



MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Valuing individual potential - achieving personal best

Term 1 Week 3, 2022

Principals Report

Welcome to another exciting school year! Who knew weekly Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) would form part of the back to school routine. Thank you to parents who have been testing children on Monday and Wednesday mornings to monitor symptoms for COVID-19. As you are aware early testing identified several cases within the school community. The measure is aimed at keeping us all safe and schools open.

Our first week back ended with a very successful swimming carnival. We were extremely fortunate to be able to hold the swimming carnival, with many schools forced to cancel them due to COVID restrictions.

Improved facilities

We have many changes to rooms and staff over the holidays. Builders have been very busy over the break renovating classrooms and installing a new demountable in secondary. Primary classrooms have been reconfigured to provide improved facilities for our newly established support class. A second support class has been established in secondary, taking the total to three across the school. This is a significant improvement providing support for students with additional needs.

Class organisation

Numbers remain very positive with a slight increase on anticipated enrolments. At the moment primary classes are structured as follows Miss Olsson Kindergarten, Miss Ticehurst Year

1, Mrs Hourn Year 2, Miss Fleming Year 3/4, Mr McGrath Year 4/5, Mrs Morgan and Mrs Moore Year 6 and Miss O'Connor Bronze Support Class.

Mrs Hourn (Infants) and Mrs Morgan (Primary) relieving assistant principals. Miss Garbellini and Mrs Sevil take on the new role of Assistant Principal Curriculum and Instruction supporting learning across K-6.

In secondary we welcome Mr Cleary TAS, Miss Munday TAS, Mr Harris Math, Miss Wenzel English and Ms Gardner Silver Support Class.

School Newsletter

You will note the new format for our school newsletter. It will be available in paper format and electronically on our Skoolbag app. At the moment we will trial publication in Week 2, 6 and 10 each term. The Skoolbag app will be used to communicate with parents between publications. Newsletters will be distributed to the oldest in the family and parents are asked to indicate whether they would prefer a paper copy. If we don't hear back from parents we will assume they prefer the electronic version.

Peer Support Camp

Year 7 and 11 students have spent the last few days at our annual peer support camp. The camp provides a wonderful opportunity for students to develop self esteem and team building and communication skills on the shores of Lake Macquarie. As with most excursions the school has heavily subsidised the cost to parents to ensure all students can attend.

Students Assistance

Parents are reminded that student assistance is available to support uniform and excursions for families in difficult financial circumstances. All matters are treated confidentially, and applications for assistance are available from the Office.

I am available to meet with parents in secondary (Monday/Wednesday/Friday) and primary (Tuesday/Thursday). Please contact the office to make an appointment

Darren Noonan
Principal

Primary News

Welcome to Kindergarten

Welcome to our new Kindergarten students. Students happily settled into school routines and loved getting to know their new teacher, Miss Olsson. They were so excited to receive their new school hats and library bags that were gifted from the school. Thank you also to our P&C for kindly donating a new school shirt for each student.



Emma Garbellini
Assistant Principal

Healthy Harold

Healthy Harold will be visiting our school on Monday 14 February to Wednesday 16 February. All students will have the opportunity to meet Healthy Harold and discuss safer and healthier choices through fun and engaging lessons. Please ensure your child has returned their permission note and merchandise forms, if they are wishing to purchase any Harold products.

Home Readers

Home Reading will be commencing in Week 4. Home Readers will be sent home on a Monday and must be returned to school on Friday in order for students to receive a new book the following week.

Labelling Belongings

As we begin the new school year, we ask that you please ensure your child's school belongings are clearly labelled with their name and surname. It is not uncommon for our Lost Property basket to quickly fill up with new school items at the beginning of the year.

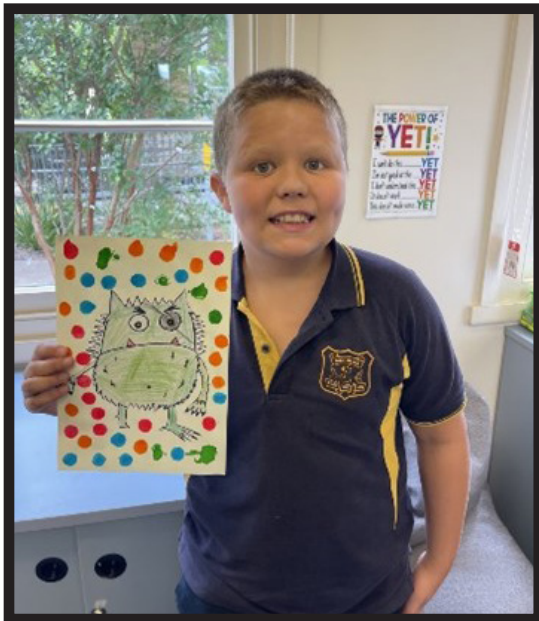
Talia Morgan
Relieving Assistant Principal - Primary

Students settle into new classes

We are delighted to welcome students back to school for the new school year and are so excited to have new students, families and teachers join us!

