From the Principal’s Desk……..

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Student Drop Off
Please ensure that your child is dropped off at school safely each morning. Students who arrive before 8.20am when the first siren sounds, must move to the assembly area for supervision as their classrooms may not be open. It is a school expectation that students in Kindy and Pre-Primary be taken to their classroom and collected at the end of the day. It is not advisable to drop young children at the gate and left to find their own way to class.

Community Survey
Thank you to the families who have already completed the survey and returned it to the office. There are still two weeks to submit your responses. If you require another copy please ask for one at the front desk.

History
Several classes have had the opportunity to attend Buckingham House as part of their lessons in history. In coming weeks many students will listen to Tales of Times Past and have an insight into how people lived many years ago. Parents are also welcome to attend when your child’s class is involved. Notes are coming home with more details.

NAPLAN
Well done to all students in Years 3 and Year 5 who sat the NAPLAN tests last week. The results of your efforts will be available later in the year and will assist the school to make decisions about learning programs for the coming years. Data in the past has influenced a strong focus on Letters and Sounds and Direct Instruction Spelling programs which are making a difference in our school.

Disability Awareness Day
The P&C is supporting the school to hold a Colour Day on Friday 29th May. Students are encouraged to dress in a colour to represent a chosen disability and donate a gold coin towards our sensory playground project.

Positive Behaviour Reward
Students who have consistently followed our school expectations will be rewarded through various activities over the coming days. Each block has organised appropriate reward activities and will invite students to participate.

Coming up:
- Interschool Sporting activities for Yr 5/6
- Simultaneous Storytime—Literacy
- Tales of Times Past Incursion—History
- Indigenous Reconciliation Excursion—Culture
- Year 5 Excursion to Peninsular Farm—History
- Smartstart Incursion—Maths, Money
- Australian Animals Incursion—Science
- Interactive Drumming Workshop—Music, Culture and The Arts

School Banking
We are desperately seeking support for our school banking initiative. Our lovely volunteer is unable to continue to co-ordinate the regular Tuesday morning event. It would be a shame to close school banking. If you are able to assist, please see the ladies in the office for more information on what is involved.

Grill’d
There is only 1 more week to support Merriwa PS to win the $300 prize at Grill’d Ocean Keys.

Kind regards

Mrs Karen Macri, Principal
Community Survey
Thank you to all the parents, carers, staff and students that have completed the School Survey. Your feedback is appreciated and valued. If you require a copy of the survey, please see Maxine Russ or myself.

Good Behaviour Reward
This Friday afternoon, students that have displayed our school’s behaviour expectations will be rewarded with a movie and pop corn.

Health
With winter approaching, here are some tips to keep our children as healthy as possible.
1. Offer a choice of healthy lunchbox treats
2. Put a jumper/jacket in their school bags
3. Keep hydrated by drinking water
And remember to keep warm!

Christina Maunick-Sallie
Principal
ESC

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<th>Rm</th>
<th>Student</th>
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Healthy body image

Tips for helping your child have a healthy body weight and a healthy body image

1. Encourage healthy eating and physical activity;
2. Organise fun, family activities which encourage everyone to be active;
3. Help children to see ‘treat’ foods, such as lollies, biscuits, chips, cakes and ice cream, as food which should be eaten only occasionally – not every day.
4. Provide healthy meals and snacks every day;
5. Be a positive role model for healthy eating and physical activity – children notice what their parents do. Parents are the most important teachers when it comes to healthy lifestyle.
6. Help your children to understand that there is no such thing as an ideal body shape and that ‘healthy’ people come in many shapes and sizes.
7. Help your children feel special about themselves. Provide rewards and treats which are not food.
8. Avoid making comments about body weight. Focus on growth, not on scales.
9. Don’t focus on weight and food restriction – focus on improved health, fitness and having fun.

For more information visit www.heartfoundation.org.au

Community Health Nurse
North Coastal Zone
Child and Adolescent Community Health
**SCHOOL HATS**

With winter approaching this is a reminder that school hats are still required. Children must wear their hats at PE and sport activities, as well as recess and lunch. The school also strongly encourages children to wear their hats at fitness time but as it is early in the morning the UV ratings are low. Many parents cut the string tie from the hat as the hat can get caught while climbing on the play equipment.

**SCHOOL SURVEYS**

*With the last newsletter there was a copy of the National School Survey. The Survey closes Thursday 4th June. This is an opportunity for parents and carers to provide feedback to the school. Parents and carers are able to obtain a copy of the survey from the front office.*

**MUSIC NEWS COMING SOON**

Merriwa Primary School is fortunate to have Salaka drumming entertain us on Monday June 29th. *African Beat* presents a well-structured, informative and highly interactive drumming performance by one of West Africa's top cultural troupes The Salaka Ensemble. *"Salaka" means "Sharing" in the Ga language of Ghana.* The performance by visiting artists from Ghana immerses students in the rich culture and rhythms of Africa, in an entertaining and educational way. *Best of all - it's hands on! This is linked to your lote and music program.*

Warm regards
Rose Prior - Longmuir

**Bikes**

Children who ride their bikes to school have two enclosures that are locked in the morning and unlocked in the afternoon. The enclosure near the basketball court is for the senior students and the junior students can use the enclosure behind the Science Room. There is also a bike rack outside the basketball court for students who are able to lock their bikes. Many children leave their bike or scooter outside the enclosure unlocked. Parents are requested to talk to their children about keeping their bikes and scooters secure.

**School Drop Off Points**

Parents using the kiss and drop points located around the school are requested to avoid parking and waiting for their child.

**ROOM 6 NEWS**

Room 6 have been investigating capacity by finding out how many cups of water different containers hold.