Homework Club library 3.15pm-4.15pm 21	Kindergarten Transition 9.00am-2.00pm 22	Mixed Rugby League Gala Day at Merriwa Sports Oval Years 3-6 9.00am  YES Program Hair and Beauty 8.30am Muswellbrook  Year 2 Maths at Apex Park 10.00am  Merriwa Fun Day at Merriwa RSL 1.00pm 23	Captains Speeches and voting at MCS Library  Secondary Homework Club library 3.30pm – 4.30pm  YES Program Automotive 9.00am RFS Merriwa 24	Science Incursion Years 3-6 at COLA 25	26/27
November/December	8	Primary Homework Club library 3.15pm-4.15pm 28	Kindergarten Transition 9.00am-3.00pm  CARS Years 9/10 boys at MCS Library 29	Years 3-6 Surf Safe Program at Nobby's Beach  YES Program Hair and Beauty 8.30am Muswellbrook 30	Secondary Homework Club library 3.30pm – 4.30pm  YES Program Automotive 9.00am RFS Merriwa 1	QuickSmart Celebration Party Primary & Secondary 11.10am-1.00pm Secondary Campus  Intensive Swimming at Merriwa Olympic Pool 11.00am-2.00pm 2	3/4

Term Four	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
December	9	<p>Primary Homework Club library 3.15pm-4.15pm</p> <p>Intensive Swimming at Merriwa Olympic Pool 11.00am-2.00pm</p>	<p>Kindergarten Post Transition Meeting for parents</p> <p>P &amp; C Meeting 6.30pm at RSL Club</p> <p>Intensive Swimming at Merriwa Olympic Pool 11.00am-2.00pm</p>	<p>Intensive Swimming at Merriwa Olympic Pool 11.00am-2.00pm</p> <p>Eleebana Band Great Hall at 11.30am K-6</p> <p>YES Program Hair and Beauty 8.30am Muswellbrook</p>	<p>K-12 Rewards Day</p> <p>P&amp;C Ham Raffles at 7.30pm RSL Club</p> <p>Secondary Homework Club library 3.30pm – 4.30pm</p> <p>Intensive Swimming at Merriwa Olympic Pool 11.00am-2.00pm</p> <p>YES Program Automotive 9.00am RFS Merriwa</p>	<p>K-6 Assembly at 10.00am</p> <p>Intensive Swimming at Merriwa Olympic Pool 11.00am-2.00pm</p>	<p>Carols in the Park at Apex Park at 6.00pm</p>
December	10	<p>Primary Homework Club library 3.15pm-4.15pm</p> <p>Intensive Swimming at Merriwa Olympic Pool 11.00am-2.00pm</p>	<p>Presentation Night at School of Arts 7.00pm</p> <p>Intensive Swimming at Merriwa Olympic Pool 11.00am-2.00pm</p>	<p>Intensive Swimming at Merriwa Olympic Pool 11.00am-2.00pm</p> <p>YES Program Hair and Beauty 8.30am Muswellbrook</p>	<p>Year 6 Dinner at 6.00pm-7.30pm RSL</p> <p>HSC Results released</p> <p>Intensive Swimming at Merriwa Olympic Pool 11.00am-2.00pm</p> <p>YES Program Automotive 9.00am RFS Merriwa</p> <p>Scripture assembly K-6 9.30am</p> <p>Barista Course at MCS</p>	<p>Last Day of Term for students</p> <p>Intensive Swimming at Merriwa Olympic Pool 11.00am-2.00pm</p> <p>Barista Course at MCS</p>	
	11	<p>SDD</p> <p>19</p>	<p>SDD</p> <p>20</p>				10/11