



MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Valuing individual potential - achieving personal best

Term 4 Week 10, 2023

Principal's Report

The school year has ended in a whirl of activity. We have held our annual Scripture Christmas assembly for primary students, rewards activities with a water theme in both primary and secondary, Year 6 Graduation Dinner, and our presentation assemblies in primary and secondary. Our P&C have held their annual Christmas Ham Raffle which once again raised considerable funds due to community support. Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraising event.

Student Reports

Semester 2 reports have been finalised and distributed to all students last week. Please take the time to read the report comments about your child's learning and how they can be supported in the new school year. Feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have questions about the report. For students who were absent when reports were issued, reports will be posted in the mail to parents/carers.

Changes to senior uniforms

In the last edition of the newsletter parents/carers would have read about the changes to senior uniforms (Year 11 and 12). A new navy unisex polo top is available for seniors at Di's Clothing Patch. The lemon shirts (boys and girls) and tartan skirts will be available for purchase at school. Parents/carers are reminded that secondary jerseys are

also available for purchase from the secondary office.

Staff changes

At this time of year we say farewell to staff who will be leaving us - Ms Hannah Waters Visual Arts teacher, Ethan Burns PDHPE teacher, Ms Ashleigh Golden Support teacher, Ms Kelly Millevoi Head Teacher Teaching and Learning and Ms Natasha Freeth Head Teacher Vocational Education and Training (VET). Thank you to all staff for supporting our students whilst at Merriva Central School, we wish you all the best in your future careers.

A special mention to Yvonne Vidler School Learning Support Officer who is officially retiring this year. Yvonne has supported students in primary for many years and has most recently organised our Home Readers each week. Yvonne has also single handedly organised our Book Club for many years in her own time. Yvonne's dedication to our children and easy manner will be missed by all who have had the opportunity to work with her. We wish her well in her retirement.

Thank you to Suzie Kirk relieving School Administration Manager who has dedicated herself to supporting staff in this leadership role for the past two years. Following a merit selection process Lynsey Mills from Rutherford Public School has been appointed to this position and



will join us in 2024. I would like to thank Suzie for her work in this role and know she will be an invaluable asset to assist Lynsey transition to our school. Suzie will return to her substantive position as School Administrative Officer in the secondary office.

Construction during school holidays

We have a number of works continuing through the school holidays, and some new works commencing. The performance studio is nearing the final phase of works and ramps to improve mobility on the secondary campus are underway. On the primary campus works on our multipurpose courts continues, and a major upgrade of four classrooms will commence this weekend.

Parents/carers are advised to keep children away from the school grounds over the holidays due to the number of contractor's on site and heavy machinery.

Merry Christmas

I trust all families enjoy the Christmas break and take the opportunity to spend time with family and friends. However Christmas can also be a difficult time for many families so take the time to reach out to those who might be struggling at this time of year.

We look forward to all students returning in the 2024 school year, and welcoming our new students. School resumes for students Years 1-12 on Thursday, 1 February and Kindergarten start Friday, 2 February. Parents are advised our annual swimming carnival will be held the following week on Friday, 9 February.

**Darren Noonan
Principal**



Primary News

Kindergarten Transition

Last Wednesday, our young learners successfully completed their last Kindergarten transition session! It was filled with joy, learning and of course, a touch of holiday cheer. Our little ones embraced the spirit of Christmas as they crafted beautiful decorations. The highlight of the day was definitely the scavenger hunt, where they teamed up with their buddies to find and solve puzzles, earning themselves some well deserved Christmas treats.

As we reflect on these successful transitions, we are immensely proud of the growth and enthusiasm our future Kindergarten students have shown. We look forward to seeing them back in the new year, ready for more exciting milestones and adventures!



Kindergarten

Our Kindergarten classroom is abuzz with excitement as Christmas holidays near. Students have been busy little elves partaking in festive activities, completing swimming lessons and just now delving into the world of 3D shapes!



Nicole Johnston
Kindergarten Teacher

Year One

Year One had a fantastic time getting into the Christmas spirit by creating some wonderful Christmas crafts and learning Christmas songs. They have excitedly decorated the classroom with their reindeer artworks, created wreaths and made themselves into elves. Students also learnt the lyrics to Rudolph the red nosed reindeer to perform at assembly. What a wonderful way to end the school year!



