



MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

*Valuing individual potential - achieving personal best*

Term 1 Week 6, 2022

## Principals Report

A big thank you for your continuing efforts in supporting our school and students during the pandemic – especially prioritising safety and learning.

The Minister for Education has announced changes to school settings for the remainder of Term 1. These updated settings were developed in close consultation with NSW Health and key stakeholders to ensure we continue to keep our schools open for learning, while keeping up with changing community settings.

The updated settings include:

We now move to symptomatic testing. Tests are to be used at your discretion such as if your child is symptomatic or there are cases in their class. Our school will provide each student and staff member with 8 tests per student and staff in schools. The first batch of 4 were issued to students last week.

Masks are no longer mandatory for students in Year 7 and above or staff. However, those who wish to continue to use them will be supported to do so. From Monday 7 March, masks will no longer be mandatory for staff indoors in primary. However, those who wish to continue to use them will be supported to do so.

Visitors and parents are now allowed back on school sites regardless of their vaccination status. Our school will consider activities such as assemblies, parent-teacher meetings and other gatherings in the coming days. We will let you know if these can proceed with our school in a COVID-smart way. All visitors are asked to follow our usual sign-in and sign-out process.

Our school will continue to ensure our layered COVID-smart measures are in place, including vaccinations, maximising natural ventilation in learning spaces, continued good hand hygiene practices and enhanced cleaning.

Thank you again for your continued support during this school term.

## Mobile Phone Policy

Parents are reminded our school has a mobile phone free policy. Students who need to bring phones to school are asked to hand them in at the office, and collect in the afternoon. Any student caught with a mobile phone in the playground or classroom will be asked to hand it in at the office. Refusal to follow these school rules will be considered a breach of the school behaviour policy and may result in suspension.

## P&C Meeting

Parents are encouraged to attend our regular P&C meetings which are held at the RSL Club. The meeting this week discussed the upcoming improvements to school facilities, fundraising opportunities and an exciting Easter Egg raffle for students. All parents are welcome to attend, meeting dates are published on our term calendar.

**Darren Noonan**  
Principal

# Primary News

## School Leaders and SRC Representatives

Our 2022 School Leaders and SRC Representatives are off to a fine start for the year. They have been assisting teachers in the playground, taking on extra responsibilities and looking out for students to reward for positive behaviour during play time. Our SRC Representatives have also been meeting with Miss Fleming to plan some very exciting activities coming up for students during the term.



Kindergarten - Alleah Hourn and Finn Moore  
Year One - Emmy Hunt and William Sparrow  
Year Two - Taniel Roberts and Nate Marchese



Year 3/4 - Claire Bidner and Jack Purcell



Year 4/5 - Olivia Purcell and Braith Hunt

## School Leaders

**Captain:** Olympia Magnus and Ashton Marchese

**Vice-Captain:** Grace Collits and Thomas Kneeves

**Prefect:** Paige Walker and Litharshan Uthayasangar



## Wednesday Sport Rotations

Students have been having a fantastic time continuing to learn fundamental skills and play net and court games during sport rotations. Infants and primary students each get to experience three different activities each week and rotate to different teachers with their class.

Infants have been enjoying playing games such as 'Rob the Nest' and 'Sheep Dog' and learning how to pass in pairs. While primary students have rotations such as racquet tapping, European handball and volleyball. The playground is 'abuzz' with very active and happy students every Wednesday morning!

Thank you to Mrs Moore and Miss Olsson for co-ordinating and organising the sport activities and to our Year 6 sports captains for setting up the equipment each week.







## Canteen

Our students are so lucky to have delicious and freshly prepared meals available to purchase from the Primary Canteen each Friday, thanks to our wonderful volunteers. They can make a recess and/or lunch order and purchase snacks during break times. A copy of the menu is included in this newsletter and on the Skoolbag App for your convenience. If you would like printed slips to make an order for your child, these are available in the primary office and the canteen.

