



MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Valuing individual potential - achieving personal best

Term 3 Week 2, 2022

Principals Report

Welcome back to Term 3. Our winter holiday period was a little wild in some parts of the valley with frosts and flooding. Not a great time to go camping, however I note some of our students ventured out into the elements.

Flu season and COVID

Coughs, colds and COVID continue to have a significant impact on school operations. We are doing our very best to keep the doors open, and classes operational however the struggle continues. Many teachers are taking extra classes to cover sick colleagues, and classes have been split. As a result school reports and the school newsletter have been delayed, and parent teacher and information evenings have been rescheduled.

We may need to consider minimal supervision of students, and seniors working independently should the situation continue. Please keep an eye on the Skoolbag app which provides updates for parents, particularly in relation to COVID cases. Additional RAT kits will be distributed to all students this week to assist parents to monitor symptoms at home.

NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) occurs annually in July, and celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

On the school development day staff travelled to Gulgong to undertake professional development in Aboriginal culture. Over the coming week all

students will participate in workshops to develop greater understanding of Aboriginal culture and heritage.

Secondary Lockers

The Student Representative Council have purchased lockers for junior students in Years 7-10. Senior lockers have been available to students in Years 11-12 for several years. Students will be able to rent lockers at a cost of \$20 per year.

Thank you to Godolphin who have contributed \$1000 towards the cost of the lockers.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent teacher interviews will take place on Thursday, 11 August for primary and secondary students. They provide a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress and meet new staff. Please contact the office to make an appointment.

Variety Night Concert

Our annual Variety Night Concert is approaching Wednesday, 3 August and students are looking forward to performing on the School of Arts stage. Tickets will be on sale at the door, and we ask that masks are worn inside the venue to keep everyone safe.

Motivational Speaker

John Coutis is a motivational speaker and disability advocate will visit our school on Monday, 8 August. Doctors gave John little hope for survival and now, without the lower part of his

body, John rolls around on his custom skateboard sharing his story, life's most important lessons, and his enthusiasm for life. Students will have the opportunity to hear from John about his life and experiences.

Darren Noonan
Principal

Primary News

NSW Premier's Spelling Bee



Stage One- Caileb Duthie, Ella Pryor, Oliver Strachan, Jace Hourn, Billy Caban and William Sparrow.



1st Place: Oliver Strachan Runner Up: Ella Pryor



On Tuesday 14 June, select students from Years 1 to 6 competed in the NSW Premier's Spelling Bee.

Students did a fantastic job spelling some very difficult words that are uncommon and spelt irregularly. They should be very proud how well they all did on the day.

Congratulations to our stage winners! Max Hourn and Ashton Marchese will be representing our school at the Regional Finals.



Stage Two- Lily Douglas, Max Hourn, Brayson Coles, Mia Wilkinson and Braith Hunt

Congratulations to Term Two Infants SRC Representatives



1st Place: Max Hourn Runner Up: Brayson Coles



Congratulations to infants students who represented their classes this term on the Student Representative Council. They all took their roles very seriously and could be relied upon to ring the bell when asked, to responsibly hand out and pack away play equipment at lunch time and to award students blueys for doing the right thing in the playground.

Delightful Descriptions in Year Two

Year Two recently enjoyed reading a story about a girl's sparkly shoe and then designed their own, with a focus on bright colours and unique details. After designing their shoes, students wrote detailed descriptions and worked very hard to include adjectives and 'wow' words to enrich their writing. Here are some examples of their designs and descriptions. Well done on your wonderful work, Year Two!



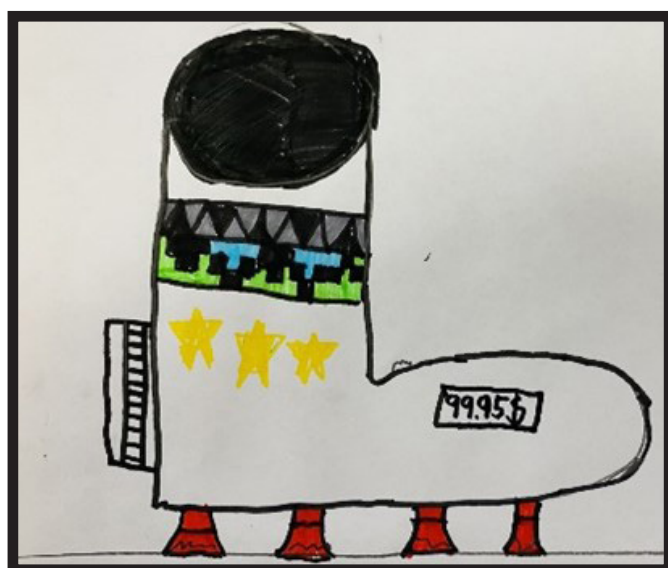
Stage Three- Xzavier Sait, Ashton Marchese, Charlotte Oldham, Aubree Oldham, Hazel Chin and Olivia Purcell



1st Place: Ashton Marchese Runner Up: Charlotte Oldham



Kindergarten Transition 2023



Designs by CJ, Nate and Oliver.

