Welcome Back: Welcome to our returning students and families and our new students and families. We have had a great start to the term despite the rain and we look forward to another rewarding and exciting 10-Week-Term! Our "What’s On" information sheet has been sent home with today’s newsletter. Stick it on your fridge so that you can keep track of what is coming up in the weeks ahead. Congratulations to Mrs Candy McVeity who has been appointed a full time permanent position as a teacher at Merimbula PS. Candy will work at our school for 3 days per week until after the Sapphire Coast Learning Community Performing Arts Festival, which she is supporting Bega Valley Public School with as well (on the two days she works there). As a result we are fortunate to be able to continue having Mrs Feneck and Mrs Bennett share their artistic expertise. With Mrs Dessai retiring, Ms Bain will now be working in the Library and Mrs Lawson will teach 5/6BL full time instead of part-time. Mr Bootes is now on leave until his retirement. Mrs Ross will be teaching 2/3BR full time throughout Term 3. Congratulations to Mrs Dessai and Mr Bootes on your service and commitment to public education, Far South Coast schools and students, and in particular thank you for your efforts and achievements whilst at Merimbula Public School. You have both been an asset to our school and its students. Through your networking and support of local students and colleagues you have also both played an important part in supporting the Sapphire Coast Learning Community within and across schools and in your community service pursuits. On behalf of staff, students and the school community, good luck with your future endeavours and please remember to pop in from time to time for a visit!

The "What’s On" page sent home today also includes updated Library, Art and Music days for classes, as a result of a the mentioned teacher changes.

Year 3 and 5 NAPLAN Assessments: The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials. NAPLAN Assessments will be taking place from May 12 to 14 this year. All students are expected to sit the assessments as one way to support our school in ascertaining areas of student achievement as well as programs and activities we could implement to ensure continued improvement. In addition, Departmental learning and support funding is also provided on a needs basis partly due to the results obtained in the assessments. If you feel that your child may require additional support to complete the assessments, that they may become anxious or if you would like additional information about the assessment program, please contact your child’s classroom teacher. Additional information for parents and caregivers of Year 3 and 5 students has been sent home with this week’s newsletter.

Aboriginal Education News: An invitation to a South Coast Aboriginal Traditional Owners Gathering was sent home with Aboriginal students today. Please check your child’s bag for more information about the related camp and talent night. The Aboriginal Health Checks, coordinated by Medicare Local, took place at school today. Thank you to all families for returning your permission notes.

School Anzac Day Ceremony: We would love to invite all of our parents and friends to our special Merimbula Public School Anzac Day Ceremony assembly. It will be on Friday April 24 in our lovely Jackson Hall, starting at 12.30pm sharp. We will be having Mr Doug Beaumont and Mr John Rawlins from the RSL as our special guest speaker and listening to our beautiful Merimbula Public School Choir sing. We hope you are able to join us for this commemorative event!

Voluntary Contributions: It’s not too late! We now have $5132.00 towards our estimated goal of $16,000.00 to spend on much needed resources for the education of our students. Thank you to those families who have paid their voluntary contributions.

The Uniform shop is open on: Mondays from 8.15am-9.15am Thursdays from 8.15am-9.15am & 2.15pm - 3.15pm. If you are unable to attend in these hours order forms are available from the school office. Please fill the order form out with payment options and leave in the post box in the foyer.

Canteen Helpers and Term 2 Menu: The Term 2 Canteen Menu has been sent home today. Please check our healthy and delicious new
winter menu options. If you have any time to spare, even an hour, when you can assist in the canteen, please complete the additional Canteen Helper’s Note and return it to school. Children love seeing Mum, Dad, Nan and/or family in the canteen!

K-2 News

The staff of K-2 would like to welcome students and families back to the new school term. Our Kindergarten students have really settled into the school routine and have worked very hard learning all about sounds, letters and numbers. They know that school is a place for learning, having fun and making new friends. A big thanks also for the Asian artefacts that were sent in from home last term to enhance the Stage 1 learning activities. The children really enjoyed this unit of work and feedback from parents confirmed they learnt a lot of new facts about the world from their own children!

