What a busy time we have had this past week with Education Week celebrations. Congratulations to all staff and students on your efforts towards making all events a success, from the SCLC Performing Arts showcase to our fantastic art show. Also congratulations to those who have been recognised by their peers for their efforts in education and received awards at the SCLC Awards Ceremony last Friday.

Our school Tennis team have been setting the PSSA tennis competition on fire with another resounding win in the quarter finals last week. Congratulations to you all on your performance and outstanding sportsmanship and good luck competing at the semi-finals in August.

See our Facebook page for photos of the above events.

School News

Book Club News: Book club orders are due next Wednesday 12th of August. Late orders cannot be accepted. Thank you to the parents who have returned their orders to the office money box already.

Recorder News: Well, it’s here. Next Thursday, ten excited children, from Stages 2 and 3 will be representing our school at the Combined Festival of Music at the Opera House in Sydney. The girls will be part of a thousand strong recorder and orchestral musical performance playing three different recorder pieces which they’ve learnt off by heart. They have spent many, many hours practicing their pieces and should be very proud of their efforts. This week, they had the opportunity to refine their playing when they participated in the South Coast Learning Community Performing Arts Festival at Eden high School. Their performance was great and many positive comments from parents, friends and teaching staff from other schools were received. It also gave the girls a boost in their confidence to be playing to a wider audience before the magnitude of the Opera House. I would also like to personally thank all the girls (and their long suffering parents) for the many hours they have given up to achieve proficiency with these musical scores. I am really proud of their achievements and growth and appreciate how hard they have worked. I’m sure we will all enjoy next week’s concert and are looking forward to it immensely. I would also like to wish my three Year 6 tenor and treble recorder players the best of luck for high school and beyond. I also want you to know how much your guidance to the ‘newbie’ recorder players has been encouraging and inspirational to them and how much I have appreciated your help over the past two years. I hope you all continue with your musical interests as you all have such talent! Thank you and good luck! Beth Smith

K-2 News

Assemblies: The K-2 assembly will be in Week 5. This one will be hosted by K/1S at 1.55pm in Jackson Hall and not 2H as previously advertised. We look forward to seeing you there. 2H will host their assembly at a later date.

Kindy Orientation: We are so excited to see so many Kindergarten enrolment forms being returned to pre-schools and our office. We can’t wait until we have our welcome to Kindy picnics.

Welcome to Mrs Pearce: Mrs Pearce will be on KW while Mr Unicomb takes leave for 9 days. We all love seeing Mrs Pearce’s smiling face each day.

Labels on Personal Items: Please help your child as they work towards being more responsible by ensuring all hats and jackets are labelled with their name. This helps to ensure a swift return of any items to your child. We would love if you can talk to your child about returning items to their zipped bags rather than leaving jackets on outside hooks. We often have three or four jumpers each day left outside each classroom.

Maths Matters: Last week Year 1 and 2 learned the game ‘Magic 14’. Ask your child to teach you the game. You will need a set of playing cards for this game.

We are practising counting backwards in Kindergarten. This is such an important skill for subtraction later on. You can start from any number and stop at any number. This assists your child in developing more flexible mathematical thinking.

Art Show: Congratulations to all the Stage 2 children for their fantastic artwork! The Art Show was an outstanding way to showcase not only the entire school’s work, but a resounding success to the accomplishments of Mrs Feneck and Mrs Tuckwell. As viewers, the children really enjoyed seeing their work displayed as a class and being able to see what the other children across the Stages have been doing. The children in Stage 2 had many positive comments to make and learnt much about Art appreciation throughout the process. An excellent effort from our Art teachers.

Basic Learning Supplies: It’s that time of the year again when noses run and children sneeze, cough, and generally share their germs around. Our tissue supply is very low and it would be appreciated if the children could please bring in some more boxes of tissues to resupply the classrooms. It is also imperative that your child has their own classroom supplies as there are many children coming to school without lead pencils, glue sticks and/or whiteboard markers. These things have a habit of being used and expired, and need to be constantly monitored and replaced. If you could manage to ensure your child has adequate supplies, it would be greatly appreciated as it helps our classes run more smoothly without the loss of wasted time searching for the right tools. Thank you.