Students have been settling beautifully into their new classes, getting to know their new teachers and getting back into the swing of things.





We welcomed our new Kindergarten students, who have had a seamless transition into big school with the help of their new teacher Miss Olsson and their caring buddies. They were thrilled to receive their new school hats and library bags that were gifted from the school on their first day. Thank you also to our P&C for kindly donating a new school shirt for each Kindergarten student.

Library

Students have been very excited to be back in the library with Mrs Strachan and have been delighted with the new and improved furniture that has made finding their favourite books a much easier task! Classes will be visiting the library on Mondays to Wednesdays and are encouraged to pack their library bag and return their books on their library day. For your child's library day, please see below.

- Kindergarten – Tuesday
- Year 1 – Tuesday
- Year 2 – Monday
- Year 3/4 – Wednesday
- Year 4/5 – Tuesday
- Year 6 – Tuesday



*New Look
Newsletter
Available in
electronic format
on the Skoolbag
App*



**Keirra Hourn
Relieving Assistant Principal - Infants**

Secondary News

Welcome Year 7 2022



What is the Role of a Year Adviser?

Year Advisers are responsible for wellbeing and its impacts on the learning of the students in their year group. They work closely with the school wellbeing team and classroom teachers. They work closely with staff and parents to provide the earliest possible intervention that prevents problems for their students.

At Merriwa Central School the secondary Year Advisers for 2022 are:

- Year 7 – Ms Tarnika Wood
-
- Year 8 – Ms Hannah Waters
-
- Year 9 – Mr Harley Hannon
-
- Year 10 – Mr Andrew Buchan
-
- Year 11 – Mrs Ashleigh Golden
-
- Year 12 – Mr Lachlan Vaughan

Shane Hall
Head Teacher Secondary Studies

Student Wellbeing – What's On?

- Thursday 10 February – Emoji commences (Year 7 Girls)
-
- Friday 11 February – Rules in Relationships commences (Year 7 Boys)
-
- Friday 18 February – Love Bites (Year 10)
-
- Wednesday 23rd February - Secondary RUOK? Talk”

- Friday 25 February – Love Bites (Year 11 and 12)
- Friday 4 March – Vaccinations (Year 7, 8 and 10)

Love Bites

NAPCAN's highly regarded Love Bites program has been running in schools since 2005.

The interactive and engaging sessions focus on the development of respectful relationships for young people aged 11 to 17. The programs aim to provide a safe environment in which young people can discuss and learn about their rights and responsibilities in relationships and look at ways to access support when needed.

During the sessions, young people are introduced to a number of services in the community and encouraged to support their friends by utilising safe, healthy and proactive strategies. Love Bites will run for a full day, with two interactive sessions followed by creative workshops. Young people are given an opportunity to create their own campaigns to promote respectful relationships in our community through these workshops. The facilitators for the Love Bites program come from different community organisations and services including Upper Hunter Community Services. Our Staff will also be present during the sessions.

If required, young people can be supported by Year Advisor, School Counsellor or Deputy Principal Wellbeing.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the program, please call Narelle Smith (Deputy Principal Wellbeing). If you do not wish your young person to attend, please provide a note.

Vaccinations

The NSW school vaccination program is commencing at Merriwa Central School on 4 March 2022.

Year 7 - Human papillomavirus (HPV) 2 doses at least 6 months apart Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (dTpa) 1 dose

Year 10 - Meningococcal ACWY 1 dose

This will also involve year 8 students who missed their vaccinations last year. Consent cards will be sent home with students this week. Please check your student's bag, and return the consent card to the school as soon as possible.

