



MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Valuing individual potential - achieving personal best

Term 3 Week 10, 2023

Principal's Report

It has been another busy term with students involved in a range of activities in the last few weeks. Students have had the opportunity to enjoy visiting performances Backflips Against Bullying, Teach your Dinosaurs Science and Forensic workshops. Participated in R U OK? activities and NAIDOC Week activities including painting and weaving workshops, Talk like a Pirate Day and workshops with the University of Newcastle. Students have enjoyed excursions Ten Pin bowling and Whale watching.

Our aim is to ensure all students have access to a range of learning opportunities. The school subsidises the cost of each of these activities to ensure all students can participate.



Kindergarten 2024

Preparations are underway for Kindergarten 2024. An information session was held for parents on Tuesday outlining the orientation program. We look forward to our new students joining us next term to familiarise themselves with school and prepare for the year ahead.

Year 7 2024

An information evening will be held for Year 7 2024 students and parents on October 19 Thursday evening Term 4 Week 2. Staff will be available to talk about secondary school and explain the transition program from primary to secondary.

Farewell Year 12

As the end of Term 3 approaches we say farewell to the Year 12 Class of 2023. Today Year 12 held their final assembly and the roll was called for the last time. Tonight we will celebrate the end of secondary school with a dinner at the School of Arts Hall. Once the celebrations have subsided students will begin preparation for their HSC exams which will commence after the school holidays. We wish all Year 12 students well in their upcoming exams.



Term 4

Term 4 will commence for all students on Monday, 9 October following the school holidays. We return to our summer schedule for Wednesday sport which will take place in the cooler morning

timeslot first session of the day for both primary and secondary students.

Darren Noonan
Principal

Primary News



Infants Bowling Excursion

Next term Thursday, 26 October Kindergarten Year 1 and Year 2 students will be going on an excursion to Muswellbrook. Students will have a fun filled day starting off with two games of ten pin bowling at Game On and then visiting Highbrook Park for lunch and a play. Notes have been sent home with students and are due back by Monday, 16 October.

Nicole Johnston
Organising Teacher

Backflips Against Bullying

Primary students were awed and amazed during the Backflips Against Bullying performance in Week 7. "Peppa Pig" and "Ray Charles" put on a terrific show and impressed everyone with their spectacular acrobatic stunts. It was a remarkable way to deliver some very important messages about bullying, what it is and what people can do about it. Students learnt actions they can take if they are being bullied and how they can help their peers if they are being bullied.



Teach Your Dinosaurs Science

Last Friday, primary students were treated to another fantastic performance all about science. It was particularly engaging and memorable as they were learning interesting facts along with the dinosaurs who were part of the show. Students learnt about important scientific concepts, including sustainability, robotics and energy.



Kindergarten Transition 2024

Kindergarten Transition for our 2024 students begins in Week 2 of Term 4 Tuesday, 17 October. The first session will run from 9.00am to 11.00am. Parents and carers can drop their child and their bag at the classroom in the morning and children will need to be collected at 11.00am. Children are asked to wear sensible clothing and enclosed shoes. They will need to bring some fruit, a hat and a water bottle.



Kindergarten Transition Dates and Times

- Tuesday 17 October 9.00am-11.00am
- Tuesday 24 October 9.00am-11.00am
- Tuesday 31 October 9.00am-11.30am
- Tuesday 7 November 9.00am-1.00pm
- Tuesday 14 November 9.00am-1.35pm
- Tuesday 21 November 9.00am-2.00pm
- Tuesday 28 November 9.00am-3.00pm
- Tuesday 5 December - Post Transition Meetings for Parents

Keirra Hourn
Assistant Principal Infants

Kindergarten

This term Kindergarten has been studying Australia in preparation for our Term 3 Rewards Day theme. Students have been learning about the different states and territories that make up our fine country. They have explored many of our native animals, ranging from adorable to dangerous. Kindergarten have also enjoyed investigating the different types of Australian foods and listening to classic Aussie songs.



