Dear Parents and Caregivers

Science Stars
Last Friday Professor David McKinnon, Dr Kadhy Ibrahim-Didi and Jason Barron from Edith Cowan University attended our assembly to present the school with a telescope. The telescope will be used during science lessons and we will be inviting you to a community star gazing BBQ evening later in the year after the children have assembled the telescope!

Our staff have been attending training workshops on science, learning about traditional Aboriginal methods and knowledge and modern forensic science.

We are very proud to be partners with ECU and grateful for their support. As a result of our work with ECU, we have been named in the top ten schools in Western Australia in the Our School's a Star competition run by Channel 7 and the West Australian newspaper recently.

Sports Carnival
You are invited to our sports carnival on Thursday 17th September. Parent feedback has indicated that you prefer the whole school carnival, where children from Kindy to Year 6 compete in their events on the same day. Please note that kindy children who do not usually attend on Thursdays are invited to come along and run in their age race. We hope to see you all there.

Learning Journey
Please put Wednesday 23rd September on your calendars. We welcome you to visit your child’s classroom from 2.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. for our annual learning journey.

We Need Your Help!
If you are unable to come to P and C meetings but would like to help to fundraise for our school, we have some ways you can help….

Can you donate something for the Father’s Day Raffle?
Can you request donations from your work place, or family work places for the raffle?
Can you help in the canteen with the Pizza Lunch on Friday 28th August?
Can you cook a sausage on the Learning Journey day?
Can you order an Entertainment Book on www.entbook.com.au

If you have even an hour to spare, or can help in any way, please let us know in the office or call Sherryn on 0401 571 644.

Kind regards
From the Principal…Merriwa ESC

Our Hydrotherapy program will recommence next week as we have just received confirmation from Butler College that we can access their therapy pool for the next 7 weeks. This was such a successful program last year and we are grateful to the College for accommodating our students again. Notes have been sent home to parents of participating students.

Swimming: Several students have been invited to integrate with the primary school for their swimming program, please return permission notes to secure your place. A payment plan can be arranged to assist with the $50 cost.

In recent weeks we have utilised our loyal relief staff as many EAs and teachers have been away due to illness or planned leave. Thank you for keeping sick children at home and for your support during these unsettled weeks. Please be sure to let the office know if your child will be absent.

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

Sensory Learning areas: The staff have been working creatively to create learning areas to provide our students with sensory experiences. This is an ongoing project which we hope will be ready for use this term.

Mrs Karen Macri
Principal
ESC

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Congratulations to the students selected to participate in the Australian Maths Competition. This is an internationally recognised competition with more than 40 countries participating. Good luck to our students.

The final selected students to participate in the AMC on Thursday 7th Aug.

Year 6:
Matei Hepcal,
Kyle Warr,
Lily Fox
Bianca Hammond
Jaden Winsor
Francis Arjow

Year 5:
Tawa Reedy
Pia Broadhurst
Hayley Tilbury
Bailey Sadler
Neve Vanier

Year 4:
Alexander McIntosh
Kai Dunbar
Pheonix Hansen
Mariam Azeidan
Nilika Pawar
Shauntai Pickett

Year 3:
Kase Monaghan
Charlie Williams
Luke Denver

After a unit of work on persuasive writing, Room 15 broke up into teams and debated some hot topics. The class showed confidence presenting to others, attempting eye contact and speaking with expression. A fun time arguing by all!

All students participated in our annual simultaneous BIG BANG BINGO. It was great fun!
Children riding bikes, scooters and skateboards need to be reminded of the rules for safely using paths. Children are allowed to and it is recommended that they do use footpaths and shared paths when using roller-skates, skateboards, scooters or bikes. When using paths and shared paths they must keep to the left and give way to pedestrians. Cyclists must wear a helmet and other users are encouraged to do so. Children under 10 years of age should ride with adult supervision. All users of paths must be aware of drive ways and the danger that reversing cars can have to path users.

Parents regularly discussing these safety tips with their children helps develop positive road safety attitudes and behaviours in young children. We also appreciate your safe driving around our school.

Thanks again.

Jeff Hoskins
Associate Principal

This term is a very busy one for our Senior Choir. Throughout the year they have been working on songs for the 2015 WA Primary Schools’ Massed Choir Festival. It is a fantastic night of entertainment and a great experience for our students. I would like to extend an invitation to you to attend our performance as part of the annual WA PRIMARY SCHOOLS’ MASSED CHOIR FESTIVAL; Monday 31st August, 7.30pm to 9 pm at the University of W.A. The tickets are $20 each and they are available from the music room. The Senior Choir will be going to their first rehearsal on Monday 10th August and we look forward to entertaining everyone. In class, the students have also been exploring vinyl records and how they were played. They have laughed at the size of the records and how challenging it was to play them.

Rose Prior
Music teacher

To get the most out of a good education, children need to go to school every day. School attendance patterns start as early as the Kindergarten year. During the transition from primary to high school parents need to be clear with their child to attend every day.

What Can You Do To Support School Attendance?

- Expect that your child will come to school every day
- Talk positively about attending school and learning
- Help your child get into a routine for getting ready to go to school stress-free
- Help your child get ready for school in the morning
- Talk about the positive social parts of the school environment – friends, favourite classes, favourite teachers

For teenagers

- Talk with your teenagers about their long term goals and dreams and how school can help them achieve their dreams

Congratulations to Chloe Davis, Manyang Yout, Emma Kinnane, Clair Hedland, Man Jok, Rylee Cole, Kiara Baines, Paige Cole, Riley Ballantyne-Hunt and Matilda De Laine. These students were drawn as the winners of the regular attendance draw for term 2. Children learning to come to school also are learning about how we show up at sport, at work, to meet friends. The more you come to school, the easier it is...

Jeff Hoskins
Associate Principal