

Merimbula Public School

Newsletter – Term 2, Week 1



SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Community,

School Development Day Excitement:

This term commenced with staff taking part in two educational School Development Days. The focus for all teachers and support staff was further enhancing the school's opportunities in delivering High Potential and Gifted Education programs and pathways for all students. Over twenty of our staff researched, prepared and delivered 15 workshops on a range of related topics, including:

- Finding High Potential in the Intellectual Domain, Creative Domain, Physical Domain and Social-Emotional Domain;
- Learning Support Teams leading HPGE;
- HPGE in the Early Years;
- Flexible Grouping and Classes for HPGE students;
- Finding High Potential;
- Unrecognised Potential and Under Achievement;
- HPGE for Non-Teaching Staff;
- Curriculum Planning for Every Student in Every Classroom;
- Igniting Creative Potential Through Visual Arts;
- Explicit Teaching for HPGE Students; and
- HPGE Challenges.

We were delighted to work with our educational partners from Wyndham Public School, Towamba Public School and Bemboka Public School who we invited to collaborate with and learn with us at our 'mini-conference'. Feedback on the workshops were that they were engaging and have led to increased enthusiasm for all of our staff to continue to offer more opportunities and pathways in the High Potential and Gifted education space for all students, including students who are gifted or have high potential whilst having a disability, or whilst learning English as an additional language/dialect.

In addition to learning about HPGE, School Learning and Support Officers, and our Administration Team, took part in professional learning with a wellbeing focus, while teaching staff collaboratively planned for the term ahead.

Welcome Back! We welcomed some new students and their families to MPS this week. It has been wonderful to meet them, as well as, share with them how many wonderful opportunities are offered by our exceptional staff and school. It has also been wonderful to have started planning enrolment meetings and tours for our 2026 Kindy students!

COMING EVENTS

Term 2:

Week 2:

Monday, May 5: P&C Mother's Day Stall;

Tuesday, May 6: Boys PSSA Cricket @ Berrambool Oval;

Wednesday, May 7: MPS School Choir Rehearsal @ BVPS;

Support Class Life Skills Program Commences;

Thursday, May 8:

Friday, May 9:

Week 3:

Monday, May 12: Timmy & the Breakfast Band Incursion;

Tuesday, May 13:

Wednesday, May 14: Support Class Life Skills Program;

Thursday, May 15: Boys Touch Football @ Tathra;

Friday, May 16: District Cross Country @ Wolumla;



We Welcome New Staff! This week we have welcomed 5 new staff to our team! These staff will be providing additional support to students, collaboratively working with and learning from our skilled and knowledgeable team whilst completing traineeships.

The new trainees include:

- Willow Purcell and Natahlia Frans - Both completing a full-time traineeship and Certificate III in Education Support;
- Jessica Kingma - Who is completing a full-time traineeship and Certificate III in Business;
- Alyssa Donald - Who is completing an SBAT - Part-time School Based Apprenticeship/Traineeship (Certificate III in Education Support);
- Ashton Reyneke - Who has joined our SLSO team, working as a casual staff member.

We are currently awaiting finalising an additional traineeship position. This will mean that we will be hosting 7 trainees, 6 of which have been funded through a NSW Government Grant via the [1000 Apprenticeships and Traineeships](#) initiative.

We are so fortunate to be growing our support staff team to further increase and enhance the learning opportunities of our students, and to be able to further grow our amazing public school education community. We are also very grateful for the staff we have had join our team, as their enthusiasm is second to none.

We look forward to another great term

of opportunities at MPS. More information about Term 2, and upcoming events, is included in this newsletter.

Regards,
Michelle Huddleston
Principal

**Merimbula
Public
School P&C
Mother's**



Day Stall: We're excited to celebrate the special women in our lives!

The P&C Mother's Day Stall will be held on Monday 5th May, from 9:00am–1:00pm. There will be a lovely selection of gifts priced between \$2–\$10. If you're wishing to participate, please send your child with money in either a ziploc or brown paper bag with their name and class on it, as well as a reusable shopping bag to place their purchase/s in.

**Book club -
Book Club,
Orders and**



LOOP: Book Club magazines will be sent home with all children on Monday. Purchasing from Book Club is optional. A percentage of all purchases made supports our school in receiving vouchers for additional library books.