Kindergarten: This term Kindergarten will learn all about change. They will look at how they change themselves and the changes that occur around them. They will also learn that change begins with them and that we all need to ‘be the change that we want to see in the world’

Assemblies: A reminder to Kindergarten parents they will now be joining Year 1 and Year 2 on Mondays in odd weeks at 2pm in the Jackson Hall for assembly. This is a time when we present merit awards and celebrate success in our school. We also share work, entertain and share information about the school. We welcome families and friends to attend and it is a great place for parents to connect and meet new friends also. The first assembly will be in week 3 and will be hosted by K1S we look forward to seeing you there.

Cross Country: Thank you to the staff, students and parents who made our K-2 Cross country a great success. The children had a wonderful time. The presentation of ribbons for this event will take place at our first assembly in Week 3.

Classroom Supplies: Thank you in advance for topping up your child’s classroom supplies. We particularly need new lead pencils and glue sticks. Don’t forget we use our whiteboard makers every day and these run out and with cold weather on the way we always need extra tissues.

Watch it Grow! This term Year 1 and 2 will be learning about the growth and change of living things. Students will investigate and compare the growth of living things under different conditions.

Stage 2 News

Stage 2 teachers would like to welcome students and families back to the new school term.

Stage 2 will be focusing on the Literacy Concept ‘Representation of Australians (a changing society)’ this term for English and HSC. Students will be researching events in Australia’s history around the 18th Century and exploring consequences for Indigenous Australians. In Science, we will be looking at how simple machines are used to design and produce products. Stay tuned for a Science Day with loads of fun investigations and activities! In the coming weeks students will be given a Speaking Topic to plan and organise in class. Later this term they will deliver their short oral presentation to a Stage 2 assembly. We hope Mr Jamieson is safe and well this week on the far north coast and look forward to having him back next week.

Stage 3 News

Welcome back to Term 2. We hope everyone got to enjoy some time with their families over the Easter break and are now refreshed and ready to attack. There will be a lot going on this Term, with the Stage 3 Mini-Fete, NAPLAN for Year 5, the Multicultural Speaking Contest, and Athletics Carnival to name just a few of the items on the agenda. In class, students will be exploring Earth and Space in Science and we will continue looking at Australia through Federation during History lessons. Our English topic will centre on the 100th Anniversary of ANZAC day. In PD/H we are exploring the Child Protection Unit: Protective Strategies. We look forward to working with everyone again this term and would like to remind you that if you have any concerns or questions please make an appointment with your child’s class teacher. If you feel your questions have not been effectively addressed please see assistant principals, Mr Hughes or Ms Bain. Please ensure that your child is equipped with adequate supplies for this term. Every child should have pens (blue, black and red), pencils, textas, glue, scissors and a ruler available everyday.

Sport

Zone Cross Country: Zone cross country will be held in Wolumla on May 5th, 2015. Mrs Vaughn will be the Team Manager. Notes will be sent home to qualifying students (first 4) early next week. The postponed school cross country race for the 10 year old girls will occur at Merimbula Public school on Friday during Stage 3 sport time at 12.30pm (weather permitting). Parents are welcome at attend to cheer on the competitors. Please check on our Facebook page for updates if rain looks imminent.

Karate Club: Karate club will resume on Thursday Week 2 after eating time at lunch.

TERM 2 - 2015

WEEK 1
Friday April 24 - Anzac Day Ceremony 12.30pm in the Jackson Hall

WEEK 2
Friday May 1 – Scripture/ Ethics resume
Sunday May 3 - P & C High Tea -Oaklands

WEEK 3
Monday May 4 - K-2 Assembly 2pm
Tuesday May 5 - K/1/2 AFL Skills - Berrambool
P & C Meeting 6.30pm in the staffroom
Thursday May 7 - Softball K/O’s Pambula
Otitis Media Screening
Friday May 8 - Quizworks Scripture Presentation
Sunday May 10 - Mother’s Day

WEEK 4
Monday May 11 - Years 3-6 Assembly 2pm
Tuesday May 12 - NAPLAN - Language & Writing
Wednesday May 13 - NAPLAN - Reading
Thursday May 14 - NALAN - Numeracy
Friday May 15 - NAPLAN Catchup
Zone Cross Country
State Dance Workshop
Sunday May 17 - Tuesday May 19 SCLC
Music Camp

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