



MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Valuing individual potential - achieving personal best

Term 2 Week 10, 2024

Primary News

Kindergarten

Hooray for 100 days of Kindergarten!!!

On Friday 26 July, Kindergarten students will be having a class party in the afternoon to celebrate our milestone. It would be greatly appreciated if your child can bring a plate of party food to share.

The last 100 days have aged us all, so we are inviting students to come dressed as 100 year olds on the day (possible ideas could be walking sticks, suspenders, grey hair, glasses, wrinkles etc.)

Students will also be awarded a special certificate at our afternoon assembly. Parents and carers are more than welcome to attend this informal assembly starting at 2.40pm.



This term, our Kindergarten students embarked on an exciting journey learning all about Australia. They discovered the different states and territories that make up our beautiful country and got to know many of our unique native animals, from the adorable koala to the dangerous crocodile.

A highlight of the term was Rewards Day, where the students performed a charming dance to the Aussie classic, "Waltzing Matilda." They also enjoyed indulging in some traditional Australian sweets, including pavlovas and lamingtons. It was a delightful way to celebrate their hard work and immerse themselves in Australian culture.





**Nicole Johnston
Kindergarten Teacher**

Year 2/3

Year 2/3 have greatly enjoyed exploring the remarkable country of India. They have researched interesting facts about the country, completed an information report and created gorgeous artworks.

On Rewards Day, they proudly performed a Bollywood-style dance at assembly. Bollywood dances are used in Indian films and students were very impressed with the colourful and intricate costumes that the dancers wore when learning about them. Everyone did a tremendous job and should be very proud of their performance.

Year 2/3 also had the opportunity to try an interpretation of a traditional Indian chicken curry with butter chicken, rice and naan bread. Many students had never tried it before and said that they loved the taste!

Year 1

Year 1 have been busy learning about the country of Japan. We researched information on Japan and learnt that there are no bordering countries and is only 193kms away from South Korea. Year 1 coloured in the Japanese Flag and kimonos. We decorated fans using oil pastels, textas, and pencils. Last week, Year 1 performed a traditional cultural dance called The Fisherman's Dance and we made Japanese sushi. We all gave it a try. We really enjoyed exploring the culture of Japan.



**Abbie McDonald
Year 1 Teacher**



NSW Premier's Spelling Bee

On Tuesday 25 June, select students from Years 1 to 6 competed in the NSW Premier's Spelling Bee.

Congratulations to all finalists, they did an outstanding job spelling some very challenging words that are uncommon and spelt irregularly. They should be very proud of how well they all did on the day.

Congratulations to our stage winners!

Jace Hourn and Max Hourn will be representing our school at the Regional Finals next term.

Stage One - Aubree Coles, Clara Coluccio, Cooper Reid, Lucy Campbell, Alleah Hourn, and Deegan Goss

Winner: Deegan Goss
Runner Up: Alleah Hourn

Stage Two - Emmy Hunt, Sasha Wallace, William Carr and Jace Hourn

Winner: Jace Hourn
Runner Up: William Carr

Stage Three - Braith Hunt, Katie Pidgeon, Brayson Coles, Mia Wilkinson, Shawn Duthie and Max Hourn

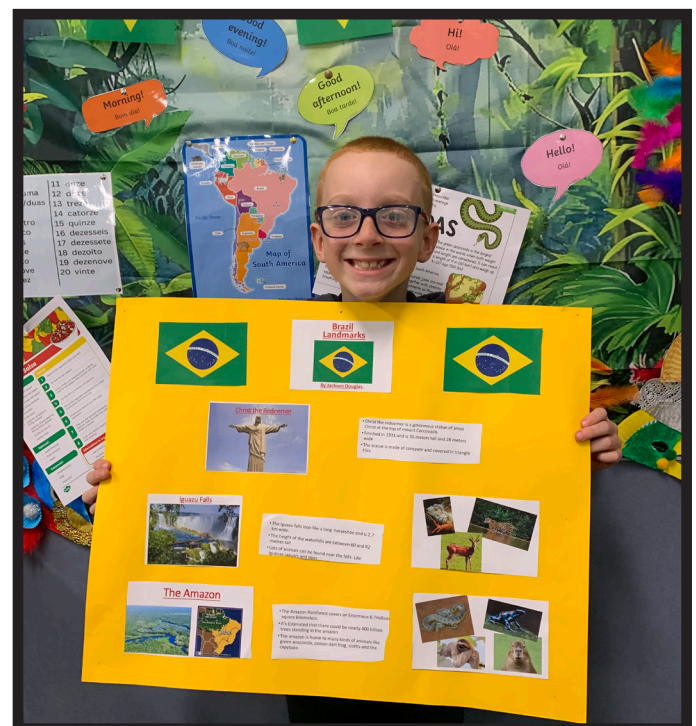
Winner: Max Hourn **Runner Up:** Shawn Duthie



