Dear Parents, Carers and Grandparents,

Principal’s Awards: Sinead and Ayla have received 5 Merit Awards and will be awarded a Principal’s Award at next Monday’s Assembly in the Jackson Hall. Well done girls! The assembly will commence at 2.15pm. Parents and guests are welcome to attend.

Positive Behaviour For Success (PBS) Awards: Congratulations to Taylor, Tyson, Noah, Scott, Sienna, Jayda, Ruby, Kel, Jared, Matthew, Hollie, Lachlan, Bella, Chloe, Jorja, Jake, Noah, Ryan, Annabel, Erica, Annabelle and Luke. They will all be receiving a large PBS award at the next assembly. Congratulations to the following students who will be receiving arm bands: Respect – Edward, Luke, Noah and Natasha; Fairness – Pearl, Nathaniel and Brayden; Responsibility – Samuel, Luke, George, Khyla, Jorja, Paul and Joanne.

Staff Development Days (SDDs): Each year SDDs occur in NSW Public Schools at the start of Terms 1, 2 and 3 and on the last 2 days of Term 4. In past years our staff have varied the two days at the end of Term 4, completing professional learning during the holidays and/or on public holidays, with approval from the Regional Director. This year our staff will have their two Term 4 SDDs when other schools have them at the end of Term 4, December 19 and 20, so that we can work with neighbouring schools to implement the new National Curriculum. Our school will be implementing the English and Mathematics syllabus documents in 2014. The last day of the year for students is Wednesday, December 18.

To further support all schools in implementing the new National Curriculum, the Director General announced earlier in the year that all public school teachers would have an additional SDD. This day will be held in Term 2. Therefore with two SDDs on the first 2 days of Term 2, NSW teachers will commence on Monday, April 29 and students will commence on Wednesday, May 1. During our first SDD, all staff will be learning about more Positive Behaviour for Success classroom strategies, communication techniques, conflict resolution and behaviour management strategies. On the second day teachers will be working in teams to familiarise themselves with the new English syllabus, online programming tool and resources to support children in reading, writing, talking, listening and when using multimodal texts. Teachers work extremely hard on these days to ensure that they are up to date with best practice teaching methods for your children. At our school teachers also attend the school in their holidays and on weekends to set up classrooms, prepare resources, assess student work and also to type reports. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated staff who go above and beyond to support our children. If you have any questions about SDDs, please contact me on 6495 1266.

National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN): The National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will take place across Australia between Monday May 13 and Thursday May 16 for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students within these grades across the country are expected to take part in the assessment process unless withdrawn by their parent(s) / caregiver(s) in accord with religious beliefs or philosophical objections to testing. Testing adjustments are available for students with a disability to support their access to the tests and facilitate maximum participation. Students who receive learning support at school can also receive adjustments. Parents / caregivers of students receiving adjustments will be contacted by the end of term. Parents / caregivers with concerns about NAPLAN, or those who would like more information about the process, should contact me on 6495 1266. More information about NAPLAN has been sent home with all Year 3 and 5 students this week.

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

Michelle Hulme - Principal
**SCHOOL NEWS**

Phone: 64951266  
Fax: 64953239  
email: merimbula-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au  
Website: http://www.merimbula-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

**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.

**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.

**Vacation Care for Staff Development Days:** Monday April 29 and Tuesday April 30 are Staff Development Days in NSW Public Schools. If you require Vacation Care on either one of these days, please contact Kylie at Merimbula Out Of School Hours Care (MOOSH) on 6495 3244 or 0439 498 112 by Thursday, April 4th. MOOSH have not yet received enough interest to operate on these days but will consider offering Vacation Care if more than 25 children require supervision on the day. These are the numbers required so that the centre does not operate at a loss on the day.

**Smoke-Free Environment Law Update:** Amendments have been made to the Smoke Free Environment Act 2000 to make the following settings smoke-free from January 7, 2013:
- In public playgrounds within 10 metres of children’s play equipment;
- In open areas of public swimming pools;
- In major sporting facilities and at public sports grounds;
- At public transport stops and stations;
- Within 4 metres of the pedestrian access point to a public building; and
- From 2015, commercial outdoor dining areas.


**Crunch and Sip News - How Much Fruit and Vegetables Do Children Need?** Children are encouraged to go for 2 serves of fruit and 5 vegetable serves every day. The amount children should eat depends on their age, appetite and activity levels. The emphasis in education should be on eating a variety of fruit and vegetables (including raw, cooked and different colours). This provides a wide range of nutrients. The Australian Guide to Healthy Eating recommends that children and adolescents eat the following number of serves of fruit and vegetables per day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Fruit Serves</th>
<th>Vegetable Serves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-12 years</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13+ years</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KINDER NEWS**

**Teaching And Learning:** We absolutely love our smartboards and are having so much fun learning with them. They are incredible! Thank you Mr Morris for all the help you have given us all with the smartboards. We really appreciate it!

Kindergarten just loves learning about the letters a, m, s, t and i. They love making simple 2 and 3 letter words using the letters a, m, s, t and i. They can make words like am, it, is, at, Sam, mat, sat etc. You might like to try and make these words at home too.

**Kindergartens love counting:** 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. You might like to also help us with counting forwards and backwards at home.