**Keirra Hourn**  
**Relieving Assistant Principal - Infants**

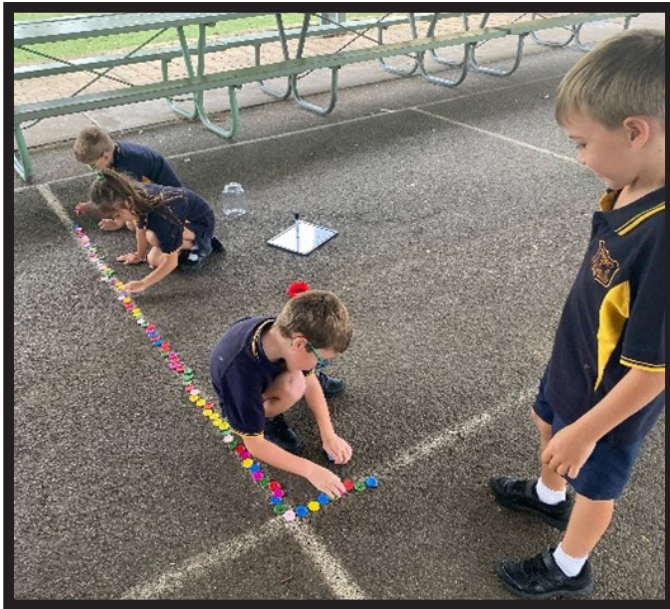
## Rewards Day Celebrating Mathematicians in the Community

This term, students from Kindergarten to Year 6 have been discussing what mathematicians are. Although some of us originally thought they were people who perform magic, we now know that they are everyday people who use mathematics in their real lives. Yes, this means mums and dads are mathematicians when they go grocery shopping and calculate money. Grandparents are mathematicians when they figure out how to divide yummy treats amongst their grandchildren.

We have also been developing students' understanding of what makes someone skilled in mathematics. Being 'good' at mathematics doesn't mean being the quickest to solve questions or finding tasks easy. It means learning from others, trying different strategies and making plenty of mistakes before finding a way that works.

We are celebrating this learning at Rewards Day. Rewards Day for this term will be held on Thursday 31 March. We ask that students on the Primary campus come out of uniform and dressed as Mathematicians. The options are endless as builders, chefs, shop assistants and farmers are just a few examples of people who use mathematics in their daily life. During the day, students will be completing hands-on mathematical challenges and competing for some Easter surprises! We hope that students enjoy the day and start seeing mathematics as a fun and lifelong skill.





**Megan Sevil**  
**AP Curriculum and Instruction**



### **Primary Sport Sessions**

In the coming weeks students in years 3-6 will be walking to local sporting facilities to support their development in net and court games and preparation for the athletics carnival events. In week 7 we will be walking to the Merriwa Tennis Courts to complete a rotation of sporting games that focus on developing fundamental movement skills classes have been learning in physical education and sport sessions. In week 9 and 10 we will hold our morning sports sessions at the Merriwa sports oval. Students will rotate around athletic event activities to prepare them for the upcoming school athletics carnival in Term 2.

### **Zone Swimming Carnival**

Last Wednesday 23 February, Paige Walker, Lilly Martin, Braith Hunt and Olivia Purcell along with Mrs Moore attended the Zone Swimming Carnival at Scone Memorial Pool. The competition was strong with fast heats and quick qualifying times. Paige competed in backstroke, breaststroke, all age freestyle and 11years freestyle. She secured 3rd place overall in backstroke and freestyle and finished in the top 10 for breaststroke and all age. Olivia was up against strong competition in the 11years girls freestyle heat and kept up well with the fast-paced race. Braith and Lilly both won their heats and finished in the top 10. All students showed great sportsmanship and supported each other in the races. Thank you for your positive representation of our school.



**Alyssa Moore**  
**Primary Sports Coordinator**

# P & C Canteen

## Primary Campus Recess Order Menu 2022

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Roll Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Cost	Quantity
Mini chicken wrap	\$1.50	
Pizza scrolls	\$0.50	
Cupcake	\$0.50	
Fresh fruit cup	\$1.50	
Garlic bread	\$0.80	
Jelly cup	\$0.60	
<b>RECESS SPECIALS</b>		
<b>Total</b>	\$	

## Primary Campus Lunch Order Menu 2022

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Roll Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Cost	Quantity
Pizza Ham and Pineapple	\$3.50	
Pies	\$3.00	
Chicken tender wrap – with lettuce/cheese mayo <i>or</i> sweet chili sauce	\$3.50	
Chicken fingers X 8	\$3.50	
Ham salad roll	\$5.00	
Chicken Caesar salad	\$5.00	
Toasted sandwich		
Cheese	\$2.50	
Cheese/ham	\$3.00	
Ham/cheese/tomato	\$3.50	
Chill J sparkling fruit juice		
Blackcurrant	\$2.50	
Raspberry	\$2.50	
Grape	\$2.50	
Lemonade	\$2.50	
Orange passionfruit	\$2.50	
Flavoured milk		
chocolate	\$2.20	
strawberry	\$2.20	
Fruit juice popper	\$2.00	
Bottled water	\$1.50	
Sauce		
Tomato or barbecue	\$0.40	
<b>Total</b>	\$	

Parent volunteers always welcome. Please leave your contact details at the primary office.