Keirra Hourn
Year 2/3 Teacher
Assistant Principal Infants

Year 3

This term, our Year 3 students have been immersing themselves in the vibrant culture and history of Brazil, as part of their country of study. They've brought their learning to life through a variety of incredible projects completed both in class and at home. From detailed PowerPoint presentations and beautifully crafted Brazilian flags, to intricate dioramas showcasing iconic landmarks and fascinating projects on Brazilian animals, the creativity and dedication of our students have truly shone. Each student did an outstanding job presenting their work to the class, demonstrating not only their knowledge, but also their enthusiasm for learning about this fascinating country.



Year 4/5

Year 4/5 have been working hard this term on imagery in writing. They have been reading the book *Fire* by Jackie French and have created their own artwork depicting bushfires in Australia.



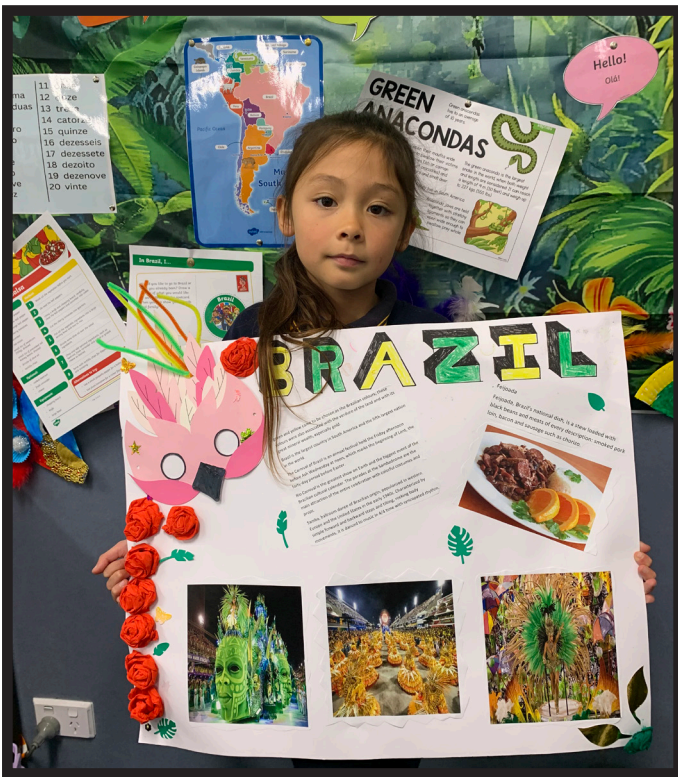
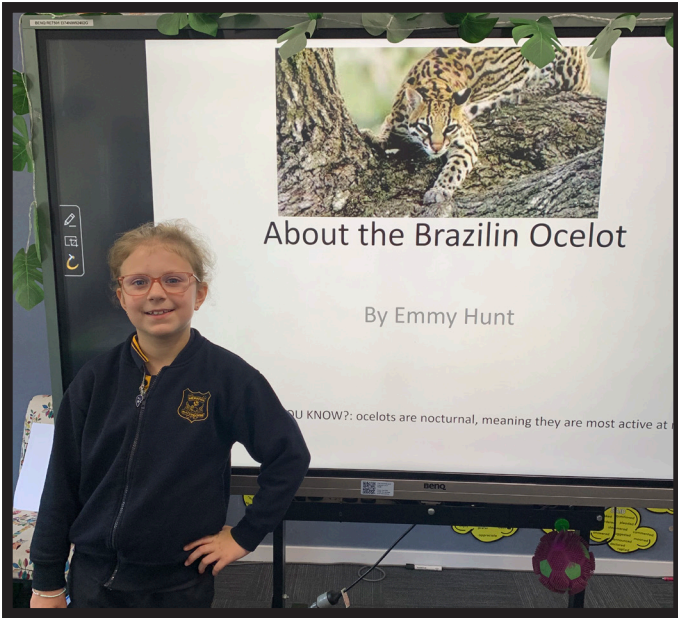
Jacob McGrath
Year 4/5 Teacher

Year 5/6

With our country of study this term we have explored many historical people from the Netherlands. Anne Frank has been an intriguing person for our students to study, looking into her experiences in WWII and comparing them to the text we are studying in literacy. As a class, we have had many interesting discussions about what life was like for children in WWII and how Australians way of life was impacted during this period and the years after. In creative arts we have explored famous Dutch Artists and looked at techniques used within their artworks. Students have been working on creating perspective in their own artworks by drawing a Netherlands country landscape, showing a field of tulips.



