



MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Valuing individual potential - achieving personal best

Term 4 Week 6, 2023

Principal's Report

We are rapidly approaching the end of another school year, and it's nearly ham raffle time. Our hardworking P&C have been busy chasing sponsors for our annual Christmas ham raffle. This is the one major fundraiser for the P&C each year. Please support our P&C and come along to the raffles, with lots of prizes to be won on the night.

Construction Update

Work continues on our performance studio on the secondary campus. The contractors have been very busy in recent weeks and works are progressing at a steady rate.

Security fencing has been installed on the primary campus and work will commence shortly on Stage 1 of the new multipurpose court. The new court will replace the old grass netball court on the highrise. Stage 2 will commence midway through next year and will see the construction of a cover over the court to provide all weather facilities.



Visitors to secondary would know the campus has been constructed on the side of a hill. As you can imagine movement around the site is difficult for anyone with mobility issues. To improve accessibility to the site works will commence towards the end of term to address some of these issues with several ramps constructed, and additional handrailing installed in high traffic areas.

Emergency Planning

Parents would have received advice last week via the Audiri App in regard to our evacuation drill. Throughout the year we review our emergency procedures, and complete emergency drills. In recent years we have updated our plans to include threats from bush and grassfires. In the first instance we evacuate to either campus, if this is not safe we head to the School of Arts Hall or the Merriwa Showground depending on the circumstances.

In the event of an emergency the Audiri App is our main communication point with parents. Please ensure you have downloaded the app.



Darren Noonan
Principal

Primary News

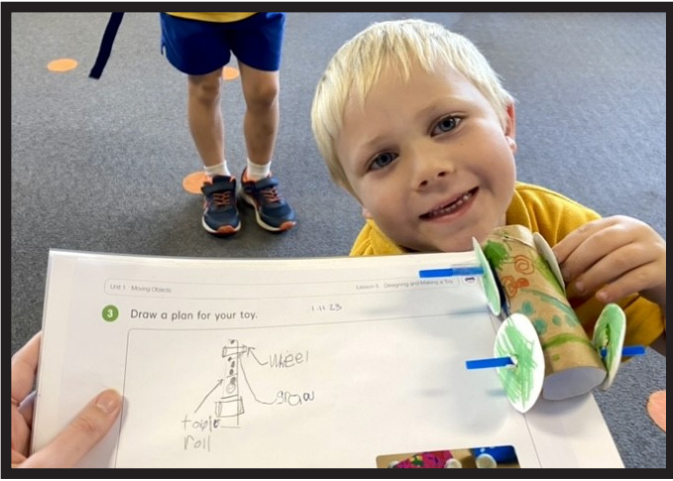
We are now four weeks into our Kindergarten transition sessions and it has been a joy to witness the students' increasing confidence and social engagement. Our older students have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know their younger buddies and eagerly anticipate spending time with them on Tuesdays. Whilst at school, the 2024 Kindergartens have been learning to recognise their names and count to ten. They have also had the opportunity to join in celebrations for both Halloween and Remembrance Day. We have three fun filled transition sessions left!



Kindergarten

During this term's science lessons, Kindergarten students have been investigating the concepts of push and pull forces. They've examined the impact of these forces through the hands-on creation and design of their own toys, including a kite and a car.





Nicole Johnston
Kindergarten Teacher

Year 2

Year 2 have been having a terrific time in music lessons, where they have been working together in small groups to create their own compositions using body percussion and percussion instruments. They have been making up their own symbols to record their songs and loved performing for each other!



Year 1

In Year 1 students have been exploring the text 'The Black Book of Colours' and 'Boy'. Students learnt sign language to the song 'the Colours of the Rainbow' and learnt about braille. Based off the text, students made their own book of colours. Students described what their colour tasted, smelt and felt like.

Group members: Deegan Our colour is: green

The description of our colour is...

green to me sounds like swishing leaves and
feels like gooey slime. it smells like fresh
cut grass and it tastes sour apples.

We have learnt the Auslan sign for our colour:

Other props and resources we need:

Patience
Kindness
nice words

Our plan for communicating the colour to people who are blind or have low vision is:
we can give them our
description items



Group members: Emily Our colour is: orange

The description of our colour is...

Orange to me sounds like crunchy autumn leaves and feels like
sticky juice. it smells sweet and it like yummy juice.