**K-2 Cross Country & Mad Hatter Parade:** We are super excited about our special day on Thursday. The children can either wear their normal school hat and clothes on the day or wear pink or red as we are having our ‘PINK’ Breakfast fundraiser. Please make sure that your child has their running shoes on so that they can run the Cross Country course at 12:30pm. Your child can also, if they like, wear a special decorative hat for our ‘Mad Hatters’ parade which will be on at 2:10pm. It is going to be such a nice fun day for everyone, so we hope to see you there. If you have any queries about this day then please see your child’s teacher as we are only too happy to help you.

**Tea Towels Orders:** Thanks so much to everyone for purchasing our amazing tea towel keepsake for Kindergarten 2013. The money we raise from the tea towel orders will go to purchasing more ipads for Kindergarten.

**Technology:** We love going to the Technology room to learn every week with Mr Morris. We can type our names on the computers using Microsoft Word. If you have a computer at home you might like to get your child to have a go at typing their names on them too.

**Labels:** Thanks so much to everyone who has clearly labelled their child’s drink bottles, lunch boxes and any other containers their child brings to school. It is such a good idea to use a pen that stands out and it is also a good idea to write your child’s name in several spots so that it is easily recognised.

**Thanks:** Thanks so much to everyone who helps our Kindergarten children at home and at school. We really
appreciate all that you do for us all.

STAGE 1 NEWS

PINK breakfast, Cross Country and Hat Parade: A reminder that tomorrow we are raising money for cancer through our pink breakfast. We are encouraging children to wear pink for the day! We understand that the boys may be short on pink gear! Pink hair or socks or anything you have will help. It is also our Mad Hatters’ Parade and Cross Country day. We would love for parents to join us from 12.30pm when our K-2 Cross Country commences on the oval. Children will need to wear their regular broad brim hat and running shoes for the Cross Country event.

After the Cross Country will be lunch. Bring a rug and a picnic lunch if you wish and stay to share a picnic lunch with your child(ren). After lunch at 2.10pm we will hold our Mad Hatters Hat parade. Children are encouraged to wear a decorative (or mad) hat for our “Mad Hatters” parade. Pre-schoolers and toddlers may also like to join in with a special lap at the end of the parade if they too have a special hat to wear. These hats could be Pink, Easter or mad hat themed!

Competitive 8 year olds who have taken part in the Cross Country at Berrambool oval earlier in the day will not be able to run at the K-2 Cross Country that afternoon but are of course encouraged to cheer on their friends.

In the event of wet weather the Mad Hatter parade will take place in the hall. The back up date for Cross Country will be held on Thursday, April 11 2013 at 2.10pm.

At lunch time you may also like to visit our baby chicks. They are growing very quickly!

STAGE 2 NEWS

Excursion: Year 4 students had lots of fun dressing up in olden day clothes on Monday and experiencing school activities from the past. They enjoyed learning about the history of Merimbula and seeing many interesting relics from the past at the museum. The bush tucker walk through Rotary Park and then onto the location of the Salmon Lookout near Bar Beach provided a different historical and Aboriginal perspective to life in bygone eras. Year 3 students are looking forward to going next week.

Reading: Daily reading practice is very important to develop decoding and fluency skills. Remember to change your Accelerated reader books during lunch times or you weekly library lesson.

Maths: In Maths we are developing our skills in multiplication and division as well as looking at 2D shapes. Puzzles such as tangrams have been fun to do, showing how to flip, slide and turn shapes to complete the pictures.

Stage Assembly: The students are looking forward to performing items for you at our special Stage 2 assembly on Tuesday April 9 from 2.10 – 2.55 pm in the Jackson Hall. Parents and carers are welcome to see the great work we have been doing this term. If anyone has any items of the old Merimbula school uniform (maroon sweatshirt with ibis on it, check dress, maroon sports shorts) could you please let Ms Hosken know.

STAGE 3 NEWS

Diaries: The Student Diaries have arrived. Unfortunately they will cost a little more than first anticipated. They will be $1.50 each. Children can bring the money directly to Miss Hensman or Mrs Nawiesniak to receive their diaries. Children have been learning how to use their diaries to organise their time over the past few weeks and it is pleasing to see that they are now taking more responsibility for this.

Sharing Time Tasks: A reminder that Term 1 Sharing Time Tasks are due to be presented to classes next week. Your child should be practising their speech and be prepared to present on their allocated day. If they are unsure of which day they are presenting, they should check with their class teacher.

COMING EVENTS……..

Fri March 29 Good Friday (Public Holiday)
Mon April 1 Easter Monday (Public Holiday)
Thurs Mar 28 Cross Country, Mad Hatters Parade and PINK Breakfast
Wed April 10 Year 3 & 4 Auskick Gala Day – Berrambool
Thurs April 11 Year 3 Jigamy Farm Excursion
Thurs April 11 PSSA Softball knockout @ Pambula
Fri April 12 Last day of school for Term 1

TERM 2

Mon April 29 Staff Development Day
Tues April 30 Staff Development Day
Wed May 1 STUDENTS RETURN FOR TERM 2

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sapphire Aquatic Centre are holding Winter Time Trials (similar to swim ‘Club Night’). Proudly assisted by the lovely members of the Pambula Community Swimming Club. Why wait ‘til next season? Come along and race against your time over winter… regos in by 5:30 for a 6pm start Tuesdays May – 7th June – 11th July – 16th August – 13th September – 10th October – 8th . Enjoy a fun evening. Hot food available from the canteen. For more information please phone the sapphire aquatic centre. 6494 3100

Happy Holidays: We hope that everyone has a lovely short break over our long weekend and that you make many magical memories over this time together. Happy holidays!

Happy Easter