



MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Valuing individual potential - achieving personal best

Term 1 Week 10, 2022

Principals Report

In recent weeks we have experienced a significant increase in the number of students and staff testing positive to COVID. The majority of cases have been in K-2, however no year group has been immune. Last week our ability to staff the school was stretched to the limit with 14 staff absent on one day due to testing positive, or self isolating. Fortunately we were able to call on our corporate staff from Department Offices in Newcastle and Dubbo, including our Director Mr Hurd to assist who spent the day on Year 2.

The shortage of permanent and casual teachers is an ongoing challenge for our school, and many others across the State. At the moment we have several Head Teacher positions, and classroom teacher positions we are attempting to fill.

In this regard it is with much sadness that I announce Mrs Sevil Assistant Principal Curriculum and Instruction will be leaving us at the end of term to take up a position at Scone Public School. Mrs Sevil has been a valued member of our school for the past six years and an outstanding school leader. She takes up the position at Scone to be closer to her young family and we wish her all the very best.

School Photographs

Information was sent home last week in regard to school photographs which will take place next Monday. Please ensure we are looking our best on Monday and in full school uniform. Family photographs will take place from 11.00am in the primary library and order forms are available from the Office. Payments can be made online with our photographer MSP Photography.

Primary Cross Country

Parents are advised the primary cross country has been rescheduled and will take place next Tuesday 5 April. It will replace our Wednesday sports day, and students are encouraged to wear their sports uniform.

Secondary jersey

Parents are reminded the secondary jersey is on sale for one more week. Parents are able to purchase or lay-by the jersey at the sale price of \$50 (normally \$68) until the end of term.

ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day falls at the end of the school holidays on Monday 25 April. Students are encouraged to participate in the community service and march with the school. Students are asked to assemble in full school uniform at the RSL Club corner at 10.15am to join the march. After the service students will march back down the street to the RSL Club for parents to collect.

End of term organisation

We have arrived at the end of term and the last day of school is next Friday 8 April. We would normally have parent teacher interviews at this time of year, however have decided to hold them over until early Term 2.

Term 2 commences on Wednesday 27 April for students as Tuesday is a school development day.

Darren Noonan
Principal

Primary News

Infants Excursion to Hunter Valley Wildlife Park



Next term, on Thursday 5 May, students from Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two will have the exciting opportunity to visit the Hunter Valley Wildlife Park. They will get to see and learn about a great array of animals from around the world, including meerkats, koalas and lions. Whilst there, students will be able to feed kangaroos, animals in the farmyard and walk through the bird aviary. We are all very excited for this wonderful adventure! It is very important that students return their notes and payment by the last day of Term 1 if they wish to attend the excursion.

Kind-hearted Donation for Kindergarten

Earlier this term, Kindergarten students received special handmade library bags that were handmade for them by Sue Cronin and Lenore Taylor. We would like to thank these thoughtful ladies for taking the time to create such spectacular bags for our students. Students were delighted by the colourful bags that were filled with handmade pencil cases and other goodies.



Scripture Begins Again

Primary students have been delighted that Scripture lessons have been able to commence again this term. We would like to thank the dedicated Barbara Campbell and her lovely helper Mrs Hood for volunteering their time to teach our students and making the lessons so engaging and fun!





Keirra Hourn
Relieving Assistant Principal - Infants

Primary Cross Country

The Primary Cross Country will now take place next Tuesday 5 April starting at 12:30pm. Primary will swap their sports day in Week 11 to the Tuesday for the cross country. Students are to wear their sports uniform. Students will have recess at school on Tuesday and then walk down to the golf course and run the cross country during the middle session. Students are asked to take their bags as we will have lunch down at the golf course and then walk back to school.

Athletics Carnival

The K-12 Athletics Carnival will be held on the 13 May 2022. Please watch the Skoolbag App for further information and updates.

Lisen Olsson
Primary Sports Coordinator

Primary Excursion

Our Years 3-6 excursion will take place in Term 2 during Week 7. Notes will be sent home early next term.

NAPLAN

Next term, our Years 3 and 5 students will sit NAPLAN in Week 3. A note has been sent home outlining additional details.

Super Science Circus Show

The Super Science Circus Show will be coming out to our school for our K-6 students next Term (Week 6). The performance is an incredibly inventive, interactive, and educational show that uses the fun of circus, comedy and magic to inspire scientific inquiry into the natural, physical and material world.

**The Super
Science
Circus Show**



Talia Morgan
Relieving Assistant Principal - Primary


msp
photography

Save the Date
School Photographs
Monday 4 April

Secondary News

Uniform

The weather is cooling down, so it's time to drag out the winter uniform. Parents are reminded that students are expected to be in full school uniform each day and secondary students need to have a note to explain why they may be out of uniform. Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you require financial assistance with uniforms. Our students look great when they are all in correct school uniform. The winter jersey price is reduced to \$50 for the remainder of this term. Students must wear the correct footwear to be compliant with WHS in specialist settings. Students will be unable to participate in practical activities.



