



MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

*Valuing individual potential - achieving personal best*

Term 3 Week 6, 2022

## Principals Report

Thank you to those parents who ventured out on a cold winter night to attend our parent teacher and senior subject selection evenings. The discussions were focused around supporting learning and career aspirations in the future.

## Little Sprouts Community Reading Day

We are pleased to lead the community with Little Sprouts Day highlighting the importance of reading. Once again thank you to the local business and community organisations for supporting and participating in the day. Without the continued generosity of the community the event could not take place. In particular I would like to thank Mrs Hourn for her coordination of Little Sprouts this year.

## Year 12 Trial Exams

Year 12 are currently sitting their Trial HSC exams and are in the final weeks of school. It is important students take on the feedback from their teachers following the exams, as they prepare for the real thing next Term. This year we will farewell Year 12 on the last Wednesday of Term 21 September, followed by the Formal Dinner that evening at the Merriwa School of Arts.

## Kinder Transition

Expressions of interest have been called for Kindergarten students for 2023. A parent information session has been scheduled for Tuesday, 20 September. The transition program will commence in Term 4. Please contact the office for further details.

## P&C Donation

At the most recent P&C meeting a donation of \$600 was made towards the cost of the Year 12 Farewell. I'm sure all students would like to thank the P&C for the generous donation towards their farewell celebration.

**Darren Noonan**  
Principal



Congratulations to Tahli Gleeson who is a state finalist for the NSW School-Based Apprentice/ Trainee of the Year. Tahli will be attending the awards evening on Friday, 16 September in Sydney with her family and school community.

"The industry-based learning and networking opportunities have already benefited me as I look towards choosing Tertiary education options for when I finish school. Already having an agricultural qualification, will put me at an advantage when applying for University courses."

- Tahli Gleeson

State Finalist – School-Based Apprentice/  
Trainee of the Year, 2022 NSW Training Awards

# Primary News

## Zone Athletics Carnival 2022

We had 27 primary students represent us at the Zone Athletics Carnival on Wednesday 10 August at Weeraman Fields in Muswellbrook. Our students showed fantastic sportsmanship and gave their best to every event. We had some standout achievements with Aubree Oldham and Grace Collits both making it to the next level, with Olivia Purcell, Jack Purcell, Logan Reid, Holly Martin and Madyson Sait placing in the top 5 of some of their events. Thank you to all our competitors and their families for helping to make the day a success.

### Competitors

- Taniel Roberts
- Amelia Wilkinson
- Ella Pryor
- Holly Martin
- Mia Wilkinson
- Lilly Martin
- Claire Bidner
- Aubree Oldham
- Lillie London
- Abby Bidner
- Olivia Purcell
- Mia Horvath-Richards
- Charlotte Oldham
- Paige Walker
- Seraphina Dening
- Madyson Sait
- Grace Collits
- Cooper James
- Nate Marchese
- Blake Benson
- Jack Purcell
- Oliver Reid
- Josh Orton
- Logan Reid
- Ashton Marchese
- Jase Whitby
- Rylan Neale



## Check-in Assessment

The Check-in assessment is an online reading and numeracy assessment for students in Years 3 to 9. The Check-in assessment is designed to provide teachers with formative assessments that can give an indication of how students are performing. The Check-in assessment includes: a reading and numeracy assessment, as well as a writing assessment for Year 6 students only.

Students in Year 6 will complete the check-in assessment in week 8 this Term and Students from Years 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 will complete their assessment in Term 4.

## Year 6 Shirts



The 2022 Year 6 shirts have arrived and don't they look fantastic.

## 100% Attendance



Well done to students who received their 100% attendance certificates last Friday for Term 1 and Term 2. A huge congratulations to Amelia Wilkinson, who received 100% attendance in Semester 1. This is an extraordinary achievement, and we look forward to celebrating further achievement of attendance for our students at the end of the year.

## Variety Night Concert

Variety Night was again a spectacular event displaying the outstanding talents of Merriwa Central School. Thank you to all students, staff and parents for celebrating the successful night with us. We'd like to thank the amazing Scone High School team, Shane Westbury and students for always going above and beyond for our sound and lighting. Sarah Elliot for assisting staff and students during rehearsals and a big thank you to the Upper Hunter Shire Council Services for allowing us to utilise the School of Arts Hall.



