



MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

*Valuing individual potential - achieving personal best*

Term 3 Week 6, 2023

## Principal's Report

Year 12 students have just finished their Trial HSC exams and need to consider teacher feedback in preparation for the real deal next term. School based assessment contributes 50% of students overall HSC mark.

Thank you to those parents who attended our Year 10 into 11 subject selection evening. The evening covered a range of topics to enable students and parents to make informed decisions about school and post-school options.

### Walking Excursions

Walking excursions are our local excursions on foot around town. Students often walk between the primary and secondary campus, to the School of Arts Hall, and to local sports ovals. These activities are always planned and supervised by teachers.

For our younger students information is provided in the newsletter or the school app to inform parents when students will be off site. Next week is our Little Sprouts Community Reading Day when students participate in activities at the School of Arts Hall, and visit local businesses as part of the program.

In addition to the hardcopy newsletter sent home with students, an electronic version is published on the school app. Parents are asked to keep an eye on information published by the school.

## Secondary Toilets

In secondary we have two sets of toilets for students use - junior (Years 7-10) and seniors (Years 11-12). Unfortunately we have had ongoing issues with damage and vaping in the junior toilets. As a result the toilets are closed during class time. If students need to access toilets during this time they attend the office and use the sick bay toilet.

Staff then supervise junior toilets during break times and manage the number of students in the toilets at any one time. This is to ensure students are not congregating in the toilets, vaping, causing damage or making it uncomfortable for other students to use the facilities.

We seek parent support in managing an area where it is problematic for staff to supervise effectively.

## Golden Ticket Rewards

Primary had a fantastic day on their whale watching excursion and observed whales breaching out of the water and frolicking around. Thank you to Sarah Fleming for organising the day, and for staff supervising the excursion and its early start.

Secondary students will attempt to catch some whale sighting in a few weeks. Students who have demonstrated positive behaviours, have a focus on learning, and consistently wear school uniform have been rewarded with a "Golden Ticket" to attend the Rewards Activity

this term.

Next term students will have a fresh start to demonstrate these qualities and to be eligible to attend the Term 4 Rewards Activity which at the moment is a closely guarded secret.

### **Community Reading Day “Little Sprouts”**

Planting the seed to read is the underlying theme for our annual “Little Sprouts” Community Reading Day. The day aims to highlight the importance of reading to children from birth to enhance their language and literacy skills. That is why we involve the whole community from playgroup to pre-school and our primary students and partner schools. Thank you to the local community groups and business houses who continue to support this wonderful community initiative led and funded by Merriwa Central School and coordinated by Keirra Hourn Assistant Principal.

**Darren Noonan**  
Principal

## **Primary News**

### **Library**

This term in Library all classes have focused on a shortlisted book ready for book week 2023. Kindergarten and Year 1 have concentrated on the story Bev and Kev and have created some colourful giraffes and birds, in response to the friendships created by the animals. After reading the book Snap, Year 2 created some fabulous frogs, whilst Year 3/4 made a diorama featuring a colourful forest and frogs. Year 4/5 focused on the story Where the Lyrebird Lives to design a camouflaged lyrebird. Year 5/6 read the story Jigsaw a Puzzle in the Post which focused on the themes of teamwork, persistence, gratitude and kindness. They then created their own jigsaw. Can you locate the missing pieces in our library? Bronze enjoyed making a rocking dog after reading the story Lionel and Me. Primary classes are also each reading a junior fiction book as part of our library focus. We are so lucky to have all the shortlisted books for 2023 in the library ready to be borrowed after Week 6. Remember this Year’s book week theme is Read, Grow and Inspire.

**Tammy Parker**  
Library Teacher

## **Kindergarten**

Our Kindergarten students have been exploring the different purposes of writing this term, with the latest being procedural writing. Students have had an absolute blast investigating recipes as well as publishing our very own class cookbook.







**Nicole Johnston**  
**Kindergarten Teacher**

## **Year Two**

Year Two have been having a great time developing their understanding of position and positional language. They have been doing many fun activities that require them to give and follow directions in and out of the classroom. A favourite activity was making three dimensional models of special places in the community, including the skate park, the town pool, sporting ovals and of course the school.



