





# **SCHOOL NEWS**

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Community,

We have had a smooth start to Term 3, with many cultural, academic and sporting activities taking place for all students, whilst supporting the talent development of students who are gifted or have high potential in one or more areas. Thank you to the parents/carers and community members/organisations who continue to support our students with travel to, and engagement with, extra-curricular activities and events.

Don't forget, if your child requires financial assistance to engage with school activities and events, please let us know so that we can provide student assistance. With increasing cost of living expenses, we understand that school activities and camps, school uniforms and other events may become a financial challenge/juggle for families at times. As a result, our school has continued to purchase all school supplies for each child in 2025 and subsidise other group and individual events where possible.

We will also be sending out a 2026 Excursion, Events and Camps Survey in the coming weeks, to get your feedback on acceptable financial cost expectations for 2026 activities, events and camps before anything is booked

for 2026. Please be advised that we will require a quick response for this survey, from as many families as possible, as some excursion venues are already asking for deposits for 2026 school camps.

Congratulations to all of the students who were elected by their peers to be Semester 2 Student Representative Council Class Representatives. These students will be inducted into their positions at the Week 3, Education Week Assembly on Tuesday, August 5 at 11.40am. Parents, carers, family and friends are welcome to this special assembly. The Assembly will take place for approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Regards, Michelle Huddleston Principal

#### **School News:**

Semester 2 Student Representative Council: Congratulations to the following students who have been elected by their peers to represent their class as an SRC Leader in Semester 2:

Family Classes	Coby G	-
1B	Mila T	Nethulu G
1M	Willa B	Nathaniel P

## **COMING EVENTS**

#### Term 3:

#### Week 2:

Monday, July 28:
Parent/Teacher/Student
Conferences 3.10-4.30pm;
<u>Tuesday, July 29:</u> PSSA Netball @
Milton PS; PSSA AFL Paul Kelly
Cup State Final; 100 Days Brighter
Kindy Event; EMHS Information
Evening 4-6.30pm (Year 5-6
Families);

Wednesday, July 30: PSSA AFL
Paul Kelly Cup State Final;
Thursday, July 31: PSSA AFL Paul
Kelly Cup State Final; SRC
Meeting at Lunch in Hall;
Friday, August 1: PSSA Boys
Soccer Round 5 @ Jindabyne;
Festival Of Instrumental Music
Recorder Rehearsal Candelo PS.

#### Week 3:

Monday, August 4:
Parent/Teacher/Student
Conferences 3.10-4.30pm;
Tuesday, August 5: Education
Week Assembly/ SRC Induction
11.40am;
Wednesday, August 6: K-2
Assembly, Hosted by 1/20.2pm

Assembly Hosted by 1/2D 2pm Jackson Hall; Thursday, August 7: 3-6 Elective Sport Program - Student preference & consent due.





1/2D	Daisy R	Zinah M
2T	Sienna M	Tyrone M
2F	Oliver S	Finlay B
3D	Luka S	Marli D
3F	Joel W	Evie B
3/4H	Lenny T	Lily W
4P	Will S	Oscar H
4S	Oliver M	Travis M
5A	Abby D	Christi S
5H	Shelbie M	Oscar D
5/6M	Cruz G	Heath P
6D	Pierre N	Fares N
6K	Zachary B	Oscar P

one ASAP. Forms are due back to the school by Friday, August 8. These will also be accompanied 'Authorisation to Contact (your child's) Doctor'.

On receiving this completed request form, the school will confirm the arrangements for how and where your child will carry their own medication. Parents must supply an asthma reliever (and spacer) or at least one prescribed adrenaline injector to the school. This adrenaline injector must be either carried by the student or held by the school. Please note that this form is not a substitute for the ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis or the Asthma Action Plan signed by the student's doctor.

