



MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Valuing individual potential - achieving personal best

Term 4 Week 10, 2022

Principals Report

Our presentation assemblies have been a wonderful way to end the year on a high, recognising student achievement throughout the year. Congratulations to all students who received awards it is important we celebrate success and hard work. Reports have now been issued to all students which provide teacher assessment of learning and areas of growth during Semester 2. Please feel free to discuss your child's report with their teacher.

P&C Fundraiser

Congratulations to the P&C for running a very successful Ham Raffle fundraiser last week. The fundraiser was well supported by the Merriva community and raised over \$7000. The P&C plays a pivotal role running the school canteens, and providing additional resources for students throughout the year. Thank you to the hard working committee led by our P&C President Hollie Hunt.

Construction to commence

Construction of our new school hall "The Studio" will commence over the Christmas holidays. The site office has been established and fencing will be installed shortly on the construction site. The works are expected to take six months to complete at a cost of over \$2.5 million. This will provide a wonderful new facility for students, staff and community.



In addition work will commence to demolish the old ag shed in secondary, and replace it with a much more suitable four bay shed to house the tractor and assorted farm equipment.



Staff Farewells

At this time of year we say farewell to some of our hardworking staff. Mrs Morgan relieving assistant principal has accepted a transfer and will take up a new appointment at Rutherford Public School. Mrs Morgan is looking forward to a new adventure at Rutherford and we wish her all the best with the move.

Mrs Strachan has resigned her position to spend more time with her busy family. Mrs Strachan has been a wonderful asset to our school teaching infants and more recently taking on the role of teacher librarian.

Miss Ticehurst Year 1 class teacher has decided to return to Sydney to be with her family and we wish her the very best.

Miss Kenaly Deputy Principal has accepted a position as Deputy Principal at Gilgandra High School. Miss Kenaly has been pivotal in shaping the secondary curriculum and high expectations for student success. Her enthusiasm and sense of humour will be missed by the secondary staff and students.

Happy and safe holidays

Lastly enjoy the Christmas holidays with family and friends. School resumes in the new year on Tuesday, 31 January for students Years 1-12. Kindergarten start the following day on Wednesday, 1 February.

Darren Noonan
Principal

Primary News

Kindergarten Transition

That's a wrap for Kindergarten Transition 2023! What a fantastic time we had, meeting all new students, and getting to know them all. Thank you very much to our buddies who helped every transition day with students and made it a wonderful and welcoming place for the new students to come to.

Miss Olsson is very excited for 2023 and can't wait to see what our 2023 Kindergarten students will get up to next year. Have a fabulous Christmas and a very Happy New Year.



Lisen Olsson
Kindergarten Teacher

Eleebana Band Visit

On Wednesday, 7 December, students were lucky enough to enjoy a performance from the Eleebana School Band as they were travelling through our area. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to see a diverse range of instruments and to see what primary students can be capable of. The Eleebana students were extremely talented and put on a spectacular performance!



Carols in the Park

Last Sunday, students from the Primary Choir performed at the Carols in the Park. They did a marvellous job, singing 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer' a cappella, harmoniously singing 'When Christmas Comes to Town' and bopping 'I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas' with adorable actions. Our choir are a dedicated bunch who have been preparing all term for their performances and they should be extremely proud of their amazing performances throughout the year.

A special highlight on the night for all students, was watching our very own Miss O'Connor who was the lead singer at the Carols and she gave a mesmerizing performance!



I would like to wish our primary students and their families a happy, safe holiday break and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Keirra Hourn
Relieving Assistant Principal-Infants



QuickSmart Primary

Congratulations to our primary students on their dedication this year in the QuickSmart program. Students had a fantastic time at their presentation and enjoyed a delicious lunch. A big thank you to Mrs Gibbons who continues to support our students in enhancing their mathematical skills.



Science Incursion

Students from Years 3-6 enjoyed a fantastic, forensic exploration morning with the wonderful Hope, from Interactive Education. Students were given a real-life case to solve and did an excellent job at finding all the clues.



Primary Excursion

Our Students from Years 3-6 travelled to Nobby's Beach to complete a Surf Fun Safe program. All students had a fantastic time learning about beach safety and enjoyed participating in sand and water games.



