From the Associate Principals......

**Passport Program**

The School Passport Program is an incentive-based program with two primary objectives: to increase parent/carer involvement in the school; and to increase regular student attendance.

Parents and carers earn points through their involvement in school activities on an hourly basis.

Thankyou to the eighteen parents who have already signed up to the 'School Passport Program'. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to become involved in our school community. Now that you have received your passport you can begin earning points that can be redeemed at the school canteen, at Lowes the uniform shop or at the school office to pay for any of the activities that occur at school.

There is additional information being sent home this week and you can sign up for the program each Friday, after the school assemblies with Mrs Estelle, our school chaplain.

**School Photos**

The school photos have been taken for another year and it was a great couple of days thanks to the support of our parents and carers who ensured their children looked the part on their photo day. MSP Photography were the photographers on the day and all enquiries regarding the orders should be directed to them on 9342 3465. We would like to welcome them back to our school and thank them for their very professional service.

There is additional information being sent home this week and you can sign up for the program each Friday, after the school assemblies with Mrs Estelle, our school chaplain.

**St John’s Ambulance First Aid Focus**

During week 9 this term the trainers from St Johns Ambulance will be in our school. St John Ambulance believes every child in Western Australia should have access to vital first aid knowledge.

First Aid Focus is a FREE school program that provides first aid training to school students of all ages. First Aid Focus was developed as part of the St John Ambulance’s mission to ensure at least one person is trained in First Aid in every household in Western Australia. Experienced St John Ambulance first aid trainers will be visiting all of our students from Kindy to Year 7 teaching them tailored first aid courses.

**Parking**

There have been a number of parent and staff concerns over parking in and around the school. Firstly the 'Kiss and Drive' section of Greyhound drive is being used as parking bays with parents exiting their cars to come and collect their children from the school grounds. Please use this section only for it’s intended use and that is to pick up and drop off ONLY. Another cause for concern is the number of parents who are parking in the staff car park in the disabled bays, when clearly they do not have the authority to use these bays. Many of our students from the education support centre regularly come and go throughout the school day to attend appointments and it is not fair that their designated spaces are taken by able bodied parents who would just like to park close to the office. Please be considerate and ensure that these bays are kept clear at all times. ALL of the remaining car bays in the staff car park are for STAFF ONLY.

**Tiddalik the Frog**

The Longyard Sideshow Company is coming to our school to perform the well known Australian indigenous story of "Tiddalik the Frog" on Wednesday 19th March to students from Years 1-5 and the ESC. The story is presented using giant 3D pop up pages and a note about this incursion has already gone home. Please send the notes back as soon as possible with the payment as this date is drawing closer.
From the Principal….Merriwa ESC…. 

IEP Meetings
By now you would have received an invitation from your child’s teacher to meet in order to discuss individual learning plans. Please make this meeting a priority as it is our genuine intention to work in partnership with you towards better outcomes for your child. To those parents who have already met with the teacher, thank you. I hope you found the experience to be worthwhile.

Passport Program
Merriwa PS and ESC launched a passport program last week. If you are able to support our school through volunteering your time, participating in P&C meetings or generally supporting in various events you can earn points towards discounts for excursions, uniforms and voluntary fees and charges. Please see Estelle, our school Chaplain or the ladies in the office for more information.

P&C
If you are free on Thursday 13th March at 5.30pm we would love to see you attend your P&C meeting in the staffroom. This is a great opportunity to find out what is happening in your school and to support the initiatives of the parent group who work towards helping the students and the school community.

Trampoline
As part of our priority to build up a sensory playground and therapy space, the ESC has purchased 2 trampolines which were set up at our Busy Bee on Saturday morning. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Farrell men- husband and sons of one of our dedicated EAs. These volunteers were responsible for erecting these trampolines for us.

For safety reasons it is vital that students do not use the trampoline without strict supervision.

Community Access Program
Several of our classes are now accessing local shopping centres and public transport facilities as part of their community access and life skills programs. This is a valuable initiative in preparing our students for life outside of school. Thank you to the parents who support us with the provision of smartrider cards and ensure that permission notes are returned to teachers.

Student Banking
Please consider setting up a school banking account for your child and encouraging them to bank their pocket money each Tuesday morning at the school. The Commonwealth Bank will provide the ESC with a financial bonus for every child who opens an account. This is an easy fundraising initiative for the school while your child learns valuable skills for saving money towards their personal goals. Thank you Ms Frankis and Ms Muscara for your continued support to ensure this initiative is successful.