**Education Week:** On Tuesday, August 5th (11.40am in the Jackson Hall), we will be celebrating Education Week @ MPS with a special Education Week Assembly. During the assembly, we will be showcasing some of our performing arts programs (Dance Group, Recorder Ensemble, Choir), and completing our Semester 2 SRC Inductions. As shared. the students will be inducted into their positions and will receive their badges at the Education Week Assembly. Please note that this event will be

Parents/caregivers attending should enter the gate closest to the Jackson Hall from 11.30am, where they will need to sign in using a QR Code/Smart Parents/carers are required to directly sign in at the office. Entry will not be permitted prior 11.30am due preparations/rehearsals taking place. Thank you for your understanding.

commencing at 11.40am.

Request For Student To Carry Their Own Adrenaline Injector or Asthma Reliever: For some medications and some students, it can be appropriate for them to carry their own medication to school and at school, for example, an adrenaline injector for anaphylaxis and asthma reliever medication for asthma. For asthma and anaphylaxis it is important for students to have immediate access to their medication.

Please consider whether your child should carry their own adrenaline injector or asthma reliever medication to school and while they are at school. Should they be required to do so, a new form (from the Department of Education) must be completed by parents/caregivers. If you have already completed a similar form in the past, the school will be providing you with the updated form this week. If your child has asthma, anaphylaxis or the need to carry other medications, and they do not have a form lodged with the school/Department, please request





#### **P&C News:**

The Merimbula Public School P&C is a group of parents and carers working together to support our school through fundraising, events, community initiatives. We're always looking for new faces and fresh ideas—everyone is welcome to get involved!

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Monday 25 August General Meeting
- Monday 1 September -Fathers Day Stall (more info to follow)
- Thursday 4 September -Colour Run BBQ (more info to follow)
- Monday 27 October -General Meeting

Our email address merimbulapandc@gmail.co m and we'd love to hear from you with any ideas suggestions you have!

Did you know we have a Facebook page too? Stay up to date with P&C news and here: <u>MerimbulaPandC</u>





2026 Kindergarten Enrolments - NOW DUE: Parents/carers of children commencing school in 2026 are encouraged to complete an online enrolment as soon as possible, to ensure that we have adequate staffing and classrooms. Our anticipated student numbers have already been submitted for 2026, in accord with policy, and any late enrolments could impact class changes at the start of 2026.

Online enrolments can be completed via the following link:

https://merimbulap.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-ourschool/enrolment.html

2026 enrolment interviews have already commenced and will be finalised in Term 3. If you have a child coming to kindy next year, please complete the online enrolment ASAP and one of our administration staff members will get in touch to book you and your child's interview with the principal and school tour.

If you are still making a decision on your choice of school, or whether your child is ready for school, please call our enrolment officer, Mrs Jackie Roberts, on (02) 64951266 to arrange an interview and school tour with the principal.

Families needing support completing an enrolment form should contact our office for assistance. Paper-based application forms are also available, as are forms in multiple languages. Pedestrian, Parking and Driver Safety -Henwood Street Drop Off Zone/Back Gate Access: Please ensure your child exits and enters your vehicle

child exits and enters your vehicle from the path/curb on the side of the road closest to the school oval, when your car is stopped.

Please ensure that you take note of the parking signs when dropping off/picking up your child.

- ⚠ There are "No Parking" signs and requirements on the school side of Henwood Street, with new curb and guttering to assist safer drop off and pick up access.
- ⚠ There are also "No Stopping" signs on Henwood Street opposite the school side.

## What are the rules?

## No parking:

You must not stop or park your vehicle:

- ⊗ alongside another parked vehicle (double park);
- across a driveway, unless you're picking up or dropping off passengers;
- ⊗ on a median strip, unless a sign says you can;
- ⊗ on a traffic island:
- ⊗ within an intersection;
- ⊗ on a children's crossing or pedestrian crossing;
- ⊗ on footpaths and nature strips, unless a sign says you can;
- ⊗ in a slip lane, unless a sign says you can.

Your parked vehicle must not block the flow of traffic or become a danger to other road users.

In some places, you must not park at certain times or under certain conditions.

If you have a Mobility Parking Scheme (MPS) permit, you can stop for up to 5 minutes.



**Koori Market Day Highlights:** 











## 'No parking' signs:

- You must not park on a road or in an area where there's a 'No parking' sign. This may be all the time or at certain times, as shown on the sign.
- ⚠ You can stop for less than 2 minutes if you stay within 3m of your vehicle, if you're:
  - dropping off or picking up passengers;
  - o loading or unloading items.

