Dear Parents, Carers and Grandparents,

Last week was another fun week at Merimbula Public School. Our Zone Swimming Team had a great time and achieved great results – especially our Senior Boy and Girl Relay Teams, as well as Charlie, Caleb, Jack, Hannah and Finn who will all be heading to Dapto for the Regional Carnival on March 5.

We also had an exciting visit from the Canberra Raiders last week, who taught us how to “Tackle Bullying”.

See our web site for more Zone Swimming Carnival and Canberra Raiders Visit photos.

Principal’s Award for Outstanding Behaviour: Congratulations to Jackson who will be receiving a Principal’s Award for Outstanding Behaviour at next week’s School Assembly, which will take place in the Jackson Hall at 2.15pm. Jackson continues to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in all areas of school life.

PBS Awards: Together with the students mentioned in last week’s newsletter, Beau and T’Leah will also be receiving PBS awards at next week’s School Assembly. Beau will be receiving a large PBS award and T’Leah will be awarded a ‘Fairness’ arm band. Congratulations students!

Zone Swimming Team: Congratulations to the following students who represented Merimbula Public School at the Zone Carnival in Candelo last Friday: Hannah, T’Leah Issey, Arabella, Jessie, Jessica, Charlotte, Stephanie, Annalise, Phoebe, Monique, Charlotte, Jorja, Kirsten, Imani, Tara, Aria, Joel, Charlie, Finn, Paul, Charlie, Caleb, Jake, Harry, Tyler, Max, Jack, Nick, George, Patrick, Jem, Mattee and Angus. You all did so well and your behaviour was commendable!

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

Michelle Hulme - Principal
Assessment. We greatly appreciate your feedback on these regarding our Kindergarten Orientation and the Best Start Parent Survey:

about your child or children. We are learning so much about all the parents and caregivers for writing back to us and telling us all.

Tell Us About Yo

school with food to do a demonstration.

news item is to again some of our students have allergies, (sometimes foods) Days per Term” nutrition policy, and because Sharing Cakes and Food Items:

Term 2 'Rainbow' and Years 3

Term 2 Disco will take place between 5.00pm and 6.30pm. The Years 3-6 Disco will take place between 6.30pm and 8pm. Once again our DJ will be 'DJ Matt'. Entry will cost $6 per student and any funds raised from the disco will support Stage Programs. Unlike in previous years, notes and money will be collected prior to the disco. Students should return their permission note and $6 to their class teacher no later than Monday, March 3 so that rolls can be finalised. This should make entering the disco an easier and faster process. Please be reminded that students leaving with someone other than their parent / caregiver will need to provide this information to their teacher (with their note) or to the disco supervisors (on the night) in writing. Permission notes have been sent home with this newsletter. The theme of this Term's Disco is: K-2 ‘Rainbow’ and Years 3-6 'Geeky'.

Targeting Early Numeracy (TEN) Information Evening: During the K-2 Disco time of 5.00-6.30pm a Parent Information Session on the school's TEN Program will be taking place. All classes from Kindergarten to Year 4 are implementing TEN. Please come along and find out what your children are learning about in mathematics and how you can help them.

Sharing Cakes and Food Items: Due to the Department’s “2 Red (sometimes foods) Days per Term” nutrition policy, and because some of our students have allergies, the school and P&C once again ask that parents do not send cakes or cupcakes into school on a child’s birthday (or at any other time). In addition, if a child’s news item is to retell a procedure, please do not send them into school with food to do a demonstration.

Tell Us About Your Child & Parent Survey: Thanks so much to all the parents and caregivers for writing back to us and telling us all about your child or children. We are learning so much about all of our students.

Parent Survey: Thank you for returning the parent survey regarding our Kindergarten Orientation and the Best Start Assessment. We greatly appreciate your feedback on these important programs. If you didn’t receive a survey, please ask your child’s teacher.