Sarah Roberts/Alyssa Moore
Year 5/6 Teachers



Courtney Martin
Year 3 Teacher

Country of Study

Our recent Country of Study Rewards Day was a resounding success, filled with joy, learning, and excitement! Students enthusiastically participated in a variety of activities that highlighted the unique aspects of different cultures. They had a fantastic time cooking traditional dishes from their chosen countries, which filled the air with delightful aromas and showcased their culinary creativity. The performances were a highlight, with students putting on vibrant displays of dance, music, and storytelling that brought the rich traditions of their countries to life. The day also included a spirited mini-Olympics, where students competed in friendly athletic events, fostering teamwork and sportsmanship. It was a day of celebration, education, and fun, and the smiles on the students' faces were the best reward of all.



Zone Athletics

On Friday 28 June, our students travelled to Singleton to participate in the Zone Athletics Carnival. The day was filled with excitement, determination, and exceptional behaviour from all our athletes. Every student gave their best effort, showcasing their dedication and sportsmanship.

A special congratulations goes to Jack Purcell, who delivered an outstanding performance by securing first place in the 11 year old boys' high jump. Jack cleared an impressive height of 1.25 meters. Well done, Jack!

We are incredibly proud of all our students for their hard work and commitment. They represented our school with pride and excellence.



Sarah Roberts
Assistant Principal Primary

StarStruck Love It 2024

These students represented our school with pride and passion when performing at StarStruck in Newcastle on Friday 14 and Saturday 15 June. The girls performed to an audience of 2000 and danced alongside 3000 other school students. They particularly enjoyed meeting other featured dancers and their inspiration to perform really grew over the three days that they were away. Our school should be extremely proud of our StarStruck dancers. The girls definitely loved seeing our school community in Newcastle, watching them dance.





**Enjoy the school
holidays**

**Have a safe
winter break**

**Students
return
K-12
Term 3**

Tuesday 23 July 2024



Variety Night 2024 - Musicals



Entry Fee:

**\$5 Per Person or
\$10 Per Family**

Thank you

**Kylie O'Connor & Alyssa Moore
StarStruck Coordinators**



Wednesday 7 August

6pm

School of Arts Hall

Variety Night 2024

Secondary News

EMOJI

EMOJI is being presented to Year 6 boys by Vanessa Whitten (Student Support Officer).

This program is designed to assist young people to navigate feelings, emotions and how to show anger in a safe way. The attendees learn about the many faces of anger, the 4T's anger cycle (Triggers, Thoughts, Tantrum and Trouble) as well as healthy ways to express anger.

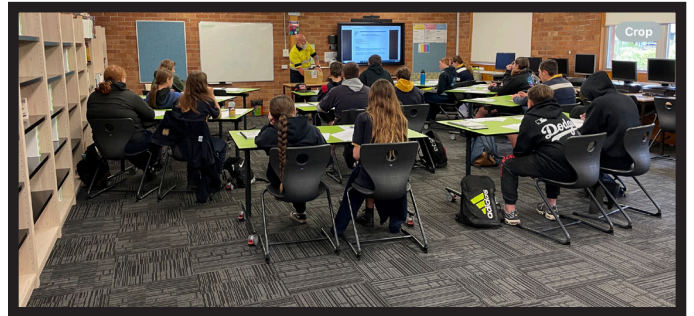
Man Cave

All male students from Years 7-12 participated in Man Cave. What a fantastic opportunity for our boys to build their knowledge and understanding around Mental Health and issues that impact them directly as teenagers. Man Cave have delivered their course to over 70,000 young men across Australia. The skills that the young men walk away with are designed to support the boys from evidence-based workshops to lead flourishing lives for themselves, their relationships and their communities. This program was also supported financially by Merriwa Central School, Merriwa Central School P&C and Merriwa Rotary.



White Card

Congratulations to the seventeen students who completed their White Card Induction Course. The White Card enables students to enter basic construction sites. Students learnt about WHS, Planning, Tools and Routines.



