Dear Parents, Carers and Grandparents,

It has been another busy week at Merimbula Public School. Students have been participating in a range of sporting team try outs, performing arts auditions, regional sports carnivals and representative team selections. I am very impressed that so many students have participated in these opportunities. Stage 3 students also attended a great presentation on cyber-bullying with local police liaison officers this week.

Announcing Merimbula Public School’s Dance Group for 2013: Over the past week, Stage 2 and 3 students have undertaken numerous dance auditions. These auditions were to assess students dance ability, how fast they can learn steps and how well they can dance with other students (timing). All students impressed Miss Hensman and she appreciates the time and effort each and every one of them put into their auditions. The following students were selected to participate in the 2013 Dance Group: Chloe, Ashlee, Tavita, Harry, T’Leah, Imani, Tyler, Jacinta, Joanne, Jessica, Julia, Kirsten, Nel, Dylan, Khyla, Kristen, Issey, Jessica, Mattee, Indigo, Hannah, Mercedes, Izabella, Calissa and Amelia.

School Cricket: Caleb, Kevin, Angus, Dylan, Joel, Cam, Jedd, Nick, Jonty, Jake, Harry, Zac and Tavita were selected to be in our school Cricket Team last week. Their first game was against Pambula Public School on Monday. Mr Unicomb, the coach, was very impressed by their efforts. Information about the game will be included in next week’s newsletter.

Softball Team: Congratulations to Khyla, Rani, T’Leah, Danielle, Hannah, Jesse, Joanne, Annalise, Chloe, Erica, Kiarna and Brooke. After attending many throwing, catching and batting try-outs, they have all been selected to represent Merimbula Public School in girls’ softball.

**DISCO REMINDER**

Tonight’s Disco for K-2 students will take place between 5.00pm – 6.25pm. The dress theme is “rainbow”
The Years 3 – 6 Disco will take place from 6.30pm – 8pm. The theme is “Geeky”.

The Targeting Early Numeracy Maths Information Night for parents is on in 5H’s Room from 5.00-6.25pm.

I hope that you enjoy reading more about our wonderful 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.

Absence Notes: Thank you to those families who send in ‘Absence notes’ the day after their child’s absence. This greatly reduces the time spent chasing up reasons for absences. It is a requirement of the Department that all absences are explained. You can also ring the school on 64951266 and give a verbal explanation.

Tea Towel fundraiser: Reminder to send in tea towel orders to school by March 22. Funds raised will be used to buy reading resources for all stages.

Headlice Notes: Last week headlice notes were sent home with each student. These notes are usually sent home when a case of lice has been reported about a particular child in a class (parents / carers often tell the office and we keep names anonymous - thank you to those who support us in this manner). Last week, after the newsletter was sent home, there was a case of headlice reported in 3 classes. As a result the school’s Wellbeing Committee requested that the note be sent home so that all parents/guardians were encouraged to check their children’s hair - as a precaution. The school requests caregiver support. Please check your child’s hair on a regular basis, and treat it if necessary, so that we can work together to ensure that our school is as lice free as possible. We also request that parents consider encouraging their children to tie their hair up where possible. Please see the enclosed note for more information about headlice procedures and related information.

Removing Head Lice And Nits: Mention head lice and most of us instantly develop an itch. While head lice and nits, (the eggs of head lice) are certainly annoying and persistent, they’re not dangerous. Here’s everything you need to know to rid your kids of head lice and nits. Find out more:


PSSA SPORT

Boys Soccer: Please be advised that Boys Soccer training will commence on March 14, not March 7 for boys selected in the school team.

Rugby League: With trials still taking place, training will take begin on March 18, not March 4.

AFL: Trials begin this week with training beginning on March 13.

Girls Netball & Soccer: Selections begin this week with training dates TBA in next week’s newsletter.

Good Number Sense: Maths is a numbers game but for some students - and parents - the figures don’t add up. Here are some strategies to help kids to work out sums in their heads in a way that makes sense to them. Find out more:


Essay Planning: Kids often rush headlong into essay writing tasks without thinking through what is required. Effective essay planning can involve brainstorming, mind-mapping, and organising notes depending on the question and type of response required. These factsheets explain everything. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-a-to-z/ /english_glossary/8Qum/2661/essay+planning

Reading with Your Child At Home: When your kids see you reading and writing in everyday life – whether reading for pleasure, sharing a story with them or making a shopping list – it teaches them that they are useful skills. Here are some things you can do at home to help your kids with reading. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/en/homework-and-study/english/english-tips/reading-with-your-child-at-home

KINDER NEWS

Teaching And Learning: Kindergarten is learning all about the letters a, m, s, t and i. They are learning how to say what each letter is and what sound each letter makes. They are learning how to write each letter correctly, starting at the dot and following the arrow. Kindergarten is learning how to count forwards to 10, 20 and 30 and backwards from 10, 20 and 30. We are also learning how to add and subtract numbers and are having lots of fun playing games that help us do so.

Move to Learn: We are superheroes in our daily ‘Move to Learn’ sessions and surprised Mr Bootes with how clever we all are. The children have learned new skills such as rolling [log], gliding [superman], rocking [puppy dog rock] and sunflowers, just to name a few. Please ask your child to show you how clever they are at doing them. You might even like to try them together as a family.