## No stopping:

- The 'No stopping' sign means you must not stop at any point on the road or kerb in the direction of the arrow, unless in an emergency.

## Vehicle parking rules:

You must not park within 1m of another vehicle parked in front or behind (but not when angle parking).

Understand NSW parking rules around the school, including restrictions, areas where you must not park and Mobility Parking Scheme permissions.







Attendance Expectations: Students are expected to attend school each day, unless they are unwell or have permission for leave from the Principal (for an extended absence).

It is the responsibility of schools to support parents/carers by monitoring student attendance and helping to address attendance issues when they emerge.

Attendance letters are sent home each week: when students have unexplained absences, to students who are frequently late or who have more than a 10% absence rate (having 1 or more days off school a fortnight).

Continued absences, following an absence reminder letter, may result in a child requiring a medical certificate for future absences. Subsequent letters result in referral to the Home School Liaison Officer. Should these interventions fail, applications to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order will be made by a member of the regional attendance team.

Please note that Extended Travel Leave may not be approved should a child's attendance not be satisfactory (above 90%). Families requiring leave for their child in the school term must apply for such in advance, via the Administration Office.

Uniform Shop Times - Reminder: Our Uniform Shop is open each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (school days) between 7.45am and 8.20am, 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. The Uniform Shop website link is:

https://daylightschoolwear.au/merimbula



High Potential and Gifted Education News:

Sport and Physical Activity.
Interschools Snowsport

*Championships:* This week, we proudly had three MPS students—Flynn, Millie, and Henry—competing in the ACT/Southern NSW Regional Snowsports Championships. They took on competitors from across the Southern NSW and ACT region, facing over 60 participants in each division. Despite challenging conditions on both days, all our students successfully completed their two runs and achieved impressive times.

Flynn, who has prior Interschools experience, delivered an outstanding performance with four clean runs, finishing in the top 20 for both of his events, including a remarkable 17th place out of 80 competitors. Millie and Henry were competing for the first time, and after navigating a few nerves, they embraced the challenge and posted excellent times.

Millie had an exceptional outing, securing fourth place in the Alpine event, with only one other Southern NSW competitor ahead of her. She also made it into the top 10 in Ski Cross—an

incredible accomplishment for her first competition. Henry, despite being unwell the day before, showed great determination and completed two clean runs, finishing in the top 50 in the Alpine event.

Overall, it was a fantastic achievement for all our competitors, and we are immensely proud of how they represented our school with sportsmanship and tenacity. Special thanks to the parents of our students for giving them the opportunity to represent our school and the support they provided Mr Morris and their children.

PSSA Boys Basketball News: Our Merimbula boys' basketball team played Round 4 in the PSSA Knockout against Cooma PS yesterday at the Merimbula Basketball Complex. Both teams demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and displayed outstanding skills. In the end, our boys came away with a hard fought 36-34 victory.

Every player contributed significantly to the win, with a special shoutout to Jack, who excelled in guarding one of the up and coming players in the NSW state basketball team.

The win now sets up a Round 5 match with Milton PS at Milton Basketball Courts in the coming weeks. Thank you, Cooma, for a great game and our parents for once again transporting students and cheering on our team.









Family Class News: Welcome back to Term 3, Support Class families! This term, students will continue to participate in our Life Skills program, with FL, FB, FH and FM participating in cooking lessons, walking to and from Merimbula, visiting shops and landmarks around the area and learning all about personal care. Students will undertake each of the four activities (walking, shopping, cooking and personal care) over a 2-week cycle.

As always, our Support Classes will continue to follow the programs of their mainstream peers, including Conceptual Units (History, Geography, Science), PD/H/PE and Creative Arts. Please refer to the appropriate newsletter item to find more information on the topics that will be covered either in your child's Support Class or Home Class (if your child transitions for a particular subject).

Our Year 6 Support Class students will begin the exciting process of transitioning to High School this term. Visits to local high schools will begin in the later weeks of Term 3. More information will be provided as the term progresses. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's transition to high school, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Throughout Term 3, Support Class students in FH (Stage 3) will be undertaking weekly Mini Fete planning. This annual event is a fundraising initiative to raise funds that help support and subsidise Stage 3 events such as the Year 6 graduation night, camps and resources.

