

From the Principal....Merriwa ESC...

Welcome back for Term 3. I trust you were able to enjoy some quality time over the winter break. The students have settled very well into the rhythm of the classroom and the newly created classes are proving to be effective with the children adjusting well to the changes.

Teaching staff will be making themselves available to discuss the recent semester report and make necessary adjustments to student education plans over the coming weeks. Check your child's communication book for further details.

Plans are being finalised for our Community Access Program with several classes going out to local shopping centres this term. Please be sure to complete the necessary paperwork which will allow your child to be involved.

Several students have also been invited to participate with the Primary School's Swimming Program later this term. If you have received the information, please return the necessary information to secure your place. Some of our students will benefit from the Hydrotherapy program which is still being organised with Butler College. We hope to have final details over the coming weeks.

Two of our staff are currently on long service leave and we thank Kylie Moffat for her ongoing contribution to our school as she covers the teaching load for Gillian Gore and Amanda Lyon while they take their well deserved leave.

This term we have plans to revamp our outdoor learning area. Staff have been very inspired by our recent conference where we attended various Education Support facilities and learned from our colleagues. We look forward to putting some ideas into place which will enhance the learning environment for our students.

Mrs Karen Macri

*Principal
ESC*

SCIENCE

Last term our Merriwa scientists made a non-Newtonian slime from cornflour. We had fun experimenting with the viscosity of the slime. Our junior scientists looked at the properties of materials and made spaghetti towers. Mrs Ebert, Science Specialist



NAIDOC DAY

On Thursday 2nd July, Merriwa Primary School spent the day celebrating NAIDOC WEEK, a National celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and achievements.

This year's NAIDOC theme was: **We all Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect and Celebrate.**

The national NAIDOC committee encourages all Australians—young and old—to embrace the 2015 National NAIDOC theme.

I would like to acknowledge all students, staff and parents that were involved, who ensured a smooth running of our NAIDOC Expo Day.

There were several activities, with Urban Youth Crew providing the entertainment with an Interactive Dance workshop that all the students loved. Also, there was the creation of a sand mural of the Rainbow Serpent, the Waugual, by the students.

Our local Elder, Ms Nola Kennedy and the Merriwa staff cooking team were amazing with the bush tucker tasting, providing an opportunity for students to sample some local indigenous food and enjoy some freshly cooked damper. It was a fantastic job, well done. Another activity was the Sea of Feet. All the feet templates looked amazing with all the colours to show how we walk together. A big thank you to all the classes who laid their feet templates out.

The students also learnt a new community song called 'Wanjoo' with our music teacher, Mrs Prior, to be sung at an assembly in term 3. Some classes have already started to decorate and discuss their designs for their Talking Poles which surround our vegetable patch. Mr Sibosado took a history lesson, with a powerpoint that took students on a journey exploring other sacred areas around Western Australia. Throughout the week, during regular PE lessons with Ms Leonard, students experienced some traditional games, which the students thoroughly enjoyed.

The day turned out to be excellent and the students and staff really showed the high spirits that acknowledged a successful celebration of NAIDOC week 2015. The learning, the respect and the celebrating by all involved was fantastic. The happy buzz in the school at the end of the day was quite a fantastic experience. All funding was provided by the PALS Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

A big thank you to all our wonderful school community members from the 2015 NAIDOC school committee.

Mr Sibosado AIEO Officer and Shonola Kennedy Student Councillor



Sakala African Drumming

Students at Merriwa Primary Schools' were treated to a high energy and interactive musical and cultural experience when Sakala African drumming group came to our school. Students were able to learn about the different musical instruments, songs and beats of Africa. We also learnt about the different parts of Africa and aspects of the African culture. A highlight for everyone was being able to be part of the band, when the performers enabled students and staff to play their own drum or instrument. We were featured in the community newspapers which is exciting for our students!

Melissa Zoccali

LOTE Teacher



It is important to be at school every day.

To get the most out of a good education, children need to go to school every day. School attendance has a major influence on educational outcomes. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve better results at school and are more likely to complete their schooling.

Parents can make it easier for their child to attend school by having a positive attitude to learning and education.

Poor school attendance patterns can start as early as Kindy. It is important that from the first day of school parents and carers set an expectation that their children will be at school every day.

Did you know that missing an average of ten days of school a term adds up to missing two full years of schooling by the end of Year 10.

The start of a new semester is a perfect time to reflect on your child's attendance and set family goals to improving attendance if needed.

If you are planning a holiday during term time, can you please make an appointment to see the Principal to discuss this. We are required by the Department of Education to verify all student attendance and need to report back to them on our attendance follow up.

Jeff Hoskin

Associate Principal

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying: The Australian Government has set up a new office, under the control of a Children's eSafety Commissioner, named the Office of the Children's eSafety. The role of this office will be to support children suffering serious cyberbullying and have content removed if social media companies do not remove the offending content after it has been reported to them. Further information for children and their families can be found on the Office's website www.esafety.gov.au

Parents with children using social media are encouraged to look at the website and discuss any concerns with their children.

Jeff Hoskin

Associate Principal