Thank you

I would just like to say a huge thank you to my MCS family for making my 10 years at Merriwa an amazing experience. I feel very blessed to have developed my skills as both a teacher and a leader in such a beautiful school. I have many wonderful memories at Merriwa Central School, and I will treasure these always.



Talia Morgan
Relieving Assistant Principal- Primary



Secondary News



MCS students from Years 9, 10 and 12 took part in Mental Health training from the renowned company BATYR. With statistics including - of every 30 students in Australia, 7 will be dealing with a mental health issue, yet only 2 will reach out for support, leaving 5 suffering in silence. It is important that our students engage in positive conversations about mental health and give them the power to reach out for support when needed. BATYR philosophy is Engage young people by talking about mental health and wellbeing. Educate through sharing a young person's lived experience and Empower young people by giving them the knowledge and skills to lead mentally healthy lives.

BATYR also ran whole school staff training to upskill on Mental Health and learn skills to support our student body, as well as being confident in monitoring our own Mental Health.

The students were outstanding in their openness to engage in the program, and this was reflective in their evaluations. BATYR were so impressed with their engagement, interest and enthusiasm they have requested that our school be part of a national program due to run out in 2023. BATYR will return each year to facilitate tailored programs that continues to empower our students.



Where There's A Will

Youth Leaders present their projects to teachers, parents and community members. Josie Porter and Justin Caban represented MCS. Identifying a need to ease some nerves and support the transition from the primary setting into secondary schooling was identified. A survey held by secondary students indicated the areas that they felt Year 6 students would benefit from. This included how do you read a timetable, transitioning around to different areas of the school, what do you do if you arrive late or need to leave early and what to do if you're feeling under the weather. From there a video was made and presented. Josie and Justin demonstrated maturity and dedication towards the WTAW projects from their trip to Adelaide at the start of the year to the final presentation of their project.



CARS

MCS held the inaugural CARS information session with the Year 9 and 10 boys. There were lots of questions, laughs and interest, whilst the boys gathered information that pertained to various topics throughout the day. Topics included puberty, their bodies, females, relationships and lots more. We cannot thank Hunter Health Nurses Lindy and Jodie for guiding our boys through this training. The feedback from the boys indicated that they found the information interesting and informative.



Narelle Smith
Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing

QuickSmart Secondary

This past week we celebrated the successes of our secondary QuickSmart participants. The Quicksmart program enables students to become automatic in their basic numeracy skills in order to move onto more complex problem-solving skills. All students received their certificates and completion folders at a presentation ceremony before having a small party.

We also had two students successfully graduate out of the program this year, Makayla Coles and Isaac Constable.

Congratulations to all students and our program facilitator Melissa Swan for their hard work this year!



Years 9/10 Child Studies





As part of our study of Play and the Developing Child, students learnt about the importance of age-appropriate toys and play activities. As part of this unit, the 9/10 Child Studies class have been working hard this semester to design and make their own felt toys. Students designed their own sewing patterns, measured and cut the felt and then worked to put them all together with eyes and small details stitched in. The girls should be proud of their efforts and the products they produced this semester.

Kelly Millevoi
Head Teacher Teaching and Learning
PDHPE



Secondary Studies Faculty Update

As 2022 draws to a close, Secondary Studies students have been busy wrapping up the range of projects they have worked on throughout the term.

Miss Wenzel's Year 7 class have been writing, producing and directing their own stop motion films in line with their close study of animation.



In HSIE, Year 7 students have been investigating the concept of liveability and sustainable living and have been creating their own sustainable towns using Minecraft for Education.

Our 9/10 commerce class have been busy creating a budget to purchase and furnish their "dream home", and are having to quickly come to terms with the reality of becoming independent after school.



Year 10 students have spent their English lessons completing the HSC All My Own Work program. This program is mandatory for all students entering Year 11 and is designed to help HSC students follow the principles and practices of good scholarship. Students are unable to be officially enrolled in their Stage 6 subjects if they have not completed these modules.

To conclude the year, both of our Year 12 English classes have their first assessment task of their HSC course due on Friday.

Congratulations to all students who were celebrated at our Presentation Night on Tuesday, and those other students who have worked consistently throughout the year to produce

their best work.