One student per Support Class has been selected to represent Merimbula Public School in the 'Inclusive School Sport Unit – Ten Pin Bowling Competition'. Students will be competing against other students from a range of schools in our local area.

Manda Hensman (Relieving Assistant Principal) and Erica Bell (Support Class Assistant Principal)

## Kindergarten (Early Stage 1) News:

#### Welcome Back to Term 3!

We are excited to start the second half of Kindergarten and have lots of wonderful learning planned for your child this term. Below is an outline of what they will be exploring:

#### Numeracy:

In Term 3, our numeracy units will focus on:

- Collections of 10: Understanding the importance of grouping.
- Patterns: Identifying and creating repeating patterns.
- Fractions: Exploring concepts like one half, both in collections and measures.
- Measurement: Learning how to determine appropriate units based on what is being measured.

These units involve hands-on activities and continuous practice to reinforce understanding and provide students with multiple opportunities to demonstrate their learning.

#### Literacy:

This term, we will continue our InitiaLit lessons, focusing on reading and writing sentences while introducing the last few characters and sounds.

- Home Reading Diaries: We will send these home weekly, and we ask that they be returned every Friday.
- Writing Unit: We will explore narratives with a focus on Fairy Tales, emphasising character descriptions and setting creation



**Koori Market Day Highlights:** 













through art. To celebrate this unit, we will hold a Fairy Tale Ball at the end of the term—details will be shared soon!

## Conceptual Unit: Survivors

Our integrated unit, "Survivors," will delve into:

- The basic needs of living things.
- The impact of weather on our daily lives.
- Seasonal changes and their effects on animals.
- How Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples care for the environment.

This unit will incorporate various subjects, including biological sciences, geography, design and technologies, digital technologies, health, mathematics, visual arts, drama, dance, music, and English.

#### **Child Protection Unit:**

As part of the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) requirements, all stages of learning from Kindergarten to Year 10 include child protection education. This term, Kindergarten will engage in the Child Protection Unit developed by the NSW Department of Education

## Kindergarten Celebration:

Next Tuesday, we will celebrate 100 Days Brighter! Students are encouraged to wear their brightest mufti clothing to commemorate reaching this milestone of being at 'Big School' for 100 days!

Date: Tuesday, July 29

## Stay Connected:

Please keep an eye on our 'Friday News Feeds' in your Compass app for updates.

We look forward to meeting with you during our Parent/Teacher Conferences in the coming weeks.

Thank you, Kindergarten Team Stage 1 News (Years 1 and 2): Welcome to Term 3. We are now halfway through the year and we look forward to discussing your child's progress with you at our upcoming 3 Way Conferences.

Year 1 will be taking part in the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check this term, along with all Year 1 students in NSW. Year 2 students will be attending the Special Swimming Scheme during the last 2 weeks of this term. Please look out for the note, which will be sent out through Compass, in the coming weeks.

Below is an outline of this term. Please take the time to read it so that you can support your child. We look forward to some great learning opportunities and fun times.

We will continue to follow the InitiaLit program in English in both Year 1 and Year 2. The Term 3 Home Reading Diary will be sent home in your child's home reading folder early this term. We will also be adding the next set of Tricky Words in Year 1 and Spelling Homework in Year 2, so that children can practise spelling at home.

In writing, we will continue to explore how to create written texts by studying rich literature picture books and learning the components of perspective and argument; narrative; context; representation; imagery, symbol and connotation.

In Mathematics, students will focus on learning concepts in the following areas: whole numbers, mass, addition and subtraction, 2D & 3D shapes, multiplication and division and Time. Children will continue working to achieve their Maths Passport goals. Teachers will set Mathseeds tasks so that children can revise concepts learnt in class at home. If you require













your child's password to be reissued, please contact your child's teacher.

Our Conceptual Unit is called Changes and will focus on Geography and Science outcomes. Students will learn about the weather, seasons and how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people use seasonal calendars. We will also investigate changes that occur in the sky and on land including the Sun's path in the sky and the appearance of the Moon and stars at night.