## **The Premier's Spelling Bee Regional Finals**

Congratulations to Lily Douglas and Mia Wilkinson who represented our school so proudly in the Premier's Spelling Bee Regional Finals. On Monday 14 August, Lily and Mia each faced off against over twenty contestants from different schools over a zoom conference. They both spelt really well and although they didn't make it through to the next round, they are to be commended on spelling such challenging words and for the way they conducted themselves throughout the entire competition.



**Lily Douglas**





**Mia Wilkinson**

### **Books to Life Performance**

On Tuesday, 8 August our primary students enjoyed an amazing live performance of the Notable Listed Picture Book of the Year 'Jorn's Magnificent Imagination'. It details the story of Jorn Utzon, how he came to design the Sydney Opera House and what inspired him. The story was acted out in a spectacular, hilarious and musical performance with the involvement of all students in attendance. Highlights were the outstanding props, costumes and the ventriloquist comedy show!



### **Attendance Awards**

At our last formal assembly we recognised and awarded students with 100% and 95% attendance for Term 2. Every schooling day is important and it is a considerable achievement to have such a fantastic attendance rate. We have introduced the 95% attendance certificate as we do understand the importance of staying home and recovering when suffering from illness.

**Congratulations to the following students for 100% attendance:**

#### **Infants**

Aleira Oldham, Jayden Schmidt and Brax Benson.





## Primary

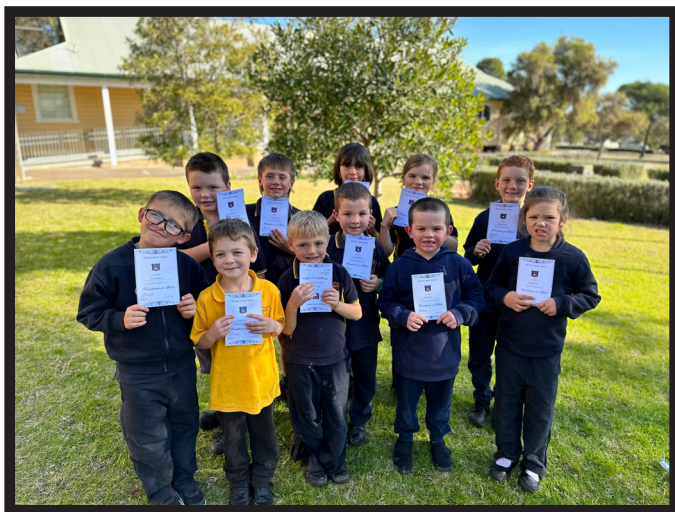
Caileb Duthie, Dallas Duthie and Lily Schmidt.



**Congratulations to the following students for 95% attendance:**

### Infants

Brax Fitzpatrick, Brodie Halton, Hudson Oldham, Lachlan Wilkinson, Zayden Taylor, Shyla Cornish, Henry Creber, Billy Caban, Kairi Taylor, Lucy Campbell and Jackson Douglas.



## Primary

Ruby Kneeves, Blake Benson, Alfred Chance, Nathan Shepherd, Lily Douglas, Daniel Kneeves, Harrison Constable and Max Hourn.

**Kindergarten  
Transition  
2024  
Parent  
Information  
Session  
Tuesday 19 September  
10.00am  
Primary Library**

### Little Sprouts

We are so excited for Little Sprouts tomorrow, Friday 25 August and cannot wait to see everyone in their costumes ready for a day celebrating reading. A big thank you to the Upper Hunter Shire Council for supporting our community event by donating the use of the School of Arts Hall and its facilities. Following is the itinerary for any children of preschool age who make up our Seeds group.