# Secondary News

## Year 7 and 11 Peer Support Camp

### Day One

The Peer support camp was held on Monday 7 February to Wednesday 9 February at Point Wolstoncroft, on Lake Macquarie. We left early on the Monday morning and arrived for morning tea and an introductory talk about safety at the complex and the afternoon activity of kayaking and cooking damper in the evening.



Sailing location



### Day Two

Started with breakfast at 8.00am, followed by a 6km bike ride or walk to the headland. This was followed by some working collaboratively activities. After lunch we went sailing, celebrated Paige's birthday at dinner and participated in evening archery.





**Sunset on the last night over the water**

### **Day Three**



**Sunrise on the last morning**

Day three started with a beautiful sunrise that we watched, followed by a morning standup paddle boarding activity that they all really enjoyed and made it their mission to get Mr Vaughan to fall off his board.



### **Year 7 Science - Bunsen burner lighting**

During the term in Science, Year 7 have been investigating the uses of some of the equipment and how to handle them with care.

During one lesson, all students practised how to light a Bunsen burner, they turned the collar to make a blue heating flame and then turned the collar once again to make a yellow safety flame and turn the Bunsen burner off.

Once all students had completed this task, they then conducted an experiment using the Bunsen burner and several other pieces of equipment to conduct an experiment to be able to collect scientific data to then put into a graph and discuss their results.

All students now have a Bunsen burner licence.



**Tarnika Wood**  
**Relieving Head Teacher**  
**VET/Science-Biology Teacher**  
**Year 7 Advisor**



## Girls League Day

On Tuesday 22 February, Merriwa Central School participated in the Hunter Schoolgirl's League Challenge in Muswellbrook. The day started with a number of clinics with NRL coaches, followed by a few mini games against other local schools. While the games were just for fun, the Merriwa girls scored an impressive number of tries, and all played extremely well. All 10 girls should be congratulated on their effort, sportsmanship and maturity on the day.

The students involved were:

- Amelia Wright
- Lilly Turner
- Lara Ballantyne
- Taylah Sait
- Kaylee Ballantyne
- Brooklyn Blackadder
- Alyssa Carrall
- Oceana Rawlings
- Tiana Gleeson
- Josie Porter



## Secondary Rewards Day



On Thursday 31 March, secondary students will participate in Rewards Activities at school during Period 4, 5 and 6. Students will put their teamwork, thinking skills and physical strength to the test as they battle it out in a range of challenges.

School will proceed as normal for Periods 1, 2, and 3, so students will need to bring their appropriate learning equipment for these classes. Lunch will be provided on the day. Students do not have to wear school uniform on this day, however, must dress appropriately for sports activities (running shoes, appropriate length clothing, covered shoulders).

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

## Pink Shirt Day



On the 18 March, Upper Hunter Youth Services and the Wellbeing Team from Merriwa Central School will celebrate "Pink shirt Day" to spread awareness about bullying. Students will participate in various activities and discuss the process of reporting bullying at Merriwa Central School through the RUOK? form. They will also be informed of support services both internally and externally. On this day, students are encouraged to dress up in pink. Students will enjoy a free lunch.



## Love Bites Program

Students from Years 10,11 and 12 have recently completed the Love Bites Program. They have joined over 10,000 students in NSW in 2022, who will learn skills in a safe environment when examining, discussing and exploring respectful relationships. The program focuses on three key areas of learning including

- Knowledge – Youth led collaborative learning
- Attitudes – Critical thinking and decision making
- Behaviours – Program solving and communication skills

The main objective of the program is to equip young people with the knowledge needed to have respectful relationships, encourage and develop their skills in critical thinking and assist them in being able to problem solve and communicate effectively.

We would like to thank Upper Hunter Community Services for facilitating the program and providing the students with a delicious lunch.

Students should be complemented on their maturity and responsible behaviour that they demonstrated across the course. Positive feedback from the facilitators towards the students was also received.



**Narelle Smith**  
Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing





## Swimming Carnival Report

On Friday 4 February we held our annual whole school swimming carnival. From the start of the day, there was a sense of competitiveness in the air. Students were able to swim in races, and for the students who just wanted to cool off, they were in the pool for our very successful hotlaps.

