Dear Parents, Carers and Grandparents,

Congratulations to the Bellbirds House who were the winning team at Friday’s Swimming Carnival. The carnival was a very successful event. Thank you to Mrs Nawiesniak for coordinating the carnival. Thank you also to her many helpers, including the marvellous time keepers from Eden Marine High School. Please see inside this newsletter for more details, including who age champions and event winners are. Students will be awarded ribbons and age champion medals at our next school assembly. The next assembly will be held in the Jackson Hall on Monday, February 18 from 2.15pm – 2.50pm. Parents, caregivers and guests are welcome to attend.

Please see our website for more Swimming Carnival photos.

Principal’s Awards: Congratulations to Kiarna who will be receiving a Principal’s Award at the next school assembly. Please remind your child to bring in 5 Merit Awards to receive a Principal’s Award.

Principal’s Award for Outstanding Behaviour: Congratulations to Jak! He will be receiving a Principal’s Award for Outstanding Behaviour at the next assembly. After attending his House Meeting, Jak compiled lists of students wanting to complete in the novelty team events so that everyone got a fair go. He then went home, typed the lists and gave them to the Ms Hensman the House Coordinator. What a House Captain and leader!

Parent Teacher Information Evenings Reminder: Information evenings will be held on the following days:

Kindergarten Welcome BBQ and Information Evening: Tuesday, February 19 – 5.30pm – 7.00pm
Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) Information Evening: Tuesday, February 19 – 5.30pm – 7.00pm
Stage 2 (Year 3 and 4) Information Evening: Thursday, February 21 – 5.30pm – 7.00pm
Stage 3 (Year 5 and 6) Information Evening: Thursday, February 14 – 5.30pm-7.30pm

Family Law Network Australia: The Family Law Network Australia have recently launched the website Family Law Network Australia. The website is a free information resource and referral service for family law matters. On the site you find information on separation and divorce, parenting arrangements, property settlement and child support. Visit: http://familylawmattersaustralia.com.au

I hope that you enjoy reading more about our great school within this newsletter.

Michelle Hulme - Principal
School News

Yellow Emergency Forms: In the case of an emergency we need to have CURRENT contact information including work and mobile phone numbers. Please send back to school ASAP. Only one card required per family.

Walking Notes & Permission to Publish Notes: Please return to class teacher ASAP.

Office hours are from 8.30am – 3.30pm. Please make phone calls between these times.

Supervision before 8.30am: Please be advised there is NO supervision in the playground before 8.30am. School finishes at 2.55pm, please try to be on time for collection of your child/ren.

Swimming Carnival Success: Last Friday students from Years 3 to 6, and some competitive Year 2 students, attended the Sapphire Aquatic Centre in Pambula for the school’s annual Swimming Carnival. Students enjoyed participating in a range of races or novelty events, demonstrating their skills in the pool.

Some of the most skilled swimmers included those who were recognised as age champions on the day.

Champions included:

Senior Boys - 1st: Charlie, 2nd: Angus, 3rd: Joel;
Senior Girls - 1st: T’Leah, 2nd: Kirsten, 3rd: Jessica;
11 Year Boys - 1st: Jack, 2nd: Mattie, 3rd: Caleb;
11 Years Girls - 1st: Hannah, 2nd: Stephanie, 3rd: Jessica;
Junior Boys - 1st: Finn, 2nd: Patrick, 3rd: Charlie;

The age champions will be awarded trophies, medals and ribbons at the next assembly which will be held in the Jackson Hall at 2.10pm on Monday, February 18. Parents and guests are welcome to attend. Event winners will also receive ribbons at this assembly.

PSSA AFL Trials will be held at Berrambool Oval from 3.45pm-5.00pm on Tuesday Feb 26. (Years 5 & 6 only). The trials are to select an Aussie Rules to represent our area at the South Coast Australian Rules Trials at Nowra on Tuesday March 19. Please see Mr Hughes for permission notes.

Help Us Get To Know Your Child: Despite having some information about your child from previous Personal Learning Plans, reports, assessments and from informal discussions with your child’s previous teachers, it would help teachers if you would complete the “write a letter about your child” form that has been sent home with today’s newsletter. It can be as long or as short as you wish. You may want to include information such as family make up, interests (extra curricula activities such as sport, music, clubs etc), general behaviour at home, medical or health issues (including glasses, hearing, etc), how you think your child learns best, what you think your child is looking forward to this year or any concerns you think s/he may have. You may use the form provided, provide a list or send in a letter of your own. Every bit of information we have helps us to help your child. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Kinder News

Smooth Start to School: The Kindergarten children are having lots of fun learning new skills every day. We are so delighted with the way they are so quickly settling into school routines. We especially appreciate our family and friends dropping us off at school and leaving well before the bell rings, so that we can all have a play with our friends in the playground first thing in the morning. Thank you to everyone for providing some fruit and or vegetables for ‘fruit break’.

Best Start Assessment: We are enjoying spending time individually with the children as we find out more about them through the ‘Best Start Assessment’. If you didn’t get the separate note about the ‘Best Start Assessment’, then please contact your child’s teacher or download it from the school website.

Teaching and Learning: Our unit of work this term is ‘I’m A School Kid Now’. This is where we look at how we learn, what happens at school and what we need to do so that we all have a wonderful time in Kindergarten. All the children loved going to the ‘Technology Room’ with Mrs Morris, our technology teacher. Each class has a 1 hour computer lesson with Mr Morris every week. The children also had a wonderful time going to the Library with Mrs Ross. Kindergarten visit the Library every week for a 1 hour session as well. We can’t wait until we are able to start borrowing books from the Library and taking them home with us for a little visit. It won’t be long now, so please make sure that you get your library bag ready to protect your books!