Payments for Book Club orders are to be made online using the Book Club LOOP system via <https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/parent/login.aspx>. Cash payments cannot be processed by our school, nor can payments made via Compass or the school website. Orders are due by 15th May.



Canteen Birthday Bundles

Birthday Bundles may be sent directly to your child's classroom to celebrate their special day. The canteen will cater to dietary and allergy requirements. Parents may choose from:

Frozen Bundle - \$20

- Birthday badge for the special birthday boy/girl
- One frozen cup for each child in the class to enjoy.

Cupcake Bundle - \$30

- Birthday badge for the special birthday boy/girl
- One iced cupcake for each child in the class to enjoy.

Parents and caregivers can pay/order a bundle directly through the canteen or by visiting the administration office at least 1 week prior.



Upcoming Incursions for Term 2:

Musica Viva - We are so excited for our students to be viewing another fantastic in-school performance 'Timmy and the Breakfast Band' from Musica Viva in Term 2.

During the performance, students will discover how music can powerfully shape our actions, thoughts, and emotions from moment to moment.
Consent due before the 7th of May.

There is no cost for this incursion as it has been funded by the Department of Education, however parent consent is required.

School Performance Tours - In Week 4 of Term 2, students will enjoy another School Performance by 'Ghana Beat My Drum'! Incorporating singing, dancing and drumming, students will leave feeling exhilarated and inspired as well as enlightened in the ways and culture of Africa and more particularly Ghana.

Students learn how many traditional African instruments are made from easy to find natural resources.
Consent and payment due before the 15th of May.



Jump Rope for Heart: Jump Rope for Heart kicks off this term at Merimbula Public School!

Jump Rope for Heart is the Heart Foundation's primary school skipping challenge that helps kids move more,

have fun, and raise funds for life-saving research and programs.

This year we've got an audacious goal to see our student Heart Heroes at Merimbula Public School to log 20 hours of skipping throughout the program!

Register your child online, so they can receive the full benefits of the program and participate in online fundraising, simply follow the link below to get started.

www.jumprope.org.au/parents

Students may be skipping throughout the term in PE lessons, during lunch and recess breaks and during sport, during this time you can share their online fundraising page with family and friends to help raise money for this great cause.

We will hold our school Jump Off Day towards the end of the term, this will mark the end of the program and is a chance for everyone to come together to skip and show off their newly learned skills. Further details about our Jump Off Day will be shared closer to the time.

Thank you for supporting the Jump Rope for Heart program!



Uniform Shop Times -

Reminder: Our Uniform Shop is open each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (school days) between 7.45am and 8.15am, with access being via the gate near the canteen. Our shop is located on the oval side of the Jackson Hall. The shop can also be accessed at other times via private booking. Please call our Administration Office during school times to make an appointment.

Uniform purchases can also be made online <https://daylightschoolwear.au/merimbula> and will be delivered to your child or may be collected from the school office at a later time.

2025 Voluntary Contributions:

As part of our commitment to enhancing the educational experience for our students, families may choose to make a voluntary contribution of \$50 per student. These contributions play a vital role in supporting various school programs, resources, that enrich our students' learning environment.

We greatly appreciate your support and understanding. If you have any questions or would like further information about how these contributions will be utilised, please feel free to contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community!



TERM 2 STAGE NEWS:

ES1 News: English: This term Kindergarten will continue with our InitialLit lessons. So far, we have learnt the sounds for a, m, s, t and i and we are learning how to blend these together to make words.

Our writing unit this term will be in informative texts. During the unit we will be sorting sentences into fact and fiction, correctly label diagrams and sharing facts though oral and written sentences.

Kindergarten students will have a new Home Reading Diary this term. Their term 2 diaries will be placed in their folders over the next week.

This term students will start to come home with decodable texts that they can read to you. Please note that not all students will get texts at the same time. These texts are not meant to be hard. They are to practice what has been taught at school and will not be introducing new elements that have not been taught/learnt yet.

Tricky Words - Tricky words are words that we can not sound out. We need to learn these by sight (often called sight words or heart words).

The first set of sight words we will learn is: the / my / is / I / a (as in there was a rabbit in the bush).