We have learnt the Auslan sign for our colour:

Other props and resources we need:

Patience
Kindness
nice words

Our plan for communicating the colour to people who are blind or have low vision is:
we can give them our
description items.

Emellia Sexton
Year 1 Teacher

Keirra Hourn
Year 2 Teacher
Assistant Principal Infants

Library

This term in Library we have focused on specific units in Geography.

Year 5/6 have focused on the management of places by the state and local governments in Australia. They have investigated land zoning in general and in the local area.

Year 4/5 have focused on the study of the climate, natural vegetation and native animals of Australia, China, Madagascar, Brazil and Iceland.

Year 3/4 have discovered what living things need to survive and how they interact and rely on specific natural environments for this survival. This included thinking about what humans need to survive and how they source these things.

Bronze have discussed how places can be rearranged for different purposes. They identified different types of activities located in Merriwa.

Year 1 and Year 2 have described the weather and seasons. They investigated the concept that different places have different weather patterns and explore how activities in places change according to the weather.

Kindergarten have focused on maps and how we use them to find places. They explored and created maps of familiar and new places

Tammy Parker
Library Teacher

Attendance Awards

Congratulations to the following students for 100% attendance:

Infants

Jace Hourn, Billy Caban, Ethan Chin, Sasha Wallace, Lucy Campbell, Lachlan Wilkinson and Brodie Halton.

Primary

Alfred Chance, Nathan Shepherd, Hazel Chin and Alby Caban.

Congratulations to the following students for 95% attendance:

Infants

Cooper Reid, Owen Moore, Charlotte Cornish, Brodie Halton, Beau Ellis, Clancy Caban, Isabelle Pryor, Brax Fitzpatrick, Lachlan Wilkinson, Jayden Schmidt, Bohdee Jones, Emmy Hunt, William Sparrow, Kairi Taylor, Jackson Douglas and Shyla Cornish.

Primary

Kiaya Proctor, Ruby Kneeves, Isabella Campbell, Nicholas Hockings, Lily Douglas, Ella Pryor, Amelia Wilkinson, Bella Telfer, Xzavier Sait, Braith Hunt, Max Hourn, Zane Walker, Joshua Orton and Mia Wilkinson.

Keirra Hourn
Assistant Principal Infants

Kindergarten Transition Dates and Time

- **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**

Primary Canteen

**Last Day
for
Canteen
Monday 11 December**

**Special Canteen Day
Notes to follow**

Year 3/4

Year 3/4 have been learning about position in maths. They have had so much fun learning how to read and draw maps.



Courtney Martin
Year 3/4 Teacher

Year 4/5

Year 4/5 have been working hard in maths this term, learning to partition numbers up to one thousand and also worked with separating decimals using the same technique.