In PDH, children will participate in a unit called 'Emotion management' where the goal is to develop their ability to identify and manage their own feelings. PE will now be taught as part of RFF by Ms Argument. This term, children will continue to develop their fundamental movement skills such as throwing and catching, with the aim of using these during Sport time.

Creative and Performing Arts will be taught by class teachers this semester as Library will be taught during the second hour of relief from face-to-face teaching. This term, we will be introduced to the work of famous artists and engage hands-on activities that promote creativity and fine motor skills.

In sport, we will be playing ball games to allow children to use the fundamental movement skills they will be practising during PE sessions in a game situation.

Vanessa Bain – Stage 1 Assistant Principal

Stage 2 News (Years 3 and 4): Welcome back to school to the students and families in Stage 2, 2025. The following information provides an overview of Term, 2:

**Relief from Face to Face Lessons:** This semester our students will be

participating in weekly Library and PE lessons timetabled across the school.

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 3. 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. We will be taking part in the elective sport program in Week 6 of this term, preference and consent has been provided via Compass this week.

Physical Education: Students will participate in activities that combine Fundamental Movements Skills and will learn how to apply these skills strategically.

Personal Development: Students will explore information about balanced eating, sleep, physical activity and drug habits and how these relate to their own health and wellbeing.

**English: Novel Studies** 

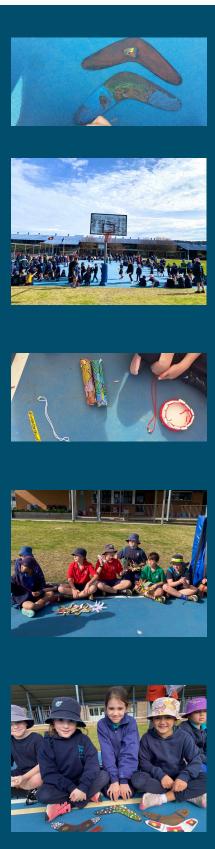
**Year 3:** Will be studying 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes, and this will include a writing focus on information Reports.

**Year 4 and 3/4H:** Will be studying *Storm Boy* by Colin Thiele and this will also include a writing focus on information Report.

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

Year 3 and 4 Mathematics: Will be focussing on place value and representing numbers; The additive and multiplicative relations of addition and subtraction, multiplication and division; Fractions, decimals and money; Mass; Volume and Capacity;







3D shapes; Digital time; Position and Chance.

Conceptual Unit: This will incorporate all Key Learning Areas. Our students will learn about the features on the Earth's surface and how the Earth changes over time. They will investigate natural processes and human activity in order to develop a view in relation to sustainable practices.

Janelle Hodsdon - Stage 2 Assistant Principal

Stage 3 News (Years 5 and 6): In Term 3, Stage 3 students are set to embark on an exciting and enriching learning journey across all key learning areas.

English: Students will delve into the world of *information reports* and *poetry*, guided by the powerful and culturally rich novel *Once* by Morris Gleitzman. This compelling text will shape our learning sequence and provide meaningful opportunities to build key skills in reading strategies, vocabulary development, and sentence structure.

Geography: In our conceptual unit "Places", students will explore how Australia is connected to other parts of the world and why these connections matter — including cultural links, tourism, trade, and more. They'll gain a deeper appreciation for significance of Asia to Australia and examine the diversity among Asian countries, while also unpacking the generalisations impact of and stereotypes.

Mathematics: This term, students will continue to strengthen their number sense and problem-solving abilities through rich learning experiences. Key focus areas include place value, additive and multiplicative relationships, fractions, decimals,

percentages, geometric measurement, 2D and 3D spatial construction, chance, and data.

**PDH:** Our PDH unit will support students in understanding and managing life changes and transitions. They'll explore how to access help and support, make informed decisions, and investigate the role of community resources. In Health, we'll also explore body systems and the physical and emotional changes associated with puberty.

Sport: Elective Sports will take place in Weeks 6 to 9, giving students the opportunity to participate in a sport of their choice. Please note that for these four weeks, Stage 3 sport will move from Friday to Thursday. More information including preference selection has been sent via Compass this week.

