



MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

*Valuing individual potential - achieving personal best*

Term 4 Week 2, 2023

## Principal's Report

Welcome back to a new school term. Term 4 marks the start of Higher School Certificate Examinations, end of year exams, and preparation for the new school year. Kindergarten orientation started this week, and Year 6 into 7 information evening for parents.

### Year 12 2023

Year 12 celebrated the end of their secondary schooling with a formal assembly and Farewell Dinner at the end of last term. They are now in week two of their formal examinations. We wish Year 12 students all the best with their examinations and with adventures beyond school.



Photo: T Palmer - Cowgirl Creative

### Secondary student toilets

Parents would be aware of the issues of vaping

and damage to secondary student toilets. As a result for much of the year they have been closed during class time. They were re-opened twice last term (Week 1 and Week 5) however subsequently closed due to inappropriate use by students.

To commence the new term toilets were re-opened during class time, to find groups of students truanting in them on the first day. Toilets are available in the admin building during class time.

This is a very difficult area for staff to supervise and we seek parent support to manage these areas as best we can.

### Flexible attendance

Our new Year 12 2024 students have greater flexibility with their attendance. If students have a study period at the start or end of the day they do not need to be at school. Students also have the choice to study at home during sport time. Students can borrow a school laptop to take home to assist with study in senior years. These flexible arrangements are to enable students to make more effective use of their study time.

These additional rights also come with responsibilities. It is expected students use this time effectively and are at home during this time. Permission notes have been sent home for parents in regard to these arrangements for seniors.

**Darren Noonan**  
Principal

# Primary News

## Kindergarten Transition 2024

Our Kindergarten Transition commenced this week and we were delighted to welcome our future Kindergarten students and their families to our school. They had a wonderful morning meeting Miss Johnston, their buddies and getting to know their new classroom. We can't wait for them to return again next week!

Our amazing P&C provide all Kindergarten students with a voucher for their first school shirt and these can be collected from the primary office. Thank you to the P&C for continuing to support our new students in this way.

### 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

## Grandparents and Friends Day

We are so excited to host our annual Grandparents and Friends Day at primary campus next Friday 27 October! It is a special day where students engage in activities that highlight the special bond they share with grandparents or elderly friends who might play a special role in their lives or the school community.

The day will begin with a K-6 Assembly commencing at 10.15am. Following the assembly there will be a morning tea provided for our special guests, supplied and ran by our P&C. Any donations of slices would be appreciated.

Our special guests are invited to visit classrooms between 11.30 and 12.30pm. Our Grandparents Day will conclude at 12.30pm. We hope to see you there!



**Keirra Hourn**  
Assistant Principal Infants



# Secondary News

## Mobile phones

The NSW Government has announced restriction on the use of mobile phones in NSW high schools beginning in Term 4, 2023.

The new mobile devices management plan at Merriwa Central School will apply not only to mobile phones but Airpods/ear buds/headphones, and will occur during all school hours, including break times such as during lunch and recess, as well as while students are on school- based excursions.

Students will still be able to carry their phones whilst travelling to and from school. Every student will be required to hand their phone into the front office where it will be stored safely. Students will be able to pick it up at the end of the school day.

This strategy is being implemented to increase focus in classrooms, remove distractions and to promote positive social interaction, while reducing the potential for online bullying.

Students who refuse to hand in their phone will be dealt with via the Discipline and Welfare Policy at Merriwa Central School.

We are excited to continue to make our school a mobile-free space to improve learning and engagement, however, we will always make sure you can contact your child in an emergency. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly on 65482119.

**Lisa Zielinski**  
Deputy Principal

## New Senior Uniform Roll Out 2024

2024 will see the introduction of a new senior uniform. The polo-top will mimic that of the junior years with the gold being replaced with a lighter blue. Please note the following changes of purchasing:

- Di's Clothing Patch – Di is currently in the process of ordering the new polo-top. A message will appear on the app when they have arrived in store. I will also inform students on their arrival.

- Yellow collared shirts and tarten skirts – Merriwa Central School front office will be the primary place of purchase for these items. Again, they are currently in the process of ordering and further correspondence will occur on their arrival.

