Dear Parents, Carers and Grandparents,

Thank You Parents and Caregivers: This week is our last week of Term 1. Thank you to all of the parents, caregivers and friends for their ongoing support of school programs, classroom and sporting activities. Our students’ continued success is thanks to your support together with the dedication and enthusiasm of our great staff. I hope that you enjoy the extra time you have with your children over the holidays. Students return to school on Wednesday, May 1.

Principal’s Awards: Congratulations to Sinead, Ayla, Annabel and Jackson. They have all received 5 Merit Awards and will be receiving a Principal’s Award at the next School Assembly on Monday, May 6 at 1pm.

PBS Awards: Wow!!! We have lots of PBS Awards to give out at the next assembly! Tyler, Jazz, Ashton, Paris, Koby, Chelsea, Zoe, Ewan, Erica, Noah, Ryan, Billy, Zach, Bella, Chloe, Jorja, Jake, Alex, Lachlan, Hollie, Matthew, Jared, Kel, Annabelle, Noah, Sienna, Jayda, Scott, Ruby, Tyson, Danielle, Kiarna, Damon, Taylor, Luke and Annabel will all be receiving large PBS Awards after having received four awards for demonstrating each of the school values. Wow!!!

The following students will be receiving arm bands: Respect – Luke, Edward, Natasha, Sam, Noah and Rachel; Responsibility – Jessica, George, Khyla, Paul, Connor, Joanne, Luke, Summer, Sam and Jorja; Fairness – Nathaniel, Pearl and Brayden.

AFL Gala Day: Congratulations to all of the Stage 2 students who participated in today’s AFL Gala Day at Pambula Sports Ground. Before completing this newsletter, feedback was that the children were enjoying the activities and that they were demonstrating their best behaviour. Well done students!

Girls’ Softball Team: Good luck to our softball girls! They will be playing their first official game against Pambula Public School tomorrow. I cannot wait to see them play!

Anzac Day Ceremonies: On Friday this week, between 12.30 and 1.30pm, our Student Representative Council (SRC) will be hosting an Anzac Day Ceremony in the Jackson Hall. Kirsten and Harry will also be presenting a speech about Anzac Day in preparation for the Merimbula Anzac Day Ceremony on Beach Street, where they will be addressing the community. Accompanying this newsletter is a note detailing information about the local service and parade. It would be great if students could march on April 25, in full school uniform, and attend the service. A light morning tea will be provided at the RSL afterwards for students who attend. Please see the note for more details.

Payment of Excursions and School Monies in Term 2: In Term 2, payment for excursions and other school activities will only be processed on a Monday and Tuesday. Money will be collected in the office on other days, but not by class teachers. Class teachers will continue to collect money on a Monday and Tuesday but they will not be counting or processing it. If your child is attending an excursion or event, please ensure that it is paid for and permission notes are in by the Monday or Tuesday prior. Change will only be given on these days. By making this change we are saving many administration hours so that we can minimise disruption and better support learning in the classroom.

Enjoy reading more about our caring school within this newsletter. Check out our web site for more photos!

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.

Managing Depression: One in four kids over 12 has symptoms of depression. Would you know what to look for and how to help? Don’t be afraid, ask your child how they are feeling and keep communicating with them. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/managing-depression-in-children


Spellcheck: Is your child learning to spell? Struggling with the weekly spelling lists? Here are a few strategies that will help: Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/zh/homework-and-study/english/english-tips/getting-your-child-used-to-writing

Homework Planner: Kids and families run more smoothly when there’s a plan - so print out our 2013 homework and study calendar, which includes key dates and school holidays.


**P & C NEWS**

Mother’s Day Stall: This year’s Mother’s Day Stall will be held at the school on Thursday May 9 and Fri May 10. If you are able to volunteer some time on those days to help with the stall, please leave your contact details at the office for the P&C. Thank you.

Canteen will be open for recess & lunch snacks only.

**KINDER NEWS**

Thanks: Thank you so much to everyone for all of your help and support over the past term. All of the children and teachers have really appreciated it and are so glad that you are part of our family. This term has been just fantastic and next term will be even better. We can’t wait! We wish everyone a happy and safe holiday and look forward to seeing you all back at school next term on [Wednesday - not sure what day children come back].

Anzac Day Ceremony: Kindergarten will be participating in their very first formal ceremony as we remember our ANZACS and all the men and women who keep our country and other countries safe. We would love you to join us for this special ceremony in the Jackson Hall this Friday at 12:30pm.

Kindy Coops Starting Time: Just to let you know that Kindy Coops will start next term on Wednesday 2 at 12:00pm.