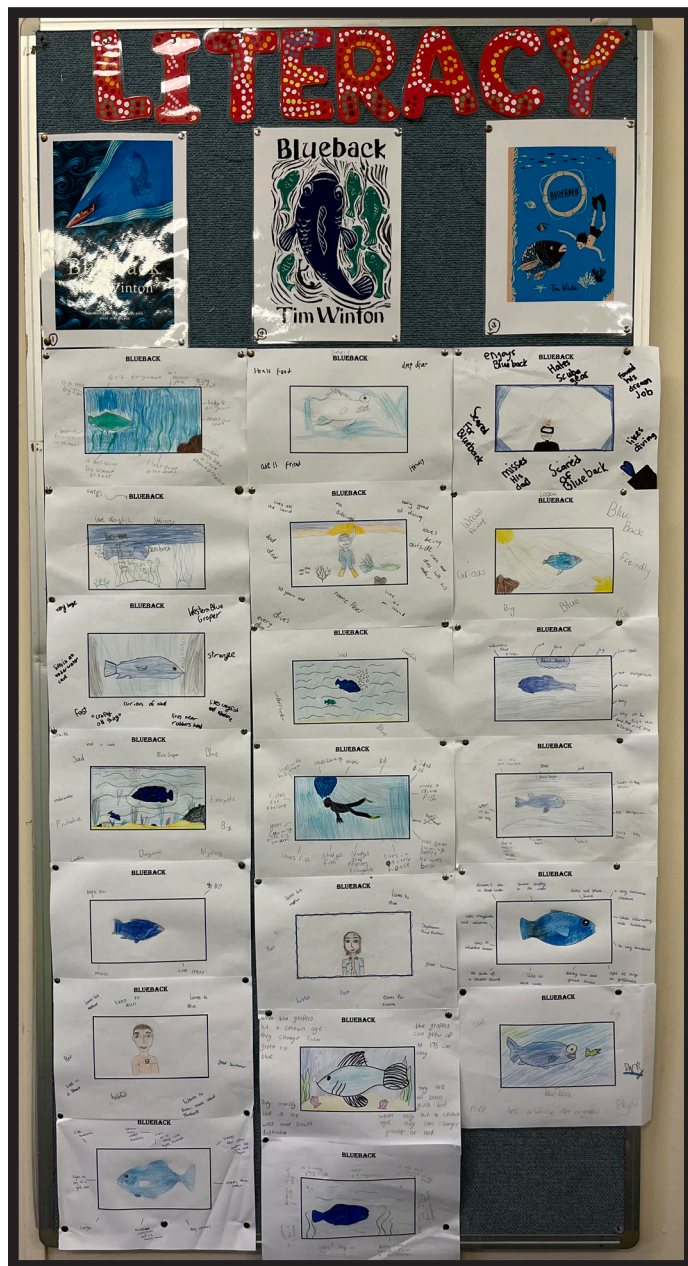


Jacob McGrath
Year 4/5 Teacher

Year 5/6

In Literacy we have been getting into our new text study 'Blueback'. Students are gaining a range of knowledge and new vocabulary about different types of fishing, living by the ocean and tackling conservation issues. We have researched the Western Blue Groper fish which is the species

of a main character in the novel, finding out many interesting facts. Year 5/6 have also been participating in a film study to support the text. 'Oddball' also looks at conservation issues and students have enjoyed interpreting similarities between both.



Sarah Roberts/Alyssa Moore
Year 5/6 Teachers

Bronze Class

Bronze have been very busy this term and have been learning lots of new things! The students have loved creating their own adventures by making mazes and obstacle courses to navigate in physical education. In science, they have experimented with the conduction of heat and the behaviour of light through many hands on activities and learning opportunities. The students

even got to go on an excursion to the Multisports Day in Maitland where they learned new skills in their favourite sports.



CWA Conference Choir Performance

Our Years 3-6 Primary Choir were honoured to be invited to the CWA Conference at Merriwa RSL Club on Tuesday, 31 October. They performed three songs at the event and were very happy to hear the amazing reviews of their talents. We are very proud of our young performers at Merriwa Central School!



Kylie O'Connor
Bronze Class Teacher

Primary Sport

This term students from Years 3-6 have been participating in a range of sporting games and activities to explore different ways of movement. In recent weeks we have enjoyed walking Merriwa's shared pathway, completing a scavenger hunt while we walked. This was a great way to encourage exercise using aspects of our community. It gave students time to investigate their surroundings and explore local attractions.



Alyssa Moore
Primary Sport Coordinator

Year 6 Dinner

A reminder that the Year 6 dinner is soon approaching on Thursday, 14 December. All notes are due back to the office by Friday, 1 December. Merriwa Central School will only be hosting the dinner, any additional events will not be hosted by school staff. Students will be required to sign out after the Year 6 dinner by a parent.



Sarah Roberts
Assistant Principal Primary

Secondary News

Formal Assembly

On Monday, 13 November secondary held their final formal assembly for the year. Kiesha-Lee Taylor addressed the school regarding Birrang Driving School, Sanita Turner discussed Playgroup visits and Multisports day. Myeisha Bailey spoke about the Heart to Heart Art program and Mia Jacobs and Damien Constable gave their SRC report and discussed future planning projects.

Golden Tickets were distributed to students from Years 7-12 who have demonstrated excellence in attendance, behaviour and uniform.

The following merits were also awarded to students.

Year 7

- Gordie Anderson 2 merits
- Darcy Clark 1 merit
- Eleyce Davis 1 merit
- Thomas Kneeves 3 merits, bronze award
- Ashton Marchese 4 merits, silver award
- Rylan Neale 1 merit
- Madyson Sait 1 merit
- Mia Squires 2 merits, bronze award
- Nicole Tudor 1 merit, bronze award
- Paige Walker 2 merits, silver award
- Jase Whitby 1 merit

Year 8

- Myeisha Bailey 2 merits
- Riley Bristow 1 merit
- Tianah Cousins 2 merits
- Levi Davis 1 merit