Following the Department’s Code of Conduct and Volunteering Procedures: The Department of Education and Communities expects that all staff, contractors and volunteers adhere to its Code Of Conduct Procedures. Copies of the Code Of Conduct are available near the sign on book in the office and on entry to each classroom. School staff are trained in procedures at the start of each year. The school executive ask that on your first day of volunteering each year, you read the Code Of Conduct so that you can support us in ensuring that the school is a safe, friendly and fair place for our students. In addition, volunteers are required to complete a Prohibited Employment Declaration. Parents supervising students without immediate teacher supervision (such as when driving students to sporting events) must also have completed a Working With Children Check for the school to be able to organise car-pooling arrangements.

Canteen News: Mrs Kerryn Howker, our Canteen Supervisor would love to hear from anyone who has a few hours to spare to help out in the canteen. Please call the school or pop in and see Kerryn if you can help in any way.

Uniform Update: Reminder school hats are now $15.00. Please send in any unwanted or outgrown uniforms for our clothing pool. Please also send in orders for school jackets ASAP... it won’t be long before the weather gets cooler!

Merimbula Public School's Discipline Policy: Our school takes pride in positively focusing on students demonstrating our 4 values of ‘Care’, ‘Respect’, ‘Responsibility’ and ‘Fairness’. If a child demonstrates these values they receive tokens, awards and eventually celebratory arm bands. If in the event a child demonstrates a minor inappropriate behaviour, they receive a warning slip. Numerous warning slips will result in the child receiving a ‘red warning slip’ that is sent home to their parent / caregiver. Red warning slips will also be sent home if a child demonstrates a major inappropriate behaviour that is aggressive, involves bullying, teasing, swearing or continued disobedience. Whilst these behaviours are not frequent at our school, they are taken very seriously. Students may receive 'time-out' away from their class, off the playground, with an Assistant Principal or the Principal. Students who receive 3 red slips will also receive a Warning to Suspend and will also be placed on a Behaviour Monitoring Program ('Blue Card'). Students who are aggressive or violent may be suspended. Students on behaviour monitoring or who have been suspended during a term will not be permitted to represent the school, this includes but is not limited to: being a school leader / representative, attending sporting trials / events or academic competitions. These students will also forfeit the privilege of being able to attend out of school hours excursions and events, such as overnight camps, trips and school discos.

Free Dental Treatment: The School Dental Service operates in the Bega Valley from the Pambula Community Health Centre. Appointments are available for all children from Pre schoolers to 17 years of age. You can access the service by ringing 1800 450 046 with your Medicare Card ready.

Tea Towel fundraiser: Reminder to send in tea towel orders to school by March 22.
P&C NEWS: P&C Day: Is celebrated on March 6th. Please come along to our AGM and join us to celebrate the great work that P&C’s all over Australia do, as well as the achievements of Merimbula Public School P&C. 

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday March 5 at 6.30pm in the school staffroom. The AGM will be followed by a General Meeting at approximately 7pm, which includes school uniforms and fundraising as the main agenda items.

Easter Raffle: We are reminded every shopping trip that Easter isn’t far away! Please support our Easter raffle which the students enjoy immensely. Donations for the annual Easter Raffle can be left at the front office. We appreciate any and many Easter items to help spread the Easter winning cheer. This is a fundraising activity organised by the P&C to support the school.

KINDER NEWS

Teaching And Learning: We love doing our ‘Move To Learn’ program first thing in the morning in the Jackson Hall. All the children are having lots of fun moving in different ways and training their brains to do new things. We are also enjoying our ‘Finger Gym’ activities that help us get our fingers super ready for Kindergarten work.

Thank you so much to all of our Kindy Co ops helpers. We really appreciate your help. If you haven’t returned your pink note to us yet, then please do so. Kindy Co ops is on every Wednesday and Thursday from 11.30 – 1.00 pm.

Home Readers will be starting soon. Your child’s teacher will be sending out a note shortly asking you for your assistance with the home reading program.

Practice: Your child’s name and numbers 0 to 9 in foundation font was sent home last week to enable your child to practice the correct letter and number formation, starting at the dot and following the arrow. You may like to put these sheets in a plastic sleeve and use a whiteboard marker so that they can be reused many times.