Thank you for using 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 to the students who were awarded certificates at last week’s assembly.
Karen Macri
Principal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yr</th>
<th>Rm</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Yr</th>
<th>Rm</th>
<th>Student</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chantelee Hanekom, Tyson Pansini</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Andrew Tran, Chloe Liddiard</td>
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<td>Layla Mackie, Dylan Schmid</td>
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<td>Charles Taylor, Dylan Pottinger</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Brooke Fuller, Jane Paul</td>
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<td>Jacqueline Podlich, Tyrone Brookes</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Monica Michael, George Daws</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Adrien Uwadia, Teejay Bennett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/7</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Summer Sullivan, Matthew Jabbar</td>
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<td>Jacob Muscara</td>
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Snakes in the Grass

As many of you are aware, it is that time of year again and we are planning our annual Year 6/7 Camp. We are asking for your support in raising funds towards our camp.

We encourage you and your children to have a go at guessing the amounts of snakes in the grass. The cost will be $0.50 per guess.

Tickets will be available from Room 15 at recess and lunch. The jar will be kept in the library where staff, students and parents can view it.

Ms MacFarlane

Program Update

Here at OSHClub, in Room 20, the children have been enjoying themselves doing a variety of fun, safe activities in before and after school care. Recently we have been encouraging the children to participate in physical, outdoor experiences, although the really hot weather has not helped.

Some of the weekly themes coming up later this term include Nature, Cooking, Science and the Ocean, as suggested by the children.

Don’t forget we are here if you need us, and if you are interested, please come and see Wayne and Vanja. There will always be a choice of activities, crafts and games, for your children.

We look forward to meeting more of the Merriwa Primary School Community.

Next Week’s Activities

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before Care Activities</td>
<td>Water cycle scramble</td>
<td>Water cycle poster</td>
<td>Underwater art</td>
<td>Stand up cars</td>
<td>Make scrolls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Care Activities</td>
<td>Ocean mobile</td>
<td>Ocean diorama</td>
<td>Create a sea scene</td>
<td>Seahorse bookmark</td>
<td>Ocean quiz</td>
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Parent Information

OSHC program phone: 0434 517166
Coordinator: Wayne Finlen
Assistants: Vanja Popovic
OSHClub Head Office: 03 85649000

All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is free!! Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.
EARN $500 TOWARDS EDUCATION COSTS!
Would you like to earn $500 to help you to pay for your child’s education? Would you like money to pay for dancing lessons or a laptop for your child?

To be eligible you need to:

♦ Have a Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession.
♦ Have a child at school or starting next year.
♦ Have some form of household income such as casual, part-time or seasonal employment.
♦ Be prepared to attend workshops on $ management.

All you have to do is call Megan from the Smith Family on 9440 4147 or 0438 518 603.

Dollarmites School Visit Cred is visiting Merriwa!

Cred is coming to our school on Friday 2nd May, 2014 to talk to us about the exciting Commonwealth Bank School Banking program.

Through the program, primary school kids can bank at school, giving them hands-on banking experience in a fun and interactive environment.

The School Banking program includes an exciting and exclusive Rewards Program designed to encourage children to get into the habit of making regular savings. Every time your child makes a deposit at school they receive a Dollarmites token. The first token will be received upon the first deposit at school. Once they have individually collected 10 tokens they can be redeemed for an exclusive Dollarmites reward item. Students will have lots of fun saving their tokens for these cool items.

School Banking Day Reminder

Don’t forget that Tuesday is School Banking day and students should bring in their weekly deposit.
For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token. The first token will be received upon the first deposit at school. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can then be redeemed for a range of great, exclusive reward items in recognition of their continued savings behaviour.

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program at Merriwa.

In room 16, we have been learning about the school’s expectations of:

♦ I Am Friendly
♦ I Am Respectful
♦ I Am Positive
♦ I Achieve.

We wrote some acrostic poems about these at assembly and sang a song called “The Merriwa Family” which was all about these expectations.

Parents are reminded that the good behaviour activity is on this Friday, 14 March. Children will need to bring bathers and towel to change into. Permission notes were sent out earlier and need to be returned by Thursday 13 March, not April as indicated on the permission note.

Mr Jeff Hoskins