- Ellouise Jackson 3 merits
- Jayden McPhie 1 merit
- Toby Mead 1 merit
- Jackson Plum 1 merit
- Cadence Tudor 1 merit
- Zac Walker 1 merit

Year 9

- Justin Alley 1 merit
- Max Arthur 1 merit
- Lara Ballantyne 2 merits
- William Collins 1 merit
- William Gregory 4 merits, silver award
- Katana Magnus 1 merit
- Montana Peel 5 merits, silver award
- Isabelle Pike 1 merit
- Kaelyn Rondel 2 merits
- Shawn Smith 4 merits
- Lilly Turner 4 merits, bronze award
- Matilda-Rose Whitby 4 merits, silver award

Year 10

- Sophie Anderson 1 merit
- Makayla Mobberley 1 merit
- Zye Saillard 4 merits, silver award
- Lily Swan 1 merit
- Sanita Turner merits, bronze award

Year 12

- Kaylee Ballantyne 1 merit

- Damien Constable 1 merit
- Mia Jacobs 6 merits, bronze and silver award
- Dylan Keane 2 merits

New Senior Uniform Roll Out 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 lemon collared shirts and tartan skirts - Purchase from Merriwa Central School office only

Please note - New polo-tops are not to be worn until the start of 2024. Current Year 12 students are not obliged to purchase the new uniform.



Narelle Smith
Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing

Year 7 Transition

Over the last three Thursdays, Year 6 students participated in transition to Year 7. Students had the opportunity to experience various subjects taught at High School to help prepare them for next year. Students are to be congratulated on their excellent behaviour and willingness to approach new experiences with enthusiasm and dedication. We would like to thank the teachers for all their effort to make the transition process a smooth and happy experience for Year 6.



Grayson Tilse
Year 7 2024 Year Adviser
Science Teacher

SRC

The SRC have had a busy 2 weeks, attending the GRIP leadership conference in Dubbo, had their annual planning day, hosting a formal assembly and hosting a Remembrance Day service at school.

First a quick announcement on hats, our supplier has been held up with receiving the hats and will notify us as soon as they have a delivery date. Hats can still be purchased from the front office or online for \$35.

The Grip leadership day was a great day of learning for our new leaders where they discussed ideas and issues with leaders from other schools, worked through sessions on running productive meetings, making change at school and leading with purpose, all broken up with some fun activities called Loud Noises.

The following week the SRC held their planning day, using all their new learnings, as well as looking at the information from the Student survey they set out to plan for 2024. They worked out what they would focus on and set themselves goals to help keep their focus. Their goals are to have a clear purpose and build hype for activities, Increase funds raised for specific charities and the SRC and to support student behaviour.



The executive of the SRC was also decided with the following students taking up each role:

President: Mia Jacobs

Vice President: Damien Constable

Secretary: Sanita Turner

Treasurer: Lara Ballantyne

Publicity Officers: Thomas Kneeves and Ashton Marchese

Assembly Organiser: Paige Walker

Events Organiser: Katana Magnus

Congratulations to each student and we look forward to seeing where your new role takes you in 2024.

And a final note on the formal assembly, thank you to Damien and Mia for hosting, Sanita for the acknowledgement of country, Paige for your tech support and Lara and Katana for presenting the GRIP report. It is great to see not only our SRC leaders but other students getting up in front of their peers and presenting reports for activities undertaken at school. So thank you also to Myeisha and Kiesha for talking about Heart to Heart and Birrang driving School.



Support Classes

Multisports day

Students from both secondary and primary Support classes attended a Multisports day, they tried 6 different sports and met some new and old friends. We even got to be the first ones to drive the new school bus! The students were all fabulous on the day, working together and helping each other. Freddy wrote this report for us:

On October 20 we went on a Multisports Day excursion! Students from the support classes went to Maitland Federation Centre to try out different sports. Everyone had fun and we even got soccer balls and footballs to take home. We played golf and so much more... We are so lucky that we got to go to the Multisports Day!

By Fredrick Myers



Elizabeth La Trobe
Head Teacher Support

Art Project

On Wednesday, 19 July Year 5/6 and Year 7 along with other schools and community groups from across the Upper Hunter participated in the community art project with Jakeob Watson as part of the Upper Hunter - Create NSW for First Nations Project and Liddell Works project. The finished artwork was unveiled on Wednesday, 4 October at Create by the Lake and will be displayed permanently at GJ's by the Lake.