Taniel: My shoe is the most incredible, special shoe in the world. It is stripy, zig zaggy, starry, spotty, wavy, sparkly, amazing and it has love hearts. This classic shoe can turn into a high heel and a roller skate. It is one of the best.

Nicholas: My shoe is very springy and it also has blue spots. I can bounce really high and it costs 5c. It has a little green dot on the tip of the shoe.

Amelia: My shoe is sparkly, gold and beautiful. The patterns are full of dark purple and light purple and the wheels are blue and purple. It is a pink shoe. It has love hearts and very pretty stars and a pink stripe. There is an orange zig zag with a yellow line underneath it.

Cooper: My shoe is sparkly and beautiful. My shoe is gold and it is amazing. If you want to buy my shoe, it costs \$120 100.



We are now asking for expressions of interest for Kindergarten 2023 students. If you are interested in sending your child to Merriwa Central School for Kindergarten, please contact the school on 6548 2119, or visit the Primary office to pick up an information pack.

We will be holding a parent information session at 10.00am on Tuesday, 20 September at the primary library, all carers are invited to attend. Please ensure completed enrolment forms and birth certificates are provided to the primary office prior to the information session.

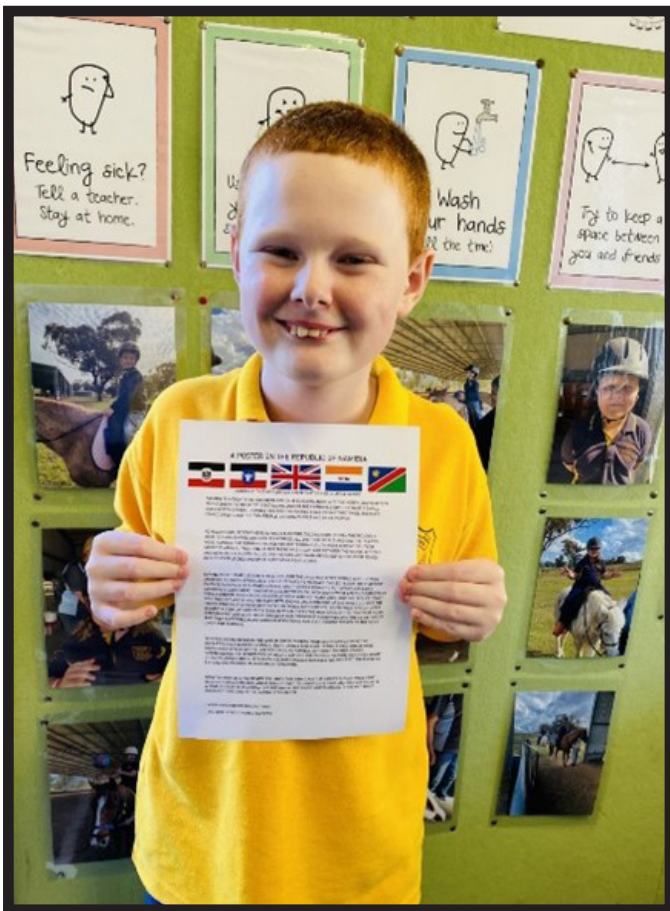
Our Kindergarten Transition program will commence in Term 4.

Keirra Hourn
Relieving Assistant Principal - Infants

Incredible Investigating in Bronze

Bronze students have been having a wonderful time investigating countries and animals. They were so fascinated by the subjects of their research that they decided to make dioramas and posters. Fredrick and Zane learnt all about dingoes and their habitats, creating dioramas with sand, cacti and a variety of thoughtful embellishments. Thomas is extremely passionate about geography and took great delight creating

a very thorough informative poster about the Republic of Namibia. Keep up the terrific work, Bronze!



**Kylie O'Connor
Bronze Classroom Teacher**

Year One Persuading the Principal

Year One have spent the last few weeks of Term 2 looking at how to write persuasively. They read many of Mo Willems books where a pigeon tries to convince the reader of many things like how he should drive a bus, not have a bath and not go to school. Students wrote persuasive letters to Mr Noonan to convince him to let the pigeon come to our school. It was great when they finished their letters and gave them to Mr Noonan to read. Now Year One are wondering if they will get a reply to all of their letters? Here are some of the reasons that they came up with, for why the pigeon should come to our school.

Sophia, Aleira, Brax – Pigeons can make new friends at school.

Clancy, Shania, Kairi – Pigeons want to be smart so they should come to our school to learn more and be smarter. Imagine if we have the smartest pigeons on Earth at school? (Jace)

Shyla, Lachlan – If he comes to our school he can get the bus to school, he loves the bus!