Birrang Driving

Birrang Driving School has been busy this term upskilling our students behind the wheel. We are pleased to report that over twenty eligible students participated in 1 hour driving lessons. A wonderful outcome with three students gaining their L's and another three students successfully passing their hazard perception course (pre P-plate test). We also had one very excited new P-plate driver hitting the road.



Job Readiness

All students from Years 9 and 10 participated in Job Readiness. Guest speakers guided students through different careers, workplace scenarios, what to expect in a job interview, what to wear and resume writing. Its exciting to think that our students in Stage 5 have now reached a stage in their education where they are thinking about post school options.

Tracey Forbes also spoke about possible School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships available to students next year.



Uncle Richie

We have been lucky enough to have Uncle Richie join our school and run Indigenous programs for our students. His knowledge, calm demeanour and devotion to teaching the next generation about culture has been invaluable and we can not thank him enough.



Welcome to our New Staff



Elizabeth Fullerton
Head Teacher VET



Gayl Chappell
Special Education



Robin Sekanjako
HSIE

Narelle Smith
Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing

Rewards Day Secondary

On Tuesday 2 July, Secondary students spent the day at Stockland Greenhills, enjoying lunch in the food court, some games at Timezone and some much-needed retail therapy. Thank you to the students who attended and the staff who supervised the excursion. Student behaviour on the day was exemplary.



Emma Piper
Head Teacher Secondary Studies
English/HSIE Teacher
Girls Adviser

Agriculture

Senior Agriculture and Primary Industries students have had a productive first half of the year. Along with developing their theory knowledge in sustainable and modern agricultural production, students have gained new practical skills in farm machinery operation using the school tractor and attachments to prepare paddocks for sowing. With some regular rainfall our oat crop has done very well and is providing some high quality supplementary grazing for our two steers (Knobby and Milo). The steers are providing the students with an excellent opportunity to master their hands-on skills in livestock handling and monitoring. Thank you very much to Mr Col Bates of 'Kingslyn' who kindly donated one of the steers and arranged their delivery to the school.

Students developed their research and experimental design skills by conducting a chicken trial where they monitored the growth rate of meat birds in response to feed protein content. They have also had success in the garden producing some quality silver beet, Queensland blue pumpkins and zucchini to supplement our steady egg production.



Tara Hogan
Agriculture/Primary Industries Teacher
Year 10 Advisor

Year 11 Biology

Year 11 Biology have been exploring the circulatory, respiratory and digestive system this term. On Tuesday 18 June, students had the opportunity to dissect a rat and observe the body systems they have been learning about. A rat's body system is similar to a humans as to where the organs are placed. It was interesting to see how tightly packed the organs were inside the rat.

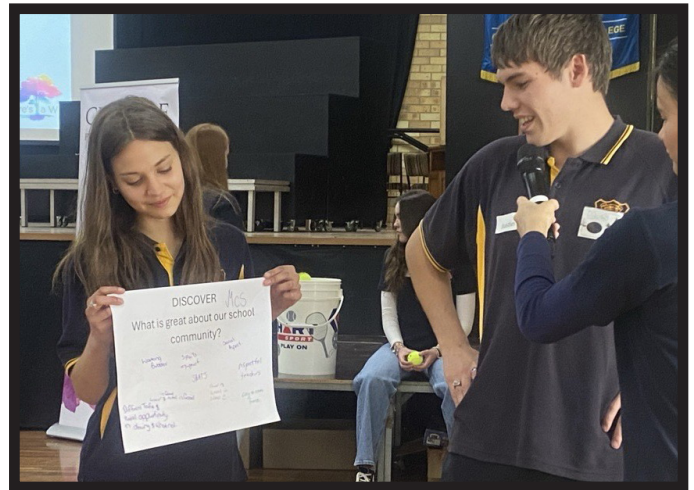
Grayson Tilse
Science Teacher
Year 7 Adviser




On Thursday, 20 June our four Where there's a Will leaders Makayla Mobberley, Milana Horne, Annabelle Orton and Makaylah Coles presented at the Upper Hunter Youth Summit at St Joseph's Aberdeen. This summit was a follow on from the National Youth Leadership Summit in Adelaide earlier this year.

Merriwa Central School had eight Year 10 students attend the summit where they participated in various activities around leadership and communication, which were organised by the youth leaders from across the Upper Hunter. Many of the students were able to step out of their comfort zone while completing the allocated tasks.

- Lara Ballantyne - "The leadership summit was a chance to step out of our comfort zones".
- Katana Magnus - "A great opportunity to meet other students while learning leadership skills and to see what Where there's a Will do within the community".
- Justin Alley - "This was a chance to learn new skills and ways we can use them in the future".



