Dear Parents, Carers and Grandparents,

Well done to our Basketball Girls!
They played a great game against Batemans Bay Public School, being narrowly defeated 23-21.
Our Boys’ Soccer Team were triumphant last Friday, winning against Berridale 14-0. Well done team!

NAIDOC Week: This year NAIDOC Week will be celebrated from July 7-14. With this being in our school holidays, on Monday our school celebrated NAIDOC Week. NAIDOC has stood for ‘National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Celebration’ in the past. NAIDOC is now referred to as being the – National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee – which was established in 1957 to promote the achievements and contribution of Aboriginal people. NAIDOC Week is a time that we can ALL reflect on the achievements of our Aboriginal friends and colleagues and explore ways we can work together to help build a better future.

Every year NAIDOC week has a theme. The theme for this year is “We value the vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963”. This year’s theme proudly celebrates the 50th anniversary of the presentation of the Yirrkala Bark Petitions to the Federal Parliament. In August 1963, the Yolngu people of Yirrkala in northeast Arnhem Land sent two bark petitions, framed by traditional ochre paintings of clan designs, to the Australian House of Representatives. The petitions protested the government granting mining rights in Arnhem Land. They wanted recognition by Parliament of the Yolngu peoples’ traditional rights and ownership of their lands. The petitions were the first traditional documents recognised by the Commonwealth Parliament and helped to shape the nation’s acknowledgment of Aboriginal people and their land rights. On Monday, students learnt about these facts and many others during the assembly.

At lunch time, students were treated to a barbecue and some damper. Following lunch, students were each given a boomerang to decorate and take home as well as an art work to complete. Completion of the art work was part of a competition, with the winner receiving an original Aboriginal art work by local artist, and Merimbula Public School Parent, Andrew Russell. The winner will be chosen later today and they will receive the artwork pictured above.

The day was a lot of fun, thanks to T’Le, Mackenzie and Mr Claxton’s great organisation. Thank you to all of our Aboriginal students who hosted the fantastic assembly and to Kaye and Andrew Russell for preparing the damper and great art activities! Thank you also to the parents and families who attended our special assembly. We are so lucky to have such great families and students!

Athletics Carnival Results: Due to the inclement weather of late, all Athletics Carnival Field Events have not been finalised. Results will be shared as soon as events are finalised. Parents will also be invited to an assembly where students will be recognised for their efforts. We will inform you of the date via our newsletter and Facebook.

Staff Development Day Reminder: Our staff will be taking part in a Staff Development Day on Monday, July 15. Students resume school on Tuesday, July 16.

Enjoy reading more about our fun school within this newsletter and on Facebook! Have a Family-Fest-filled holiday.

Michelle Hulme - Principal
**School News**

**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.

**Run for Ryan**: We have had a great response to the ‘Run for Ryan’ fundraiser. Thank you so much to everyone who has sent in their ‘Run for Ryan’ money. We do belong to a great caring school and community. If you have not handed forms and money in yet please do so before the end of term.

**Future Success**: If you had a choice of bestowing great intelligence or great persistence on your child at birth, which would you choose for your child? Your choice could make a profound difference on your child’s success at school, their future levels of achievement and eventually their income as an adult. Find out more: [http://parentingideas.com.au/Blog/April-2013-%281%29/Intelligence-or-persistence--which-would-you-choos](http://parentingideas.com.au/Blog/April-2013-%281%29/Intelligence-or-persistence--which-would-you-choos)

**Managing Depression**: One in four kids over 12 have symptoms of depression. What to look for and how to help.

Listen to brain and mind specialist Professor Ian Hickie chat with James O’Loghlin on helping kids beat the blues.


**Monday-itis**: Sometimes it’s hard to know if your child is really coming down with something or just suffering a bout of Monday-itis. For safety’s sake, if your child seems unwell you should always keep them home from school and seek medical advice.


**SCLC Tickets**: will be available for purchase first week next term.

**P&C News**

**Earn and Learn Fundraiser**: Thank you to all families who have collected Earn and Learn stickers from Woolworths. Your support will once again enable the school to order fantastic resources for classrooms and outdoor play areas. The total amount of points we have collected this year is 73,680. Which is 1,228 sticker sheets from the school as the sheets brought the total up.