On behalf of our faculty, I would like to wish all students, parents and staff a safe and happy holidays. I am looking forward to seeing you back, refreshed and ready to begin 2023.

Emma Piper
Head Teacher (Mentor) | English Teacher
Girls Adviser | ROAR Coordinator

SRC



On Thursday, 30 November the Secondary SRC held their annual planning day. This involved learning about the role of the SRC, what a good leader looks like, setting our values and goals for the year, discussing current issues and ideas, looking at possible events for next year and electing the office bearers for 2023. The day was both very enjoyable and productive with all students being active participants on the day.

The students identified respect, accountability, pride and collaboration as the key values they each want to bring to the SRC to have a successful year. They hope to build the connection between primary and secondary, give students a voice and have all students enjoy coming to school. The following students were elected into the office bearer positions, congratulations to these students;

- President Josie Porter
- Secretary Mia Jacobs
- Treasurer Kaylee Ballantyne
- Publicity Officer Sanita Turner

I am very excited to work with these students and all the students on the SRC for a successful and prosperous 2023.

Elizabeth La Trobe
Head Teacher Support
SRC Coordinator Secondary

Careers News

TAFE YES+ Program – Hair and Beauty and Automotive

Students completed their final session of the TAFE YES+ program on Wednesday, 7 December. This was a successful program where students gained insight into industry areas of interest for their future career pathways. Students have hands-on, practical experience of what TAFE-level study looks like and engage in industry-specific practices to best access what a potential career in these areas might look like. Hair and Beauty students received packs and kits to facilitate the continued development of their industry knowledge at home. Automotive students had a barbeque on their final day, provided by their TAFE teacher and Miss Waters then presented their certificates of completion. The TAFE teachers and coordinators spoke highly of our Merriwa Central students, who represented their school community with great respect and consideration. A huge congratulations to all students who completed the course and for their continued diligence application in this new learning context.





Rewards Day

On Thursday, 8 December, students on the secondary campus travelled to Muswellbrook Cinemas for Rewards Day. Students enjoyed the movie *Strange World* and a cinema dedicated entirely to Merriwa Central School. All students were in full school uniform and enjoyed their day in Muswellbrook.