**Talia Morgan**  
Relieving Assistant Principal - Primary

## NSW Premier's Spelling Bee Regional Finals

Max Hourn and Ashton Marchese will be representing our school at the NSW Premier's Spelling Bee Regional Finals on Tuesday, 30 August. They will be competing with students from across the state via zoom and we wish them the best of luck!

## Books to Life Performance

Primary students were lucky enough to enjoy a live performance in the lead up to book week. Tony Bones performed the 2022 CBCA Notable-listed Picture Book of the Year 'The Imagineer'. The show was extremely entertaining and everyone had a terrific time. Students were invited to join the show and had the opportunity to explore an exciting range of gadgets from the past. A highlight was learning the method of butter churning with a comical twist!



## Positive Behaviour for Learning at Primary

At Merriwa Central School we take pride in being safe, respectful learners. We have been continuing to implement our PBL focuses this Term and students have been increasing their knowledge and skills to foster a positive, safe and supportive learning environment within our school. Teachers have been greatly impressed by students' positive behaviour throughout the year. To celebrate and reinforce their positive behaviour, students from K to 6 will be

enjoying a PBL Celebration day on Wednesday 7 September. A note will be sent home with students detailing the day's activities.

**Keirra Hourn**

**Relieving Assistant Principal - Infants**

## Primary NAIDOC Celebrations

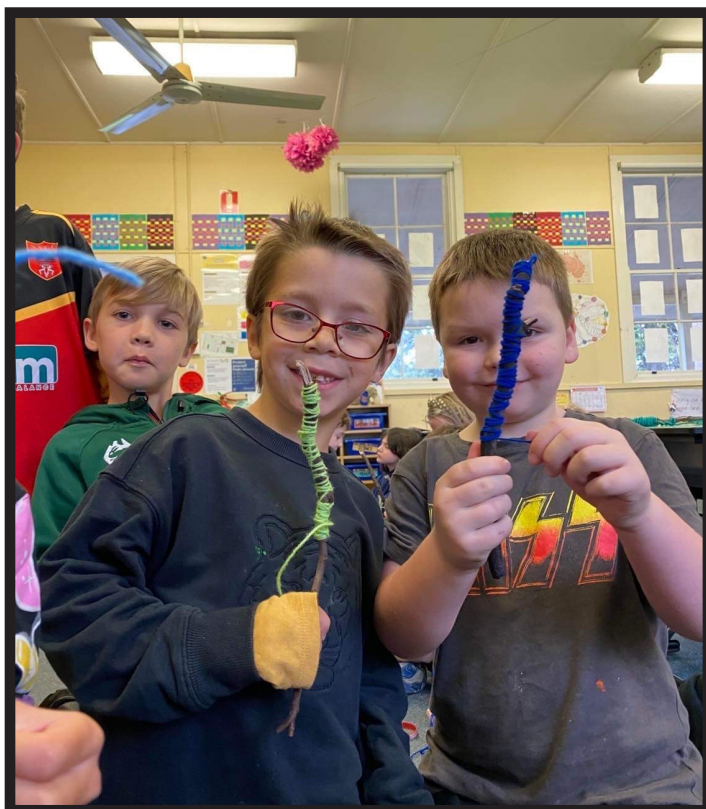
On Friday, 12 August all students participated in a day filled with lessons and activities where we could acknowledge, celebrate, and further learn about Aboriginal history and culture through our NAIDOC Day Celebrations. Our knowledge, understanding and awareness which we gained from the Red Hill Excursions was truly helpful and made the day even better. It was great to see so many students embracing the NAIDOC theme of "Get Up, Stand Up, Show Up" by wearing coloured clothing that matched the Aboriginal flag. Infants and Primary students participated in a range of activities to promote cultural awareness through Art and Craft.

Infants' students rotated around three activities and made Rain Sticks with Miss Olsson, Yarn Sticks with Mrs Hourn and Ms Garbellini and did Dot Art with Miss Ticehurst. Primary students also rotated around three activities and had a blast making bracelets with Mr McGrath, Paper Plate Weaving with Mrs Morgan and Dot Art with Miss O'Connor and Mrs Roberts. It would not be a special day on Primary without some hot dogs and poppers - thank you to our SLSO's who were cooking the hot dogs between Recess and Lunch! We were unlucky with the weather in the afternoon; however, all primary students and teachers are resilient and adaptable and Indigenous Sports Games were played inside or under covered areas to finish off the day.