Tell them from Me

Our school is taking part in the Tell Them From Me student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help them improve. As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department

of Education, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), has access to data from across NSW and is running a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research is looking at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance. Individual students will not be identified in any CESE publications, and all information will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Students' personal information will not be disclosed by the department to any other person or body other than as required by law.

This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes.

A note will be sent home with more information. If you have any questions about the Tell Them From Me please contact Ms Kenaly.

Aggie Antics

A busy term 1 with a number of new arrivals. This term students have raised day old chickens, pullets to point of lay and the Merino Wether Challenge has commenced. Agriculture students have raised Broilers (meat chickens) weighing daily and monitoring growth rates reporting on the effect of protein in feed. Junior students have also been weighing and monitoring the growth and development of layer chickens which should commence laying eggs in the near future.

School Wether Challenge

The NSW School Merino Wether Challenge is underway and Merriwa Central School received their 6 wethers at the start of March. There are over 60 schools completing the program in 2022. Students will gain hands-on experience in the sheep and wool industry. The Dubbo National Ram Sale Committee have again purchased the wethers, and each school takes delivery of 6 merino lambs with the objective of managing them as a commercial operation to grow them into a high value 12 month old sale lamb. This long running program provides skills and knowledge in animal husbandry and the profitability of the

larger sheep and wool industry. At the end of the six months in August 2022 students will present the wethers for judging in Dubbo at the annual Rabobank National Merino Show and Sale.

Wethers sourced from one nucleus flock allows school students to link studies with hands on experience in animal health, nutrition and husbandry practices and how best to care for their animals in different environments.

This challenge is aimed to provide a hands-on experience for students to become involved in the sheep and wool industry.

Year 11 and 12 Primary Industries students have been completing a fencing unit as a component of their studies. Students are working in small groups on the school farm to dismantle and rebuild agriculture fencing that meets industry standard. Students have been practising fencing knots, learning about wire straining techniques and setting up electric fences as a component of this unit.



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every learner every day

✓

ABSENCES ADD UP!

FEBRUARY

2 DAYS A MONTH

=

NOVEMBER

4 WEEKS A YEAR

=

MISSING MORE THAN

1 YEAR OF LEARNING IN 12 YEARS

DID YOU KNOW

1 IN 4

SECONDARY STUDENTS ARE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL REGULARLY!

EACH DAY MISSED:

► Puts your child behind and makes it harder for them to catch up

► Can lead to lower achievement in reading, writing and numeracy

► Can lead to gaps in learning and social connections

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

✓ BE FIRM. Send your child to school every day unless they are sick

✓ Develop good sleep and morning routines

✓ Schedule appointments after school

✓ Avoid taking holidays during term time

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE

■ Going to school more often can make a difference.

■ Attendance habits will follow your child into work and life

SCHOOLS ARE THERE TO HELP

If you're having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address it.

Sharon Kenaly
Deputy Principal

Pink Shirt Day



Bullying

Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and or/psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening.

Students in secondary spent the day being upskilled on the "R U Ok?" Merriwa Central School bullying policy. Students participated and discussed what bullying is and the appropriate steps they need to take if they are a victim or

witness to ongoing bullying incidents. Students also learnt the process for aggressors, who choose not to undertake the relevant warnings of bullying and associated consequences.

Students are encouraged to ensure that they are not a bystander to behaviours that will not be accepted or tolerated at our school and report immediately to the appropriate staff member.

If a child reports ongoing issues to a parent, friend or loved one. Please phone the school to make an appointment to discuss further. Students in primary should contact the student's classroom teacher. Students in secondary should contact the child's Year Advisor.

Students who were absent on the delivery day will complete a catch up lesson. This will ensure that all students are well versed in Merriwa Central School processes.



On behalf of Merriwa Central School, we would like to say a big thank you to Mary Spora, Youth Services, Supervisor from Upper Hunter Shire Council. Your dedication and support to our student body over the past 7 years has allowed our students to navigate teenage life through offering them guidance and advice. A number of programs implemented across the school has also ensured students are learning skills that they need not only during their schooling years but beyond.

We wish you the very best of luck in your new adventure



Narelle Smith
Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing

NAPLAN – information for parents and carers



2022

Why do students do NAPLAN?

NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit in May each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students do.

As students progress through their school years, it's important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national standards and over time.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It doesn't replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with additional information about students' progress.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Schools are transitioning from paper-based to computer-based assessments. Most schools will complete NAPLAN tests online in 2022. All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

Online NAPLAN tests provide more precise results and are more engaging for students. One of the main benefits is tailored (or adaptive) testing, where the test presents questions which may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. Questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN test materials.

To find out more about NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au

Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for everyone. ACARA supports inclusive testing so all students can participate in the national assessment program.

Adjustments are available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs.

Schools should work with parents/carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN. Adjustments should reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments.

