

Merriwa ESC News...

Teacher Meetings

Thank you to all the Parents and carers who took the opportunity to meet with class teachers to discuss individual education plans (IEPs) over the past few weeks. It is very important that we work closely with you for the best outcomes for your child.

Please use your communication book or class Dojo for daily contact with your child's class. This has proven to be a quite efficient method to communicate, particularly if you are not able to meet with the teacher regularly.

School Photos

All students had their individual photo taken and were part of the larger ESC staff and student photo taken last week. Packages can be purchased online using a login that you should have received from the photographer.

Hydrotherapy

Our junior classes have been enjoying their Hydrotherapy sessions at Butler College on Wednesdays. I am very grateful to the staff for their efforts to ensure the success of the program and safety of the students.

Yr 6 Day Camp Activities

Our Year 6 students have thoroughly enjoyed their outings this week. They have joined their primary school peers for rock climbing, bowling, water fun and exploring the Maze. Well done to our students for their participation and outstanding behaviour this week.

Easter

The P&C is organising an Easter raffle and hat parade for Thursday 29th March. More details will follow closer to the date.

Just a reminder that due to the Easter break falling during term time, and not during the holidays, it is a 5 day break. Students return to school on the Wednesday. Please add this to your calendar.

It is very important that the school is contacted if your child is away. A phone call or a note in the communication book allows us to comply with the Department requirements. I appreciate that children get sick and will need to stay at home until they are no longer contagious, a medical certificate is required if children are absent for more than 2 days. Thank you for your co-operation in ensuring your child is well when attending school.

Karen Macri
Principal

Kurlangas Aboriginal Playgroup

Welcome to term 1. This term in playgroup our theme is "All about me". We will be finding and naming body parts, making paper faces, hand and feet painting, learning to recognise their name and sing songs that have actions.

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.

Please remember to bring a hat and drink bottle for your child.

Playgroup is **FREE**, and held every Tuesday at Merriwa Primary School during term times between 9.30-11.30am, 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.



A note from the Chaplain - Culture

Do you know what culture is? Culture is the traditions and beliefs that a group of people practice every day. To understand culture, why don't you think about what makes you & your family special;

- What language/s do you speak?
- What traditions do you have?
- What special foods do you enjoy?

There are examples of culture ALL around the world. And, when you go to another country it is very important to follow those cultures, even if they are different to what you know. I know this because I recently went to Japan & I experienced a different culture there.

Some that are different are;

- Shoes must always be removed before entering a Japanese home.
- Shoes are also to be removed in some traditional restaurants and you sit on the floor to eat.

Even though this is something we don't do in Australia, I understood that it was very important to respect these differences, even though they were new to me.



**Did you know it isn't only countries that have their own culture?
Did you know that our school has a culture too?**

In the same way you would respect a different culture if you went to a different country, it is just as important to respect the culture of our school. Another word for culture here at Merriwa, expectations. These are things we practice every day.

This is our culture;

Friendliness Respect Positivity Achievement

Now that we know what our culture is, I want to acknowledge that our culture is NOT:

It is not acting with anger.

I understand that *everyone* feels angry and faces problems, and that's okay, but it's what you do with it that matters. So I want to share with you some tips to help you with these things.

If you're finding yourself angry, try;

- **Time Out:** This simply means removing yourself from the situation for a little while to give yourself a chance to 'cool down' and think before you act.
 - **Distractions:** If you cannot change the situation, it can help to distract yourself from whatever is making you angry. You can do this by finding an alternative location (**a safe place**) or by talking to a teacher (**a safe person**)
- Walk it off:** exercise is a great way to cope with feelings of anger. Movement produces endorphins which change the brain's chemical makeup, telling it you are happy. (Just think of Joy from inside out)

And if you're trying to solve a problem;

1. Identify your problem
2. Talk before you act. Talk about it with a **SAFE** person in a **SAFE** place
3. Find some solutions together
4. Try it out

Christy McAnally
Chaplain

YEAR 3 AND 5 NAPLAN TESTING

This year our year 3 and 5 students will be completing all their Naplan Tests, except the Year 3 writing test online. The children are becoming familiar with the test format at school but parents are able to look at the tests with their children at the following address:

<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

Please read the information with the newsletter. Please note the test window is from Tuesday 15 May until Friday 25 May. The tests must be completed in a specific order so it is very important that children are at school during the test period. A timetable of the tests will be sent home early in term 2.



MERRIWA PRIMARY SCHOOL



0 - 3 year olds

Come along to Merriwa Playgroup every Friday

**8.45am and 11am
Where : Room 4**

Please bring some fruit or morning tea for us to share.

ROOM SIX

Year One—Mrs Morgan

Room Six are forming opinions and reasoning. We read "Don't let the Pigeon Drive the Bus"

By Mo Williams and discussed reasons for and against the pigeon driving the bus.

Here are some of our fabulous ideas!

"I strongly believe the pigeon should drive the bus because he can give me a ride home".Bonni Phillips

"I strongly believe the pigeon should not drive the bus because he will crash!" - Sameah Peterson -Tokona

"I Strongly believe the pigeon should drive the bus because he might take the kids to school". -Kale Stevens

"I strongly believe the pigeon should not drive the bus because he has no hands and feet and he won't reach the pedals".—

Anamaja Orzechowski

"I strongly believe the pigeon should drive the bus because it would be silly and funny".—Sophie Adams



Report from the Board....

- The homework clubs are full. The first session started on Thursday 1st March.
- An information session for parents from non English speaking backgrounds will be held at 5.00 p.m. on 20th March.
- We have a \$2000 grant through ECU for our cultural vegetable garden. Parents are welcome to volunteer

Ways a Parent Can Help with READING



<p>1. Let your child see you reading!</p> <p>Have magazines and books in your home.</p>	<p>2, Help your child find appropriate reading and word games online.</p> <p>Keep a dictionary on hand. Help your child look up new words.</p>	<p>3. Read mysteries with your child and try to figure out the clues together.</p>
<p>4. Movie version coming out?</p> <p>Read the book together first, then talk about which you each liked better.</p>	<p>5. Set aside a time and place for your child to read.</p> <p>like a comfy chair and reading light in a quiet place.</p>	<p>6. Visit your public library regularly.</p> <p>Look for and read together the books that were your favourites when you were a kid.</p>
<p>7. Encourage your child to write.</p> <p>Letters, thank you notes, emails, journals, lists, stories about their own trips, events and daily life.</p>	<p>8. Ask your child questions about what he or she is reading,</p>	<p>9. Ask your child to draw a comic strip about what happens in the story.</p> <p>Provide word searches, crossword and other word games and puzzles, or help your child make his/her own.</p>

Newsletter Raffle!

I have read the newsletter dated 2nd March. Parents signature _____

Childs Name _____ Room No. _____