Nicole Johnston
Kindergarten Teacher

Year One

Year One have been working hard to learn all about their country of study the United States of America. They have excitedly decorated the classroom with USA colours and created some excellent artworks. Students have learnt about famous landmarks, the flag and native animals such as the bald eagle. Students have also learnt about how Americans celebrate the 4th of July and created some wonderful fireworks artworks to display in the classroom windows.





Emellia Sexton
Year One Teacher

Library

This term in Library we are focusing on specific units in Geography. Year 5/6 focus was investigating how people change the natural environment in Australia and other places around the world. Year 4/5 students learnt about what living things need to survive and how they interact and rely on specific natural environments for this survival. Year 3/4 looked at natural vegetation and native animals in Australia and other countries around the world. Bronze investigated the concept that different places have different weather patterns and explored how activities in places change according to the weather. Years 1 and 2 discovered natural and human features of places and how they can be cared for, whilst Kindergarten discovered important and special places.

Tammy Parker
Library Teacher

Year Two

Year Two have loved learning all about Greece this term, with our focus being Ancient Greece in particular. Students have researched traditional food, clothing and famous architecture and have worked in pairs to create impressive PowerPoint presentations about their findings. Their favourite topic to explore has been the Greek gods and goddesses and they were also fascinated to discover that the Greek's national animal is the common dolphin!



Keirra Hourn
Assistant Principal Infants

Year 5/6 Literacy

This term we have been thoroughly enjoying our literacy text 'Rabbit, Solider, Angel, Thief' by Katrina Nannestad. The book explores the life of a young Russian boy who does what he needs to in order to survive Word War Two. The book has had us laughing, scared, and crying at times. We have achieved many literacy activities based on the book to ensure we are understanding the themes and messages being conveyed by the author. Students have completed research tasks, character profiles, responses and visualisations, as well as using it for inspiration in their independent writing and reading tasks. We cant wait to see how the book ends in our last reading sessions for Term 3.



Touch Football Gala Day

On Tuesday of week 8, students from Years 3-6 travelled to Scone for a touch football gala day. We had 3 junior teams and 2 senior teams, each playing 5 games against a range of Upper Hunter schools. Our students demonstrated competitive skills and worked supportively as teams to further develop their skills in the game of touch football.



Hunter Athletics Carnival

Friday, September 1 Aubree Oldham and Olivia Purcell travelled to Glendale to compete at the next level of competition for athletics. Aubree and Olivia were strong competitors, competing in 100m age race, 200m age race, discus and shotput. We are so proud of the girl efforts and their representation of our school. Well done, girls!



NAIDOC Week

The primary campus had a fantastic time exploring and reflecting on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. We began our week with an assembly ran by our school leaders. They talked us through the importance of NAIDOC week and how it began. Over the next two days each class had a session with Jakeob Watson, a local Aboriginal artist. He ran art lessons with a focus on exploring and using Aboriginal symbols to tell the story of students' families and what is important to them. Each student created a canvas using paint to show their family networks and special people in their lives. On Tuesday afternoon, students had a visit from Richie who taught them how to throw a boomerang and demonstrated playing the didgeridoo.



Alyssa Moore
Year 5/6 Teacher

Primary Rewards Day/Country of Study

This term all classes selected a country to study. Each class looked at the culture, language, food, customs and dance from their specific country. As part of students demonstrating exceptional behaviour they were able to participate in a day of culture. This started with wearing their country of study colours, making a flag and participating in an Olympics ceremony, followed by a mini-Olympics, with Kindergarten winning gold, Bronze Class winning silver and Year 2 winning bronze. This exciting activity was followed by cooking and sampling the specific countries food and drinks and a wonderful afternoon assembly demonstrating to parents/carers and grandparents just a snippet of the different countries facts, dances and customs studied.





**Tammy Parker and Courtney Martin
Organising Teachers**

Secondary News

Burn Bright

On Wednesday, 16 August seven girls from Years 9 and 10 attended the Burn Bright program in Scone. The aim of the program was to introduce the latest skills in leadership with a focus on wellbeing.