Vanessa Whitten
Student Support Officer

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

Secondary Canteen

Last Day
for
Canteen
Wednesday 13 December

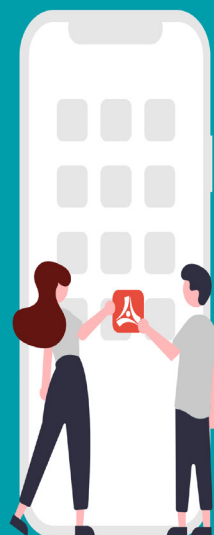
NO CANTEEN on the last
day of Term 4
Friday 15 December

Install the App in 4 easy steps!



The free Audiri school app offers parents a convenient way to stay up-to-date with the school calendar, last-minute forms, newsletters, all school communications, and even make cashless payments. With Audiri, you can get started in just a few minutes by following these simple steps:

- 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



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.





School Bytes

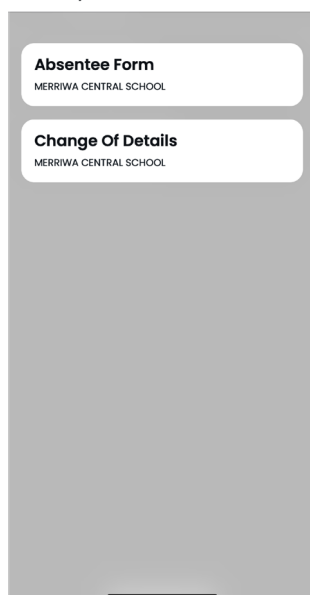
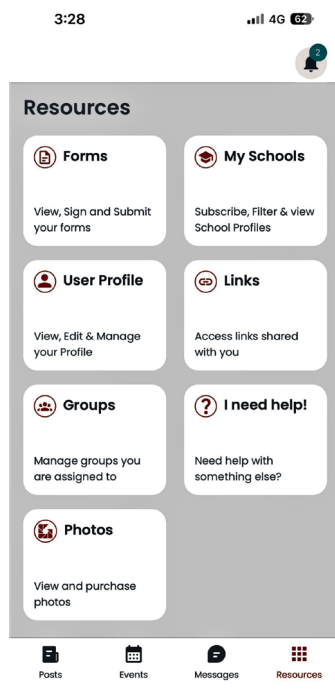
As we have moved over to the School Bytes Finance and Parent Portal system, we need parents to create a School Bytes account.

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>

The screenshot shows the 'School Bytes' logo at the top, followed by the text 'Log in to the parent portal' and a link to 'Or create a new account'. Below this is a login form with fields for 'Email address' and 'Password'. There is a 'Remember me' checkbox and a 'Forgot your password?' link. A blue 'Log in' button is at the bottom of the form. At the very bottom, there is a 'User guides' link.

How to enter an absentee form:

- Resources Tab
- Forms
- Absentee Form



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.



Term 4		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
November	6	13	Kindergarten Transition 9.00am-1.35pm 14	WTAW Drug & Alcohol Excursion St Joseph's Aberdeen 9.00am Heart to Heart Art Program 15	16	Primary Assembly 10.15am 17	18/19
November	7	20	Kindergarten Transition 9.00am-2.00pm 21	Heart to Heart Art Program Years 3-6 Excursion Merewether Beach 7.00am 22	Captain Speeches Primary Library 9.30am Primary Swimming 23	Primary Swimming 24	25/26
November/December	8	Primary Swimming 27	Primary Swimming Kindergarten Transition 9.00am-3.00pm 28	Primary Swimming Heart to Heart Art Program 29	Primary Swimming 30	RIOT Student Training Great Hall 9.00am 1	2/3
December	9	Primary Swimming 4	Primary Swimming Kindergarten Transition Post Transition Meetings for Parents P&C Meeting RSL 6.30pm 5	Primary Swimming 6	P&C Ham Raffle RSL 7.30pm (tickets on sale from 6.30pm) Rewards Day K-12 7	QuickSmart Party Primary Assembly 9.15am 8	9/10
December	10	Last Canteen Day Primary Special Canteen Day (notes to follow) 11	Presentation Night 12	Last Canteen Day Secondary Scripture Assembly 11.30 to 1.00pm 13	Year 6 Graduation Dinner RSL 6.00pm 14	Last day for students Secondary Canteen CLOSED today 15	16/17
December	11	SDD 18	SDD 19	20	21	22	23/24