Library Bag: Thank you so much to everyone for bringing their Library book bags to school on Tuesday. It won’t be long now before we can finally borrow books; our bar codes are getting made up this week. Don’t forget Kindergarten’s library day is on a Tuesday and you must have a protective book bag if you want to borrow a Library book.

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 be happy to help you.

STAGE 1 NEWS

Yesterday our fertile chicken eggs were placed into our incubator which is on loan to us from Gary and Debbie Backhouse of Bega. The eggs take 21 days to hatch. We are responsible for twice daily turning the eggs, making sure the temperature is correct and there is water in the bottom of the incubator. We will be learning about the stages of growth of the chick for each day of the 21 day cycle. We all can’t wait to see our baby chicks hatch. Thank you to one of our lovely relief teachers, Mrs Pearce and her neighbour Mr Galli of Bega who have donated the eggs. We have also started tracking the growth cycle of mealworms, and broad bean seeds in our classrooms.

As part of the growing unit we sent home a task last week asking for children to bring in a copy of a photo of themselves as a baby, which they can talk about as part of our Listening and Talking activities. Children will be asked to talk about their date of birth and how heavy and long they were when born. You may like to share a funny story with them about when they were a baby that they may be able to retell.

If you haven’t already done so, please also complete and return the "Tell us about your child" sheet that was sent home a few weeks ago. Your insight helps a great deal to enable us to get to know your child a little better. If you have misplaced the sheet a short letter on half an A4 paper would be great. We want to know about your child at home, outside school interests, your hopes for him/her this year and anything that you think is relevant for us to know.

STAGE 2 NEWS

Parent Information Night: It was great to see so many parents and carers come to our information session last Thursday evening, thank you for being able to take the time to find out what is happening for the Stage 2 students this year. A Stage 2 Parent Information sheet will accompany this newsletter outlining routines and expectations. Please see you child’s class teacher if you have any questions.

Sharing Time: Each class has been enjoying their daily ‘Sharing Time’ sessions hearing many interesting descriptive and persuasive talks. The students have been well prepared and are keen to share their interesting presentations with the class.

Accelerated Reader: Please remind your child to change his/her Acc read book regularly either at lunchtime or during the library lesson. It is important that the students read every night to an adult who can check that they are reading accurately, fluently and with expression.

Mathematics: We have been exploring and creating a variety of number patterns and learning about time.

Fundraiser: The students have been busy creating the pictures of themselves to go on the Stage 2 tea towel. Orders are being taken now at the school office. Tea towels cost $12.50 each.

Resource Requirements: Could you please provide your child with an A4 plastic document wallet to keep class work in and a labelled USB thumb drive for use in the technology room with Mr Morris.

STAGE 3 NEWS

Year 5 Camp notes were sent home last Friday. Please return the notes and payment to your child’s teacher as soon as possible.

SPORT

PSSA Knockout Team Trials: Yesterday a Knockout Team Trials application notes for 2013 was sent home. If your child is interested in trying out for a school team. Please fill out the relevant area and send the note in to the school office by the end of the week.

COMING EVENTS:

Wed Mar 6 SRC Disco, TEN Information Night, Canteen ‘RED’ day - The Canteen will be selling some extra special treats

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bulldogs Junior Rugby League Rego – Last chance to get in before training starts!! March 6 at the Pambula Beach Sports ground 4pm – 6pm. Any questions please contact Naomi on 0410 444 299

Inflict group Fitness Fundraiser for Rural Fire Service: This Sunday March 8 @ Spencer Park. Come along for a fun Bootcamp session. All ages and fitness levels. Raffles, games, breakfast BBQ. Entry by donation. All proceeds to RFS.
Canteen Red Day

Next Wednesday 6th March the school will be having one of their 2 allowed red food days. These red food days allow the school to serve food not normally available.

Lunch Orders: Party Pies $1.00ea
Sausage Rolls: $1.00ea
Snacks Recess and Lunch: Hot Cross Buns, Easter Eggs and Chips
Normal canteen menu available also.