Emma Piper
Head Teacher (Mentor) | English Teacher

House Captains 2022

Lawson Captains

- Tahli Gleeson
- Jye Byfield

Lawson Vice Captains

- Josie Porter
- William Whitby

Oxley Captains

- Isabel Swan
- Jye Towell

Oxley Vice Captains

- Dakota Turner
- Daniel Mead

Wentworth Captains

- Mia Jacobs
- Jack Goodear

Wentworth Vice Captains

- Kiesha-Lee Taylor
- Dylan Keane

Blaxland Captains

- Brodie McMillan
- Jake Williams

Blaxland Vice Captains

- Brooklyn Blackadder
- Christian Beveridge

Lachlan Vaughan
PDHPE Teacher

Welcome to our new staff



Kylie O'Connor
Primary Bronze Teacher



Lisen Olsson
Kindergarten Teacher

Stay connected
download the Skool-
bag App for the lat-
est school updates



Tracey Gardner
Secondary Silver Teacher



Samantha Munday
TAS Teacher



Sean Cleary
TAS Teacher



Laura Wenzel
English Teacher



Jeff Harris
Mathematics Teacher

Australia Day Awards 2022



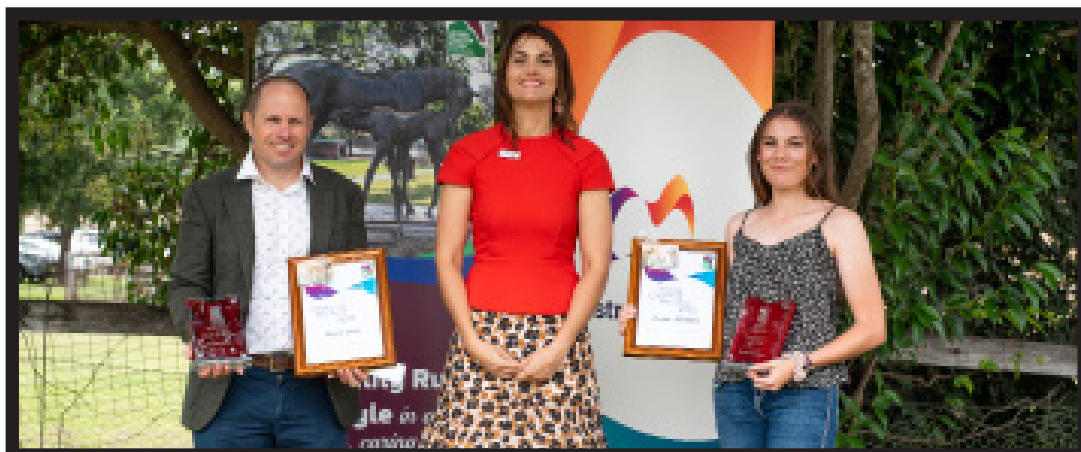
Brodie McMillan
Young Citizen of the Year



Abby Cooper
School Achiever



Sharni Johnston
Nominee



Robert Smith Citizen of the Year and
Brodie McMillan Young Citizen of the Year

Term One	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
January	1	24	25	Australia Day 26	27	28	29/30
January/ February	2	31	1	2	3	Swimming Carnival 4	5/6
February	3	Peer Support Camp 7	Peer Support Camp 8	Peer Support Camp 9	10	11	12
February	4	Healthy Harold K - Yr 6 14	Healthy Harold K - Yr 6 15	Healthy Harold K - Yr 6 16	Secondary Homework Club 3.30- 4.30pm 17	18	19/20
February	5	21	22	Primary Zone Swimming Carnival 23	Secondary Homework Club 3.30- 4.30pm Secondary Zone Swimming Carnival 24	25	26/27
February/ March	6	28	P & C Meeting RSL Club 6.30pm 1	2	Secondary Homework Club 3.30- 4.30pm 3	Year 7 and Year 10 Vacci- nation 4	5/6
March	7	7	8	9	Secondary Homework Club 3.30- 4.30pm 10	Author Visit K-6 11	12/13
March	8	14	15	16	Secondary Homework Club 3.30- 4.30pm 17	18	19/20
March	9	21	22	23	Secondary Homework Club 3.30- 4.30pm 24	25	26/27
March/ April	10	28	29	30	Secondary Homework Club 3.30- 4.30pm 31	1	2/3
April	11	4	P & C Meeting RSL Club 6.30pm 5	6	7	8	Last Day of Term 9/10

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Yes I would prefer a paper copy of the school newsletter - Name _____
Please return to the school office.