Henry, Jimmy, Joy, Jackson– He will get to play with us and won't be lonely. We can share the school with the pigeon (Sasha).

At Merriwa Central School the pigeon can learn:

to read better (Mia), how to be a farmer or teacher (William S), to be a bus driver because



that is his dream (Billy, Ethan), to fly better (Ricky), how to be nice like all of the nice children in our school (Grace), lots of new things (Felix), how to be safe (William C), to write (Laura), his ABCs, numbers and shapes to become a worker (Emmy).

**Isabelle Ticehurst
Classroom Teacher**

3D Object Hunt

In Kindergarten this Term we have been learning about 2D shapes and 3D objects. We went on a 3D object hunt around our school. We saw lots of different objects which are made up of many shapes and sizes.



**Lisen Olsson
Classroom Teacher**



Merriwa Central School

presents

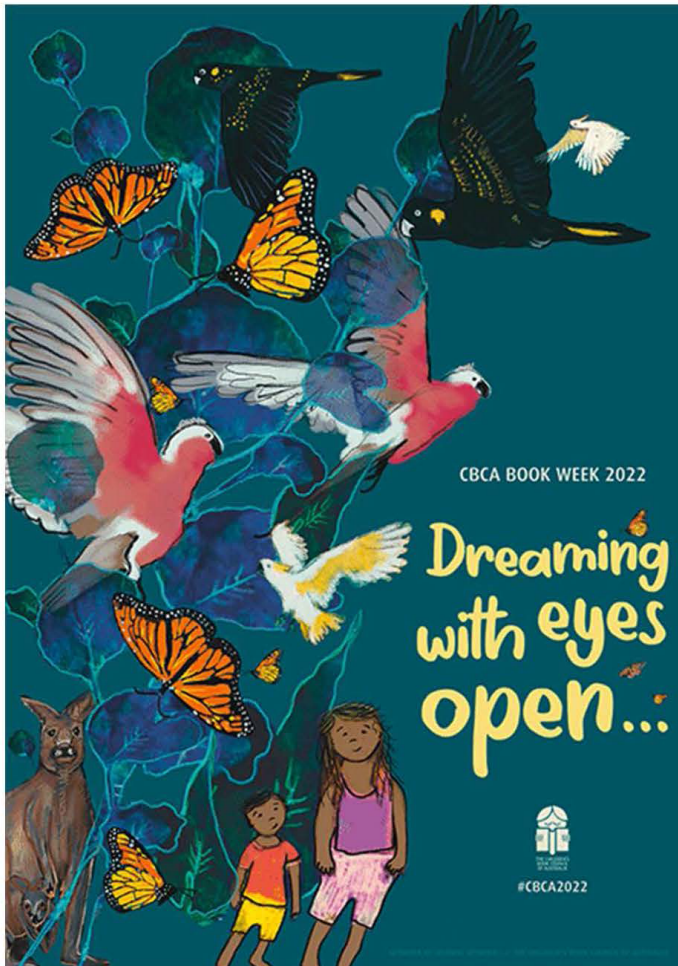
Little Sprouts 2022

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***

Library Lessons

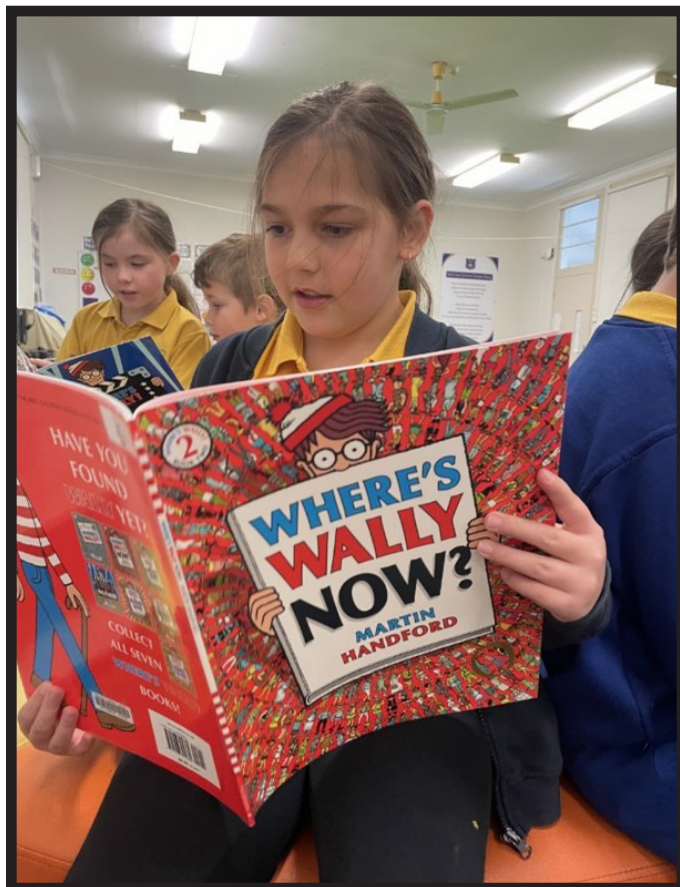
It has been a very busy Term 2 in the library, students in Year 3/4 have been reading "Matilda" by Roald Dahl and each week they are reading along together with their own copies of the book. We have enjoyed drawing character traits of each character and completing acrostic poetry using adjectives to describe Matilda.