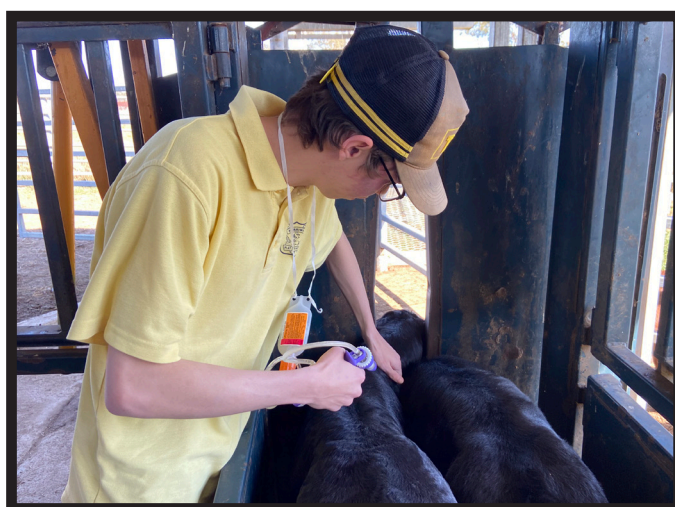
Schools from across the Upper Hunter were invited and allowed us the chance to meet new people through activities carried out during the day. It took a little bit of courage to start with to talk to new people, however with the help of the activities it made it easier.

We encourage any students interested in building your skills in leadership to attend future Burn Bright days. We would like to thank Vanessa for all her organisation to get us there, we really appreciate it.

Grayson Tilse
Science Teacher

Farm Visit

Year 11 and 12 Primary Industries students visited 'Kingslyn' in week 7 and put their livestock handling skills into practice. Students demonstrated their competence marking calves and were given some valuable insight into the management practices that enable the efficient and sustainable running of a large beef production enterprise. Thank you to Mr Col Bates and his staff for donating their time and expertise for our students. The livestock cluster is the final unit of competency for our Year 12 students in the Certificate II in Agriculture course. Congratulations to Thomas Amidy, Justin Caban, Jack Mobberley and Jye Towell who have successfully completed their qualification. Year 11 students Talisha Coles and Brooklyn Blackadder are currently in their first year of study in the two-year course where they will learn safe and sustainable work practices and skills in fencing, operating farm machinery, establishing crops and pastures and livestock handling. Studying Primary Industries is a great opportunity for students to gain practical experience and develop specialist skills that will give them a significant advantage in the job market should they decide to pursue a career in the agricultural industry.



Tara Hogan
Agriculture/Primary Industries Teacher

**Students return
for
Term 4
Monday 9 October**

India on a plate

We were very lucky to have award winning OAM Promilla Gupta hold an Indian Cooking Demonstration for some of our students where she taught them about different Indian spices, foods, culture and how to make Pulao which is like an Indian version of fried rice made all in one pot. The students thought it was delicious with some even going back for thirds! After the student session, Promilla then held a community session where they learnt a variety of dishes including Dosa, Potato Curry, Indian bread, Sambhar (lentil curry) and coconut chutney. We would like to thank the Meals on Wheels committee and Tash Taaffe for organising Promilla to come and including our students.