Emellia Sexton
Year 1 Teacher

Year Two

Year Two have been getting into the holiday spirit already and have absolutely loved decorating our classroom to add to the Christmas cheer! They've painted Rudolph with a glittery red nose, made cute little elves with their faces and a definite favourite was drawing and painting the Grinch to match the dance they learnt and eagerly performed at the Christmas assembly. Everyone in Year Two is so excited to be heading from infants into primary next year and joining the big kids on their playground!





Rewards Day Celebrations

It was such a treat to have such an exciting Rewards Day to wrap up the year on primary campus last week. Students (and staff) had an absolute blast and it was the perfect way to acknowledge and reward the exemplary behaviour of our primary students throughout the year. We are all extremely proud of the safe, respectful learners at our school and their outstanding efforts. We hope you all have a very well deserved holiday break and we can't wait to see you all in the new year!



Keirra Hourn
Year 2 Teacher
Assistant Principal Infants

Bronze Class

The end of this term has been very busy for Bronze. The students have been learning about systematic ways to group large numbers of objects and focusing on our social skills in doing so. They have learned about the importance of respecting each other's ideas and strategies when solving problems, as well as how to communicate respectfully with each other to achieve the same goal.



Kylie O'Connor
Bronze Class Teacher

Year 3/4

Year 3/4 have had a busy last few weeks of school. They have been participating in intensive swimming and were beautifully behaved despite all the disruptions. They have enjoyed getting into the festive season making beautiful Christmas craft and decorations. Year 3/4 were excited to share their Christmas item 'Six White Boomers' at the last assembly of the year.



Courtney Martin
Year 3/4 Teacher

Year 4/5

Year 4/5 have been showing their Christmas spirit both in and out of the classroom. They have created artworks to put around the classroom and dressed up for their Christmas rewards day. They loved having water fights and attempting the water ninja course.



Jacob McGrath
Year 4/5 Teacher

Year 5/6

Year 5/6 have had a busy last few weeks of term. As our year five students are preparing for their last year in primary, our year six students are preparing for their new journey to high school and enjoying making some last few special memories whilst they can. Students have enjoyed rehearsing for our Christmas and Scripture assembly items. Over the past few days students have been creating some beautiful independent Christmas artworks to display around the room.



Sarah Roberts/Alyssa Moore
Year 5/6 Teachers

Secondary News

Merriwa Family Fun Day

Students headed down to the RSL for the annual Merriwa Family Fun Day. Students enjoyed a variety of entertainment from local students and watched the amazing hoola hoop performer. This annual event is a great way for the community to be informed of the many services that access Merriwa and surrounding communities. We thank Upper Hunter Shire Council, with special thanks to Tash Taaffe - Community Services Officer - Merriwa who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to pull off another great event. We would also acknowledge Sanita Turner who bravely stood in front of many people and delivered the Welcome to Country. Your public speaking skills are nothing but exceptional.



RIOT Workshop

Students from Years 7-10 participated in a Parentsop - RIOT workshop (Resilience in our Teens). Students developed skills and learnt about anxiety. Including definitions, what it feels like and what it looks like. Discussions around what triggers anxiety and strategies to add to their individual "tool box" to support them during times of need. They learnt about how the brain works and what flipping your lid looks like. They participated in not only the theory component of the course but also many fun games.



Budbudda Dreaming

How lucky have our male students been to have had the opportunity to work with Uncle Richie this term. Each week the boys meet and develop their understanding and knowledge around Aboriginal history. They have recently started to learn how to play the didgeridoo. The way the boys have embraced the program and demonstrated maturity and enthusiasm each week is to be commended. We look forward to working with Uncle Richie in 2024.





Merriwa Multi Purpose Service Open Day

On Thursday, 23 November Damien Constable, Lara Ballantyne and Katana Magnus volunteered at the Merriwa Hospital Open Day. The students assisted the services with setting up their stall and any other jobs needed doing through out the day. Well done, Damien, Lara and Katana for being responsible and well mannered representatives of Merriwa Central School.