This year saw a new champion house crowned, putting an end to Lawson's reign. Oxley took out house champion this year, followed by Lawson in 2nd, Blaxland in 3rd and Wentworth in 4th.

Congratulations to the following students for being age champions in 2022:

	Girls	Boys
Junior	Lilly Martin	Braith Hunt
11yrs	Paige Walker	Jase Whitby
Senior	Seraphine Den- ing	Jai Wright
12years	Torah Coles	-
13years	-	Zac Walker
14years	Katana Magnus	-
15years	Alyssa Carrall	Dylan McLennan
16years	Mia Jacobs	Roy Lawler
Opens	Isabel Swan	Aaron Hamson

A special thanks is also needed for all staff and students who helped in running the day. It ran smoothly thanks to all the hands that were able to lend assistance on the day. A big thankyou to the Merriwa Swimming Club as well, for allowing us to use their swim club equipment to ensure that the day ran smoothly.



Friday 18 March K-12

## Zone Swimming Report



On Thursday 24 February, Merriwa hosted the Upper Hunter Secondary Schools Zone Swimming Carnival. We were able to send 4 students to the carnival. Jye Byfield, Dylan Keane, Alyssa Carrall and Mia Jacobs. These students all represented the school exceptionally well, showing great respect and pride throughout the carnival. These students also chipped in to help time keep on the day when they weren't racing.

A special thankyou to SLR students: Josie Porter, William Whitby, Jake Williams and Jye Towell for assisting with time keeping and running of the day as well. Their assistance did not go unnoticed and other schools in attendance were very thankful for their work.

Regional qualifiers will be sent to Mr Vaughan over the coming days and will be communicated to successful students.

**Lachlan Vaughan**  
**PDHPE Teacher**

**Year 12 Advisor | Sports Coordinator | ROAR Coordinator**



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!



**MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL**

# Secondary Jersey

**Year 7 –12**



**Price \$68.00**

**Purchase from the Office**



**Save the Date**  
**School Photographs**  
**Monday 4 April**

You are warmly invited to join the



**Who:** A team of positive, enthusiastic and dedicated parents, carers and teachers led by a committed and motivated executive in President Hollie Hunt, Vice Presidents Nyssa Caban and Sarah Bidner, and Treasurer Emma Douglas.

**When:** Meetings take place on the first Tuesday of every month at 6.30pm.

**Where:** Meetings take place in the Fletcher Room at the Merriwa RSL Club.

**How:** Simply come along to a meeting and pay your annual \$2.00 membership fee.

**What:** The P&C works to support the students and staff of MCS in any way it can. We provide assistance and support in the running of school events, manage the school canteens, conduct fundraising activities to support the school, work to promote the school in our community, and contribute actively to the progress, development and improvement of the school.

**Why:** Being a member of the P&C provides you with the opportunity to be involved in your child's education. It is an excellent avenue through which to get to know your school and its staff, and to let your kids know that you value and support their school and education.

P.S. We are always seeking volunteers for our school events and canteens!

Email: [merriwacentralschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au](mailto:merriwacentralschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au)



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 - Year 6 14	Healthy Harold K - Year 6 15	Healthy Harold K - Year 6 16	Secondary Homework Club 3.30pm- 4.30pm 17	18	19/20
February	5	21	22	Primary Zone Swimming Carnival 23	Secondary Homework Club 3.30- 4.30pm 24  Secondary Zone Swimming Carnival	25	26/27
February/ March	6	28	Boys U14 and U16 Rugby League Olympic Park Muswellbrook  P & C Meeting RSL Club 6.30pm 1	2	Secondary Homework Club 3.30pm- 4.30pm 3	Year 7 and Year 10 Vaccination  Clean Up Australia Day K-6 4	5/6
March	7	7	8	9	Secondary Homework Club 3.30pm- 4.30pm 10  WTAW Adelaide Excursion	Author Visit K-6 11  WTAW Adelaide Excursion	WTAW Adelaide Excursion 12/13
March	8	Primary Homework Club 3.15pm- 4.15pm 14	15	16	Secondary Homework Club 3.30pm- 4.30pm 17	Pink Shirt Day K-12 18	19/20
March	9	Primary Homework Club 3.15pm- 4.15pm 21	22	23	Secondary Homework Club 3.30pm- 4.30pm 24	K-6 Assembly 2.15pm 25	26/27
March/ April	10	Primary Homework Club 3.15pm- 4.15pm 28	29	30	Secondary Homework Club 3.30pm- 4.30pm 31  Rewards Day Primary and Secondary	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

☐

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