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**P&C Meeting**: Due to the school holidays taking place on the first Tuesday of July, the next P&C meeting will be held on August 6. P&C Meetings take place in the school Staffroom between 7pm and 8.30pm. New comers are always welcome. Some of the items we will be discussing at the next meeting include: our new uniforms / uniform shop, Father’s Day stall organisation, important upcoming dates and events, school photos, Election BBQ fundraiser organisation and the 2013-2014 Kindergarten Orientation program.

**Primary Ethics Program**: Our P&C are looking for volunteers to train to teach the Primary Ethics Program to enable ethics to be offered as a non-scripture subject in our school. The training will be conducted by staff from the St James Ethics Centre in Sydney (a non-profit organisation). The training will involve two days in Canberra within the next month, at your own expense ([www.ethics.org.au](http://www.ethics.org.au)). The goal of the Primary Ethics Program is to support and encourage children as they develop their moral reasoning and critical thinking skills. It endeavours to provide students with a lifelong capacity to make considered moral judgements and to act reasonably and responsibly. The curriculum examines topics such as being left out, sharing and bullying, being a good friend, treatment of animals and our environment and the consequences of certain practices. More information about the program can be found at: [www.primaryethics.com.au](http://www.primaryethics.com.au). For ethics classes to be offered as an alternative for non-scripture students, we need enough trained volunteers. Classes will coincide with scripture class times. If you are interested in training to teach this program please contact parent Jo Thorpe (P&C Vice President) to register your interest by leaving a message at the front office this week or contact her via the school email on [merimbula-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:merimbula-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) Thank you for your support.

**GWS Visit**: Last Monday, students from Stage 2, along with the school AFL team, attended a skills session and meet and greet with some players from the Greater Western Sydney Giants. Activities included tackling, kicking and marking. This was followed by a free barbecue lunch and Q&A with the players.

Despite the torrential downpour to conclude the day, all the students had a great time and displayed the values of Fairness, Care, Responsibility and Respect throughout the day.

**Kinder News**

**Too Small Clothing**: It would be wonderful if your child or children could bring an item of clothing to school that they are now too big for. Your child or children might like to bring a dress or jumpsuit, for example, that they use to wear when they were little to show the rest of the class. We will keep their items of clothing in our trays until we have all shared them. Thanks so much to everyone who has already brought in their item of clothing. We will return them to you by the end of this week.

**Family Trees**: Kindergarten will be sending home family trees this week to complete when you get the chance. It would be wonderful if they could be returned to school once you have finished filling them out. These will only be shared with your child’s class. A note will be also sent home with them explaining what you have to do. It is very easy to do.

**Baby or Toddler Photo**: As part of our unit of work for this term, we will need a small photo of each Kindergarten child as a baby or toddler. It would be wonderful if it could be a copy of a photo so that we can put it on a poster that we are making. Please give this to your child’s teacher as soon as you are able to and thank you so much to everyone who has done so already.

**Thank You**: We are all getting so clever with remembering our full name, phone number and address. Thanks so much to everyone for helping us with this important task. We really
appreciate it and it comes in so handy when we need to ring our Mums and Dads at one time or another.

**Kindy Coops:** There will be no Kindy Coops the first week of next term. Kindy Coops will start up again in Week 2.

**Special Helpers:** We have been so lucky this year in Kindy to have lots of Mums, Dads and Nans help us learn. Thank you very much to each and every one of you. You have really made a difference in our lives and we can’t wait to see you next term. Just recently we have also had some extra special helpers who have come in and visited us. Thank you so much to Sergeant Jo and Senior Constable John for coming in and listening to us read. We are so grateful that you came into school and can’t wait to see you again. We also had an exciting time with Constable Mark and Senior Constable Rod. They talked to us about what the police do and how they are our friends and someone we can go to for help, if ever we need it. They also told us that we can just come up and say 'hello' to them because they are our friends. They let us look inside their police cars and even put the siren on. We had such a ball and we can’t wait for them to visit us again real soon. We are so glad that we have the police now as members of our Kindergarten family.

**Happy Holidays:** We just want to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday and we look forward to seeing you again next term. Term 3 is going to be just fabulous as we have so much fun to be had and things to learn.

**Stage 1 News**

Due to inclement weather the K-2 athletics day has been cancelled. It will be rescheduled next term.