Teaching And Learning: We are so excited by what our Kindy children can do. They are getting super sensational at forming the letters a, m, s, t, i, d, f, r, o and g correctly. Thank you so much for helping us learn how to write our letters correctly at home. It makes such a difference in class. You can also get your child to play a letter game with the Kindy News on the Merimbula Public School newsletter. All you have to do is get them to look at the Kindy News section of the newsletter and have them highlight the letters a, m, s, t, i, d, f, r, o and g that they find. Wow!

It is so exciting to hear that many parents have been buying magnetic letters and putting the letters we are working with, on their fridge at home and making simple 2 and 3 letter words out of them. How fantastic is that!

Not only are we good with our letters but we are also getting better with writing our numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 correctly. You might like to help your child practice writing these numbers at home and make sure that they form each one the right way. You might also like to get them to look at a number between 1-10 or 1-30 and ask them what number is it, what number comes before it and what number comes after it.

Lastly some of us are so clever at writing our first name correctly that we now have to work on writing our last name correctly. Way to go Kindys!

Time Changes: With our change in timetable occurring next term we will have to change the times that parents, grandparents and friends come in and help us in class, with readers and Kindy Coops. Your child’s teacher will be sending out a note this week asking you for your assistance again. Please fill out the note and return it to your child’s class teacher as soon as possible.

**STAGE 1 NEWS**

Stage 1 has had a fabulous term getting to know one another and completing a very exciting unit on living things. Our chickens look like gangly teenagers and will be ready to go to their new homes for the holidays. Thank you to the families who are taking

**STAGE 2 NEWS**

There will be **NO LUNCH ORDERS** on Thursday & Friday this week. Canteen will be open for recess & lunch snacks only.
out our chicks. We hope you have many lovely years together!!

We hope everyone has a safe, relaxing and happy holiday and we will see you back on Wednesday May 1.

STAGE 2 NEWS

Stage 2 students have had a very busy term developing their skills and knowledge in many areas. They greatly enjoyed showing their parents and carers what they have learned at the special Stage 2 assembly yesterday. We are all very proud of their achievements.

The Stage 2 AFL Gala Day today was lots of fun. The children all played well and displayed good sportsmanship.

Tomorrow’s Year 3 excursion to Jigamy Farm has been postponed until next term, please read the accompanying note for more details.

Over the holidays please check your child’s supplies (pencils, pens, textas, whiteboard markers, glue stick) and renew them if required. Please label your child’s belongings.

We wish you a happy and relaxing holiday.

STAGE 3 NEWS

Year 7 2014: ‘Expressions of Interest’ forms were handed out a couple of weeks ago. These should have been returned to school by now. Regardless of which school you choose to send your child to these need to be returned. It would be much appreciated if they are returned before the end of this week.

We have come to the end of a very busy term. We are really pleased with the overall attitude and behaviour of Stage 3 students. They have become great leaders and role models to the rest of the school. They should be proud of what they have achieved this term! We hope you all have a relaxing and safe holiday and look forward to Term 2.

COMING EVENTS:

Thurs April 11 PSSA Softball KO @ Pambula PS
Fri April 12 Last day of school for Term 1
     ANZAC Day Ceremony 12.30-1.30pm
     in the Jackson Hall
Mon April 29 Staff Development Day
Tues April 30 Staff Development Day
Wed May 1 STUDENTS RETURN FOR TERM 2
Fri May 3 Netball KO Game 1
Mon May 6 Whole School Assembly
Thurs May 9 Mother’s Day Stall
Fri May 10 Mother’s Day Stall
     Zone Cross Country Wolumla

COMMUNITY NEWS

APRIL 2013 SCHOOL HOLIDAY BVS LIBRARY PROGRAMME WEEK ONE
Merimbula Library – Wednesday 17th April – Simple crafts for 7 years + Cost $2.00 10.30am till 11.30am Book by ringing 64992481
Bega Library – Thursday 18th April – Story time for 7 years and under. 10.30am till 11.30am Book by ringing 64992127

WEEK TWO
Bega Library – Wednesday 24th April – Come along and make finger puppets and paper plate creatures. 7 years+ 10.30am till 11.30am Cost $2.00 Need to book 64992127
Wii games are also available during school holidays.

Why is it so important that children drink water? Water is good for us - our bodies are made up of 50-60% water. Water lost each day through breathing, sweating and going to the toilet needs to be replaced, especially in hot weather. Adequate fluid intake is essential to good health. Not drinking enough fluid causes dehydration. Any level of dehydration can cause physical symptoms such as poor concentration in class, headaches and irritability. Children rarely drink enough during break times at school and often forget to drink unless reminded. Crunch&Sip® provides an opportunity to drink water and helps to prevent dehydration.

5 reasons to pack a mandarin for Crunch&Sip®
1. They are sweet and juicy. Kids love them!
2. They are nutritious - full of vitamins and fibre
3. They come in their own biodegradable packaging
4. They don’t bruise easily
5. They are a perfect size for kids to eat during Crunch&Sip®