Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Early Close for Interim Reports

We will be closing at 11.30 a.m. on Tuesday 24 March so that you can meet with your child’s teacher to talk about your child’s progress. We invite you to book a time through the office and also invite your child along to the appointment. All meetings will be ten minutes in duration, and we ask that if you need extra time to discuss anything in detail, to make a longer appointment at another time. The office staff can help you with this.

Appointments will be available from 12.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. and there will be supervision provided if you cannot arrange for your child to be collected at 11.30 a.m.

We look forward to meeting with you and sharing the progress that your child has made.

Safe Parking

We thank all those parents who park safely around our school. However, due to some parents who continue to park in the front staff car park, we are now locking the gates each morning and afternoon. The safety of your children is our concern and we thank you for all the positive comments we have received regarding this issue.

Cyber Bullying

Due to parent requests, on page 3 of this newsletter we have listed some useful information for parents about cyber bullying. We hope that you find it useful.

P and C - AGM

Our Annual General P and C meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th March at 1.30 p.m. in the staff room. Come along and hear about what is happening in the school and how you can help to fundraise for your children. We are saving for shade sails on the old junior primary playground and your help is needed!

Playgroups

We have two playgroups at Merriwa. The Kurlunga Aboriginal Playgroup is every Tuesday from 10.00 a.m.—12.00 p.m. and the Early Years Playgroup is every Friday from 8.45 a.m.—11.30 a.m. Both are free, with just a gold coin donation for coffee and tea. Come along and give your child the advantage before they start school!

Is your Child Scoring an A in Tantrums, Defiance or Attention Seeking Behaviours?

We are offering free parent workshops to help you! See the back page of the newsletter for more information and how to register.

Kind regards

Mrs Sue Waterhouse

Principal
From the Principal….Merriwa ESC…

Term 1 Week 5
We have been working towards setting up our specialist classrooms and will be receiving our new furniture very soon. The Centre is beginning to take shape and look engaging to motivate our students.
I trust you have taken the opportunity to meet with the classroom teachers to discuss your goals for your child and have had an input into their education plan. Towards the end of term you will have another opportunity to meet during an open afternoon to hear about your child’s progress during term one.
Several students from ECU have requested an opportunity to volunteer in our Centre as part of their teaching studies. We welcome them and appreciate their support and positive feedback!
Students who have displayed positive behaviours will be invited to a water play activity next week. Notes will be sent home with more information.
Please continue to use the communication book 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.
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.
Congratulations also to the students who were awarded merit certificates at last week’s assembly.

Karen Macri
Principal
ESC

Desiree Dance Academy
Unit 3 / 61 Key Largo Drive, Clarkson
042556065
Special Needs Dance class for children with any form of special needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yr</th>
<th>Rm</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Yr</th>
<th>Rm</th>
<th>Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PP</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dexter Davis, Haleigh Joyce</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Emma Kinnane, Tyren Hinton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PP</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lucas Hesketh, Maria Van De Nieuwenhdyzen</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Aurora Hesketh, Shaneka Shea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PP</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Clair Hedland, Summer Fuller</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Kyle Warr, Tameeka Grundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Maddison Weeks, Xavier Harris</td>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Brennan Jackson, Apen Ater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Riley Cox, Jessica Sovann</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Shakira Kennedy, Tyler Winsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Anyang Manyang</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Annekia Tanner, Tima Mackie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Kaleena-Maree Waaka, Dylan Pyke</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Domenik Wynne, Faith Datson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Alisa Dubovitchya Shepeleva, Mason Wilkinson</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Nevanda Adamson Acari, Cara Innerd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Abbie Reynolds, Tenneson Cook</td>
<td>ESC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Teejay Bennett, Marshall Frankis, Jonathan Howlett, Amelia Mackie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The students in Room 11 have had a great start to the year. They have been busy completing lots of reading and writing and are working hard to develop independence and organisation skills. In the computer lab they have looked at our school, suburb, city, state and country. Here are some fabulous stories the students have written about where they live.