Please note that students who are currently studying Year 12 are under no obligation to purchase the new polo-top.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Narelle Smith**  
Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing

## PBL - Positive Behaviour for Learning

On the Secondary Campus in Term 3, we focused on being ready to learn through our uniform and having equipment ready, how we enter and exit the classroom and showing respect. For the last week and to prepare us for Term 4, we will be focusing on showing respect through the language we use, using appropriate language, tone and volume. Please talk to your child/ren about different words they could use and how the words we use change in different settings as well as giving them time to practice thinking before they speak and finding alternate words.



## ALL SETTINGS

- Use appropriate language, tone and volume
- Place rubbish in the bins
- Care for self, others and property
- Listen to and follow instructions
- Wait your turn
- Use manners
- Phone to the office at the beginning of the day

**NDIS Connection Desk  
Merriwa Central School**

Do you have questions about the NDIS?

Do you need assistance to access NDIS?

Do you need help using your NDIS plan?

Make an appointment via our school office with representatives from the NDIS and the Early Childhood Approach to find out about the range of services available.

**Appointments available**

**Wednesday, 25 October 1.00pm-3.00pm**

**Elizabeth La Trobe  
Head Teacher Support**



**Vanessa Whitten  
Student Support Officer**

**Birrang Enterprise Driving Program**

Last term the Merriwa community had Birrang Enterprise Driving Program provide driving tuition in the community. Reichelle attended Merriwa Central School on these days and assisted young people to gain their L plates, provided driving tuition and confidence building and assisted 1 young person in gaining their P plates. We would like to thank Reichelle for her expertise and knowledge and look forward to seeing her again next year.



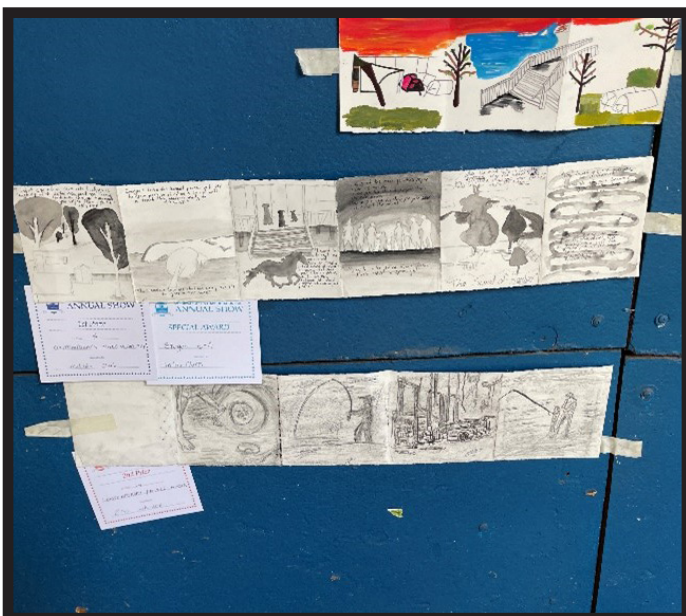
**ADRA Food Pantry  
In Merriwa  
3rd Wednesday of every  
month  
Outside Joblink in the  
main street  
11.00am to 12.30pm  
Orders need to be in the  
week before  
Please call 0468 548 860**

## Visual Arts

A huge thank you to all students involved in exhibiting their work at the Merriwa Show.

Mikayla Borradaile received an overarching award for her photography contributions. Matilda Clark and Zac Walker also placed in the Visual Arts exhibit.

Well done to all who were involved and presented their artwork for the community.

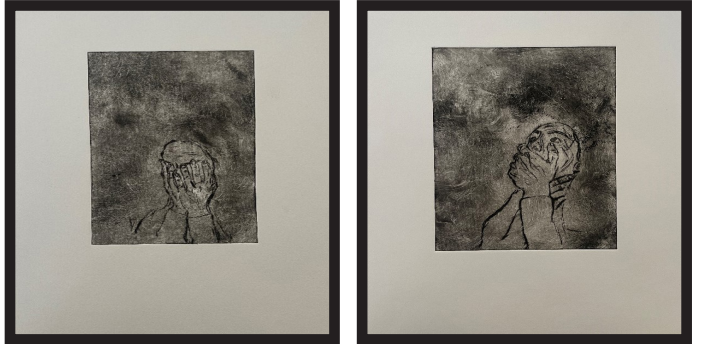


## Year 12 HSC Bodies of Work

Congratulations to Year 12 Visual Arts students Josie Porter and Jye Towell. These students have been working towards a body of work for the past year. The time and dedication that is needed to develop and refine their practice is an enormous feat and these students are to be congratulated on their efforts. External marking will take place this term for both students.