Hannah Waters
Visual Arts Teacher
Careers Adviser



*P&C Canteen
2023
Change of days*

*Primary
Open
Monday*

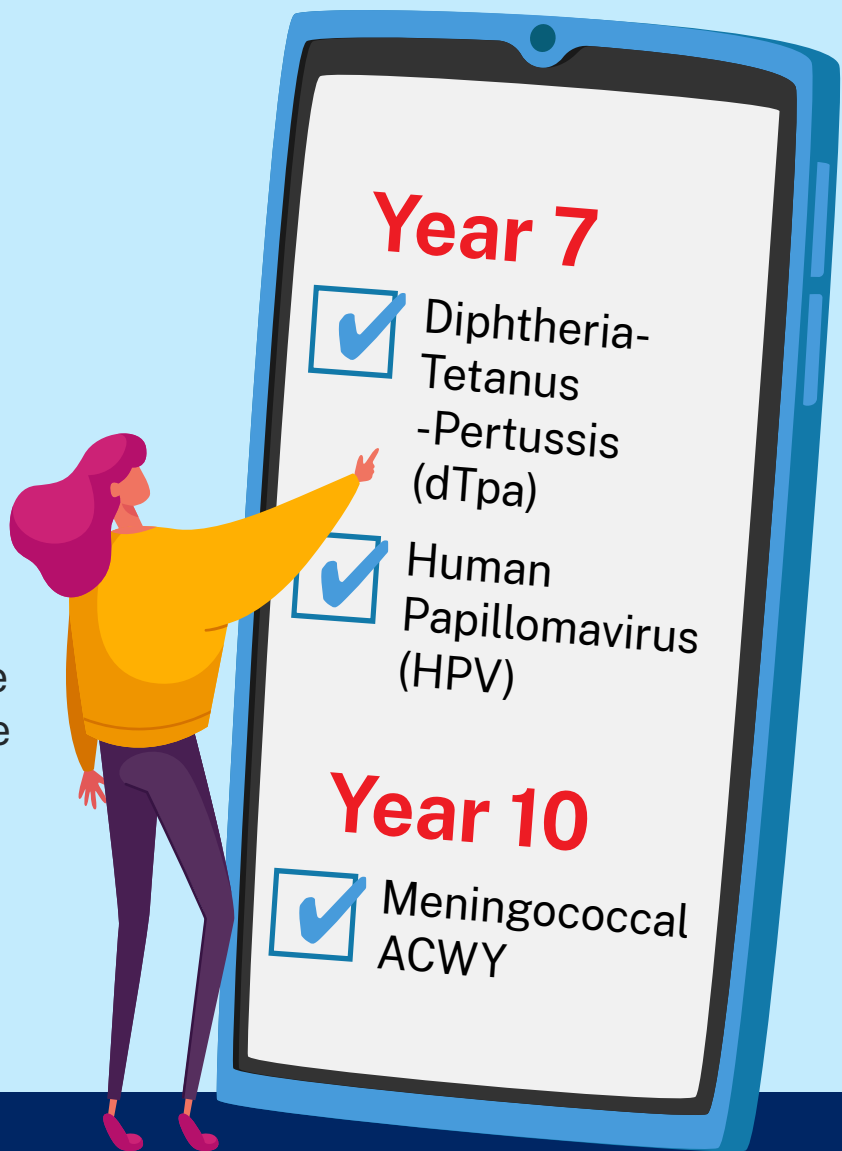
*Secondary
Open
Wednesday and Friday*

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



A new **online payment page** is now live on our school website!

Access from a mobile, tablet or PC and in a language of your choice.



Go to Merriwa Central School Website
<https://merriwa-c.schools.nsw.gov.au>

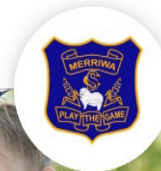
Select make a payment

MAKE A PAYMENT |

Skoolbag App

How to submit an Absentee Form or Change of Details Form - Click on the School Badge in the App - Click on the EFORMS tab.

10:50



GENERAL

GROUPS

EFORMS

Change of Details

Please help us keep up to date by completing this form if your details ha...

Absentee Form

Please complete this form if your child has been sick or otherwise absent fro...



Home

Events

My profile

Notifications **3**



**Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year**

**Have a wonderful holiday with
family and friends**

**Students return
Christmas
Years 1-12**

**Tuesday, 31 January 2023
and
Kindergarten**

Wednesday, 1 February 2023

Term Four	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
December	10	Intensive Swimming at Merriwa Olympic Pool 11.00am-2.00pm 12	Presentation Night at School of Arts 7.00pm Presentation Day Assembly Primary School of Arts 9.30am Intensive Swimming at Merriwa Olympic Pool 11.00am-2.00 Pm 13	Intensive Swimming at Merriwa Olympic Pool 11.00am-2.00pm 14	Year 6 Dinner at 6.00pm-7.30pm RSL HSC Results released Intensive Swimming at Merriwa Olympic Pool 11.00am-2.00pm Scripture assembly K-6 9.30am Barista Course MCS 15	Last Day of Term for students Intensive Swimming at Merriwa Olympic Pool 11.00am-2.00pm Barista Course MCS Last Day of Term 4 for Students 16	17/18
December	11	SDD 19	SDD 20				
2023							
Term One							
January	1				Australia Day 23	SDD 27	28/29
January/February	2	SDD 30	Students Return Years 1-12 31	Kindergarten Students Commence 1	2	Swimming Carnival K-12 3	4/5
February	3	6	7	8	9	10	11/12
February	4	13	14	Peer Support Camp Years 7-11 15	Peer Support Camp Years 7-11 16	Peer Support Camp Years 7-11 17	18/19
February	5	20	21	22	23	24	25/26
February/March	6	27	28	1	2	3	4/5
March	7	6	7	8	9	10	11/12
March	8	13	14	NAPLAN Years 3,5,7 & 9 15	NAPLAN Years 3,5,7 & 9 16	NAPLAN Years 3,5, 7 & 9 17	18/19
March	9	20	21	22	23	24	25/26
March/April	10	27	28	29	30	31	1/2
April	11	School Photographs 3	4	5	Last Day of Term 1 6	Good Friday 7	8/9