



MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Valuing individual potential - achieving personal best

Term 1 Week 6, 2023

Principal's Report

Can you believe we are half way through the term. What a busy start to the school year it has been. Congratulations to all students who participated in our swimming carnival, and represented our school at Zone.

Last week secondary students attended the Mental Health Expo in the Great Hall where they were introduced to a range of service providers in the Upper Hunter to support teenagers with mental health.

Our Aboriginal boys group met up with Uncle Ritchie again for didge workshops.

Primary students participated in the NRL Gala Day on Wednesday, and were treated to a visiting performance G'Day Asia on Friday.

A very popular program which has recommenced this term is our young driver education program for secondary students.

The programs assist students with both the theory and practical components of driver qualifications.

Just a heads up to keep your distance from the dual control driving instructors car doing laps around town on Thursdays.



NAPLAN Tests

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, and is the only nationwide assessment that all Australian children undertake.

It's a measure to see whether or not young Australians are developing the literacy and numeracy skills that provide the critical foundation for other learning, and for their productive and rewarding participation in the community.

Students will complete the tests Wednesday to Monday March 13-20. Please make every effort for your child to be at school on those days.

Easter Public Holiday

Parents are reminded that Term 1 is an eleven week term. This year we have Good Friday and Easter Monday public holidays, before returning for the last two weeks of term. The last day of term is Friday April 12.

Darren Noonan
Principal



Primary News

G'day Asia Performance

Last Friday, primary students braved the stifling heat to walk to the Great Hall and watch the performance 'G'Day Asia'.

Students learnt about traditions from a range of Asian cultures and couldn't stop laughing at the hilarious performance from Hugh Munro and his monkey puppets. It was particularly exciting when students from Year 5/6 were lucky enough to parade the Chinese dragon around the audience.



Keirra Hourn
Infants AP

Term 1 Rewards Day

Rewards Day for primary students will be on Thursday March 28 and will be a scientific themed day full of hands-on, stimulating and engaging activities for students to enjoy. An information note will be sent home closer to the date.

Kylie O'Connor and Tammy Parker
Term 1 Rewards Day Organisers

Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge has now started. All students from K-2 will complete the challenge during library at school. Years 3-6 must read 20 books (10 of their own choice and 10 set for the challenge) before August 9, 2024.

There is a selection of many books in each classroom for students to use at the appropriate challenge levels. This is not a competition, but a challenge to encourage a love of reading. All children who complete the challenge will receive a certificate from the Premier.

Tammy Parker
Library Teacher

Zone Swimming Carnival

Last Thursday we had nine representatives head to Scone for the PSSA Zone Swimming Carnival. Ashleigh Keane and Taniel Roberts competed in 10yr girls freestyle and junior girls backstrokes, improving their times from our school's carnival with Ashleigh finishing 3rd overall.

Jackson Goss took part in the 10yr boys freestyle, junior boys backstroke and open 100m freestyle. Jackson swam personal bests in all three races, knocking off 3 seconds in freestyle, almost 10 seconds in backstroke and 8 seconds in 100m freestyle. Jack Purcell participated in the 11yr boys freestyle, swimming well in a competitive heat.

Holly Martin and Claire Bidner swam the 11yr girls freestyle both swimming well with Claire swimming 5 seconds faster than her qualifying time.

Braith Hunt, Zane Walker and Daniel Olsen represented our senior boys. Braith and Zane competed in the 12yr boys freestyle, both swimming well with Braith taking out 3rd overall for the event. Braith and Daniel swam in the senior boys breaststroke, swimming close in times, coming in 6th and 7th.

Well done to our representatives. We are so proud of your efforts and your sportsmanship at the carnival.



NRL Gala Day

Years 1-6 went to the Merriwa Sporting Complex to participate in a variety of games, which helped to develop NRL skills. Such skills involved catching, throwing, field positions and tagging.

After developing skills all students participated in a game of league tag. Although extremely hot we all had a fun day and would like to thank Corey and Brock for organising the day and providing us with an opportunity to participate.

Tammy Parker
Infants Sports Co ordinator



PSSA Rugby League Trials

Last Friday we had four students represent our school at the Rugby League trials for PSSA in Singleton.

Jack Purcell, Conner Mead, Nathan Sheppard and Claire Bidner all put their league skills to the test to try out for the PSSA rugby league team.



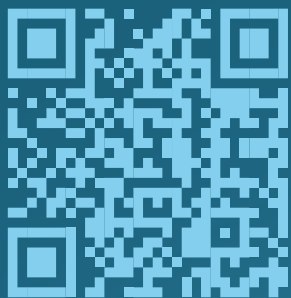
Claire was successful in the trials and has been accepted in to the team with her first trial game later this month. Well done to you all and we wish Claire all the best for the next stage.