Mathematics: Students will be developing their knowledge, understanding and skills of equivalence and how it is represented in mass and whole numbers. Students will be collecting and analysing data, responding to questions and discussing possible outcomes of activities. We will also be solving problems by comparing, combining and separating quantities.

Conceptual Unit: Our Conceptual unit this term is called 'Blast From The Past'. It focuses on the definition of history, family structures, where family members grew up, past events that are important to families, how stories of the past are shared and oral traditions, art and music of different cultures.

As always, please ensure all belongings are labelled, especially now jumpers are needed.

Thank you
Corinna Mace

Stage 1 News: Welcome back to Term. We would like to welcome Miss Lana Watson to our team. She will be taking over teaching 1/2D from Ms Kate Daniel. Please read the outline of this term below so that you can continue to support your child at home. We look forward to some great learning opportunities and fun times.

English: We will continue to follow the InitialLit program in English in both Year 1 and Year 2. The Term 2 Home Reading Diary will be sent home when your child returns their home reader for the first time this term. We will also be adding the next set of Tricky Words/Spelling Homework so that children can practise spelling at home. In writing, we will continue to create written texts through studying rich literature picture books and learning the components of context, narrative, representation, character, imagery and symbols.

Mathematics: In Mathematics, we will focus on chance, whole numbers, 2D shapes, area, multiplication and addition and subtraction. Year 1 students will also study length while Year 2 will study fractions. Children will continue working on their Maths Passports.

K-2 Cross Country –

Congratulations to all the students who took part in today's K-2 Cross Country event!

We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and effort, as they truly tried their best. We were lucky with today's beautiful weather, which made the event even more enjoyable.

A special thank you to Mrs Fowler and all the teachers for organising this fantastic event, and to parents and caregivers for watching and supporting our students, helping to make it a success!





Conceptual Unit: Our Conceptual Unit is called 'Take Shape and Create'. Students will learn about the properties of materials and how they can be physically changed. They will apply this knowledge to design and make a 3D-sculpture using repurposed, everyday materials.

Personal Development: In PDHPE, children will learn how we can include others and build respectful relationships. We will also look at the importance of a healthy lifestyle and learn to play games to help us achieve this. We will be participating in the Jump Rope for Heart Program and learning some skipping skills. In Sport, we will be learning and developing our athletics skills. Please note that during Terms 2 and 3, Sport will be on a Tuesday afternoon to avoid the wet grass of a morning. Please dress your child in their sports uniform on a Tuesday.

All classes will be attending the Musica Viva program and participating in follow up lessons during Music time.

Assemblies will be returning this term. They will be held on a Wednesday afternoon (1.55pm) in the Jackson Hall. Parents, carers and friends of the children in the hosting class are welcome to attend. Our first assembly will be on Wednesday 14th May and will be hosted by 2T.

Vanessa Bain
Stage 1 Assistant Principal

Stage 2 News:

Welcome back to school to the students and families in Stage 2, 2025. The following information provides an overview of Term, 2:

Sport and PE: Stage 2 Sport will continue to take place on a Thursday (12.15pm to 1.15pm and 1.55pm and 2.55pm) in Term 2. Please ensure your

children have comfortable joggers to wear, a hat and extra water for the day. Sunscreen will be available, however, please provide your own child with sunscreen if you wish.

Physical Education: Students will explore a range of athletics skills including long jump, high jump, discus, shot put and relays in preparation for our athletics carnival at the end of this term.

Personal Development: Students will discuss and identify protective strategies that can be used to support and keep themselves and others safe, with a focus on upstander behaviour.

English: Novel Studies

Year 3: will be studying Yirra and Her Deadly Dog Demon by Anita Heiss will include a writing focus on factual recounts.

Year 4 and 3/4H: will be studying Uncle X Box By Jared Thomas and will also include a factual recount writing focus.

Spelling and Grammar: Will continue to be supported by the Soundwaves program.

Year 3 and 4 Mathematics:

Year 3 Mathematics: will be focussing on place value and representing numbers; The additive and multiplicative relations of addition and subtraction, Multiplication and division; Length and the relationship to fractions; 2D shapes; Analog time; Data and angles.

Year 4 Mathematics: Will be focussing on place value and representing numbers; The additive and multiplicative relations of addition, subtraction, Multiplication and division; Length and the relationship to fractions and decimals; 2D shapes; Analog and digital time and Data and angles.





