From the Principal
Welcome to week four. What a fantastic start we have had to the year. Last week saw Merinda have visitors from Regional Office to see what fantastic work our teachers and children are doing. We did fabulously well and again Merinda has produced high quality teaching and leaning experiences that are signature to our school. Our teachers work wonderfully well together as a team to ensure your child/ children receive high quality education every day thus ensuring every child in every classroom is learning every day.

Last week also started the beginning of our swimming block. The children had a fantastic time with several comments from parents complimenting the program and it’s vital necessity for our children especially with our lifestyle and location. Thanks Mrs Farley. Keep up the great efforts children!

Children have also been actively participating in Dance Fever lessons every Friday, this is proudly supported by RREAP. We look forward to the children’s culminating performance towards the end of the term at the Bowen Soundshell. More information will be coming out soon about this.

Have a wonderful week and thanks again for your support of our school

Great Results Guarantee
Our school has received additional funding from the Great Results Guarantee and we need to decide how we can use this money to better support our students and improve their outcomes.

We are now working to develop our own Great Results Guarantee with evidence-based strategies and actions to improve literacy and numeracy.

Read more about the guarantee at www.education.qld.gov.au/resultsguarantee.

Green Team update
Welcome to 2014! It is going to be a very exciting year as we have several events planned for our budding environmentally aware students. Our green team will be led by our senior teacher ‘Yadi Dodi’. We will be running “nude food” each term – where we encourage all students to bring wrapper-free food items in their lunch box. The senior students will be checking the lunch boxes and one ticket will be awarded for no wrappers and two tickets for no wrappers and a healthy lunch. All entries will be collected and a prize will be drawn at the end of the term. I will be calling for any interested students to nominate to be a part of the Green team over the next few weeks and the members will be announced at parade. This year we will be asking for parental assistance in some of our activities – so Mum’s and Dad’s get ready to put your garden gloves on!

Bus Conveyance Committee
The AGM of the Euri Creek Bus Conveyance Committee will be held at Merinda State School at 3.00 pm on Friday 28th February, 2014. It will be held out front on the paved area, just inside the gate. A parent from each of the families that travel on the Euri Creek Bus are required to attend.

See you there.

Chaplain Report
It’s been a blistering start to this term as we head into week four, leadership day, “Top Up” breaky program, fruit break, swimming and dancing, we are right back into the swing of things. I want to take this opportunity to plug the chaplain programs that we are excited to be running in 2014. We have “Impact” which will be a life and social skills program, and we have “Club 330” which will be an after school program focusing on realizing their significance and belonging in a nurturing environment. This year I am sharing some practical “Feel Good” strategies that we can all benefit from.

You can choose to feel good immediately by thinking about what is good in your life. Focusing on what you have creates feelings of gratitude. Feeling grateful results in feeling good.

Every person living in the developed world has many reasons to feel grateful.

You have so much! Stop comparing yourself to the Jones’s. Compare yourself to the majority of people alive today. Let’s really put your life into perspective: According to the World Bank (www.worldbank.org)

• 8 million people die annually because they are simply too poor to stay alive.

• More than 800 million people go hungry daily.

• Approximately 9.2 million children under the age of five die annually, mostly from preventable diseases.

• 2.8 billion people live in poverty daily. They exist on less than $2 a day.

Chances are, you have a lot to be grateful for!

Think of at least seven things for which you are grateful each day – it can be something as simple as bread or your breakfast cereal, or as profound as life itself. Focus on each one and generate feelings of gratitude. The first step towards achieving a more abundant life is being grateful for what you already have. Have an awesome week ahead! If you have a need or just want to talk to someone, come chat to chappy!

Budget and State Purchasing Training
On Wednesday the 19th of February and Thursday the 27th of February both Kara Collins and myself will be attending budget training and state purchasing training. Mrs Helena Tully will be the teacher in charge while Kara and I are away. If you have any materials that could assist your child/children in completing this assessment please keep hold of them.

Sports Update!
What fun we have been having on the netball court! Students have been willingly trying new positions and it has been a great way for them to build team skills. Years 3/4 students will be playing on a Monday morning during first break and Years 5/6/7 will be playing on a Tuesday during first break. If you would like to join but haven’t signed up yet, it is not too late!

GRIP Leadership
On the 14th of February our grade 6 and 7 student leaders attended the GRIP Leadership program. All of the schools in our district attended the day. It was a wonderful day in which the students learnt about leadership and ways to be a great leader. At Merinda our students have already demonstrated great leadership skills with their running of sport at lunch, student activity programs, buddy eating and great role modelling. The students are to be congratulated as they represented our school with great pride and won some of the activities showing that Merinda students are clever, effective leaders.

Prep
The past two weeks have been a fortnight of fun firsts in Prep – we have really enjoyed shaking and growing with our Dance Fever teachers, who have come to us all the way from Tasmania! Preps and their teachers have thoroughly enjoyed learning our new hip hop routine and doing the Shake n Bake – we can’t wait to impress you on our Showcase night late in the term. We dived into our first swimming classes in HPE lessons last Friday making a huge splash and safely playing lots of aquatic fun games. Any parent helpers who can offer assistance with these lessons please leave your details with Miss Collins at the office. In Music with Mrs P, we learnt about keeping the beat and following rhythmic sequences. Our first group of students have moved onto their Green SSP level speech sounds – practise speaking, spelling and reading with formed letters every night! We have started our whole school reading and spelling groups and have borrowed books twice from the library. In between all that we are busy little bees counting collections, recognising numbers, learning to spell, read, write, share, operate our XO devices, follow our warm ups, use equipment safely, recognise our own names and lots more! Finally a huge thankyou to all the parents and families who attended our Parent Information night last Friday. It was so lovely to meet you all and chat about your child’s learning journey as they begin primary school. Please don’t forget to pack your child’s BEE case every day! Mrs P

Yr 1-2
Yr 1-2 Wise Little Owls
We have been exploring colours that portray emotions using watercolour and oil pastels. These artworks correlate well with our learning of emotional language. Our Wise Workers have begun to look at ‘Our Place in Space’ and will be investigating maps in our unit called “Me on a Map”. In Maths this week, our Wise Workers in Yr 2 are counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and making collections of all different numbers using these different counting sequences whilst our Wise Workers in Yr 1 have been creating addition stories. Our Wise Workers have begun to work on their learning goals this week! Keep up the good learning Wise Little Owls! Mrs H.

Yr 3-4
Students have been busy learning new skills and concepts for upcoming assessment pieces. It has been fantastic to see such positive attitudes when learning unfamiliar content.

Years 3/4 have a blog to keep you updated with important information, allow access to resources and for you to see what’s been happening in our classroom. If you were unable to make the parent information night then your child will have our blog URL in their homework folder.

As a part of our Technology unit, children will be working through the Technology Practice Cycle to design a 3D model of a playground that meets the needs of a design brief. If you have any materials that could assist your child/children in completing this assessment please keep hold of them.

Yr 5-7
This week sees the school captains running their very first parade on Friday morning starting at 8:45am. This is the first real opportunity for our school captains to display their leadership skills and we look forward to their first parade. Last week our sports captains decided that they would run activities for the Prep children at second break lunchtime. What a fabulous idea! Mrs Pethers and the prep children are thoroughly enjoying the games that Dylan, Kaia, Dakota and Wally are organising for them. What great leadership Sports Captains – keep it up.

2014. COMING EVENTS

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