From the Principal’s Desk…..

The Department of Education is still upgrading our computer system, and while we are ensuring that your children are not affected, some communication systems are still not working to their full capacity. We thank you for your patience during this time.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY FRIDAY 4TH MARCH
This Friday, 4th March, we will be holding a School Development Day. This means that students do not attend on this day.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY MONDAY 7th MARCH
Monday 7th March is a Labor Day Holiday, so students do not attend on that day too.

MRS LONG RETURNS
Mrs Long returns from her Long Service Leave today, and we thank Mrs Radich and Mr Collins for fulfilling her role while she was away.

MRS DORNEY ON LEAVE in ROOM 13
Mrs Dorney is on sick leave and we thank Mrs Hanratty for stepping into her teacher role at short notice during this time. Mrs Hill will continue to teach as usual from Monday to Wednesday, and Mrs Hanratty will teach on Thursdays and Fridays.

SWIMMING LESSONS AT ARENA
Mr Hoskins has arranged for extra places this year, so we can increase the number of children who can learn to swim. Please send your money in the money envelope or direct debit it to the school as soon as possible so we can book the buses.

YEAR 6 CAMP 17th MAY TO 19th MAY 2016
The Year 6 Camp has returned to an earlier time in the year and will be held during Week 4 of Term 2, on 17th May to 19th May 2016. The camp will involve three days of full activities and is always a fantastic experience. More information will be sent home soon.

EARLY CLOSE FOR REPORTING WEDNESDAY 16th MARCH
The school will close at 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday 16th March so that teachers can meet individually with you to discuss your child’s progress. Please ring the front office to make an appointment with your child’s teacher. Appointments will be available from 12.00 to 5.00 p.m. and we look forward to seeing you.

BUNNINGS SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL
Take a look at the new Buddy Seat under the big tree in the Junior Playground. It was kindly donated by BUNNINGS and some senior students helped them to assemble and paint it. It is a friendly place where children can meet or can sit if they need to find a friend. BUNNINGS also painted their talking pole in the vegetable garden—see if you can find their symbol! They also brought along several large bins that Mrs Prior is going to use with our drumming group. We are grateful for their ongoing support.

Kind regards
Mrs Sue Waterhouse
Principal
Routines and timetables are now established which is having a positive affect on student progress. It is wonderful to note how well the students have settled and are applying themselves to tasks. I extend my thanks to the wonderful staff who have ensured a great start to the year.

Several events are planned in the coming weeks and include:

- **Reward Activity**—water play on Tuesday 8th March
- **Early close for parent meetings**—Wednesday 16th March
- **Special Olympics**—Thursday 17th March
- **ESC Zoo excursion**—Dinosaur themed Thursday 24th March
- **Swimming**—30th March to 8th April

Thank you to all our parents/carers who are prompt with returning permission slips and costs towards various activities. Fees and Charges can be paid at the office at any time. Your support is much appreciated.

School Council and P&C members are needed. If you are interested in being involved in these committee groups, please contact the office for more information.

*Congratulations to the merit certificate winners from last week’s assembly.*

**Mrs Karen Macri,**  
Principal ESC

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**New Joondalup Autism Mum’s Group**  
**Coffee Morning**

Following the success of the Northern Suburbs Autism Mum’s Group, Developmental Disability WA are supporting a new group that has started in the Joondalup area.

**Clarkson Library**  
27 Ocean Keys Boulevarde, Clarkson

Please join us for an informal coffee morning and meet other mums/carers who understand how challenging life with Autism can be........

**Tuesday 8th March 10.00am – 12.00pm**  
(You can come later or leave earlier if you need to)

**Coffee and Tea provided**

For more information about the group and dates contact one of the group Coordinators

Helen on 0413 123 615 holistichealthau@gmail.com  
Gill on 0401 257 093 infohldcs@gmail.com

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**Available at lunchtime**

**Thursday 10th March**

Icy poles  50c

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Expressions of interest are being taken for those who would like to join an established Netball Club, competing in Saturday Competition at Kingsway Netball Courts, Kingsway.

We are looking for both boys and girls to train here at Merriwa each Wednesday after school with a fully qualified Netball Coach.

Titans Netball Club is an all-inclusive club providing opportunities to all who wish to participate within a sport that promotes discipline, fair play and sportsmanship.

Titans are a Kid Sport registered club with the following age groups available:

- U7/8 (2009/2008)
- U10 (2006)
- U11 (2005)
- U13 (2003)

A Net Set Go program for U5/6 will also be run at the school (2010/11) and they participate in games and drills to help develop motor skills and the basic rules of the game.

Contact Rachel Williams on treasurer@titansnetball.com or 0420 974533 for further information.

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2016 NAPLAN Testing Program

For Parents/Carers of students in Years 3 and 5

An information brochure outlining the procedures has been attached to this Newsletter. Please read the information carefully and if you have any concerns make a time to discuss this with your child’s teacher. Please note the information around test and Exemptions and Withdrawals. These need to signed by Mrs Waterhouse, our school principal and need to be lodged by 4th March. Again if you have any concerns with either of these or the other conditions to support children with a specific disability please discuss this with your child’s teacher.

Jeff Hoskins

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On Tuesday 23rd February, the Year 3’s had a visit from Butler Fire Fighters. We learnt a lot about fire safety and what to do in an emergency. We even had a tour of the fire engines and got to use the hoses.

Room 6 are having fun investigating the measurement of length. We have measured how far we can frog jump, the length of our bodies using pop-sticks and how long our names are.
Skipping School

Children who regularly miss a day or so of school have severe impact placed onto their educational outcomes. The following data shows how a day here and there adds to significant amounts of time.

- If a child misses five days each term, they miss out on one year of school.
- If a child misses one day a week, they will miss almost two years of school.
- If a child misses 1.5 days a week, they will miss almost three years of school.
- If a child misses two days a week, they will miss almost four years of school.
- If a child misses three days a week, they will miss almost six years of school.
- If a child misses five weeks a term, they miss almost five years of school.

Your child’s best progress is if they attend school regularly. If your child is sick for an extended period, more that 3 days, or cannot attend school for a specific reason discuss this with his/her teacher. Where parents must take a holiday during the school term, make an appointment to discuss this with Mrs Waterhouse.

Dear Parents/Carers

The school will close at 11.30am on Wednesday 16th March and Go Banana’s will be providing care from 11.30am onwards. Any new parents that wish to use the After School Care, please contact them direct on 9301 5133 to enrol.

Kurlangas Aboriginal Playgroup

This term at playgroup we will be learning about the colours red, green, blue and yellow. To help the children learn and recognise these colours we will be doing a variety of fun activities and art and craft experiences such as red cellophane windows, green caterpillars, blue toy car painting, and yellow sand gluing, coloured play dough, just to name a few!

For our babies, there will be tummy time (to strengthen their back and neck muscles), push and pull toys, some wonderful books to look at and songs to sing. Playgroup is FREE, and held every Tuesday at Merriwa Primary School in room 5, during term times between 10.00-12.00am for Aboriginal children up to 5yrs of age and their carers. Between 12 and 1pm, there will be an adult art table set up, where the adults can do painting and craft work.

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!

Aboriginal Early Years Team.