Cake Decorating

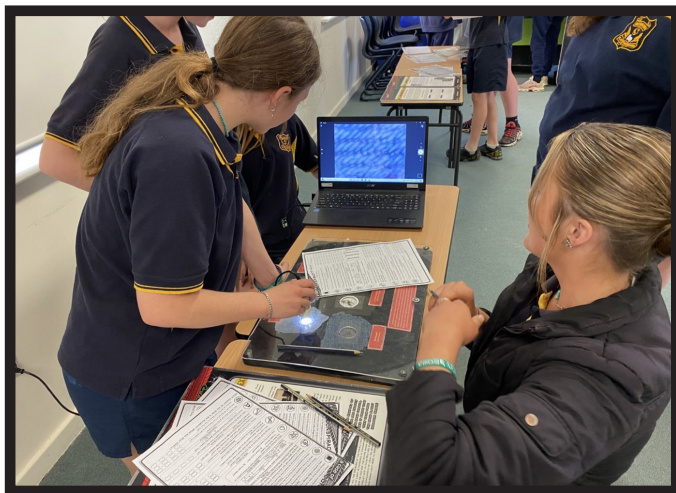
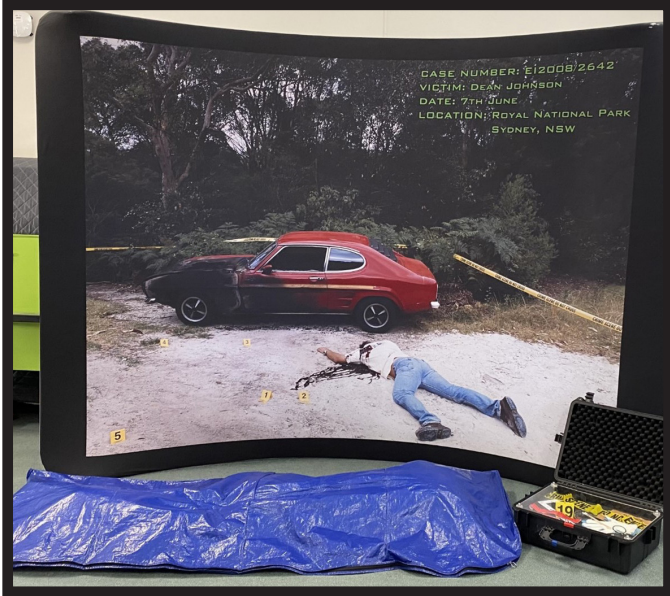
Last week Year 9/10 Food Technology students were busy planning a birthday party and then creating a cake to match their theme. The students spent time on Wednesday decorating their cakes ready to enter into the Merriwa Springtime Show. Students had a variety of themes and used a range of techniques to display these themes. They should all be very proud of their efforts!



Natasha Freeth
Head Teacher VET

Crime Scene Investigation

On Thursday 7 September, Joshua from Education Interactive's Forensic Science program presented a crime scenario "A Case of Conspiracy" to all Years 7-10 students. Students were introduced to the purpose of Forensic Science. Joshua explained the case and students examined evidence set around the room to determine who was responsible for which crime from the scenario. Students were engaged with the activities and fascinated by the exhibits.



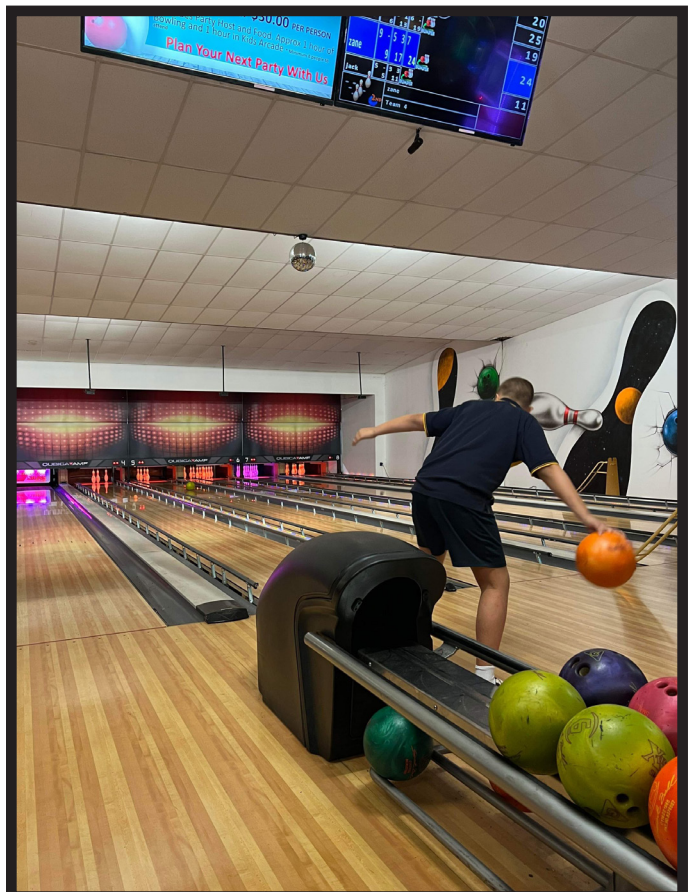
Tarnika Wood
Science-Biology Teacher

Support Faculty

Students in the GOLD and SILVER support classes have continued building connections in the community and were welcomed with open arms to the CWA on Thursday, 7 September. The students made quiches and tacos then enjoyed hearing about the role of the CWA in



the community and all the wonderful things they do. They were then invited back to decorate cupcakes for the show. The students and the CWA are now organising their next visit for Term 4. We would like to thank Kim and all the CWA ladies that volunteered their time and made us all feel very welcome.