**Keirra Hourn  
Assistant Principal-Infants**





# Merriwa Central School

*presents*



## Little Sprouts 2023 Community Reading Day

### Friday 25 August

School of Arts from 10am

*Children of preschool age and their carers are invited to join our  
Seeds group.*

#### Seeds Itinerary:

Commencing at School of Arts

#### **Book Fair:**

Open to purchasing from 9.45am

**10.00-10.30am**

Book Parade & Seeds Awards

**10.30-10.50am**

Morning tea (biscuits provided for children by CWA)

**11.00-11.50am**

Reading, music, craft and play

@ Merriwa Central School Library

**12-12.30pm**

Reading @ Merriwa Town Library

**12.30-1pm**

Lunch @ School of Arts (sausage sizzle, poppers/water provided by MCS)



*Little Sprouts is a community literacy initiative of Merriwa Central School*

**PH: 6548 2119**





Merriwa Central School

presents

# Little Sprouts 2023

Community Reading Day

**Friday 25 August**



**Merriwa School of Arts from 10am**



*Our theme this year is  
"Read. Grow. Inspire."*

Join us for a fun day to  
celebrate the joy of reading!

Come dressed as an  
inspiring character 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***



### Country of Study in Year 3/4

Year 3/4 have been working on their country of study which is Mexico. They have been enthusiastically decorating their classroom with Mexican accessories and artwork, learning how to count in Spanish and very professionally putting their information into a power point presentation.

**Courtney Martin**  
Year 3/4 Teacher

### Country of Study in Year 4/5

This term Year 4/5 have been working very hard on their country of study China. We have really enjoyed looking at their culture and learning how to speak Chinese. This week we have been learning calligraphy to write our names and different phrases in Chinese.



**Jacob McGrath**  
Year 4/5 Teacher

### Science in Year 5/6

Year 5/6 have been exploring chemical sciences and were introduced to the property of liquid, called viscosity. Students worked in groups to design and conduct an experiment to test and compare the viscosity of a range of household items. They chose two different products and hypothesised what they thought the result of the experiment would be. Groups then observed and timed how fast their chosen items moved down a tilted surface. It was a race to the end for some products and other groups had clear winners.



**Alyssa Moore**  
Year 5/6 Teacher

### Drama in Bronze

Students in Bronze have been learning about the elements of drama and have enjoyed participating in drama games. The experimentation of voice and movement have been particular highlights and have allowed the students to form closer bonds with each other.





**Kylie O'Connor  
Bronze Class Teacher**

### **Burn Bright Year 5 Leadership Training**

Last week, Tuesday 15 August, Mrs Roberts took six Year 5 students to Scone for the day, to participate in a fantastic day of leadership training. The aim of the day was to introduce Year 5 students to leadership prior to entering Year 6, where they are often required to conduct leadership activities as the senior students in their school. The day was conducted by personnel from Burn Bright, a non-for-profit organisation which specialises in presenting wellbeing and leadership to young people. The students had a wonderful day stepping out of their comfort zones and interacting with students from other schools.

**Sarah Roberts  
Assistant Principal - Primary**





Help us raise much needed funds for Childhood  
Cancer

Tuesday 19 September

Primary students K-6 come to school dressed as  
a pirate and bring a gold coin donation.

The class to raise the most money, will be  
awarded with a treasure chest, donated by our  
wonderful P&C.



## Secondary News

### Upcoming Human Society and Its Environment Excursions

There are some exciting fieldwork opportunities coming up for Stage 5 Human Society and Its Environment students.

On Tuesday, 12 September Years 9 and 10 Geography classes will be visiting the sand dune system at Anna Bay. Students will be participating in a 4WD tour of Stockton sand dunes, a walk through the dune system and sand boarding on the dunes.

Notes for this were sent out to students last week. A reminder that all notes and payment must be back to the office by Tuesday, 29 August 2023.

On Wednesday, 20 September Year 9 Human Society and Its Environment and support classes will be visiting Hunter Warbirds in Scone to supplement their history unit on World War 1 and World War 2.

If you have any questions about any of these excursions, please contact Miss Piper.

### Year 12 - Note from Year Adviser

Congratulations to Year 12 on the completion of their Year 12 trial examinations last week.