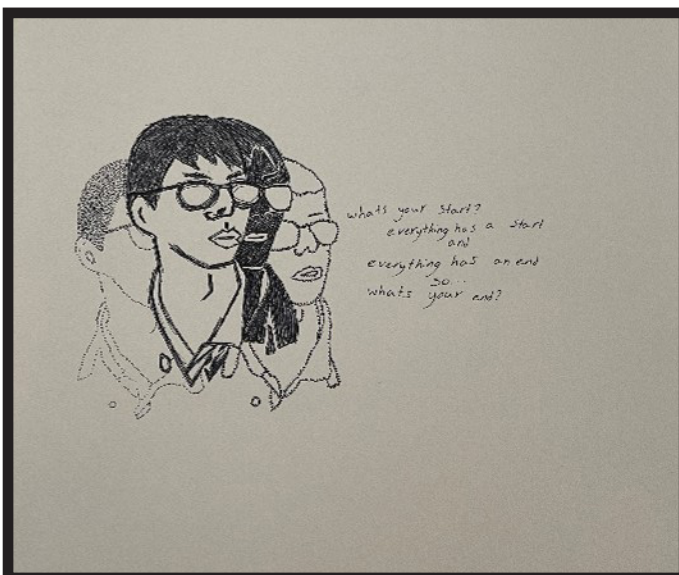
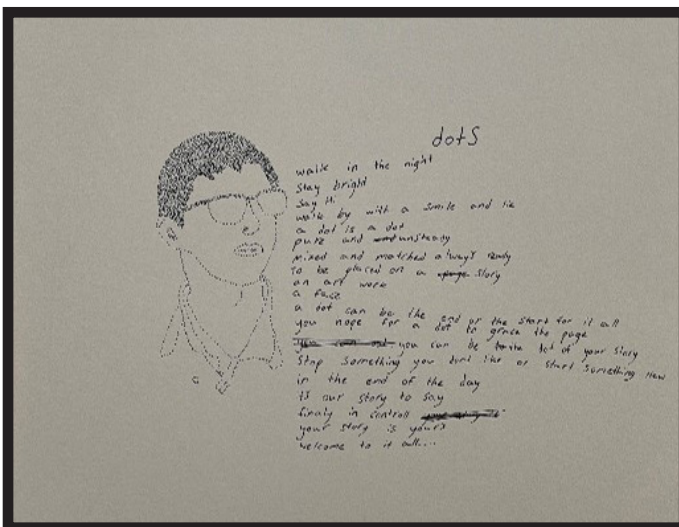
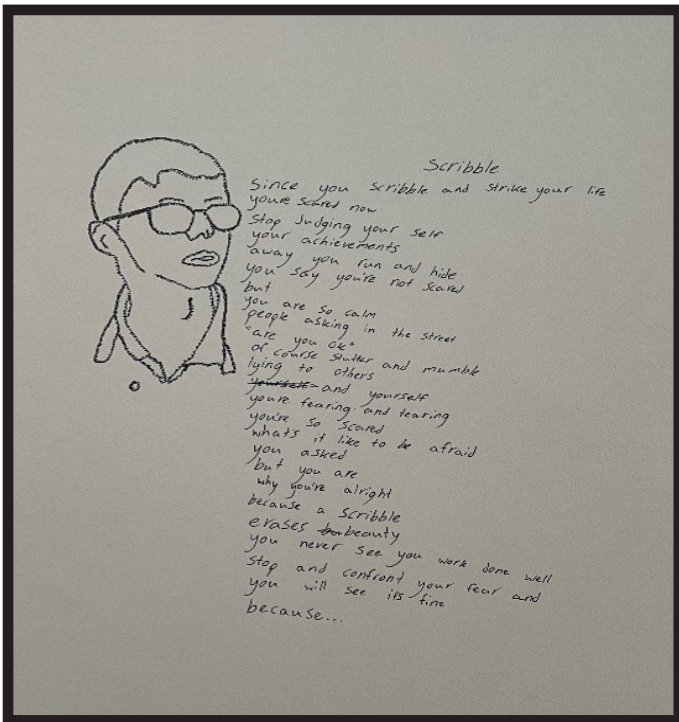
### Josie Porter – Printmaking