Ten Pin Bowling

On Friday, 18 August a primary and a secondary team attended the NSW Multiclass Ten Pin Bowling competition in Muswellbrook. All the students gave it their best and knocked over many pins and supported each other throughout the day. It was fantastic to see secondary and primary working together to build great team morale and representing Merriwa Central School proudly. The primary team ended up 6th in the Hunter Region!

SRC Secondary School Hat

The SRC have been busy designing a new Secondary school hat to become part of the school uniform, from Term 4 2023. Merriwa Central School hats will be the only hats that students will be allowed to wear (current school hats from Di's Clothing Patch can still be purchased as part of the school uniform).

Hats can be prepaid at the front office or via School Bytes and will be handed out once they arrive with predicted delivery being Week 1, Term 4 2023.

The cost of the hats will be \$35.00 with 10% of the cost going towards SRC fundraising.

We look forward to seeing the new hats arrive, and students proudly wearing them.



SRC 2024

The 2023 SRC wrap up their roles at the end of Term 3, with the 2024 SRC stepping in from next term. We look forward to hearing a full recap of their year at presentation night and formally recognising their contributions to Merriwa Central School. Students had the opportunity to nominate themselves for the SRC during Week 7, with voting taking place in week 8. I would now like to take this opportunity to introduce our SRC members for 2024.

Year 12 - Mia Jacobs and Damien Constable

Year 11 - Sanita Turner

Year 10 - Katana Magnus and Lara Ballantyne

Year 9 - Zac Walker

Year 8 - Thomas Kneeves, Paige Walker and Ashton Marchese

These students will attend the GRIP leadership conference in Dubbo on Monday, 30 October and then participate in a planning day Tuesday of week 5, Term 4. Executive roles will also be voted in at the planning day. Year 7 students will have the opportunity to nominate and vote for Year 7 representatives at the start of next year.

Elizabeth La Trobe
Head Teacher Support

NAIDOC Celebrations

Aboriginal Artist

As part of our NAIDOC celebrations, we welcomed Aboriginal artist Jakeob Watson to run painting workshops with our students. With Jakeob's help, students created a beautiful mural which will be hung around the school for our community to enjoy.

On Wednesday, Jakeob facilitated a workshop with each year group, in which students created their own individual painting to represent their journey and the things in life that are most important to them. We would like to thank Jakeob for taking the time to teach our students and for providing opportunities to listen, learn and express themselves.



Boomerang Throwing

On Tuesday, 5 September Uncle Richie Lawton from Budbudda Dreaming came to Merriwa Central School to teach the students the art of boomerang throwing. Before each group started Uncle Richie performed a song on his didgeridoo about coming together. Every student and some teachers accepted the challenge to catch the boomerang on return, not one boomerang was caught due to the windy conditions however there were some who came close.

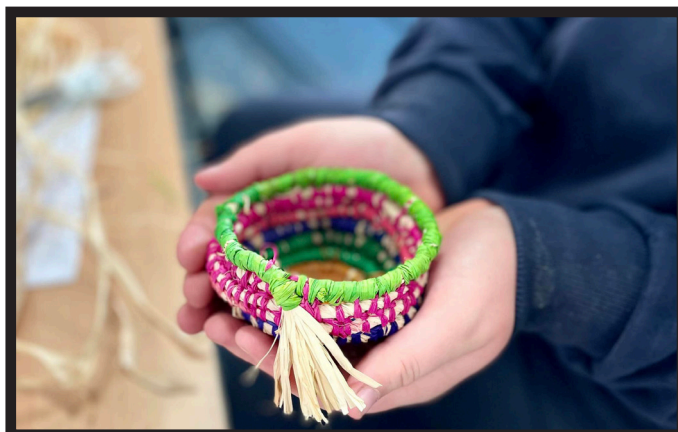


Emma Piper
Relieving Head Teacher Secondary Studies
Girls Adviser
Year 12 Year Adviser

Weaving

As part of NAIDOC Week secondary students spent Friday, 8 September rediscovering the ancient cultural practice of weaving and bringing these ancient techniques into the modern world.