Alyssa Moore
Sports Organiser

Adams-Watts Social Justice Oration

CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - AN EVENING WITH

DEMI HAYES



SCAN TO BOOK

\$5.00
Per
Person

Friday 8 March, 2024

Merriwa RSL Auditorium

6:00PM to 8:00PM

Australian Women's 7's Captain and Olympian. A country girl at heart, Demi grew up on her family cattle property and was extremely sporty from a young age. She has a desire to succeed and leave a mark on the world.



Secondary News

Secondary SRC

The SRC would like to announce the Year 7 Representatives for 2024 and invite their parents/carers to the formal assembly, Monday Week 8, March 18 at 9.00am in the Great Hall, to view them receiving their badges.

Congratulations to Kaylee McLean and Xzavier Sait!

We welcome you and look forward to the contributions you will make to the SRC and our school on behalf of Year 7.

On Friday March 1, 2024 the SRC and friends (students that volunteered for event) pulled on their gloves and cleaned up around the school.

They noticed the school was mostly clean so set their sights on the microplastics hidden amongst the grass, explaining how these can be very harmful to the animals and waterways.



Support Classes

The new Work and the Community course is being enjoyed by the Year 10 and Year 11 Support Students.

They have been learning about using the telephone, skills for the workplace and what they may be interested in trying as part of their work experience.

They completed an activity called 10 - 10 - 10, where they had to think of 10 interests, choose one, then choose 10 careers linked to that interest, then choose 1 and research 10 different businesses they could work at. All the students worked very hard developing their ideas and thinking outside the box!

PBL

The new PBL recognition system is well underway with students keen to be collecting their tokens, the first collection took place in Week 4 with very pleasing results.

Looks like Year 7 will be the first to receive the first recognition reward of Zooper Doopers very shortly!

Our next focus is "Respectful" by using appropriate language. We ask that parents help their students recognise which words should not be said at school and remind their child of the respectful way to respond to disagreements.





Liz La Trobe
SRC Co ordinator

Each service introduced themselves and explained to the students what their service is, how their service can help the young person, their friend or a family member and how they can find support if needed.

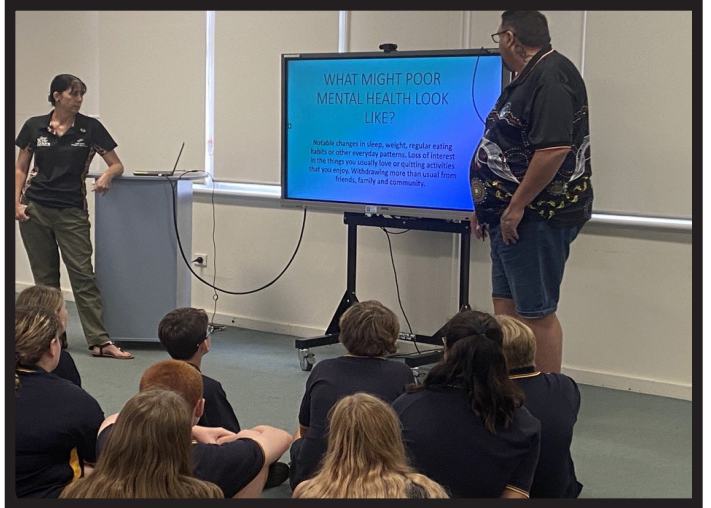
After the presentations, students had the opportunity to speak to the services and were able to collect some merchandise. Thank you to Carlie from Upper Hunter Community Services for bringing the following services to Merriwa Central School.

Upper Hunter Community Services
Upper Hunter Shire Council Youth Services
Flourish
Hunter New England Health
Carers NSW
Upper Hunter Homeless
Upper Hunter Youth Services
Rural Young Minds
Headspace
Verto

Vanessa Whitten
Coordinator

Mental Health Expo

On Tuesday 28/02/2024 Merriwa Central School hosted a Mental Health Expo for students Yrs 7 to 12. We had 10 different services in attendance who offer their support to the young people of Merriwa and the surrounding areas.



Peer Support Camp Newsletter

On Monday, February 12, 23 students from year 7, 10 and 11 travelled to Point Wolstoncroft for the Peer Support Camp.

Merriwa Central students participated in a wide range of activities from sailing, kayaking, archery, rock climbing, mountain bike riding, making damper and archery tag.

Over the three days, lots of wonderful memories were made and it was exciting to witness students developing their skills in teamwork, resilience and communication. Students are to be congratulated on being wonderful representatives of our school, approaching everything with respect and enthusiasm and supporting each other to achieve their goals.

Thank you to Mr Hannon, Cara Hunt and Vanessa Whitten for attending camp with our students.