**Where I Live**

I live in a red and yellow house. I live with my mum, brother, uncle, grandad and grandma. I have a hallway, 2 toilets, PS3 and an Xbox 360. I have Foxtel, a small house, a pool, a brown lounge, a small kitchen and a mustang remote control Lamborghini. **By Harry.**

I live in a brick house. My room has a white wall. I have thousands of toys and they are all cute and fluffy! My room is messy. I live in Merriwa. I have a big house and I have 4 pets. **By Olivia.**

I live in Merriwa. I have my own bedroom. I keep my toys in my bedroom. I have a pool in my back garden and I have a dog and a cat. I love my home. **By Tracy.**

I live in Merriwa and my room is small and my room’s walls are green. I have a PS4 and I have a playroom. I have a baby brother and three TVs. **By Nathan.**

I live next to Merriwa. At home I have a cat, a bird and a chicken. I like to play games and watch movies. Sometimes my sister does not want to do homework, only play and watch movies. I play with my baby sister in my backyard. **By Alisa.**

I live in a brick house in Merriwa, just up the road. I have a lamp in my bedroom. I have a cat called Leo, a fish called fantail and I have a pool. In my house there are 3 bedrooms. Sometimes I have a pompom panda and I have a pony named TinkerBelle. **By Ebonie.**

---

**Cyber Bullying**

At Merriwa Primary School we are committed to providing a safe, healthy and inclusive teaching and learning environment. We are proud of the positive gains we have made at Merriwa through our Positive Behaviour in Schools Program and our committed staff.

From time to time we are asked by parents for help with how to manage the impact of cyber bullying or inappropriate material that arrives in your home through cyber space, such as on Twitter, Facebook, You Tube or Instagram. This is not always related to our school or to students enrolled here, and may involve other members of your family. We enclose the following information to assist you. The links can be accessed easily through our webpage, where all newsletters are posted.

If your child sees illegal or inappropriate online content please report this to ACMA’s online content complaint form. If you suspect an adult has engaged in inappropriate activity involving a child, call the police immediately on Triple Zero 000 (if it is an emergency) or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

If you are being bullied or harassed or have seen abusive or inappropriate content on social media, you can report this to the relevant social media provider. The process for doing this is slightly different for each site:

**Facebook** – You can report abusive content on Facebook by using the Report link that appears near the content itself. Facebook’s How to Report Things page has instructions on how to report abusive content for the different features.

**Twitter** – You can file a report that someone is posting abusive messages by going to Twitter’s forms page. More information on Twitter’s policy on abusive behaviour is available at the How to Report Abusive Behaviour page.

**LinkedIn** – You can report inappropriate content that violates LinkedIn’s Community Guidelines or User Agreement by flagging it directly from the site. Your identity will not be shared if you flag an item. You can also report spam, phishing and other suspicious messages. After reviewing reported items, LinkedIn will take them down if necessary.

**YouTube** – You can report content that violates YouTube’s Community Guidelines by flagging it. Flagging videos does not take them down straight away, but sends a report back to YouTube staff to review the flagged video. More Information on flagging videos is available at YouTube’s Community Guidelines Violations page. To report a case of harassment, privacy or bullying, you can visit YouTube’s Help and Safety Tool page.

**Instagram** – You can report inappropriate photos, comments, or users that are in violation of Instagram’s Community Guidelines or directly to Instagram with the built-in flagging feature.
Merriwa Primary School is offering you a wonderful opportunity to be part of a parenting discussion group. **Triple P Seminar Series** is a free program that will be run in 3 sessions in Term 1. The goal is to help you learn from and talk to others about parenting. Each session has a different focus, such as managing misbehaviours or encouraging behaviours that you like. The program is offered to parents with primary school aged children (targeted at 3 to 8 years).

All sessions will take place on a Monday morning from 8.45am-10.15am in the school library.

Dates: March 16 (Week 7) March 23 (Week 8) March 30 (Week 9).

Morning tea and free tip sheets will be provided.

A creche facility will also be available.

**Why do it?**

Triple P will help you learn parenting skills for issues such as tantrums, defiance and attention-seeking behaviours.

You will get ideas on how to solve problems that you come across as parents.

The facilitators will be there to offer support and encouragement.

**How Do I Register?**

You can sign up at the Front Office Sign Up Sheet. Please sign up as soon as possible!

---

**MERRIWA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**STUDENT UPDATE FORMS**

Please remember to return your child’s update forms to the class teacher or the office as soon as possible. It is very important that emergency contact information is current.

---

**PLAYGROUP**

**MERRIWA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

0 - 3 year olds

**TERM 1**

**ROOM 5**

8.45AM—11.00AM

Please register your interest at the office.

Give your child the advantage before they start school!