Students had a wonderful time weaving and yarning and showed an interest in reviving and pursuing traditional cultural practices that First Nation have used for over thousands of years.



Grayson Tilse
Science Teacher



Vanessa Whitten
Student Support Officer

Year 7 2024 Orientation Days

- Thursday 26 October
- Thursday 2 November
- Thursday 9 November

Johnny Cakes

Everyone loves to eat. Students cooked up a feast of Johnny Cakes to enjoy with their mates. Did you know that Johnny Cakes were originally known as Journey Cakes. They were cooked and eaten while they were out on their expeditions.



Narelle Smith
Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing

Careers News

Upcoming Dates

- Friday, 29 September - Year 12 Early bird deadline for UAC Applications. Early bird cost \$78.00 and after 29 September, \$215.00.

R U OK ? Day

Students undertook a variety of lessons around checking in with their mates on R U OK ? day.

"Are you Ok ?"

Hannah Waters
Careers Adviser

Lifeline (free call from mobile):	13 11 14
Police, Ambulance, Fire:	000
Kids Helpline:	1800 551 800
Suicide Call Back Service:	1300 659 467
Beyond Blue:	1300 224 636
Domestic Violence Hotline:	1800 656 463
Rape Crisis Centre:	1800 424 017
Alcohol and Drug Information:	1800 422 599
Headspace Maitland (9am - 5pm):	(02) 4931 1000
Mental Health Information Centre:	1300 794 991
Merriwa Hospital:	(02) 6532 5000



**ADRA Food Pantry
In Merriwa
3rd Wednesday of every
month
Outside Joblink in the
main street
11.00am to 12.30pm
Orders need to be in the
week before
Please call 0468 548 860**



UPPER HUNTER SHIRE LIBRARIES

School Holiday Activities

ABERDEEN

Phone 6540 1303

Tuesday 26 Sept 10:15am

- Storytime & Craft (2-5yrs)

Tuesday 26 Sept 11:00am

- Yarn Craft Keyrings

Wednesday 27 Sept 5:00pm

- Coding - Ages 6-99

Friday 29 Sept 2:30pm

- Wooden Wind Chimes

Tuesday 3 Oct 10:15am

- Storytime & Craft (2-5yrs)

Tuesday 3 Oct 11:00am

- Animal Masks

Wednesday 4 Oct 5:00pm

- Coding - Ages 6-99

Friday 6 Oct 2:30pm

- Paddle Pop Craft

CASSILIS

Phone 6540 1311

Wednesday 27 Sep 11:00am

- Storytime & Craft (2-5years)

Wednesday 27 Sep 2:00pm

- Colourful Spinners (6yrs+)

Wednesday 4 Oct 11:00am

- Storytime & Craft (2-5years)

Wednesday 4 Oct 2:00pm

- Shrink Film Keyrings (6yrs+)



MERRIWA

Phone 6521 7007

Tuesday 26 Sept 10:00am

- Storytime & Craft (2-5yrs)

Thursday 28 Sept 3:30pm

- Colourful Spinners (6yrs+)

Friday 29 Sept 10:00am

- Rainbow Weaving (5yrs+)

Tuesday 3 Oct 10:00am

- Storytime & Craft (2-5yrs)

Thursday 5 Oct 3:30pm

- Shrink Film Keyrings (6yrs+)

Friday 6 Oct 10:00am

- Flying Butterflies (6yrs+)