*Individually tilted*



## Jye Towell – Drawing

### Marks of Self



## Careers News

### Meet our new school-based trainees and apprentices!

Makaylah Coles – Early Childhood Education and Care

Riley Thompson – Construction

Annabelle Orton – Health Services Assistance

Dylan Keane – Electrotechnology

Other students are soon to establish traineeships after work experience in Week 4.

**Hannah Waters  
Careers Adviser**

## Year 7 2024 Orientation Days

- Thursday 19 October  
Parent Information Evening  
6.00pm Great Hall
- Thursday 26 October
- Thursday 2 November
- Thursday 9 November

# audiri

your upgraded  
school  
communication  
app.

MERRIWA YOUTH CENTRE

# OCTOBER



## UHSC YOUTH CALENDAR



MONDAY

2

CLOSED

MONDAY

9

DINO NUGGS &  
BASKETBALL

MONDAY

16

GUESS THE SONGS  
AND PRIZES

MONDAY

23

JUST DANCE

MONDAY

30

HALLOWEEN BAKING

**UHSC  
YOUTH  
SERVICES**

**MERRIWA**

Ages 12 to 17  
Wednesdays  
4:00PM – 7:00PM  
33 Bow St, Merriwa  
0428 971 208

Find us on  @MERRIWAYOUTHCENTRE





# Merriwa Central School P&C

# HAM RAFFLE

---

Thursday 7 December

7.30pm

Merriwa RSL Club

(Tickets on sale from 6.30pm)

Hams - supplied by Merriwa Farm Fresh Meats  
& Alexander Downs.

IGA vouchers - choose your meat  
or Christmas treats.

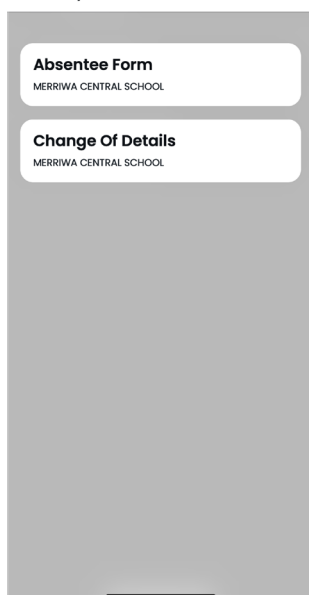
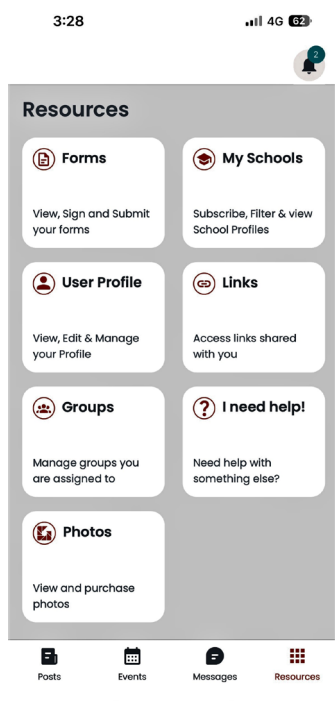
Prizes include Gift Vouchers, WLT cards,  
Restaurant Vouchers, Hunter Valley Gardens Pass,  
Hunter Valley Zoo tickets, Hampers and much more.