Vanessa Whitten
Student Support Officer



PCYC ★

SAFER DRIVERS COURSE
EARN 20 HOURS TOWARDS YOUR LOGBOOK.

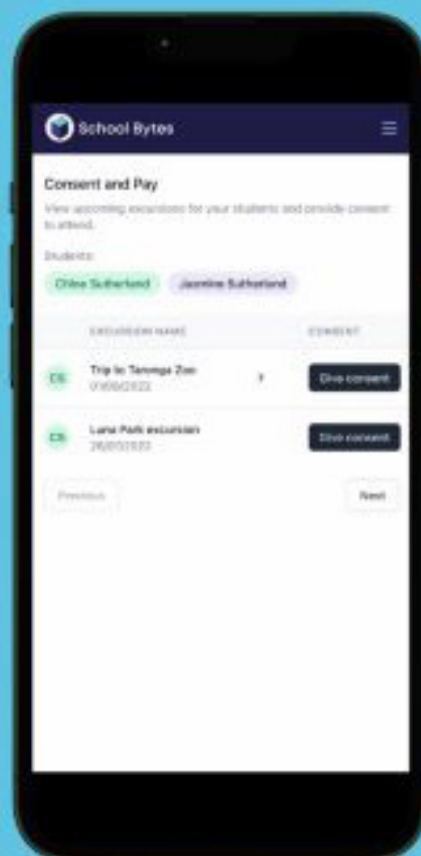
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AVAILABLE NOW!

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>



WINTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES



UPPER HUNTER SHIRE LIBRARIES

ABERDEEN

PHONE: 6540 1303

Tuesday 9 July

10:15 - Storytime & Craft **0-6yrs**
11:00 - Design Your Own Indigenous
Art Pencil case **6-12yrs**

Wednesday 10 July

5:00 - Coding (school age / high
school age and up)

Friday 12 July

2:30 - NAIDOC Hanging Posters

Tuesday 16 July

10:15 - Storytime & Craft **0-6yrs**
11:00 - Wooden Spoon People **6-12yrs**

Wednesday 17 July

5:00 - Coding (school age / high
school age and up)

Friday 19 July

2:30 - Decorate Wooden Trees
Jewellery Tree or Family Tree - Bring
Photos to copy

CASSILIS

PHONE: 6540 1311

Wednesday 10 July

11:00 - Storytime & Craft **0-6yrs**
2:00 - Indigenous Design Laser Etched
Boomerangs **6-12yrs**

Wednesday 17 July

11:00 - Storytime & Craft **0-6yrs**
2:00 - Decorate Wooden Paddle Balls
6-12yrs

**Please Book as
Materials are limited**



MERRIWA

PHONE: 6521 7007

Tuesday 9 July

10:00 - NAIDOC Storytime &
Australian Animal Mosaics

Thursday 11 July

2:00 - Indigenous Animal Key
Rings

Friday 12 July

10:00 - NAIDOC Hanging Posters

Tuesday 16 July

10:00 - Storytime & Wooden
Tamborines

Thursday 18 July

2:00 - Velvet Art Colouring

Friday 19 July

10:00 - Koala Pencil Holders

MURRURUNDI

PHONE: 6540 1363

Tuesday 9 July

10:00 - Boomerang Painting

Friday 12 July

10:00 - Storytime & World
Population Day Craft

Tuesday 16 July

10:00 - Play-Dough Blizzard!

Friday 19 July

10:00 - Storytime & Winter
Wonderland Plastic Free
Creations

Saturday 20 July

10:00 - Checkmate Champions
Chess Tournament **ALL AGES**

SCONE

PHONE: 6540 1183

Monday 8 July

10:30 - Decorate Indigenous
Designed Laser Etched Boomerangs

Tuesday 9 July

10:30 - Toddler Time
11:30 - Basket Weaving **10yrs+**

Wednesday 10 July

10:30 - Baby Talk
11:30 - Decorate Wooden Lizard
Door Hangers

Friday 12 July

10:30 - Storytime & Decorate
Indigenous Designed Standing
Wooden Animals

Monday 15 July

10:30 - Winter Craft

Tuesday 16 July

10:30 - Toddler Time
11:30 - Butterfly & Stegosaurus
Sticker by Numbers **10yrs+**

Wednesday 17 July

10:30 - Baby Talk
11:30 - Design Scratchboard Chinese
Lanterns

Friday 19 July

10:30 - Storytime & Design
Scratchboard Door Hangers

 Find us on
Facebook



Please see our website for
more information.
upperhunterlibraries.net.au

School Community Charter

 **Collaborative. Respectful. Communication.**

The following School Community Charter outlines the responsibilities of parents, carers, educators and school staff in NSW public schools to ensure our learning environments are collaborative, supportive and cohesive.

