From the Principal’s Desk......

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Merriwa Primary School and Merriwa Education Support Centre are applying for Independent Public School status again. This year there are 50 places open and we will be submitting our application to a Department of Education panel on 2nd August 2016. Currently over 120 schools are applying and it is very competitive.

The purple survey sheets were sent home last Friday, and we have received many responses already. Let us know what you think! Tell us…..

- What community issues have a major impact on our school?
- How do they affect our school?
- What could the school do differently to improve things for your family?
- What services would you like to see at this school? (eg: OT, physiotherapy, speech therapy, counselling)
- What are we doing well?

You are invited to fill in the forms and return them to your child’s teacher, or have a chat with them about it. This will help us with our application. We need to know what we would do differently if we are granted independent status.

What Does Independent Status Mean for Merriwa?

Independent Schools:
- Have greater independence for local decision making which directly reflects the needs of the students
- Have greater flexibility in staff recruitment, student support, budgeting and student support
- Have a board, with a wider community membership
- Are reviewed independently
- Are trained by the department
- Must comply with education, public sector, financial management and curriculum legislation.

Our teachers are happy to talk to you about this if you need more information. We have included a pamphlet from the department with this newsletter.

Mrs Sue Waterhouse
Principal
Independent Public School Application

Please read the information in regards to the benefits of becoming an IPS school and consider attending an information session held at the school in the coming week. Members of your school council, Sue Waterhouse and I have attended training sessions in preparation for our application to become IPS from 2017. This is a very competitive application and we would like feedback from our school community to determine if this is right for Merriwa. Many of you will have been interviewed by classroom teachers, members of the council or administration staff for your views on how we can make improvements to our school to support your family. If you have not had the opportunity to have your say, please call the office or drop in for a chat.

Special Events

Coming up in the next few weeks are our NAIDOC celebrations. Students will participate in integrated activities with their PS peers on Friday 24th June and then on the following Tuesday 28th June the students from the ESC will visit Yanchep for more indigenous cultural experiences. More details will follow in the coming weeks.

Student Reports

The semester reports will be ready in the final week of term. If you would like to speak with the classroom teacher about your child’s progress, or if you have any concerns please do not hesitate to make an appointment during the final week – before July 2nd.

Student Banking - Wednesday mornings in the library

The Merriwa school campus provides an opportunity for students to open a bank account to assist with teaching them to save pocket money, please drop in and see the ladies in the library on Wednesday mornings to participate.

Absences

It is very important that the school is contacted if your child is away. A phone call to the office on 9305 9897 or a note in the communication book allows us to comply with the Department requirements. With the onset of flu season it is important to keep children at home if they are contagious for the health and wellbeing of all students and staff.

Congratulations to the students who are awarded certificates at the assembly last week.

Karen Macri
Principal

Indigenous Veterans Commemoration Service at Kings Park

James, Violet, Shakira and Shania recently participated in the Indigenous Veterans Commemoration Service at Kings Park.
Our students accompanied many other students from schools around the metropolitan area and displayed a very respectful manner at this important service.
Thank you to Mr Sibosado and Mr Hoskins for organising the event.
Hello Parents and Guardians

- Go Bananas have attached a program for the fast approaching school holidays.
- Go Bananas Merriwa will be going on some awesome excursions.
- Children are to be signed in at Merriwa PS in Tingle Block. They will then be bused to the excursion and brought back to Merriwa PS for collection.
- We look forward to your child joining us.
- Please text 0481 872 656 (Merriwa Mobile) or email admin@gobananas.net.au for more information or to book a place.
- Depending on your child care benefit and child care rebate entitlements daily costs can be from as low as $20.

The Go Bananas Team Carol and Hannah

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**School Council**

We have a joint school council with members from both the Primary School and Education Support Centre.

**Who is on our school council?**

Chair: Alison Tilbury
Principals: Sue Waterhouse and Karen Macri
Parent Representatives: Erika Hanekom and John Ward
Community Representative: James Eley
Teacher Representative: Andrea Hollie
Ex–Officio Officers: Maxine Russ and Tracey Bell.

**What do we do?**

The role of the council is to promote the schools in the community; to approve charges and contributions; to approve book lists and uniforms; to take part in establishing and reviewing the schools objectives, priorities and general policies, and to approve finances.
The Year 1 students from Room 7 have been learning how to write a procedure. First the children created a sandwich with a choice of three toppings. We had a lot of fun pretending that one ingredient gave you a magical power such as invisibility or the ability to teleport. We had this great idea after reading the book Possum Magic by Mem Fox. Finally the class wrote the procedure of how to make a magic sandwich.

**Kurlangas Aboriginal Playgroup**

In the lead up to NAIDOC week, we are going to be doing Aboriginal arts and crafts in playgroup until the end of term. We will marble paint boomerangs, dot paint Australian animals, make flag hand prints, paper coil snakes and cardboard roll didgeridoos. Playgroup is **FREE**, and held every Tuesday at Merriwa Primary School during term times between 10.00-12.00pm, for Aboriginal children up to 5yrs of age and their carers.

A morning tea of fresh fruit is provided for the children, and tea, coffee and biscuits for the adults. You do not need to have a child attending this school to attend.

Hope to see you there!