### How to enter an absentee form:

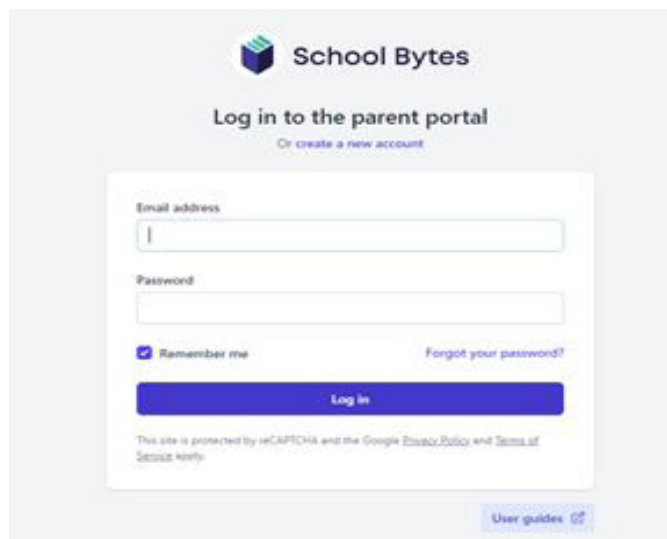
- Resources Tab
- Forms
- Absentee Form



### 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!

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 'Payments' page. A 'Pay now' modal is open, displaying the following information:

- Pay now**
- JC Jane Citizen** (School Bytes Academy) **\$25.00**
- Save card details for future payments**
- Text: "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."
- Please note:** This transaction will appear on your bank statement as 0SCHOOLSONLINE 0000 PARRAMATTA AU.
- Text: "This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the Google [Privacy Policy](#), and [Terms of Service](#) apply."
- Buttons: **CANCEL** and **PAY \$25.00**

In the background, the 'Statement of account' for Jane Citizen is visible, showing a 'Trip to Zoo' for \$25.00. The total amount is \$25.00, with a 'Pay Now' button 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 'Ongoing card payment details' section of the payment page. It includes the following fields and options:

- Expiry date:** 02 / 2024
- CVN:** 123
- I agree to ongoing payments being charged to this card for SchoolBytes - DoE NSW**
- Max amount of ongoing payments (optional):** Amount
- Text: "You can limit the amount that is charged to this card in single transaction."
- Button: **Validate card**

Term 4		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
October	2		Kindergarten Transition 9.00am- 11.00am	Heart to Heart Art Program	Year 7 Transition Information Evening 6.00pm Great Hall	Support Classes Multisports Day Excursion Maitland 7.30am	
		16	17	18	19	20	21/22
October	3	Years 9 & 10 Yearly Exams	Years 9 & 10 Yearly Exams  Scotts BMX Trick Bike Show Primary 9.00am  Kindergarten Transition 9.00am- 11.00am	Years 9 & 10 Yearly Exams  Heart to Heart Art Program  NDIS Connection Desk 1.00pm- 3.00pm	Years 9 & 10 Yearly Exams  Year 7 Transition Day  Infants Game on Excursion 9.00am	Years 9 & 10 Yearly Exams  Primary Assembly 10.15am  Grandparents and Friends Day Primary 10.15am	
		23	24	25	26	27	28/29
October/November	4	Years 7 & 8 Yearly Exams  SRC GRIP Leadership Conference Dubbo	Years 7 & 8 Yearly Exams  Kindergarten Transition 9.00am- 11.30am  Years 3-6 CWA Choir Performance RSL 9.00am	Years 7 & 8 Yearly Exams  Heart to Heart Art Program	Years 7 & 8 Yearly Exams  Year 7 Transition Day	Years 7 & 8 Yearly Exams  HSC Exams Conclude	
		30	31	1	2	3	4/5
November	5	Secondary Formal Assembly 9.00am	Kindergarten Transition 9.00am- 1.00pm  SRC Planning Day  P&C Meeting RSL 6.30pm	Heart to Heart Art Program	Year 7 Transition Day	Remembrance Day Service 10.45am	
		6	7	8	9	10	11/12
November	6		Kindergarten Transition 9.00am- 1.35pm	WTAW Drug & Alcohol Excursion St Joseph's Aberdeen 9.00am  Heart to Heart Art Program		Primary Assembly 10.15am	
		13	14	15	16	17	18/19
November	7		Kindergarten Transition 9.00am- 2.00pm	Heart to Heart Art Program	Captain Speeches Primary Library 9.30am  Primary Swimming 11.00am		
		20	21	22	23	24	25/26