Students in infants have been enjoying reading our CBCA notables books from 2021 which are still incredibly popular, and they are eagerly awaiting the 2022 CBCA books, which will be available in the library this Term, just in time for book week!

Where is everyone?

The library was buzzing with excitement when a new delivery of 'Where's Wally' books arrived! Serious concentration was shown by all students who were busy searching for the most elusive character in the library!



Erin Strachan
Librarian

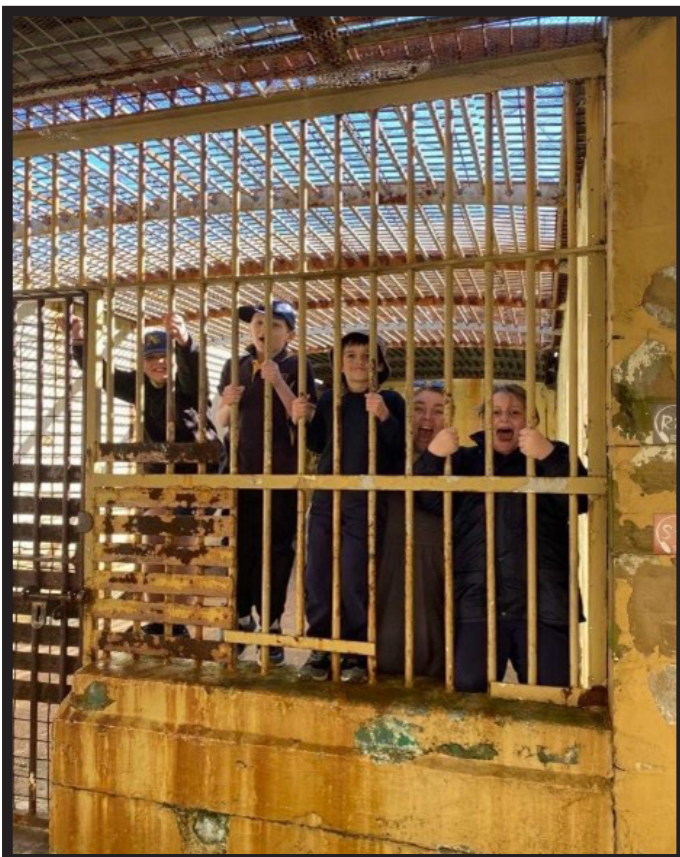
Primary Excursion

Years 3-6 students had an amazing time touring and learning about the history behind Maitland Goal. They also have a fantastic and adventurous time at inflatable world. Thank you to Mrs Roberts for organising the excellent primary excursion and thank you students for your beautiful behaviour.





Death Adders. Some of the children were even fortunate enough to get up close and personal with the cuddly reptiles.



Snake Tails

Students enjoyed an amazing and very educational performance from Bob, the owner of "Snake Tails" last Term. We learnt a lot of very interesting facts about Australian reptiles, including Brown snakes, lizards, turtles, and