**Grayson Tilse
Year 7 Adviser**



NAPLAN 2024

The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a point in time assessment of literacy and numeracy skills. Students in Years 7 and 9 participate in the annual tests in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All NSW schools will sit NAPLAN online in 2024.

Our school will be participating in NAPLAN between March 13 to 18, 2024. The schedule for the tests is as follows:

Wednesday March 13 - Writing Test

Thursday March 14 - Reading Test

Friday March 15 - Conventions of Language test

Monday March 18 - Numeracy test

Between March, Tuesday 19 - Monday 25 - a 'catch-up' day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day. Catch up days for writing are not permitted and can only take place on Wednesday March 13, 2024.

If you have any questions about NAPLAN, please contact Miss Piper or the Principal to discuss.

Emma Piper
NAPLAN Coordinator

MARCH



MERRIWA YOUTH CALENDAR

MONDAY 4 JUST DANCE	MONDAY 11 POOL	MONDAY 18 POOL AND EASTER CRAFT
MONDAY 25 SALSA DANCING		

UHSC YOUTH SERVICES

MERRIWA
Ages 10 to 17
Mondays
3:30PM – 7:00PM
33 Bow St, Merriwa
0428 971 208

Find us on  @MERRIWAYOUTHCENTRE



Every Day Matters

If your child misses
as little as

1 day
per fortnight

they will miss

4 weeks
of school
per year

which adds up
to over

1 year
missed over
their school life



Make sure your child doesn't miss
out on the important things like:



Learning



Strengthening friendships



Emotional development



Scan the QR code
to learn more

Attendance

Dear parents and carers

It's been great to have our students back in classrooms and settling into the school year. I know all our teachers are looking forward to a successful 2024 and are excited to work with you to make this a memorable year for your child.

The evidence is clear that consistent attendance is the essential first step for your child to have a positive experience at school.

Every day matters for your child's learning. In recent years we've seen too many students miss a day of school here and there. Missing school for students means missing assignments, time with friends, an important maths lesson or getting picked for a sports team. With days missed, years are lost.

Students are required to attend school every day, whether it's the first or last day of the term, Mondays, Fridays or days dedicated to sports carnivals, school excursions and incursions.

Help us make sure your child is achieving their best and stays ahead in their learning with regular school attendance. The more time your child attends school, the greater their opportunity to learn, make new friends and improve their wellbeing. Together, let's build positive attendance habits for a lifetime.

If your child is absent from school, please let us know why as soon as possible, even if it's just a few minutes at the start or end of the school day. Of course, there will be times when your child is unable to be at school (like when they are unwell). Medical appointments should take place outside school hours where possible and family holidays should be taken in term breaks.

If your child is feeling anxious about coming to school and you need support, please reach out to your child's teacher or me directly. Our staff are here to work with you and your child to help them attend school each and every day. There are also helpful resources for parents and carers on the [Every Day Matters website](#).

Thank you again for working with our teachers and support staff to make sure your child is at school, on time, every day. We all want to see our students learn, grow and belong in our equitable and outstanding education system.

Term One	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
March	6		Life Education Healthy Harold K-6 P&C Meeting RSL 6.30pm	Life Education Healthy Harold K-6 Steve Simpson Legends Gala Day – Primary 8am	Adelaide Student Leadership – Where there is a Will Police Community Talk 9am Driving Lessons 9am	Adelaide Student Leadership – Where there is a Will Primary K-6 Formal Assembly 10.15am	Adelaide Student Leadership – Where there is a Will
		4	5	6	7	8	9
March	7				NAPLAN Feeling Fantastic Girls Group – Yr 9 girls Chillax Program – 9am		
		“My Future” – All Yr 10 10am		NAPLAN		NAPLAN	
		11	12	13	14	15	16/17
March	8		NAPLAN Upper Hunter Leadership Summit Planning Day 9am		NAPLAN Chillax Boys Program 9:55 Feeling Fantastic Yr9 girls 9:55 Driving Lessons		
		NAPLAN		NAPLAN		NAPLAN Aboriginal Boys Group 11am	
		18	19	20	21	22	24
March	9				Primary Rewards Day K-6 9am Chillax Boys Program – UHSC Youth Services 9:55am Feeling Fantastic Yr9 girls 9:00am		
		NAPLAN	NRL Mental Health State of Mind Pro- gram	RIOT Student Refresh- er Course 11:10am		Good Friday	
		25	26	27	28	29	30/31
April	10				Driving Lessons Zone Cross Coun- try – Scone Chillax Boys Program 9:00 Feeling Fantastic Yr9 girls 9:00		
		Easter Monday				School Photo Day	
		1	2	3	4	5	6/7