A big thank you to Mrs Moore and Miss O'Connor who helped put the day together to make it a big success!

**Isabelle Ticehurst**

**Year 1 Classroom Teacher**



## FATHERS DAY STALL

Merriwa Central School  
P&C

Father's Day Stall  
on  
Friday, 2 September  
Primary Campus

Gifts will be priced between 0.50c and  
\$10.00

Volunteers needed to help sell and wrap.  
Please reach out to us on our Facebook page  
if you can help. Must have current WWCC.

## Jeans for Genes day

Thank you to everyone who participated in Jeans for Genes day on Friday, 5 August to help spread awareness about genetic diseases and birth defects. Students and staff raised over \$300.00 which will go towards finding treatments and cures for previously incurable genetic diseases. A huge congratulations to Year 4/5 who raised a total of \$105.50 and in turn enjoyed a sweet treat for their wonderful effort.



## Red Hill Environmental Centre

Students from Kindergarten to Year 12 travelled to Wiradjuri country to visit Red Hill Environmental Centre in Gulgong to build upon our Aboriginal knowledge and learning. Students embarked on various individual programs such as art making, understanding the meaning behind Aboriginal art, cooking, the importance of bush tucker and remedies to name just a few activities. Our visit allowed students to take their learning outside of their classroom and hear, feel and touch first hand the importance of Aboriginal culture. It allows for students to develop respect for diversity and understanding of cultural differences. Merriwa Central School thank the staff and guest speakers from Red Hill Environmental Centre for providing our student body with such informative and take away knowledge. What we have learnt during our days away will now be transferred and imbedded into our school both in and out of the classroom.

**Narelle Smith**  
Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing







Merriwa Central School

presents

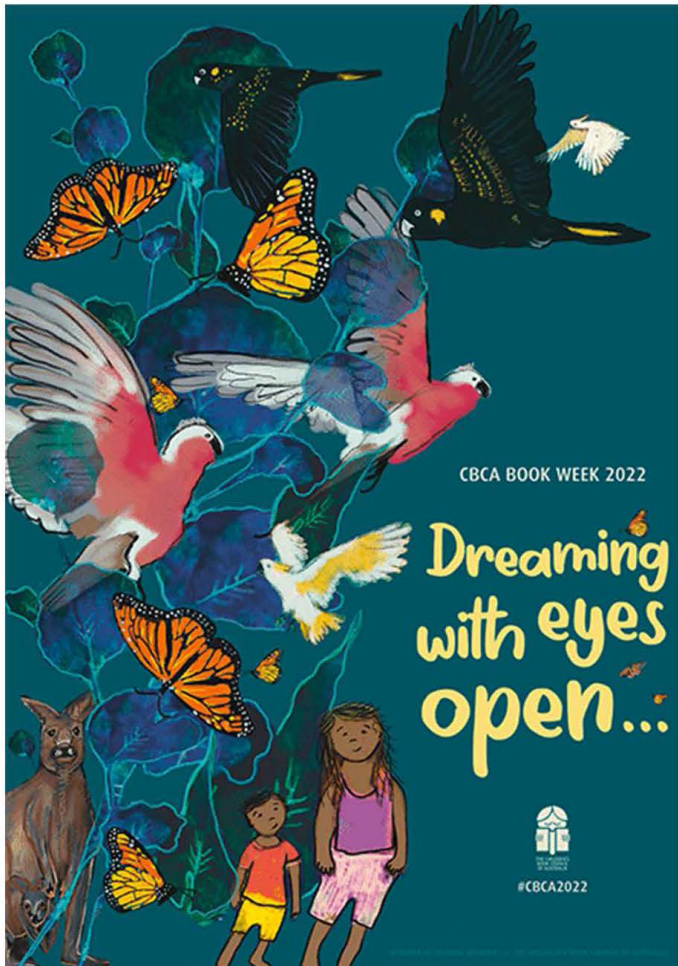
# Little Sprouts 2022

Community Reading Day

Friday 26 August



**Merriwa School of Arts from 10am**



*Our theme this year is  
"Dreaming with Eyes Open".*

Join us for a fun day to  
celebrate the joy of reading!

Come dressed as the  
character of your dreams or  
your favourite book  
character.

Children and their carers are  
invited to attend. School  
aged students will attend  
with their school.