Rewards Day Term 2

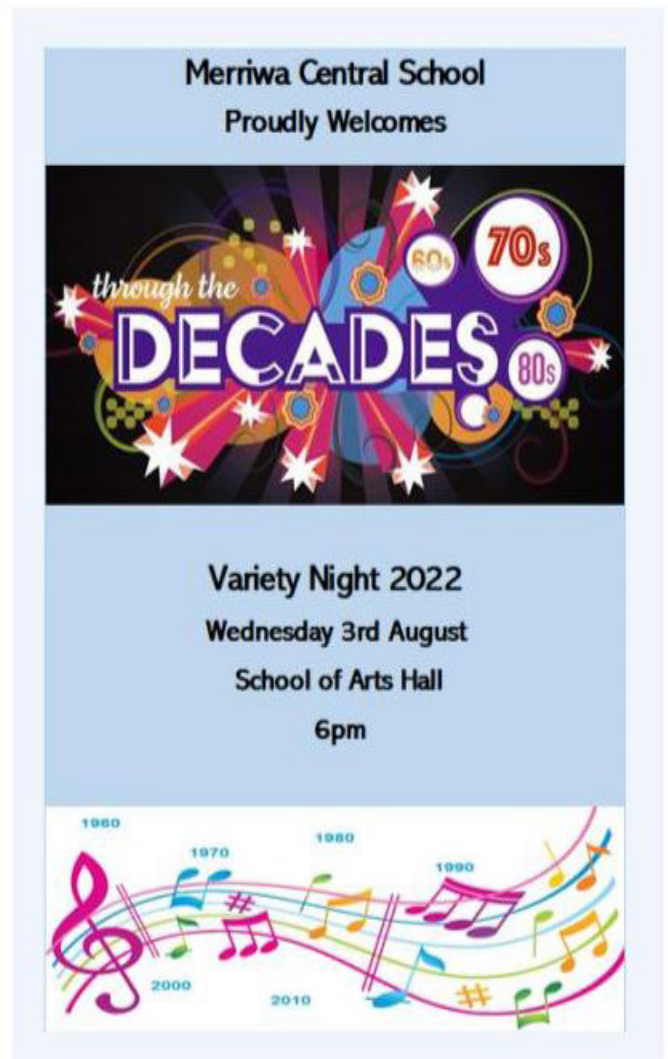


Students had a fantastic time last Term for their Rewards Day. They enjoyed playing and learning about board games, as well as building their very own.

Thank you to Mrs Martin and Mrs Strachan for organising this fantastic rewards day session.



Variety Night Concert



Parents and caregivers, we would like to invite you all to join us for our annual Variety Night performance on Wednesday, 3 August at 6.00pm. Tickets will be sold on the night at the School of Arts Hall (\$5.00 each or \$10.00 per family).

Students have each received a class note outlining their costumes and/or accessories that they will need to organise and bring back to school in Term 3. Please ensure their items are labelled and placed into a labelled bag.

A reminder also that all students will need to be at the primary campus by 5.00pm on the night to prepare for a 6.00pm start for the show. We look forward to seeing you all there and showcasing our students amazing talents.

Didjeribone Performance

We are privileged to host the Aboriginal performance group, Didjeribone, on Wednesday, 14 September (Week 9). This cultural

performance is approximately 50 minutes duration and will run in two sessions. All students from K-12 will have the opportunity to be involved and experience this unique performance.



Jump Rope for Heart kicks off this Term at Merriwa Central School!



Jump Rope for Heart is the Heart Foundation's primary school skipping challenge that helps kids move more, have fun and raise funds for lifesaving research and programs.

This year is the 40th year of Jump Rope for Heart! To celebrate this milestone, we've got an audacious goal to see our student Heart Heroes at Merriwa Central School to log 40 hours of skipping throughout the program! Register your child online, so they can receive the full benefits of the program and to participate in online fundraising, simply follow the link below to get started. www.jumprope.org.au/parents

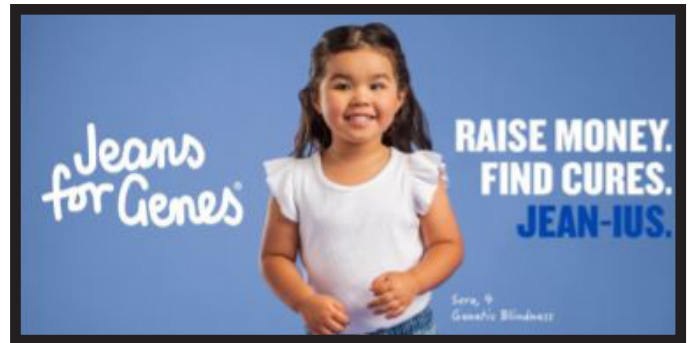
Students will be skipping throughout the Term in PE lessons, lesson breaks, recess and lunch. During this time you can share their online fundraising page with family and friends to help

raise money for this great cause.

We will be posting photos throughout the Term of our talented skippers, so keep an eye out.

Thank you for supporting the Jump Rope for Heart program!

Jeans for Genes Day



We are supporting Jeans for Genes in 2022 on Friday, 5 August. All students from Years K-12 will have the opportunity to wear their jeans to school and make a gold coin donation. School shirts must still be worn.

We encourage everyone to join us - wear your jeans and donate or visit JeansForGenes.org.au to buy some of their awesome products or get some great ideas to raise money to help find treatments and cures for kids with genetic diseases.

All money raised funds the vital work being done in the labs at Children's Medical Research Institute to help the 1 in 20 children living with a genetic disease or birth defect. That is one in every classroom!

If you want to find out more visit JeansForGenes.org.au

For any further information please contact Primary SRC Coordinator Sarah Roberts.

**Talia Morgan
Relieving Assistant Principal - Primary**

Secondary News

Careers News

NSW Training Awards 2022

Tahli Gleeson is to be congratulated on winning the School-Based Apprentice/Trainee for the Hunter and Central Coast 2022. This is an outstanding achievement by one of our Year 12 SBAT students. Tahli has since gone to Sydney on Wednesday, 20 July for her second interview as a State finalist. We are looking forward to hearing about Tahli's further success as a school-based trainee.