Parent Information Night: We are looking forward to talking to parents and caregivers at our special information talk from 5.00 – 6.30 pm on Tuesday, February 19. Please come along and find out all about the Best Start, how we teach your child and how you can help at home. Please bring your Kinder child with you as he/she will be looked after by other teachers. Please also join us for a free welcome BBQ at the conclusion of the talk. If you are unable to attend this night then information sheets will be sent home with your child.

Cares and Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about your child or school/Kinder routines, please come and talk to the teachers as we will only be too happy to help you.

Stage 1 News

Thank you to all parents who attended the Parent Information night on Tuesday. It was great to see so many of you there. For those who couldn’t make it please read the Stage information sheet that was handed out with this newsletter.

Stage 2 News

What a great day we had at the swimming carnival. The teachers were very pleased with the way the children were keen to participate in competitive and novelty events, all earning points for their houses. When not participating in events they happily cheered on their peers or played games. Well done.

The students will be developing their mental arithmetic strategies through a variety of fun games and activities. We are learning about place value - hundreds, tens and units. Have fun
playing this game. Place Value Game – You need a deck of playing cards. Take out the Jokers, Kings, Queens and 10’s. The Jacks are 0 and the Ace is 1. Shuffle the cards and place them face down in the middle. Players take 2 cards and make the highest number they can e.g. 3, 5 – 53. The player with the highest number gets everyone else’s cards. Play continues until all cards have been used. The winner is the player with the most cards. You can vary the game by making it by the lowest number, the number closest to e.g. 47 or use 3 cards each.

Our unit of work this term is ‘Places: Then, Now and Tomorrow’. We will be focusing on the history of the local area from Aboriginal settlement to the present day and then predict future developments. The students will be finding out how Merimbula School has changed since its beginning in 1870. If anyone has past photos of Merimbula School or the local area, please give them to Ms Hosken. The photos will be scanned and the originals returned to you.

We encourage parents and caregivers to attend the Stage 2 information session on Thursday, February 21 from 5.30 – 7.00 pm, where the teachers will outline class expectations, programs and routines as well as ways you can help your child at home. The information session will be held upstairs in the 4K/4H classrooms. There will be a whole stage session followed by individual class talks.

Stage 3 News

Year 6 Shirts: The Year 6 shirts for 2013 arrived last week. It is fantastic to see the children wearing them with such pride and enthusiasm.

Homework: Children would have received their major homework assignments for this term earlier this week. There is a Talking and Listening task and a Writing task. Both tasks are based on persuasive writing, this term’s focus. The tasks have been clearly outlined and include a marking rubrics so that children are aware of the expectations we have. If these tasks are presenting any problems for you or your child, please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s teacher.

Spelling homework will begin this week. This year we have decided to send it home on a Tuesday and ask that it be returned on a Monday. Testing will also be on a Monday. This new approach is to accommodate for busy family lives and the many commitments that both parents and children face in their everyday lives. We welcome feedback on how this new timeline works for you. Maths homework will begin next week. It will be also handed out on a Tuesday.

Parent Information Night: A parent information night for parents of Stage 3 children will be held this Thursday, February 14, from 5:30pm till 7:00pm in 5U’s classroom (2nd classroom downstairs). During this time we will outline our expectations, routines and programs for 2013. We hope to see as many parents and carers there as possible.

Gold coin Mufti day for Alayne: As you may be aware, Alayne Drowley is enrolled as a Year 6 student at our school in 2013. She has been unwell and staying in the Sydney Children’s Hospital, following a stay in Bega Hospital, since Term 3. It is predicted that she will be in hospital for another 3 to 6 months. To support Alayne’s family in this difficult time, we are holding a Mufti Day this Friday.

Coming Events:

- Friday Feb 15 MUFTI DAY gold coin donation for Alayne
- Wed Feb 20 PSSA Cricket Trials – Bega
- Wed Feb 20 Canberra Raiders Visit 12 noon – Jackson Hall
- Friday Feb 22 Zone Swimming @ Candelo Pool
- Wed Mar 6 SRC Disco
- TEN Information Night
- Canteen ‘RED’ day

Community News

Merimbula Grasshoppers Registration: The 2013 Merimbula Grasshoppers soccer registrations U7-U16’s and senior men and ladies are once again being done via the registration website myfootballclub.com.au. The website is open for registrations NOW and you can now pay your fees online also. Merimbula registration information days will be held on Thursday 14/2/2013 5.30pm to 7.30pm, Sunday 17/2/2013 5.30PM TO 7.30PM and next Thursday 21/2/2013 5.30 PM TO 7.30PM. PLEASE NOTE - you do not have to come to an information day if you have registered online or are going to register online. For more information email lblaxter@aapt.net.au or phone 0264953610

Merimbula Basketball will be holding registration days on Friday 15th February from 5.30 - 6.30pm and Saturday 16th February from 10.30am - 11.30am at the Ford Park courts in Merimbula. For any enquiries please contact the following co-ordinators: Hoops and 12’s (primary school players) phone Kelly on 0427 952 690, Juniors (high school players and U19s) phone Joan 0431 919 560, Senior Men please call Michael on 0421 945 782, and Senior Ladies contact Tegan 6494 2819 or Sally 0448 013 647.