Brenton Mace – Stage 2 Assistant Principal

### NAIDOC Week News:

Koori Market Day: Merimbula Public School held their final event as part of our 2025 NAIDOC Day celebrations today. Students have learnt about the importance of trade routes and bartering and the connection to sea and country for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. All students made traditional items to trade or barter with their peers in an outdoor market style event. They traded a range of hand made crafts. It was a great success and fun was and had by all!

The Koori Markets is a significant event at Merimbula Public School. For thousands of years, Aboriginal people traded items and met on the land in which our school has been built. Archaeological digs took place on our















school site, in the years leading up to building the new H Block (two storey) building, Administration Block and Jackson Hall. Three areas, indicated below, were surveyed. Findings included:

## Area A - Hall, COLA, H Block Area:

- Intact remnants of the original topsoil, revealed immediately below surface fill (from 1990s oval works), approximately 280 Aboriginal stone artefacts. This equates to a mean density of 94 artefacts per trench, which is considered moderate.
- Artefacts indicated tool maintenance, in association with camping.
- The distribution, type and quantity of artefacts found indicates that the entire area was probably repeatedly used over a considerable period of time.
- Taking into consideration available information regarding raw materials used to make the stone tools, the type of tools represented in the assemblage, the review of gross site formation processes (completed by the Archaeologists and Heritage Consultants company), estimated that initial Aboriginal occupation of the site occurred between 3,000 and 6,000 BP (years before the present day); and that density of stone artifacts from Area A indicates that remnant topsoils across the Area A contain a significant Aboriginal archaeological site.

#### Area B - Staff Car Park Area:

• Immediately below the surface fill, contained approximately

- 755 Aboriginal stone artefacts were found. A mean density of 125.83 artifacts per trench, which is considered high.
- A small quantity of Cockle and Triton shell was recovered from trench B4, which suggests Aboriginal gathering and consumption of shellfish.
- Pieces of Ochre were also retrieved from trench B4. The presence of this material is considered to be culturally significant because it was traditionally used for Aboriginal ceremonial activities.
- Stone tool capping (manufacturing), gathering, consumption of shellfish, ...(and) ceremonial activities in association with camping took place .....the entire area was probably repeatedly used over a considerable period of time.

## Area C - Court to K (K-2) Block:

- Three trenches were excavated manually (5mm and 3mm sieves).
- Partially intact original ground covering containing Aboriginal stone artefacts, shell midden material and charcoal probably derived from Aboriginal heath fires was found.
- The upper 100mm of the soil profile contains 20th century European material that has been pressed down onto into the Aboriginal archaeological deposits.... disturbed by activities associated with the former headmaster's cottage and more recently with use of the area as a playground.
- Contained approximately 447
   Aboriginal stone artefacts (mean





- density 149 per trench, which is considered very high).
- Area C also yielded 151 shell pieces and fragments including Mud Whelk, Venus Shell, Oyster and Cockle species.
- The combination of edible shell species in association with charcoal and stone artefacts is characteristic of Aboriginal midden deposits.
- Again, the density and distribution of artefacts found indicates that the entire area was probably repeatedly used over a considerable period of time.
- Area C is considered particularly important in archaeological terms, because of the very high densities of stone artefacts present, and their potential to inform us about stone tool technology, knapping and use.
- Area C had the highest density of material found.
- Likely that Area C was a focus of camping because of its location on elevated land equidistant between the Merimbula Lake and Back Lake resource zones.



Before and After School Care / Vacation Care Concerns: Please be advised that Aspire Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) is not run by Merimbula Public School. We lease the building to them. If you have any concerns/complaints about the service, please contact the Regulatory Authority via this email link Feedback and complaints about an ECEC service. Or via phone on - 1800 619 113



Canteen News: Please refer to the updated Term 3 Menu as attached in this newsletter, as previously shared in Term 2. Digital versions can be found on Compass under 'School Documentation'.

We still need more canteen volunteers (and casual canteen staff). Please contact the administration office on 6495166 if you are interested in assisting in our canteen.

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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.