**Hannah Waters
Careers Advisor**

Liquor Accord and Rescue Education day

Merriwa Central School senior students joined over 355 Hunter students in the annual Liquor Accord and Rescue Education day. Students were explicitly taught a variety of skills to be aware of as both a driver and passenger in a car and ramifications of decision making. Delivery of course information was through guest speakers, videos, pictures and a mock car crash.

- "It was a great day, the way they organised it was really informative"
- "Definitely be recommended that years below us attend in the future"
- "The mock car crash was so realistic"
- "I will remember this day"

The day was not possible without the involvement of

- Muswellbrook Liquor Accord (Muswellbrook RSL club) who paid for the coach to transport our students
- Hunter Valley Police District (Muswellbrook CDAY) Highway patrol (NSW Police Force)
- NSW Ambulance
- Bengalla Mining Company
- Muswellbrook High School
- Hunter Tilt trays
- Fire and Rescue NSW



**Narelle Smith
Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing**

English – Visual Representations

All students in Years 7-10 have been working hard in Term 2 to produce visual representations for their English assessment tasks.

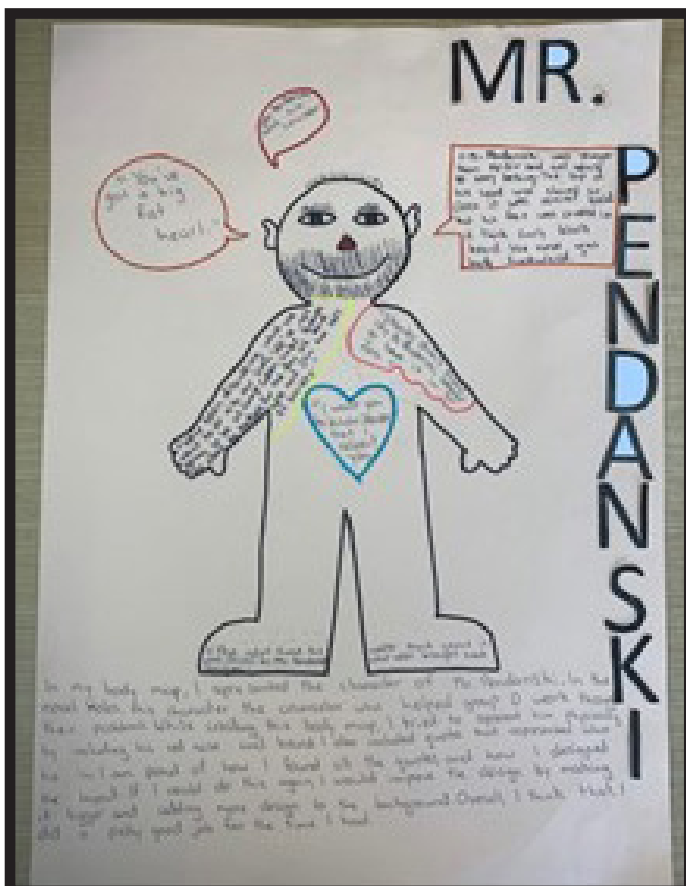
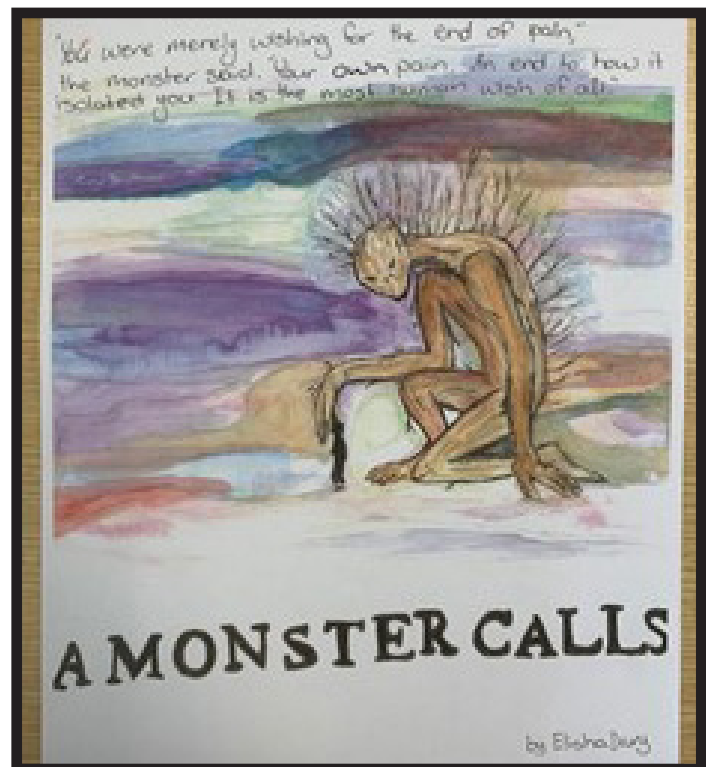
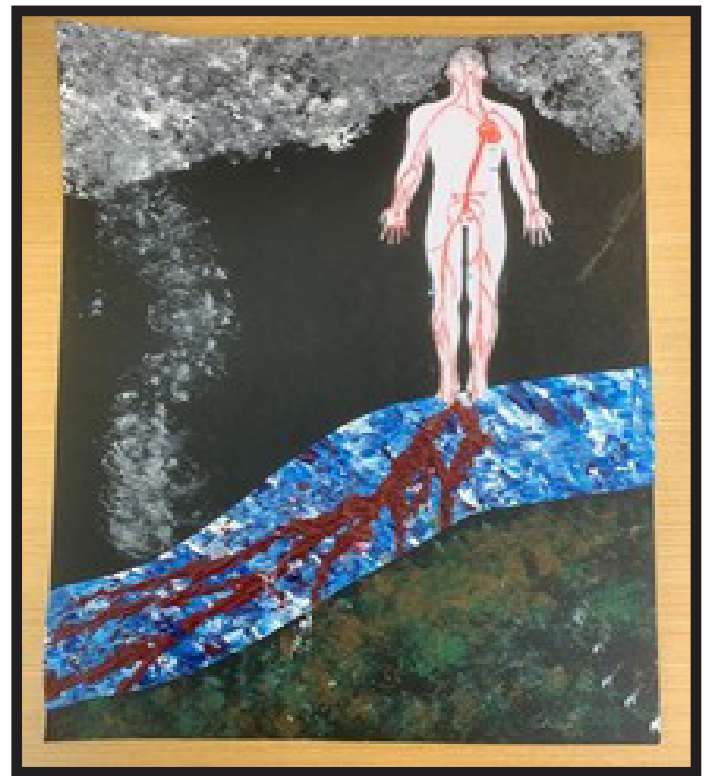
Year 7 have been studying the novel *Holes* by Louis Sachar and were tasked with creating a “Body Map” to demonstrate their understanding of a key character from the book.