If you or someone else needs immediate help – call 000

Additional Support Services

Life Line – 13 11 14
24/7 confidential crisis support

NSW Mental Health Line – 1800 011 511
24/7 telephone assessment & referral

Beyond Blue 1300 224 636
www.beyondblue.org.au
24/7 mental health counselling, support and referral

Alcohol & Drug Information Service
1800 250 015 (24/7)
Information, support referral & counselling on drugs and alcohol

Kids Helpline (24hrs) 1800 55 1800
www.kidshelpline.com.au
Young people 5-25 years old

Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467
www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au
24/7 telephone support & counselling for anyone affected by suicide

Men's Helpline 1300 789 978
www.mensline.org.au
24/7 information & referral service for men with family and relationship concerns



Health
Hunter New England
Local Health District

Heart to Heart Program

This term every Wednesday Year 7 and Year 8 girls have participated in the Heart to Heart program. During the 2 period sessions each week the girls would paint under the guidance of artist Martha Moderitz, half way through they would all come together to discuss mindfulness and what it looks like, how and when to use it. All the participants were able to tap into their inner artist and their beautiful art pieces were on display at their art exhibition in the school hall, which they shared with family, friends and staff. Thank you to Martha and Kaylene for bringing the Heart to Heart mindfulness experience to Merriwa Central School.



Narelle Smith
Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing



Vanessa Whitten
Student Support Officer

Central Coast Aquapark Rewards Day

On Thursday, 7 November, twenty participants joined in for a day out to the Central Coast to get nice and refreshed at the Central Coast Aquapark.

The day ran smoothly. It started with a long bus trip down, then an introduction to the course and then 2 hours climbing swimming and slipping over constantly. Everyone had a good day.

After our fun, we had hungry stomachs! We were planning to go to McDonald's, but there was no parking for the big coach. So, we went to Oporto, Oliver's and Hungry Jack's. The students and teachers chose what they wanted, and devoured their lunch!

On the ride home, we were exhausted from the constant swimming, so we decided it would be best to have a snooze.

I want to thank the students who shared the fun day with us. I also want to thank Miss Piper, Mr Cleary and Miss Waters for organising the excursion for our participants to enjoy!

seen great improvements across the year. We would like to particularly acknowledge primary students, Shawn Duthie, Hazel Chin and Olivia Purcell and secondary students, Lily Swan, Annabelle Orton, William Collins and Cadence Tudor who have worked consistently enough this year to graduate out of the program. I would also like to thank Maria Gibbons at Primary and Melissa Swan at Secondary for their continued commitment to helping our students improve their numeracy skills.



Kelly Millevoi
Head Teacher Teaching and Learning
PDHPE



Ashton Marchese
Year 7

QuickSmart End of Year Celebrations

Last Friday, 8 December, we were lucky enough to be able to celebrate and reward the achievements of our 2023 QuickSmart students and their tutors. QuickSmart is an evidence based intervention program focusing on understanding and recalling basic number facts, acquisition of mathematics language and problem solving skills. The students work with their tutors a number of times a week and have

Hospitality

It has been a busy term in Hospitality, with the students undertaking work placement and practicing their non alcoholic beverage service. The students made a twist on the blue raspberry and then a Christmas inspired mocktail with watermelon and mint flavours.



Support Food Technology

In Support Food Technology we have been focused on healthy eating and using the term “Eating the rainbow” to make sure we eat a variety of fruits and vegetables every day. We have made a range of stirfrys, rice paper rolls and practised our safe knife cutting skills.