Conceptual Unit: Our Conceptual Unit will incorporate all Key Learning Areas across the year. In Term 2, It will focus on materials. Students will investigate how materials change when heated and cooled. Students will also explore how these are used for specific purposes and how different materials influence their suitability.

Creative and Performing Arts: Students will continue to be engaged in learning rhythmic speech in the form of chants and raps and explore music inspired by Japanese folk tales. They will create and perform ostanatos as a means of developing their understanding of rhythm and beat.

Visual Arts: In Term 1, students were introduced to the historical cubist movement led by Pablo Picasso and explored the impact Picasso had in the art world through his unique expression. These skills will be used to prepare students for a final major work in Term 2.

Multicultural Speaking Competition: Merimbula Public School will once again be offering Stage 2 students the chance to take part in the Multicultural Speaking Competition in 2025. The school finals will take place on Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 10.00am in the Jackson Hall.

Students will be required to prepare these speeches at home if they wish to compete and have them ready to present in Week 6 of this term from Monday, June 2, 2025. During Week 6, students will present their speeches and TWO students per class will be selected to progress to the school finals. Further information regarding the competition will be forwarded via Compass in due course.

Janelle Hodsdon
Stage 2 Assistant Principal

Stage 3 News:

In Term 2, Stage 3 students are set to embark on an engaging and dynamic learning journey across all key learning areas.

English: In English, they will dive into the world of factual recounts, persuasive texts, and poetry, using the powerful and culturally rich text *Us Mob Wallawarru* by Lisa Wilyuka and David Spillman. This story will not only guide our teaching sequence but also provide meaningful opportunities to explicitly explore reading strategies, vocabulary development, and sentence structure.

Conceptual Learning: In Science, our conceptual unit 'Materials' will spark curiosity as students investigate the properties of solids, liquids, and gases, and explore how mixtures can be combined and separated to form solutions and suspensions. Through hands-on experiments and investigations, students will actively apply their Working Scientifically and Design and Production skills, deepening their understanding of the world around them.

Mathematics: In Mathematics, learners will strengthen their number sense and problem-solving abilities by engaging with key concepts including place value, additive and multiplicative relations, fractions, geometric measurement, 3D spatial construction, chance, and data.

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education: This term, in PDH, students will tackle the essential question 'How can I ensure my personal safety and wellbeing?' as they explore factors that influence their health, distinguish between controllable and uncontrollable elements, and develop practical





strategies to protect and support their physical and emotional wellbeing.

Adding to the excitement of the term, Stage 3 will also take part in enriching extracurricular opportunities such as the NSW Premier's Spelling Bee and the Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition. Each class will hold its own final, with the top two students going on to represent their peers in the school finals, giving students the chance to showcase their talents and build confidence in a supportive setting.

Brenton Mace

Stage 3 Assistant Principal

Term 2 Support News:

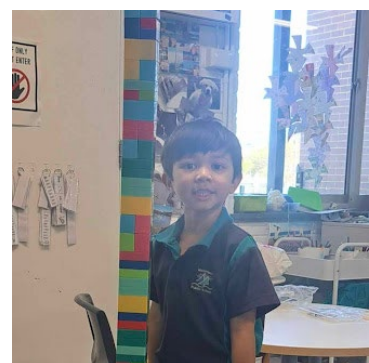
Welcome back to Term 2 to all our Family Class students and parents/carers. We have an exciting term ahead of us. Our Life Skills program will commence next week. This term, we will be rotating fortnightly through dance, cooking, music and shopping activities every Wednesday from 10-11am.

Our classes will continue to follow the programs of their mainstream peers. For more information about these programs, please look to the relevant stage section of this newsletter.

Term 1 was a fantastic term in our Family Classes. Students settled quickly into the routines of their classroom and flourished in their learning. Take a look at some of the fun our students had.

Mrs Erica Bell

Assistant Principal Support



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Facebook - Find us on Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/MerimbulaPublicSchool/>

*This is the only official Facebook page for
Merimbula Public School.*



MERIMBULA PUBLIC P&C

Mother's Day

STALL

5TH MAY

9:00AM - 1:00PM



GIFTS BETWEEN \$2 - \$10
CASH ONLY