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

### Year 12 Industrial Technology Timber Major Works

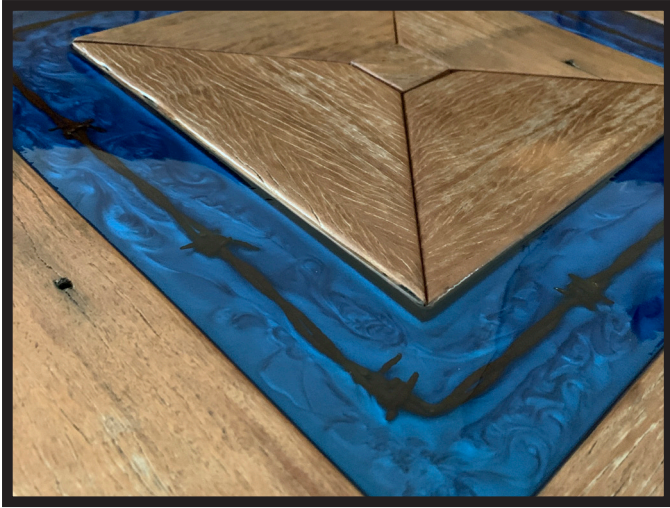
Justin Caban and Jack Mobberley have been working on creating spectacular coffee tables for their major works which were due on Thursday, 10 August. Justin created a live edge resin river table whilst Jack created a chevron and resin inlaid with barbwire coffee table. We congratulate the boys on their hard work and dedication to their projects.



**Justin Caban**





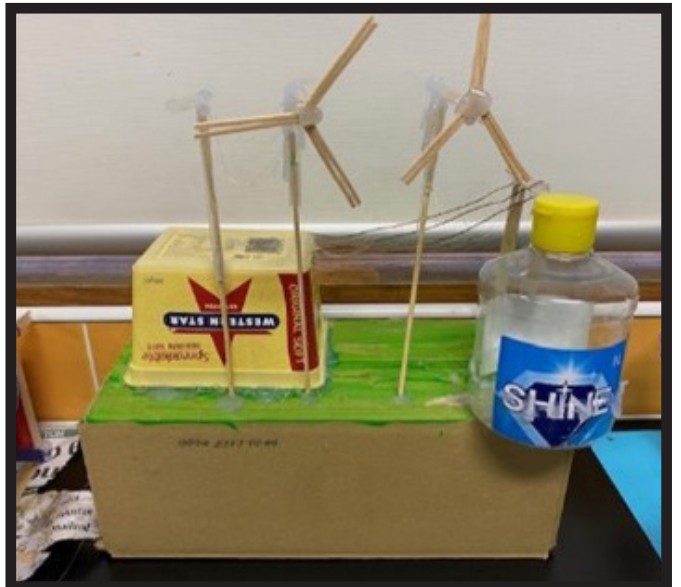


**Jack Mobberley**

**Sean Cleary  
TAS Teacher**

## Year 8 Power Station Models

At the end of Term 2, Year 8 designed and created a model of a power station to further their knowledge of Earth's Resources. The students could choose from a wind farm, solar farm, coal fired power station, nuclear power station or a hydroelectric station. Year 8 worked in groups to explore the different components of the power station they chose and put in a huge amount of effort to create their final product.



## India on a plate

Some of our Year 10 and 11 Food Technology and Hospitality students have been lucky enough to be selected to attend an Indian Cooking Demonstration lesson with Promila Gupta, Merriwa's 2023 Australia Day Ambassador on Friday, 8 September. We look forward to hosting Promila in our Trade Training Centre Kitchen and learning her tips and techniques to working with Indian spices and flavours. We would like to thank Tash Taaffe from the Upper Hunter Shire Council for organising this opportunity.

## Year 11 Hospitality

Year 11 Hospitality have been working hard on their competency assessments, making sandwiches and undertaking customer service and WHS emergency scenario simulations.

## Forensic Science Workshop

We are looking forward to Thursday, 7 September when Years 8, 9 and 10 will be taking part in a Forensic Science workshop called "A Case of Conspiracy". During the workshop they will get to use a range of forensic techniques to solve a crime.

**Natasha Freeth  
Head Teacher VET**





### **Year 8 Cotton Reel Cars**

Year 8 Science are learning about energy for the first half of this term. During a Science lesson, they built and raced a cotton reel car on different surfaces. Year 8 had to experiment with finding the most effective amount of winding of the rubber band to get their car to go straight rather than in circles. After many broken rubber bands, we had an effective race.

### **Year 9 Horses that Walk**

Year 9 Science are learning about Objects in Motion for the first half of this term. During a Science lesson they made a paper horse that walked to explore the effects of gravity and friction. Year 9 tried lots of methods to make the horse walk further or faster. After lots of test runs and modifications Year 9 were able to have an effective horse race.