PBS: This week four students from Stage 2 achieved PBS Merit Awards for completing one area of their PBS Matrix. Awardees were: Emily Judd and Willow Purcell for Care, Dylan Watkins for Responsibility and Kaylah Smith for Respect.
Stage 3 News

Essential School Supplies: Stage 3 teachers have noticed that many student supplies are running low. All students should have access to blue, black and red pens, lead and coloured pencils, a cm/mm ruler, a glue stick and scissors. Please check your child’s supplies and replenish them if required. Thank you.

EMHS Visits: Next Wednesday will see the beginning of the Eden Marine High School Transition Visits for Stage 3 students. It will begin with a Science and Agriculture session. All students will be attending, regardless of where they plan on going to high school.

Year 5 Kianinny and Year 6 Canberra Camps: Invoices for the Camps went home last week. The full payment is not yet required but some families may wish to pay off another instalment at this time. Itineraries, information packs and medical notes are being put together now and should be sent home within the next few days.

Stage 3 Astronomy Night: Thank you to all the parents and students who attended the Stage 3 astronomy night last Wednesday. Unfortunately the clouds came in at about 6:30pm, which hindered what we were able to see but everyone had fun. Those who arrived early were amazed to be able to see Saturn and its rings. We also got to look at the crater ‘Copernicus’ on our moon. Another extra special thank you must go out to Mr Howker who provided the telescope and knowledge to make the night a success.

All backstage/productions jobs will be allocated next week and successful students will start in Week 6.

Sport News

PSSA Soccer: The MPS boys soccer team have advanced to the next round (Round 4) and will be playing against Moruya PS at Pambula Town field tomorrow (Thursday) at 12:00pm. Good luck boys.

PSSA Tennis: On Friday, 31st July the Merimbula tennis team won their quarter final game against Camden South. It was a great day with the team winning 8 sets to 0 and 48 games to 1. As the South Coast representatives they will now head off to Sydney on Monday, August 17th to play the semi-finals and hopefully the final. Good luck Logan, Maka, Aria and Charlotte.

PSSA Athletics Zone Carnival: Good luck to the Merimbula students competing at the Zone Athletics Carnival being held in Bega on Friday. To help our athletes compete at their best, Mr Jamieson can sometimes loan the athletes running shoes (spikes). If there are any families who may have a pair of these shoes that they no longer need, it would be appreciated if you might consider donating them to the School’s running shoe pool where they will be put to good use.

Lost Property

MISSING – much loved blue State PSSA jumper, size 12 and it has Jacob Overend’s name in it. If found please return to the school office. Thank you.

Library News

Book Week 2015: This year’s book week theme is ‘Books light up my world’. Book week at our school will run from Monday August 24 through till Friday August 28. Our book parade will be held on Wednesday August 26. We encourage all students to come dressed as a character from a book that has ‘lit up their life’. Our Book Fair will be held in our school library with the assistance of Booktique on Wednesday August 24 and Thursday August 25.

More information will be sent out with next week’s newsletter. We look forward to seeing all of you then.

Library Classes - Week 5 (Week beginning Monday 3rd August)

The following classes will have library next week: Monday - FM, 1/2V, 5/6BL and 1Y; Tuesday - FB, KW, 3J, 5H and 2H; Friday - 4C, 2/3BR. It would be great if children had their library bags and books to return/renew with them.

Canteen News

International Food Day: Don’t forget to get your order forms in for the International Food Day this Term. This time the theme is A Mexican Fiesta and it will be held next Tuesday August 11th. A flyer with an order form was sent home with last week’s Newsletter. If you didn’t get yours, you can pick one up from the office. Each order will go into a draw to win a Gift Certificate kindly donated from Santa Fe restaurant. There will be one prize drawn per stage.