In line with their study of Anh’s Do’s autobiography *The Happiest Refugee*, Year 8 students wrote about three key events in their own life, and accompanied their recounts with pictures.

To coincide with NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week, Year 9 students designed visual representations based on the anthology of poems and songs by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists we have studied in class.

Year 10 students visually represented a key moment from their set text, *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness. Their visual representation was accompanied with a reflection, analysing their design and how it aligned with their chosen section of the novel.

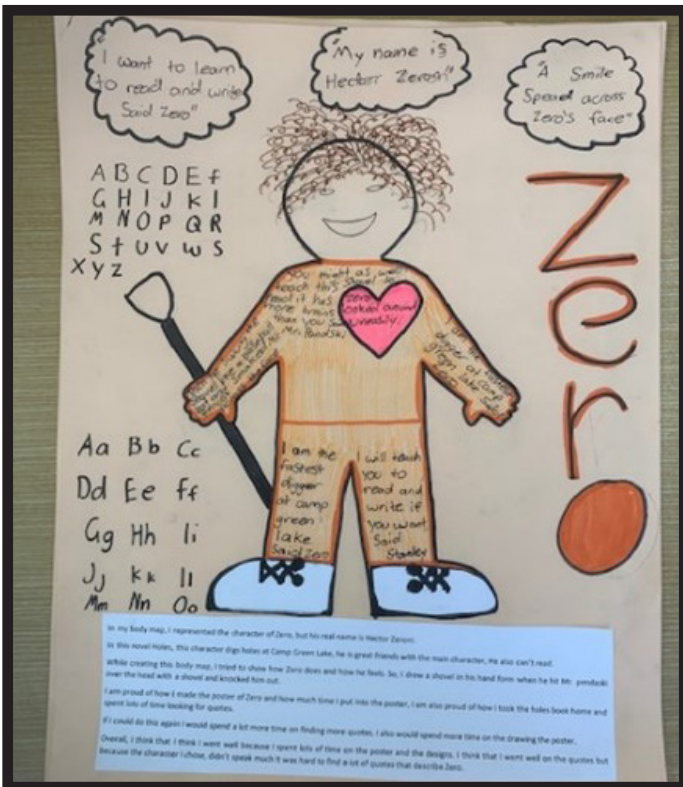
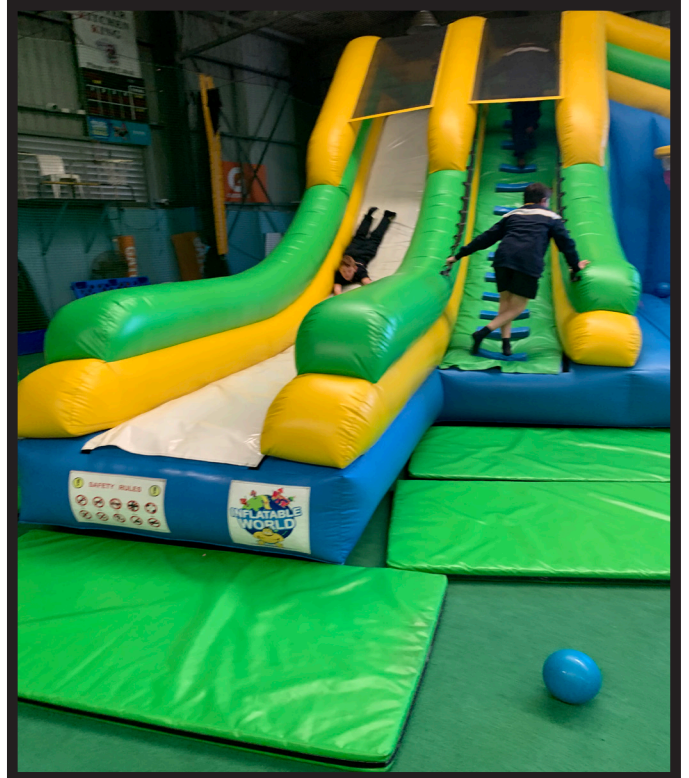
Some images of visual representations have been included.