**Grayson Tilse**  
Science Teacher

## **Careers News**

### **Upcoming Dates**

- Tuesday, 29 August - Year 8 Uni Steps
- Friday, 29 September - Year 12 Early bird deadline for UAC Applications. Early bird cost \$78.00 and after 29 September, \$215.00.

**Hannah Waters**  
Careers Adviser

**Fathers Day Stall**  
**Friday, 1 September 2023**  
**Primary Campus**  
**9.00am to 11.00am**  
**Gifts priced between**  
**\$1.00 to \$10.00**

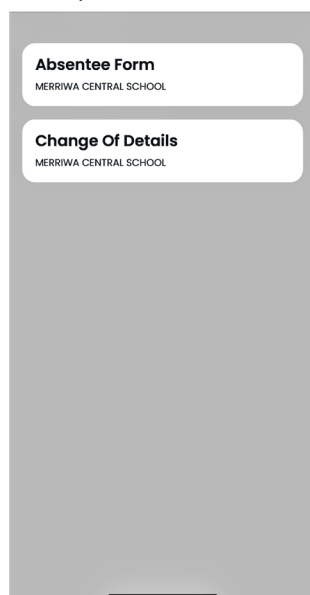
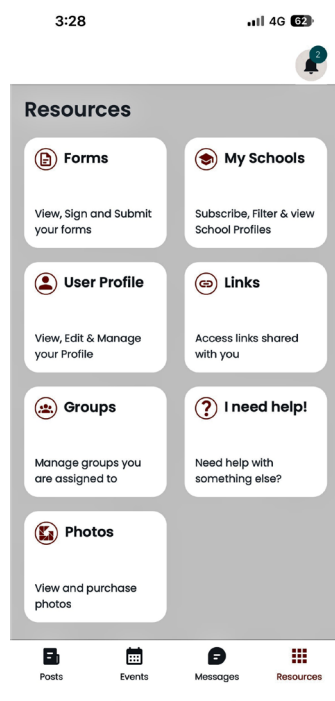
**Volunteers needed**  
**If you can help sell gifts**  
**on the day please let us**  
**know via our Merriwa**  
**Central School P&C**  
**Facebook page**

**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**



How to enter an absentee form:

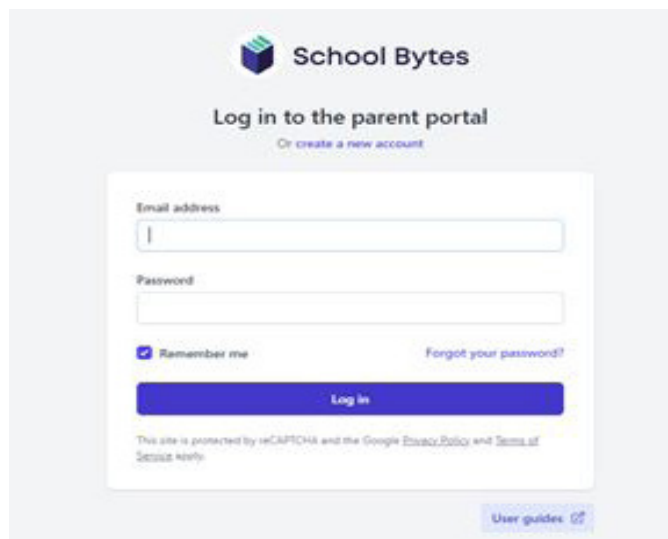
- Resources Tab
- Forms
- Absentee Form



## 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

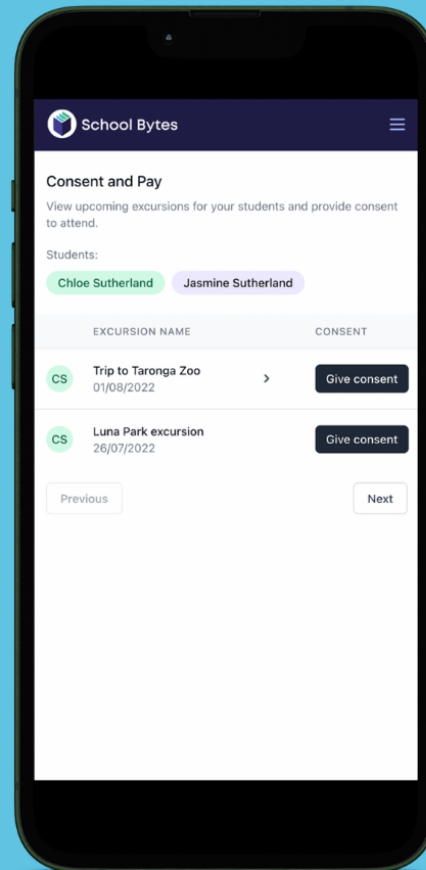
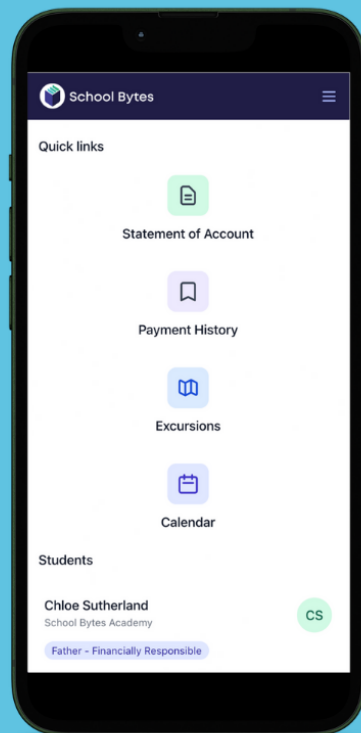
Please see the ‘Parent Portal Set Up’ Guide for your convenience. There are a range of Parent User Guides to help you through the process. You will find them in the bottom right corner under the login button when you open the link above.

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.



# AVAILABLE NOW!

We are excited to announce our school offers a flexible and simplified way parent/carers can make payments



## The Parent Portal

- Easily make a payment online
- Download your receipt
- Sign and return permission notes digitally
- Use any credits on your account to make payment
- View your complete payment history
- Request a refund



**School Bytes**

Register for the Parent Portal via the  
QR Code or visit  
<https://portal.schoolbytes.education>



Term 3		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
August	6			Emoji Year 7 Boys		Little Sprouts Day  Uni steps Year 9 10.00am	
		21	22	23	24	25	26/27
August/September	7	Year 10 Subject Selection Interviews  Aurora Study Day Year 12 Standard English at Great Hall 8.50am	Year 10 Subject Selection Interviews  Uni Steps Year 8 10.00am	Year 10 Subject Selection Interviews  Years 11 & 12 Primary Industries and Year 11 Agriculture Kingslyn Excursion 9.30am  Emoji Year 7 Boys		Backflips Against Bullying K-10  Primary Assembly 2.15pm  Fathers Day Stall Primary 9.00am to 11.00am	
		28	29	30	31	1	2/3
September	8		Emoji Year 7 Boys		Forensic Workshop Secondary Years 8, 9 & 10 at 11.00 am	Years 10 & 11 Food Technology & Hospitality Indian Cooking Classes with Promila Gupta TTC	
		4	5	6	7	8	9/10
September	9	Preliminary Yearly Exams	Preliminary Yearly Exams  Years 9 & 10 Geography Excursion Anna Bay 7.00am	Preliminary Yearly Exams  R U OK? Day Years 7-12  Emoji Year 7 Boys	Preliminary Yearly Exams  Rewards Day  Secondary Whale watching excursion 6.00am  Primary Assembly 2.15pm	Preliminary Yearly Exams  Teach your dinosaurs Science performance primary 1.30pm	
		11	12	13	14	15	16/17
September	10	Emoji Year 7 Boys	Kindergarten Transition Parent information session 10.00am Primary library  Talk like a pirate day K-6 fundraiser	Hunter Warbirds Year 9 Excursion 9.00am  Where there's a Will Alcohol & other drugs Excursion Years 10 & 11 8.45am	Year 12 Formal Assembly  Year 12 Formal Dinner 6.00pm School of Arts Hall	Last day of Term 3	
		18	19	20	21	22	23/24