To help out with the organisation of catering, it is important that your order forms and money are to be returned to the Canteen or Office money box by this Friday August 7th. NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN.

Out and About: Good luck to all the Stage 3 students who are attending the Zone Carnival in Bega on Friday. You have already done yourself and school proud. Run fast, throw long and jump high. Also, best of luck to the recorder ensemble who will be performing at the Sydney Opera House this week. Your hard work and dedication to learn all the songs has been impressive.

CAPA News

SCLC Performance: Our students did a brilliant job at the SCCL Performing Arts festival. Well done students and staff!

ON SAFARI: Auditions for speaking parts for the play were held on Wednesday afternoon last week. We made a short list and held ‘Call Backs’ on Tuesday morning. The parts were finalised before our first rehearsal held today.

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e-mail: merimbula-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Gardening has taken off in a big way in Australia and we at Merimbula Public School have decided to join the crowd and use gardening to help support our curriculum, develop healthier eating habits and engage our students in the outdoors.

We, with the support of staff, the P&C and local businesses, have recently committed to our very own Kitchen Garden project!

Mr Morris will be coordinating the project with the help of Dan Bakker of the Bournda Environmental Education Centre who, as a Permaculturalist & sustainability teacher, has recently begun to initiate students in the art & science of growing their own organic food garden.

Mr Bakker has had our students prepare, sow and nurture their own seed in preparation for their relocation to a student-built instant no-dig garden.

In coming weeks students will construct over 120 square meters of garden using this dynamic layered system being practiced all over the world. Costa Georgiadis, on Gardening Australia, recently demonstrated how this technique is one of the most effective, sensible and fun ways to start ‘growing your own’. http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/stories/s3682928.htm

So far students have propagated numerous seed varieties. From Chinese winter annuals to Christmas harvest garlic to flourishing insect loving flowers, this organic edible community is bred & bound for a big day of transplanting once the garden site has been built.

Students will also construct benches & activity tables made from pine single-use pallets salvaged from Bega Cheese.

Soon a mini polypipe hothouse will be built and made from waste materials salvaged from Bega Shire Waste Depots.

The soil will be ‘activated’ using a number of organic techniques to stimulate beneficial microbes & fungi. The garden’s design will draw on student centred concepts tried & tested by Mr Bakker in over a dozen schools and community-gardens.

The no-dig installation will conclude the first stage of what will later become a multi-dimensional learn-scape that will also process all the organic waste produced by the school – that is, once students have built a number of bathtub wormfarms!

Can you help?

Join the new Committee – several parent members required to help the staff team get the program up and running.

No-Dig Blitz Days - Parent helpers wanted
Any parents able to assist students on the no-dig blitz days Thursday & Friday (August 13 & 14th) will not only help students get the most out of the experience but will also learn a lot about the technique themselves.

Our garden project has been generously supported by
- Merimbula Public School P&C
- Mitre 10
- Merimbula Fresh Food Market
- Bournda Environmental Education Centre
- Forestry Corporation NSW
(Can you help us to keep our costs down?) If you have any unwanted stuff lying around your place and it’s on this list we’d be happy to take it off your hands.

Garden Wish List

Newspaper - newspaper - newspaper!!!
Tools – hand-tools and spades/forks etc
Wheelbarrows
Mulches – straw & hay (must be mould free)
Compost & Manure
Hardware – namely roofing screws and batten screws
Paint – acrylic only
Wheelie bins
Tin bathtubs – for wormfarms
Dog mesh and stainless steel fencing - for trellises
Star pickets
Bush poles - ideally 150mm diameter and up to 2 meters in length
Fence palings - non treated or painted please
Sleepers/retainers & hardwood stakes - non-treated
Tin sheds – for tool storage
Irrigation pipe & fittings - any size
2 inch poly pipe - min.4 meters in length
Garden Hose & Fittings
Pavers
Harvest Baskets
Hot/Shade houses
Tomato Stakes
Pine framing – clean & de-nailed
Shade Cloth

Later: perennial plants,

Please contact Mr Morris if you have any questions