To help inform these decisions, you may consult the [NAPLAN public demonstration site](#), the [Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN](#), or our [series of videos](#) where parents/carers, teachers and students share their experience of using NAPLAN adjustments.

In exceptional circumstances, a student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on adjustments for students with disability or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN.

You can support your child by reassuring them that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

Some familiarisation and explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

See the types of questions and tools available in the online NAPLAN assessments at nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site

NAPLAN timetable

The NAPLAN online test window is nine days. This is to accommodate schools that may have fewer devices.

The NAPLAN online test window starts on Tuesday 10 May and finishes on Friday 20 May 2022. Tests must be scheduled as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.

Online NAPLAN test scheduling requirements are detailed in the table below.

How is my child's performance reported?

Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each assessment. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student has demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents/carers may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see information about the performance of schools over time at myschool.edu.au

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at nap.edu.au/TAA
- visit nap.edu.au

To learn how ACARA handles personal information for NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 3 students do the writing test on paper (on day 1 only)• Year 5 writing must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 1 and 2 only)• Years 7 and 9 writing must start on day 2 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 2 and 3 only)	Year 3: 40 min. Year 5: 42 min. Year 7: 42 min. Year 9: 42 min.	Students are provided with a 'writing stimulus' (sometimes called a 'prompt' – an idea or topic) and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing)
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To ensure online schools are able to complete NAPLAN tests within the nine-day testing window, Year 7 and 9 students can start with reading on day 1; however, writing must start on day 2• To be completed before the conventions of language test	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 65 min. Year 9: 65 min.	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts and then answer related questions
Conventions of language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be completed after the reading test	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 45 min. Year 7: 45 min. Year 9: 45 min.	Assesses spelling, grammar and punctuation
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be completed after the conventions of language test	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 65 min. Year 9: 65 min.	Assesses number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability

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

HSSA Touch Football Knockout Carnival

On Tuesday 22 March, Merriwa Central School took a Boys and Girls Open age team to participate in the HSSA Touch Football Knockout Carnival. Both the boys and girls teams represented the school exceptionally and should be proud of their efforts on the day. Unfortunately neither team was able to qualify for the next stage, but they still gave it their all and demonstrated great sportsmanship.



Cross Country Secondary

This years cross country looked a little different to how it usually would with MCS having to hold two separate carnivals. The secondary carnival was held on the 21 March, and it was a perfect day for a run. Students all arrived at the golf course in their house colours and were in high spirits for what was going to be a hot cross country. Age champions and house winners will be determined and publicised after the conclusion of the primary school event to be held on Tuesday 5 March.

A special thankyou to Des Vero, John Hardwick and the Merriwa Golf Club for ensuring that we could use the golf course for the carnival. Their hard work in the lead up to the carnival was greatly appreciated.

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

MERRRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL
Secondary Jersey
Yr 7 -12



Normally \$68.00
Sale Price \$50
(until the end of Term 1)

Layby now for winter at the special sale price

Purchase from the Office



**MCS P&C kindly invites you to attend our
2022 AGM**

**on
Tuesday 3 May 6:30pm
at
Merriwa RSL**

**All positions will be declared vacant
All welcome**

Term One	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
March/ April	10	Primary Homework Club 3.15pm- 4.15pm 28	 29	 30	Secondary Homework Club 3.30pm- 4.30pm Rewards Day Primary and Secondary 31	Burn Bright Excursion 8.30am- 3.30pm Scone 1	 2/3
April	11	School Photographs 4	P & C Meeting RSL Club 6.30pm 5	 6	 7	Last Day of Term 8	 9/10
Term Two	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
April/May	1	ANZAC Day March RSL Club Corner 10.15am 25	SDD 26	Students return K-12 27	 28	 29	 30/1
May	2	White Card Course 2	P & C AGM RSL Club 6.30pm 3	 4	Hunter Valley Wildlife Park Excursion K-2 5	 6	 7/8
May	3	 9	NAPLAN 10	NAPLAN 11	NAPLAN 12	K-12 Athletics Carnival 13	 14/15
May	4	 16	 17	 18	Bell Shakespeare performance 7-10 Merriwa School of Arts 19	 20	 21/22
May	5	 23	 24	 25	 26	 27	 28/29
May/June	6	Super Science Circus Show Primary Work Experience Year 10 30	 Work Experience Year 10 31	 Work Experience Year 10 1	 Work Experience Year 10 2	 Work Experience Year 10 3	 4/5
June	7	 6	P & C Meeting RSL Club 6.30pm 7	 8	 9	 10	 11/12
June	8	 13	 14	 15	 16	 17	 18/19
June	9	 20	 21	 22	K-12 Rewards Day 23	 24	 25/26
June/July	10	 27	 28	 29	 30	Last Day of Term 1	 2/3

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Yes I would prefer a paper copy of the school newsletter - Name _____
Please return to the office. This will be the last opportunity to apply for a paper copy.