MURRURUNDI

Phone 6540 1363

Tuesday 26 Sept 2:30pm

- 3D Wooden Bird Feeders

Wednesday 27 Sept

- Virtual Reality 13yrs+ **By Appointment**

Friday 29 Sept 10:00am

- Storytime & Craft

Tuesday 3 Oct 2:30pm

- Bead Leg Bears

Wednesday 4 Oct

- Virtual Reality 13yrs+ **By Appointment**

Thursday 5 Oct

- Virtual Reality 13yrs+ **By Appointment**

Friday 7 Oct 10:00am

- Storytime & Craft

SCONE

Phone 6540 1183

Monday 25 Sept 10:30am

- Spring Craft

Tuesday 26 Sept 10:30am

- Toddler Time

Wednesday 27 Sept 10:30am

- Baby Talk

Wednesday 27 Sept 11:30am

- 3D Wooden Bird Feeders

Thursday 28 Sept 10:30am

- Cardboard Mural (10yrs+)

Friday 29 Sept 10:30am

- Storytime & Wooden Animal Bookmarks

Monday 2 Oct 10:30am

- Butterfly Jewel Magnets

Tuesday 3 Oct 10:30am

- Toddler Time

Wednesday 4 Oct 10:30am

- Baby Talk

Wednesday 4 Oct 11:30am

- 3D Wooden Planes

Thursday 5 Oct 10:30am

- Robots Workshop (10yrs+)

Friday 6 Oct 10:30am

- Storytime & 3D Wooden Robins

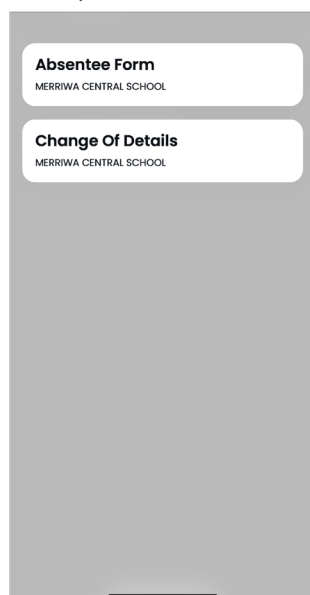
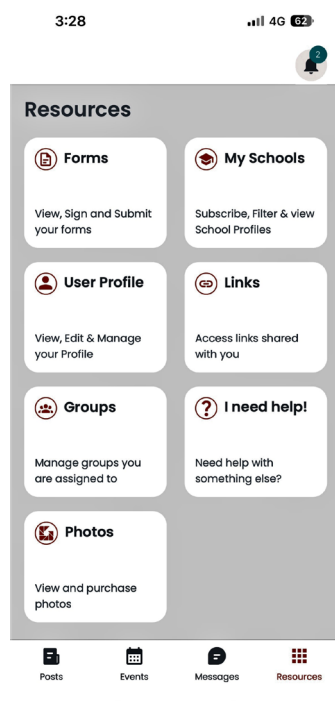
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
Places are limited





How to enter an absentee form:

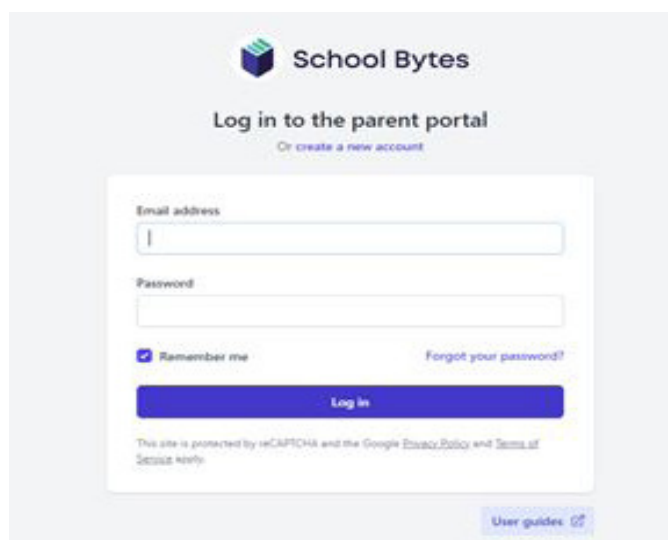
- Resources Tab
- Forms
- Absentee Form



School Bytes

As we have moved over to the School Bytes Finance and Parent Portal system, we need parents to create a School Bytes account.

To access our new School Bytes Parent Portal, please Create a New Account for the Parent Portal via the following link: <https://portal.schoolbytes.education>



Audiri is still our preferred method of communication and you will be able to access our "Make a Payment" option.