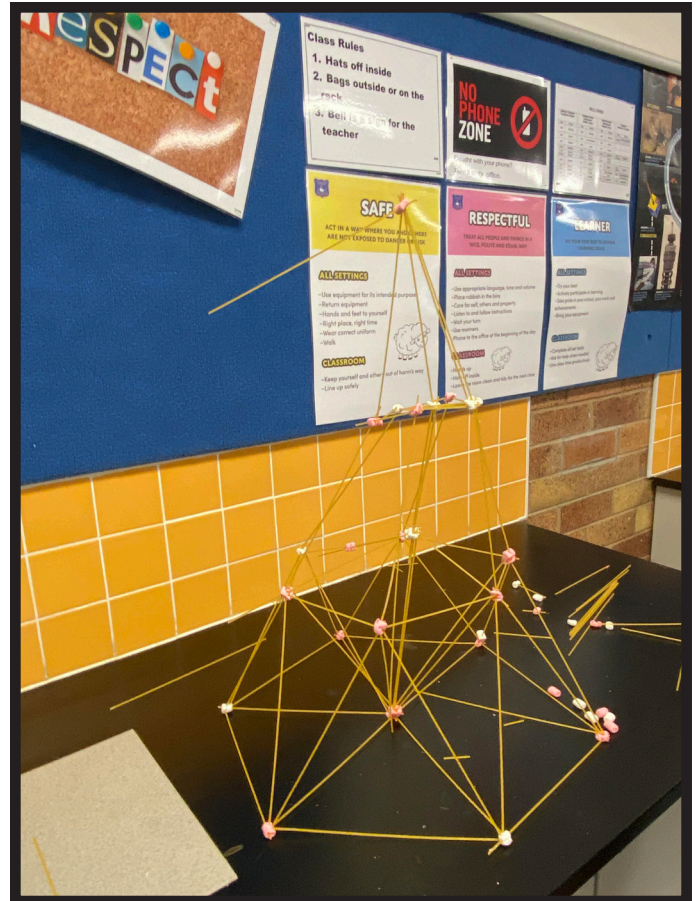


Natasha Freeth
Head Teacher VET

End of Year Science

Over the last two weeks, students have been exploring STEM in Science. They have been developing their problem solving and engineering skills to overcome the problem at hand. Students have made rockets, competed to make the tallest tower out of spaghetti and marshmallows and

used their scientific knowledge to complete an escape room.



Grayson Tilse
Science Teacher

MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL STUDENT BOOK/EQUIPMENT LIST

Primary K-2	Include: All equipment is provided by the school. Children may bring in their own pencil cases, and it is suggested that each child brings in a paint shirt that will protect school uniforms during art lessons.
Primary Yr 3 - 6	Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • blue and red pens, lead pencils, eraser, rule, glue stick, scissors, pencil sharpener, pencil case • Coloured pencils and textas are also recommended. • All workbooks and art supplies will be supplied by the school. Please DO NOT send permanent markers, liquid paper or whiteout tape. • A paint shirt is also suggested to protect school uniforms during visual arts activities.
Secondary 7-12	Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • red, black and blue biros, lead pencil, eraser, plastic or wooden ruler, glue stick, scissors, pencil sharpener and pencil case • Calculator [Casio Scientific fx-82au] • USB Stick • Safety Glasses
Years 7-10 Subject Specific	
English	148 page A4 Exercise book
History Geography	148 page A4 Exercise book 148 page A4 Exercise book
Music	148 page A4 Exercise book
Mathematics	148 page A4 Exercise book (not a Grid book) – 2-3 books
Science	148 page A4 Exercise book –1-2 books Assignment Book
PD/H/PE	96 page A4 Exercise book
Years 7 - 8	
Technology	96-128 pages A4 Exercise book
Creative & Visual Art	A3 Sketch book
Year 8	
LOTE	148 page A4 Exercise book
Years 9 - 10	
Commerce	148 page A4 Exercise book
Agriculture	148 page A4 Exercise book
Technics	64 page A4 Exercise book
Food Tech	96 page A4 Exercise book
Years 11 - 12	Two A4 Folders with 4 D-rings A4 Books for each subject