We wish everyone a happy, safe and healthy holiday break!

**Stage 2 News**

**Assembly:** The students have had a very busy term and will be presenting some of their work at the Stage 2 assembly tomorrow at 12.00 pm in the hall. 3H will be organising the assembly. Parents, grandparents, caregivers and friends are most welcome to attend.

**Science Day:** What a great time we had yesterday exploring the human body on our Science Day. The students had lots of fun participating in ‘hands on’ activities in 3 different areas. When visiting the Medical Ward they learnt about; using ultrasound to see inside their body, the benefits of yoga and physiotherapy, increasing their heart rate and resuscitation using mannequins. The research laboratory enabled students to see what cells look like under microscopes. They looked at animal brains, kidneys and bones; did eye exercises and completed an experiment to see how our lungs work. The Body Museum revolved around research using technology, board games and hand and fingerprint artwork. Special thanks all our parent helpers who organised activities for the students or who came to assist. Your help was very much appreciated.

**Multicultural Speaking Competition:** Congratulations to Charlotte and Jacob, our Stage 2 representatives in the Multicultural Speaking competition held in Narooma last Friday. They confidently presented their prepared speeches on ‘Racism and Bullying’ and ‘My overseas connections’.

**Bournda:** The students who enjoyed a fun day at Bournda last week have written a report. On Monday, June 17, Tara, Zach, Lavhy and Jem went to Bournda for HSIE and our topic was ‘Our Place’. Bob was our guide for the day and we went on bushwalks to explore Bournda National Park. We learnt how to use a GPS, a camera and a walkie-talkie. The first animal we saw was a kangaroo, then we saw a midden, which is a pile of shells from Aboriginal culture. We went to see Scott’s Hut and recorded videos about its history, for a presentation back at school. The schools that went were Candelo and Wolumla. We all had lots of fun. By Jem, Tara, Zach and Lavhy

**Stage 3 News**

**Rugby League Gala Day:** Last Friday Stage 3 travelled to Pambula to compete in the combined schools Rugby League Gala Day. A great day was had by all and teachers made particular mention of the fantastic sportsmanship and behaviour on the day. A special thank you to Zak and Zane who organised all the equipment, positions and teams on the day – here is a write up by the boys of the days events:

On the day both of our teams made it in to the semi-finals but didn’t have enough points to make it into the grand final. The two tackle teams on the day played hard with great tries scored: Zane 6 tries, Kiah 5 tries, Jake 3 tries, Zac 1 try, Rhys 1 try, Charlie 1 try. In the Austag Mercury played 5 games they won one and lost four, Magpies played six games they won three and lost three, Marlins played four games and won two and lost two, Monarchs played four games lost one, won 3, Mystics played 4 games, won 2, lost 2, Mavericks played 5 games, won 3 and lost 2. In the end we all had a good day and ended up as runners up. By Zane and Zak

**Assignments:** Well done to students who have submitted their Term 2 assignments. We have seen some fantastic writing samples and some very entertaining speeches delivered in class. If your child has been unable to submit their assignments, speeches are still being completed this week so it’s not too late.

**Year 5 Art:** A big thanks to those children who have been bringing in plastic bags for our mannequins. We are still waiting on a lot of children to bring in silver duct tape. Each child needs to bring in a roll as our art uses a lot of tape. It would be great if these could be brought in **THIS WEEK** so that we can finish this project. Children have also been asked to bring in a long sleeved t-shirt and a pair of tracksuit pants (old ones that will not be returned) per group.

**Coming Events:**

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<tr>
<td>Mon July 15</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<td>Tues July 16</td>
<td>Students return for Term 3</td>
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<td>Mon July 22</td>
<td>AFL KO Berrambool</td>
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<td>Mon July 29</td>
<td>SRC Induction</td>
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<td>Tues July 30</td>
<td>Open Day</td>
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<td>Tues July 30</td>
<td>SCLC Concert EMHS 6.30pm</td>
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**Community News**

**Talent Quest:** On Saturday July 6 Merimbula Beach Holiday Park are holding a talent quest as part of the Family Fest week. All proceeds from this day will go to one of our students, Alayne, who has been in hospital unwell for over 7 months. Entry forms can be downloaded from our web site at: [www.merimbula-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.merimbula-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)