From the Principal....

We are proud to see the way the children are following our school expectations

I am Respectful
I am Friendly
I am Positive
I Achieve

Recognition of Positive Behaviour

In accordance with our whole school behaviour policy, those children who consistently follow the school rules will be rewarded in the middle of the term with a fantastic Water Fun Day. We look forward to seeing those children have a fun time.

Raising Our Academic Standards

Our commitment to raising the academic standards in our school continues. This week we have commenced our Direct Instruction Spelling Mastery lessons for all children in from Years 3 to 7. Last year our spelling results increased by over a year for most children, in only nine months. Some children gained over two and three years in their spelling age and we are excited by seeing how they will improve this year. We are grateful to Mrs Macri and her staff for supporting us in providing both resources and staff for this program.

The Kindy, Pre Primary and Year One children are also working on Direct Instruction Phonemic Awareness, which makes sure that children are well prepared to read and write. We look forward to continued progress with our little ones. You can help by reading to your child every night!

Merriwa Passport

You are invited to the launch of our Passport Program at the assembly on Friday 28th February. Sign up, volunteer to help in the school and earn money for excursions, uniforms, swimming lessons and school voluntary charges.

Kind Regards
Mrs Sue Waterhouse
Principal
From the Principal....Merriwa ESC...

It has been a fantastic start to the year. Our classes are running smoothly and students are visiting the office regularly to share their great work.

This week saw the start of our Direct Instruction Spelling Mastery program in which students from Year 3 to 7 across the campus are engaged in short, sharp lessons in small groups. ESC staff are utilised to ensure this program can be a success and I thank them for their cooperation.

Our focus continues to be on the development of functional literacy, numeracy and ICT skills, and to support our students with self management and in developing independence. Staff have designed programs and learning activities to foster these areas and I look forward to seeing the results over the course of the year.

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. I appreciate that children get sick and will need to stay at home until they are no longer contagious. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring your child is well when attending school.

This year the ESC has elected student leaders from our Year 6 and 7 student group who will join the primary school student councillors. They will be awarded their badges at an upcoming assembly. Congratulations to Chelsie, Jaycob, Kahala and Cameron on their leadership role.

Congratulations also to the students who were awarded merit certificates at last week’s assembly J

Karen Macri
Principal
ESC

<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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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Heidi Hodgson, Angela Icara</td>
<td>6/7</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Justin Salapaew, Elizabeth Randall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ashley Marshall, Courtney Heath</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Jasmine Krygsman-Eccles, Nikola Blagojevic</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Samuel Hepcal, Hayden Lowry</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Caden Phillips, Leighton Matthews</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Liam Albin, Shaun Hammond</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Laetia Yarran, Pia Broadhurst</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Charlie Williams, Beatrice Arjon</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Steven Hinaki, Bianca Hammond</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Korbir Mynard, Ella Hawley</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Francis Arjon, Kim Tiet</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Jaxon Waind, Frankee Sabbioni</td>
<td>Esc</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ajok Choi, Chelsie Dowen, Johnathon Howlett, Charez, Room 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/7</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Shane Kirk</td>
<td>Kind</td>
<td>Kids</td>
<td>Deng Manyang, Matthew Jabbar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/7</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Tawana Mudzengi, Porsha Baker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jacob Jenkins, Justin Salapaew</td>
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Merriwa Primary had school photos this week and Miss Lang’s class were so well behaved that after, they enjoyed a fun Crazy photo together.
From Term 1, 2014, we have opened a brand new Before and After School Care Program at Merriwa PS.

OSH Club programs are great fun as there is so much to do, heaps of things to play with and they are staffed with wonderful, experienced and trained people.

Both permanent and casual or last minute bookings are available. Book as much or a little as you need, whenever you need it.

The program will be open as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Opening Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before School Care</td>
<td>$4.51 to $18.50</td>
<td>7:00am – 8:20am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After School Care</td>
<td>$7.11 to $25.50</td>
<td>2:40pm – 6:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pupil Free Days</td>
<td>$6.36 to $50.00</td>
<td>7:00am – 6:00pm</td>
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A late booking fee of $3 applies to all BSC/ASC bookings made within 24 hours of the session. Fees are subject to change.

We are located in room 20, so if you are interested in us providing care for your children, please come and see us.

Each day there will be a variety of activities, crafts and games, so we are sure we can keep your children interested. Being Term 1 don’t forget to ensure your child has a hat for any outdoor play.

Have a wonderful 2014 school year.

Available from
Front Office

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Pencil Case</th>
<th>$6.50</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$30 Large Library Bag</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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We have some old junior desks and chairs available.
If you are interested in picking some up for a gold coin donation, please contact the office on 9305 9011.

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 lap top for your child?

To be eligible you need to:

- Have a Centerlink 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.

Just a reminder, please do not park in the KISS ‘N’ DRIVE.