- +Readings at Local  
Businesses
- +Book Fair
- +Character Parade
- +Craft Activities

*Little Sprouts is a community literacy initiative of*  
**Merriwa Central School**

*For further enquiries please ring **6548 2119***





### Kindergarten Transition 2023

A friendly reminder to parents and carers that we are asking for expressions of interest for Kindergarten 2023 students.

Please contact the school on 6548 2119 or visit the Primary office to pick up an information pack.

Kindergarten Transition information session: 10.00am on Tuesday 20 September at the primary library.

## Secondary News

### Charge Around Australia STEM Roadshow

On Thursday, 28 July Charge Around Australia STEM Roadshow visited Years 5-10 to deliver a range of STEM activities. The Charge Around Australia (CAA) crew have collaborated with the University of Newcastle's Centre for Organic Electronics to use the newly developed flexible solar panels to allow them to circumnavigate Australia starting in September. Our students were lucky to have the opportunity to have scientists from the University, Ben and Nick as well as CAA director Stuart to lead them in a range of activities. They were able to see the

flexible panels in person, hear from Stuart how he has circumnavigated both England and Iceland's coast lines and about his upcoming trip to drive the entire coastline of Australia in the Tesla. Students were able to get into the car and had an absolute ball seeing how many could fit in at once and how loud they could play the sound system.

Ben led the students through the process of making solar cells and each student was able to make their own then test which part of the light spectrum it absorbed. Nick had the students work on their collaborative skills and challenged them to a car race. The students had to complete activities to build up charge so that their car had enough power to complete the track. Some of the activities included a bean bag toss, friction heating of copper pipes and running around a track. The students then had the opportunity to participate in a live talk with a scientist from inside one of the University science labs, showing the students how they make printed solar cells, what kind of work scientists perform, and how students could work in a STEM field when they leave school.

The students had a fantastic time participating in the roadshow and we thank Charge Around Australia and the University of Newcastle for visiting us and wish them luck for their upcoming trip around the coastline of Australia.





**Natasha Freeth**  
**Head Teacher VET**

### **Gold Cooking Class**

The Gold class had a great learning experience while creating a fruit platter. We found out that some fruit is stickier than others. Cutting banana is easier than pineapple and presentation is important. We worked well as a team, had fun and enjoyed sharing our fruit platter with other students.



**Michelle Charters**  
**Gold Classroom Teacher**



## Secondary NAIDOC Celebrations

After our NAIDOC celebrations were postponed last Term, secondary students finally got the opportunity to celebrate and reflect on this year's NAIDOC theme, Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up! on Friday, 12 August.

These celebrations supplemented our learning from our schoolwide excursions out to Red Hill Environmental Education Centre earlier in the Term, where all students from K-12 had the opportunity to build their awareness and understanding of Aboriginal history and culture.

Secondary students were asked to wear the colours red, black or yellow, and enjoyed a range of activities, such as cooking, woodwork and weaving throughout the afternoon.

We at Merriwa Central School acknowledge that the grounds of our school is situated on beautiful Wonnarua land. We pay our respects to Wonnarua Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



## Aurora Study Day

On Wednesday 31 August 2022 (Week 7), all Year 12 Standard English students will attend an online Aurora study day to hone their skills, revise content and consolidate knowledge for the HSC Examination. It is an expectation that all English Standard students attend this compulsory study day.

The study day will be held in the Great Hall via Adobe Connect. Students will receive a work booklet to take notes, and will be supervised by Miss Emma Piper (English Teacher).

The study day will run from 8.50am to 3.10pm, with normal morning tea and lunch breaks in between sessions. Students should bring their lunch as usual.

If you have any questions, please contact Miss Piper.

## School Immunisation Program

Hunter New England Health are returning to Merriwa Central School on 9 September 2022 to administer the second dose of the Year 7 Gardasil vaccine. Students have already returned signed consent cards at the beginning of the year, so there is no new note for parents to sign for this clinic. The nurses will also be administering vaccines to any Year 10 students who missed the first clinic, or any Year 8 students who missed out on their second dose last year who have a signed consent card.

Please contact Miss Piper (girls adviser) if you have any questions surrounding vaccination. If you wish to withdraw consent at any time, please provide the school with written notification of the withdrawal of consent.

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





## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST


### PRIMARY CANTEEN CO-ORDINATOR

Our wonderful volunteer Jill Carrall is stepping down at the end of this year after years of volunteering at Merriwa Central School. We truly appreciate all the hard work Jill has put in to providing nutritious and delicious meals for our students.