What our schools provide

NSW public schools work to create positive environments for students, staff and the entire school community that support student learning. We strive to ensure that every student is known, valued and cared for.

The best education happens when parents and schools work together.

The School Community Charter aligns with the NSW Department of Education Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022.



Positive environments

It is important that our NSW public schools are positive environments and that parents and carers are kept informed of students' progress and school announcements.

Parents and carers can expect:

- to be welcomed into our schools to work in partnership to promote student learning.
- communication from school staff will be timely, polite and informative.
- professional relationships with school staff are based on transparency, honesty and mutual respect.
- to be treated fairly. Tolerance and understanding are promoted as we respect diversity.

We treat each other with **respect**

We **prioritise** the wellbeing of all students and staff

Unsafe behaviour is not acceptable in our schools

We work **together** with the school

Ensuring respectful learning environments for all members of NSW Public Schools communities.



We create **collaborative** learning environments

We all play **a part**

We work **in partnership** to promote student learning

Communicating with our schools

Our staff will find a time to talk to you when they can give you their full attention. Please remember that while our staff are in class or dealing with other matters, they may not be available to answer your questions immediately.

Our schools and communities will make sure that written communication is appropriate, fair and easy to read. We encourage you to use email and social media appropriately to connect with your school and stay up-to-date with up-coming events in the school community.

Our guide for parents, carers and students provides useful information about the complaints process: [education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/complaints-compliments-and-suggestions/guide-for-parents-carers-and-students](https://www.education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/complaints-compliments-and-suggestions/guide-for-parents-carers-and-students)

Respectful communication is a right

In all workplaces people have the right to feel respected. Unacceptable and offensive behaviour has no place in our school communities.

To ensure the wellbeing of students, staff and the community in our schools, steps will be taken to address unacceptable behaviour. This may include restricting contact with the school community or, in more serious cases, referral to NSW Police.

Unacceptable behaviour may include but is not limited to:

- Aggressive or intimidating actions, such as violence, threatening gestures or physical proximity.
- Aggressive or intimidating language, including the use of obscenities, making sexist, racist or derogatory comments or using a rude tone.
- Treating members of the school community differently due to aspects such as their religion or disability.
- Inappropriate and time wasting communication.



Collaborative.
Respectful.
Communication.

School Community Charter

education.nsw.gov.au

Term Three	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
July	1	SDD 22	Students Return K-12 23	24	25	26	27/28
July/August	2	Sydney Excursion Secondary 7.30am 29	Sydney Excursion Secondary Newcastle Permanent Maths Competition Primary 30	Sydney Excursion Secondary 31	Driving Lessons Parent Teacher Interviews Love Bites Program Year 10 K-6 Scripture 1	Love Bites Program Year 11 2	3/4
August	3	Secondary Formal Assembly 9.00am 7-9 Check-in Assessments 5	P&C Meeting RSL 6.30pm 7-9 Check-in Assessments 6	Variety Night Concert 7-9 Check-in Assessments 7	7-9 Check-in Assessments 8	What's the Joke? Performance K-6 9.15am K-6 Assembly 2.15pm 7-9 Check-in Assessments 9	10/11
August	4	7-9 Check-in Assessments Catch-up 12	7-9 Check-in Assessments Catch-up 13	7-9 Check-in Assessments Catch-up 14	Driving Lessons K-6 Scripture 7-9 Check-in Assessments Catch-up 15	7-9 Check-in Assessments Catch-up 16	17/18
August	5	Trial HSC Exams 19	Trial HSC Exams Year 10 into Year 11 Parent Information Night 20	Trial HSC Exams 21	Trial HSC Exams 22	Trial HSC Exams Little Sprouts Day 23	24/25
August/September	6	26	27	28	Driving Lessons K-6 Scripture 29	She Shines Program Years 7-12 girls K-6 Assembly 2.15pm 30	31/1
September	7	Year 10 into Year 11 Interviews VALID 6&10 2	Year 10 into Year 11 Interviews VALID 6&10 3	Year 10 into Year 11 Interviews VALID 6&10 4	VALID 6&10 5	VALID 6&10 6	7/8