Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Last week we were proud to host the launch of the Lottery West grant by the Education Minister, the Honourable Peter Collier, to the Community Development Foundation. The grant was for $821 000 and will help other schools to join the Passport Program that we have here at Merriwa.

The choir sang beautifully and the Minister commented on the high level of respect that was evident at our special assembly. He also commented on our high level of attendance, which is directly connected to success at school.

"Merriwa Primary School’s overall student attendance rate (92.4 per cent) is now higher than those at similar schools," Mr Collier said. “Aboriginal students at Merriwa Primary School are attending school more regularly than the state average.”

We are one of very few schools in the northern suburbs who have this sponsorship and we are pleased to assist you in paying for such things as school uniforms, lunches, excursions and swimming lessons. All you need to do is to sign up for the program and come along to help in the school. We will need help at our sports carnival on 27 August and at our Father’s Day Stall. If you want to earn Passport Points, please see Miss Estelle our chaplain, your child’s teacher or the staff in the office.

Bunnings Donate Trees
We are supported by Bunnings, Mindarie, who recently donated much needed items to the ESC and 50 assorted plants for our Pre Primary Garden. We are very grateful for their support.

Congratulations to our Clarkson Challenge Winners!
Thank you Zac, Summer, Courtney and Morgan for your brilliant effort in the recent Clarkson Challenge. We are proud of you.

Kind regards
Mrs Sue Waterhouse
Circus Quirkus

All staff and students attended the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre this week for a performance by Circus Quirkus. The performance was very much appreciated and the students behaved very well in the large theatre. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the tickets were donated by various organisations for our Centre to attend.

Clarkson SHS Student Performance

Our Year 6/7 students had the pleasure of attending the high school’s performance of ‘Little Shop of Horrors’ this week. The feedback from staff and students was very positive. We are grateful to the high school for inviting our students at no cost.

Literacy and Numeracy Week

Several events are planned during Week 5 which includes:
- Bedtime Stories / Pjama Day on Tuesday 19th August – Students (and staff) are encouraged to dress in their pyjamas
- Book Character parade on Thursday 21st August when students can wear a costume that represents their favourite book character.

There will be a parade at the end of the day.

Athletics Carnival

We have two special sports days organised for this term. The Merriwa PS and ESC will be training each Friday towards the big day planned for Wednesday 27th August.

Our Annual ESC interschool carnival will be held at Beldon ESC on Wednesday 10th September.

All students will participate in these events. Please save these dates on your calendar.

Passport Program

Last week the Minister for Education, Mr Peter Collier attended the school to present a cheque to support the Passport Program and enable this initiative to reach more schools. The Merriwa Schools have been running the Passport Program this year. Parents and carers earn points through their involvement in school activities on an hourly basis. The points are redeemed towards discounts on excursion costs, fees, uniforms etc. If you have not signed up for your passport, please see your classroom teacher or Estelle, our chaplain, for more information.

Student Banking - Tuesday mornings

I encourage students to get involved in school banking. It is lovely to see some families have recognised the value in school banking and do so regularly. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you are interested in setting up an account for your child. Students can bank their coins on Tuesday mornings. The ESC benefits from each account opened.

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 will be sending notes home regularly for students whose absence is unexplained.

Karen Macri
Principal
ESC

---

**FREE FAMILY FUN AT THE FARM**

To celebrate Early Childhood Intervention Awareness Week, Early Childhood Intervention Australia (ECIA) WA is running a free Family Fun Day at Landsdale Farm School for families of children with a disability or developmental delay aged up to 6 years old. This event will include:

- free entry to Landsdale Farm for registered families,
- involvement in farm activities,
- a cart ride,
- lunch, and
- a variety of other activities.

Proudly supported by [Variety](https://www.variety.org/)

ECIA WA is a not for profit organisation which advocates for young children with developmental delays and disabilities, their families and the networks that support them. ECIA promotes, encourages and supports community inclusion for all children and their families.

---

**Event Details**

**Location**
Landsdale Farm School
80 Landsdale Road, Darch WA

**Date**
Sunday 24 August 2014

**Time**
10am - 1pm

**Cost**
Free for families who RSVP directly to ECIA WA

**RSVP**
To eciwa@ecia.org.au by Wednesday 20th August.

Please include the number of people from your family who will be attending.
The Cost of Skipping School

- If a child misses five days each term, they miss out on one year of school.
- If a child misses one day a week, they will miss almost two years of school.
- If a child misses 1.5 days a week, they will miss almost three years of school.
- If a child misses two days a week, they will miss almost four years of school.
- If a child misses three days a week, they will miss almost six years of school.
- If a child misses five weeks a term, they miss almost five years of school.

Regular Attendance Award

Congratulations on the students who were selected from the term two regular attendance raffle at last week's assembly.

Attendance underpins students' achievements and there is an expectation that children attend school daily, unless sick or on special family business.

Athletics Carnival

The 2014 athletics carnival will be held on:

Monday 25 August for the Year 4 to 7 long jump, tee ball throw and 400m race.

Wednesday 27 August for the age races, year PP to 3 tabloid events and the Year 4 to 7 team games and relays.

These dates may change if the weather forecast is for rain.

More information will be made available closer to the event.

Swimming Lessons

A note has gone home with information regarding the term 4 swimming lessons. Please read the information carefully and return the permission note, In-term Swimming Enrolment Form, Student Health Form with the $50.00 before Monday 20th October.

Esc Learning About Community Helpers
-Clarkson Challenge 2014-

On Tuesday 29th July Zac Smith, Morgan Bedford, Courtney Dover and Summer Sullivan competed in the 2014 Clarkson Challenge at Clarkson Community High School. The students are all in Year 7 and will be attending CCHS next year. Their brief for the challenge was to come up with some ideas to make the school more interesting for the new students from Year 7 and 8 who will be attending there in 2015. The team spent two sessions up at the high school with Year 10 mentors discussing options then planning their presentation. The mentors then came to our school to work on the model. The model below shows the students’ ideas, including a skate park, park benches and tables, a pond, giant chess board and four square courts.

Clarkson PS and Somerley PS also competed in the challenge and presented some great ideas to the audience and judges on the night. Our students were very nervous but we are so proud of the way they spoke and how they represented our school.

After the schools presented their ideas we all enjoyed dinner while the judges deliberated and audience votes were tallied. Our school has competed in this challenge since 2011 and so far have not won until this year!! Congratulations to Zac, Morgan, Courtney and Summer who are the winners of the 2014 Clarkson Challenge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before Care Activities</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apple pancake (German recipe)</td>
<td>Answer without speaking</td>
<td>Pirate Profile</td>
<td>Willy Wonka Chocolate Factory Cards</td>
<td>Christmas around the world -France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Care Activities</td>
<td>Funny Voices Reading Competition</td>
<td>Design a Lego Character</td>
<td>Cheesy Puff Pastry Magic wands</td>
<td>Shadow Drawings</td>
<td>African animal Card Games</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parent Information

OSHC program phone: 0434517166
Coordinator: Vanja Popovic
Assistants: Tina Buttarelli
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.