The students were active and enjoying jumping on the large variety of inflatable obstacles, challenging each other to shoot outs and enjoyed a few games of hide and seek.

Fantastic and a proud day for Merriwa Central School Secondary Students.



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

Term 2 Rewards Day Inflatable World



Term 2 Rewards Day was held at Inflatable World in Maitland. The day was to celebrate positive student behaviour during the Term. Thirty students from Year groups 7 to 11 attended and were excited about the activity. Students were respectful of the facilities, staff and each other.

Year 7 Technology Mandatory

In Term 2 Year 7 were investigating engineered systems in the form of designing and building their own CO2 car racers. On Friday, 24 June with the help of Mr Cleary, Year 7 tested their designs to see if they met our brief of traveling 20m and being the fastest, most aerodynamic design. It was great fun to see who would take out the win, with Zac Walker's car coming in first place, Amelia Wright second and Levi Davis third.



Tarnika Wood
Science-Biology Teacher
Year 7 Advisor



Year 9/10 Food Technology

In Term 2 Year 9 and 10 have been investigating food for specific needs in our society. We have enjoyed making a range of foods from vegan, paleo, dairy free, healthy foods for athletes to foods designed for elderly people. In one of our practical lessons we made healthy breakfast smoothie bowls, using fresh fruit, chia seeds and Greek yoghurt.



Natasha Freeth
Head Teacher VET



Mark Your Calendar

Dates to Remember

Term Three	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
July	2	Homework Club Primary 3.15pm-4.15pm 25		Newcastle Permanent Competition Years 5 & 6 27	Secondary Homework Club 3.30pm-4.30pm 28		
August	3	Homework Club Primary 3.15pm-4.15pm 25	P&C Meeting RSL Club 6.30pm Variety Night Walk through Red Hill Excursion Years 7, 11 & 12 26	Variety Night Concert 6.00pm School of Arts Red Hill Excursion Years 8,9 & 10 27	Red Hill Excursion Years 3,4,5 & 6 Secondary Homework Club 3.30pm-4.30pm 28	Red Hill Excursion Kindergarten, Years 1 & 2 Jeans for Genes Day K-12 29	30/31
August	4	Homework Club Primary 3.15pm-4.15pm Motivational Speaker John Coutis 8	Books to Life K-6 9.00am-10.00am 2	3	Secondary Homework Club 3.30pm-4.30pm Parent Teacher Interviews primary & secondary 4	NAIDOC Celebrations 5	6/7
August	5	Homework Club Primary 3.15pm-4.15pm 15	9	10	Secondary Homework Club 3.30pm-4.30pm 11	12	13/14
August	6	HSC Trial Exams Homework Club Primary 3.15pm-4.15pm 22	HSC Trail Exams 23	HSC Trial Exams 24	HSC Trial Exams Secondary Homework Club 3.30pm-4.30pm 25	HSC Trial Exams Little Sprouts Day K-6 26	27/28
August/September	7	Homework Club Primary 3.15pm-4.15pm 29		English Aurora Study Day Great Hall 31	Secondary Homework Club 3.30pm-4.30pm 1		3/4
September	8	Homework Club Primary 3.15pm-4.15pm 5	P & C Meeting RSL Club 6.30pm 6	Primary Celebration Day 7	Secondary Homework Club 3.30pm-4.30pm 8		10/11