UPPER HUNTER SHIRE LIBRARIES

Summer Holiday Activities



ABERDEEN

Phone 6540 1303

Tuesday 9 January

10:15am - Storytime & Craft

11:00am - Wooden Spoon People

Wednesday 10 January

5:00pm

Coding Using Scratch & Python

Friday 12 January

2:30pm - Monster Mash Craft

Tuesday 16 January

10:15am - Storytime & Craft

11:00am - Under the Sea Gardens

Wednesday 17 January

5:00pm

Coding Using Scratch & Python

Friday 19 January

2:30pm - Design a Travel Mug

Tuesday 23 January

10:15am - Storytime & Craft

11:00am - Australia Day Art - Wattle

Tree Painting

Wednesday 24 January

5:00pm

Coding Using Scratch & Python

CASSILIS

Phone 6540 1311

Wednesday 10 January

11:00am

Storytime & Craft 0-6 years

2:00pm

3D Wooden Planes

Wednesday 17 January

11:00am

Storytime & Craft 0-6 years

2:00pm - Pool Monsters

Wednesday 24 January

11:00am

Storytime & Craft 0-6 years

2:00pm - Australia Day Craft

MERRIWA

Phone 6521 7007

Tuesday 9 January

10:00am

Storytime & Owl Pom Poms

Thursday 11 January

3:30pm - 3D Wooden Planes

Friday 12 January

10:00am

Velvet Art Bookmarks

Tuesday 16 January

10:00am - Storytime & Bugs

Thursday 18 January

3:30pm @ Merriwa Pool

Pool Monsters

Friday 19 January

10:00am

Design a Travel Mug

Tuesday 23 January

10:00am

Storytime & Australian Animal Mosaics

Thursday 25 January

3:30pm

Australia Day Craft

MURRURUNDI

Phone 6540 1363

Virtual Reality 13yrs+

Book a 30min session

Tuesday 9 January

11:30am

Velvet Art Colouring In

Friday 12 January

10:00am - Storytime & Craft

11:30am - Yarn Wrapped Lizards

Tuesday 16 January

11:30am

Sand Art

Friday 19 January

10:00am - Storytime & Craft

11:30am - Bead Leg Bears

Tuesday 23 January

11:30am

Wooden Pirates

SCONE

Phone 6540 1183

Tuesday 9 January

10:30am - Toddler Time

Wednesday 10 January

10:30am - Baby Talk

11:30am - Summer Craft

Thursday 11 January

10:30am

Bunting Sewing Workshop 10yrs+

Friday 12 January

10:30am

Storytime & Wooden Standing

Rainbows

Tuesday 16 January

10:30am - Toddler Time

Wednesday 17 January

10:30am - Baby Talk

11:30am

Scratchboard Chinese Lanterns

Thursday 18 January

10:30

Tabletop Quidditch Tournament 10yrs+

Friday 19 January

10:30am

Storytime & Wooden Pirate Ornaments

Tuesday 23 January

10:30am - Toddler Time

Wednesday 24 January

10:30am - Baby Talk

11:30am - Australia Day Craft



BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL for all activities. Please call your local branch to ensure your place.



**Students Return
2024
Years 1 -12
Thursday 1 February
&
Kindergarten
Friday 2 February**

Secondary Canteen

**Last Day
for
Canteen
Wednesday 13 December**

**NO CANTEEN on the last
day of Term 4
Friday 15 December**

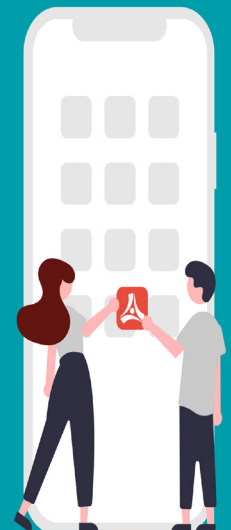
**ADRA Food Pantry
In Merriwa
3rd Wednesday of every
month
Outside Joblink in the
main street
11.00am to 12.30pm
Orders need to be in the
week before
Please call
0468 548 860**

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- 1.** Open the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store and search for 'Audiri'. Install the app.
- 2.** Create an account and follow the prompts. Click 'Sign up'. Enter your email address, create a password and click on 'Sign up'. A confirmation email will be sent to confirm your account. Open the confirmation email and confirm your account.
- 3.** Open the app, and click 'Add/Remove'. Type your school's name and press enter.
- 4.** Tap the + icon to add. Now you can see your school, under My Schools & Services.



Search Audiri in the app store



audiri.com.au



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**

Term 4 2023		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
December	10	Last Canteen Day Primary Special Canteen Day	Presentation Day/Night School of Arts Hall	Last Canteen Day Secondary Scripture Assembly 11.30 to 1.00pm	Year 6 Graduation Dinner RSL 6.00pm	Last day for students Secondary Canteen CLOSED today	
		11	12	13	14	15	16/17
December	11	SDD	SDD				
		18	19	20	21	22	23/24
Term 1 2024		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
January/February	1	School holidays	SDD	SDD	Students return Years 1-12	Kindergarten Students commence	
		29	30	31	1	2	3/4
February	2		P&C Meeting RSL 6.30pm			Swimming Carnival K-12	
		5	6	7	8	9	10/11
February	3	Peer Support Camp	Peer Support Camp	Peer Support Camp			
		12	13	14	15	16	17/18
February	4						
		19	20	21	22	23	24/25

New Senior School Uniform 2024

We are thrilled that the new senior uniforms have arrived. Senior students are excited that they will now be easily identified as a Senior Student.

Purchasing information

- Senior navy polo top
Purchase from Di's Clothing Patch
- Senior girls & boys lemon collared shirts
 - Tartan skirts
 - Senior boys trousers
Purchase from Merriwa
Central School office only

Please note - Current Year 12 students are not obliged to purchase the new uniform.