We are asking for expressions of interest in taking over the volunteer canteen co-ordinator position. Jill has generously offered to provide training throughout Term 4 for anyone interested in the position.

At the moment our Primary canteen runs on a Friday however next year we are happy to change days to suit interested applicants.

For further information on the position please email us at [merriwacentralschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au](mailto:merriwacentralschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au) or call Hollie on 0408175028



# SkoolBag

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

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

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

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

## SAVE THE DATE

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

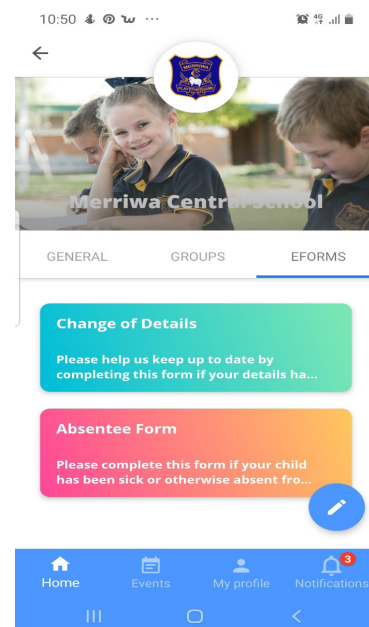
Please come along and support our major fundraiser. Monies raised will purchase a new fresh fruit slushy machine for the secondary canteen and will also help us purchase primary Student of the Week Books for 2023.

## FATHERS DAY STALL

**Merriwa Central School  
P&C  
Father's Day Stall  
on  
Friday, 2 September  
Primary Campus**

Gifts will be priced between 0.50c and \$10.00

**Volunteers needed to help sell and wrap. Please reach out to us on our Facebook page if you can help. Must have current WWCC.**





# Mark Your Calendar

Dates to Remember

| Term Three       | Week | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday/<br>Sunday |
|------------------|------|---|--|--|--|--|---------------------|
| August           | 6    | HSC Trial Exams<br><br>Homework Club Primary 3.15pm-4.15pm<br><br>22                      | HSC Trail Exams<br><br>23  | HSC Trial Exams<br><br>24  | HSC Trial Exams<br><br>25  | HSC Trial Exams<br><br>Little Sprouts Day K-6<br><br>Book Fair at the School of Arts<br><br>26 | 27/28               |
| August/September | 7    | Homework Club Primary 3.15pm-4.15pm<br><br>Year 10 Subject Selection Interviews<br><br>29 | Year 10 Subject Selection Interviews<br><br>Premier's Spelling Bee Regional Finals<br><br>30 | English Aurora Study Day Great Hall<br><br>31  | Secondary Homework Club 3.30pm-4.30pm<br><br>1   | P&C Fathers Day Stall Primary<br><br>2   | 3/4                 |
| September        | 8    | Homework Club Primary 3.15pm-4.15pm<br><br>5  | P&C Meeting RSL Club 6.30pm<br><br>6   | Primary Celebration Day<br><br>Kia Ora Music Camp at Scone<br><br>7                                  | Secondary Homework Club 3.30pm-4.30pm<br><br>Kia Ora Music Camp at Scone<br><br>Didjeribone K-12<br><br>8  | Kia Ora Music Camp at Scone<br><br>Vaccinations Years 7, 8 & 10<br><br>9                       | 10/11               |
| September        | 9    | Preliminary Yearly Exams<br><br>Homework Club Primary 3.15pm-4.15pm<br><br>12             | Preliminary Yearly Exams<br><br>13   | Preliminary Yearly Exams<br><br>14   | Preliminary Yearly Exams<br><br>Rewards Day K-12<br><br>Secondary Homework Club 3.30pm-4.30pm<br><br>Formal Assembly – Rewards Day performance<br><br>15 | Preliminary Yearly Exams<br><br>16   | 17/18               |
| September        | 10   | Homework Club Primary 3.15pm-4.15pm<br><br>19   | Kindergarten Transition Information Session 10.00am primary library<br><br>20                | Year 12 Formal<br><br>Year 4/5 SRC Buddy Visit for Kindergarten 2023 at Merriwa Pre-School<br><br>21 | Secondary Homework Club 3.30pm-4.30pm<br><br>22  | Last day of Term<br><br>23   | 24/25               |