Home Readers will be starting next week. Your child’s teacher is sending out a note this week asking you for your assistance with the home reading program. Please fill out the note and return it to your child’s class teacher as soon as possible.

Kindy Co ops: Thank you so much to all of our new Kindy Co ops helpers. We really appreciate your help and it makes our job so much easier when you are there. It was also wonderful to see our regular group of Nans turn up from last year. Kindy Co ops is on every Wednesday and Thursday from 11.30 – 1.00 pm if you’d like to help us out.

Library Bag: Thank you so much to everyone for bringing their Library book bags to school on Tuesday. We are all so excited that we can now borrow our very own library book. 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.
Scripture: Christian and Catholic scripture started last Friday. The children had fun getting to know their Scripture teacher and learning about God in KW's classroom and the classroom next door. If your child wasn't participating in Scripture lessons they were playing together in KB and KS' classrooms. If you would like your child to attend Christian or Catholic scripture then please give your teacher a note indicating so.

Thanks: Thank you for returning the letters about your child and the parent survey regarding our Kindergarten Orientation and the Best Start Assessment. Your feedback is so important to us and helps us greatly moving forward. If you didn't receive either of these then please ask your child's teacher. Thank you also for all of your support and help this term.

STAGE 1 NEWS

Disco: The children are very excited about the K-2 disco from 5pm - 6.25pm tonight with the theme being to dress in rainbow colours.

'TEN' Information Night: During the K-2 disco parents are invited to attend a parent information session run by Mrs Lisa Freedman to learn about the strategies we are teaching children for maths in K-2 and ways you can further support your child at home. This will be held in Mrs Hodsdon's room (5H). This information session is not really suitable for younger or older siblings to attend so hopefully you are able to organise for your other children to be supervised while you attend this session.

STAGE 2 NEWS

It is pleasing to see the students developing their phon and word building knowledge through activities at school and in their homework. These skills will help them read and write unfamiliar words.

Mathematics: Addition and subtraction, together with money, are our focus in Maths this week. Maths games are fun and help develop mental arithmetic strategies. For more information about these games and how you can help your child, a TEN (Targeting Early Numeracy) information session will be held tonight from 5.00 – 6.30 pm while the K-2 disco is on. The students are looking forward to the Stage 2 & 3 disco tonight from 6.30 to 8.00 pm the theme being ‘Nerds’.

HSIE: Exploring the history of Merimbula, the buildings and people's lifestyle, is fascinating for the students in our HSIE lessons.

STAGE 3 NEWS

Year 6 to Year 7 Transition: All children in Year 6 would have brought home a 'Moving into Year 7' form today. This form contains a lot of information about Government High Schools and an Expression of Interest form. Please take the time to read this information with your child and complete the form. These forms need to be returned of school by Friday March 22. Teachers from Eden Marine High School will be providing an information night for students and parents on Thursday March 14 at 5:30pm in the Jackson Hall. This information session will go for an hour. If you unable to make this time, sessions will also be held at Eden Public School and Pambula Public School on the previous 2 nights. Please contact Mrs Nawiesniak for more details.

Student Diaries: Many children are having trouble finding a student diary. It is possible that we can make a bulk purchase of diaries through OfficeWorks. The diaries will cost $1, including postage. If you would like one of these diaries, please let your child's teacher know.

Year 5 Bounda Camp: Permission Notes for this camp were due in on Monday. If you are experiencing difficulty paying at this time please contact either Mrs Hodsdon or Mr Unicomb or the school office staff on 64951266.

Sport: This term, Stage 3 children will be participating in sport on Friday's between 12pm and 1:30pm. Could you please ensure that your child is wearing well fitting joggers.

Stage 3 Homework: As part of PBS this year, we are endeavouring to make Stage 3 children more responsible. One of the areas we are focusing on is responsibility for their work and property. As many of the children will be going to high school next year, we are encouraging them to take weekly homework sheets home on the correct day or follow this up with the class teacher if they are absent on the day the homework went home. For this reason, weekly homework will no longer be available on the school website. Major assignments however will be uploaded to the website at the start of each term.
We will also be using the homework diaries to keep track of children's homework. We would appreciate your support in this matter.

Year 6 Sydney Camp: Notes have been sent home today for children to reserve their place on the excursion. The excursion will take place from Tuesday Nov 5 – Friday Nov 8, 2013. The deposit of $50 due Friday April 5 (Wk10 T1). Please note, this MUST be paid by all students to secure their place. Please contact the school if this presents any problems.

COMING EVENTS:

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pambula Penguins - looking for players for the Womens soccer comp. Comp starts early April runs till end of August. Great Fitness, meet people and have fun. Please call Jess 0400 611 818. We would love to see some new members Join!

Merimbula Diggers ARFC advise that the junior training season will commence on the 7th of March at Berrambool oval at 4.30. We have a new under 10s age group consisting of 8, 9 and 10 year olds, as well as our three other junior grades, under 12s, 14s and 16s. The cost for all junior grades is $30.00 or $45.00 which includes socks and shorts. Auskick will commence Thursday 2nd May after the school holidays. Registration can be done on these days. All new, past and present players and parents are welcome, for more information please call Chris Hawkins on 0419569532 or Bruce McDonald on 0411061837.