From the website landing page you can access the School Bytes Parent Portal to make a payment or to register.

The Parent Portal System lets you

- view all payments made
- complete and submit digital permission notes
- request a refund if required
- download receipts
- view statement of accounts

Please see the 'Parent Portal Set Up' Guide for your convenience. There are a range of Parent User Guides to help you through the process. You will find them in the bottom right corner under the login button when you open the link above.

If you are having any difficulty with this process, please don't hesitate to call the office on 02 65482119. We will organise a code to link you to your child.



School Bytes

AVAILABLE NOW!

Parents, you can now save your credit card details in Parent Portal for future payments.

First time making a payment?

Simply select the items you wish to pay, then tick 'save card details for future payments' option and click 'pay.'

The screenshot shows the School Bytes Parent Portal interface. A modal titled "Pay now" is displayed over a blurred background of the "Payments" section. The modal shows a payment for "Jane Citizen" from "School Bytes Academy" for \$25.00. A checkbox labeled "Save card details for future payments" is checked. Below this, a message states: "You will be redirected to the Service NSW online payment gateway to complete your payment. Please do not close this tab or use your browser back button. If you cancel your payment, items can take up to an hour to reappear on this page." A "Please note" section mentions the transaction will appear on the bank statement as "0SCHOOLSONLINE 0000 PARRAMATTA AU." At the bottom of the modal are "CANCEL" and "PAY \$25.00" buttons. The background shows a "Statement of account" for Jane Citizen with a list of items, including "Trip to Zoo" for \$25.00, and a "Total: \$25.00" at the bottom right.

You will then be redirected to the payment page where you will need to tick the checkbox to authorise ongoing payments.

The screenshot shows the payment page with fields for "Expiry date" (02 / 2024) and "CVN" (123). Below these is a section titled "Ongoing card payment details" which includes a checked checkbox for "I agree to ongoing payments being charged to this card for SchoolBytes - DoE NSW". There is also a field for "Max amount of ongoing payments (optional)" with the placeholder text "Amount". A note below this field states: "You can limit the amount that is charged to this card in single transaction." At the bottom right of the form is a "Validate card" button.

Term 3		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
September	10	Emoji Year 7 Boys 18	Kindergarten Transition Parent information session 10.00am Primary library Talk like a pirate day K-6 fundraiser 19	20	Year 12 Formal Assembly Year 12 Formal Dinner 6.00pm School of Arts Hall 21	Last day of Term 3 22	23/24
Term 4							
October	1	Students return 9	P&C Meeting RSL 6.30pm 10	HSC Exams Commence 11	12	13	14/15
October	2	John Coutis Guest speaker Years 4-12 Great Hall 9.00am 16	Kindergarten Transition 9.00am-11.00am 17	18	Year 7 Transition Information Evening 19	Support Classes Multisports Day Excursion Maitland 7.30am 20	21/22
October	3	Years 9 & 10 Yearly Exams 23	Years 9 & 10 Yearly Exams Scotts BMX Trick Bike Show Primary 9.00am Kindergarten Transition 9.00am-11.00am 24	Years 9 & 10 Yearly Exams 25	Years 9 & 10 Yearly Exams Year 7 Transition Day Infants Game on Excursion 9.00am 26	Years 9 & 10 Yearly Exams Primary Assembly 10.15am 27	28/29
October/November	4	Years 7 & 8 Yearly Exams SRC GRIP Leadership Conference Dubbo 30	Years 7 & 8 Yearly Exams Kindergarten Transition 9.00am-11.30am Years 3-6 CWA Choir Performance RSL 9.00am 31	Years 7 & 8 Yearly Exams 1	Years 7 & 8 Yearly Exams Year 7 Transition Day 2	Years 7 & 8 Yearly Exams HSC Exams Conclude 3	4/5
November	5	Secondary Formal Assembly 9.00am 6	Kindergarten Transition 9.00am-1.00pm SRC Planning Day P&C Meeting RSL 6.30pm 7	8	Year 7 Transition Day 9	Remembrance Day Service 10.45am 10	11/12