Dear Parents and Caregivers

NAPLAN Improvement
We are pleased to announce that our NAPLAN scores for 2015 have shown improvement. Between Year 3 in 2013 and Year 5 in 2015, there was an increase in the percentage of students above the national minimum standard as follows:

- Spelling - increase by 15% to 82%
- Writing - increase by 13% to 91%
- Reading - increase by 22% to 89%
- Grammar and Punctuation - increase by 15% to 82%
- Maths - increase by 24% to 90%

Together we are making a difference!

Staffing Changes
Mr. Hoskins will be taking long service leave for the remainder of the term. He will be back next term, and in the meantime Mrs. Carroll will be the Associate Principal. We wish him a well earned rest and safe and happy travels.

Merriwa Students Shine
We are proud of our students who participate in events outside of the school. The Massed Choir performed professionally at the University of WA on Monday night, and had a wonderful time. We are very grateful to Mrs Prior for all her hard work in making this possible. On Tuesday night we entered two teams at the Clarkson Challenge, and were placed second in a competitive field. Mrs Carroll, Mrs Witherington and Mrs Leadbitter worked with our teams and we also thank them for their commitment.

Other events outside the school are the Interschool Sports Carnival on 29th October and the Westcoast Festival at Joondalup in Term 4.

Sports Carnival
This will be held on Thursday 17th September on the school oval. Everyone is welcome.

Learning Journey
You are invited to our Learning Journey on Wednesday 23rd September from 2.40 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. This is a great chance to see your child’s work and to have a look around the classrooms. There will be a sausage sizzle, face painting, robotics and other stalls in the undercover area. Please note that if you need a long consultation with your child’s teacher, please make an appointment at another time so that we can preserve your child’s privacy. We look forward to seeing you there.

Kindy Places
We have some kindy places for next year, so if you have a child who is born between 1st July 2011 and 30th June 2012 or know of someone who needs a place, come along to the office to enrol. You will need your child’s birth certificate, immunisation details and $40 ($10 per term).

Kind Regards
Mrs Sue Waterhouse
Principal
Swimming: The students are enjoying their swimming lessons and have made a great start towards achieving their goals. Thank you to the families who are preparing the children each day with bathers and towel. The staff are to be congratulated for their efforts with supervision and in pool support. Thank you for allowing this program to be successful. Parents who are still to pay the fee can do so at the office in instalments.

Upcoming events for your diary:

- Hydrotherapy sessions each Wednesday to the end of term for selected students
- Swimming lessons for selected students from 31st August to 11th September
- ESC Interschool Carnival—combined education support schools athletics—Tuesday 8th September
- Merriwa PS Faction Athletics Carnival—Thursday 17th September
- AQWA excursion Tuesday 22nd September
- Learning Journey—come and see the work your child has been doing this term—Wednesday 23rd September

ESC Sports Carnival: This big event is on next week. Students who missed the opportunity to order their special lunch will need to bring a disposable lunch bag or can still order a sausage sizzle on the day. Families are welcome to meet us at Beldon PS oval on Tuesday 8th after 10am.

Merriwa Faction Carnival: Keep Thursday 17th September available so that you can come down to our school oval and enjoy the atmosphere of this annual event. All students will participate in some capacity on the day.

AQWA: Please return permission notes to the classroom teacher with your child’s lunch order preference. The ESC has been able to secure some funding towards bus costs and has heavily subsidised this outing to keep costs manageable for families. This outing will be a wonderful end of term reward and links with the Integrated Studies program that classes have been working on this term.

Learning Journey: The school will be open from 2.40 to 5.00 pm on Wednesday 23rd September for families to come and see student displays and walk through the various classrooms. Come and see what is going on at school and join in the various activities that are available throughout the afternoon.

Mrs Karen Macri, Principal ESC

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The Merriwa Primary Senior Choir did an amazing performance at the WA Massed Choir Festival on Monday night, entertaining the audience at Winthrop Hall, U.W.A. The students from years 4 to 6 performed with 9 other schools singing a variety of songs with a live band. We were so proud of them! They performed professionally on the stage in front of the Governor General, the Minister of Education, the Director General of Education and their parents, families and friends. The students learnt eleven songs and although some were rather challenging the students sang these with great confidence. They have been working hard on this performance since April and I am sure lots of parents would have been able to sing along too. I would like to say a big thank you to all staff, parents and carers for your support.

The Year 3 to 6 students will now be working on performing at the Westcoast Songfest at the Joondalup Arena on Thursday 5th November. All students at Merriwa will be learning traditional Christmas carols for the end of year concert. Please let the office know in writing if you do not wish your child to participate in Christmas activities.

Mrs Prior
On Friday 14th August Ms. Hay’s year three and four students had their class reward. We learnt boomerang throwing because we voted for it as a reward. We had to achieve fifty points by listening, following instructions, working hard and behaving sensibly. We recorded the points on our rocket chart.

We were feeling excited! We learnt how to throw a boomerang by Mr Sibosado. He told us to hold the boomerang in a pistol grip, turn it towards our face, point our shoulder to the ground and to flick our wrist.” “Do plastic boomerangs really fly?” asked Ms. Hay. “You bet!” replied Mr. Sibosado.

We formed seven groups of three people. We lined up on the cricket pitch. One person from each team walked out to have a turn. Mr. Sibosado shouted “Remember to flick your wrist as you throw!” A lot of us did fantastic throws! Mr. Sibosado yelled out “Watch everybody!” The boomerangs soared high up into the sky, spinning and turning until they dropped and hit the ground. “Wow! You’re very good girls and boys!” exclaimed Mr. Sibosado.

We had one last throw, then started to head back as it was nearly time for lunch. We felt happy. It had been a fantastic experience! Our class had a brilliant time on the oval. We loved the boomerang throwing class reward event!