From the Principal

Welcome back

The 2017 school year is well underway and we are excited to have our students back in the classrooms and working hard towards achieving great things for this term. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of the new families starting their association with the school. We look forward to working with your children and getting to know you all. We welcome parents in our school as our most valuable partners in a child’s schooling.

We currently have 76 students attending Merinda and this means that we are 2 students short of keep our current teaching staff. Day 8 was on Thursday 2nd February and while it won’t affect the configuration of our classes it could have an impact on how our staffing looks for the rest of this year. We will keep you informed of any changes that could happen once our Day 8 numbers have been confirmed.

P&C Meeting and AGM

Our first P&C Meeting for the year will be held on Monday 6th February in our school library starting at 6:30pm. The AGM will be held afterwards and nominations will be offered for all P&C executive positions. Voting and decisions will be made on the night. Please attend and have your input into our wonderful school. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

Swimming

Swimming lessons for this term will be held on Mondays and Tuesdays starting in week 5 on Monday 20th February and running for 5 weeks. Our school received a $1,700 sporting school grant which has enabled us to reduce the cost. The cost to parents for the 10 lessons will be $21.00 per child.

The swimming dates for the term are as follows:

- Monday 20th Feb
- Monday 6th Mar
- Monday 13th Mar
- Monday 20th Mar
- Tuesday 21st Feb
- Tuesday 28th Feb
- Tuesday 7th Mar
- Tuesday 14th Mar
- Tuesday 21st Mar

Keep our school safe.

If you do see anything unusual, call school watch on: 13 17 88
Grip Leadership
As part of our school leadership program all of our Year 6 students will take part in a Leadership Day at Bowen PCYC on Friday 10th February. The GRIP Leadership Conference equips students with extra skills to be leaders in their schools. These skills are learnt through a series of presentations, leadership games and most importantly group activities and discussions with student leaders from many other schools.

A reminder to parents that each student will need to make their own way to and from the PCYC on the day and that school uniform is compulsory. The day runs from 8:45am-2:30pm.

Merinda Cup Class Attendance – Term 1 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Week 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep/1 – 98.43%</td>
<td>Prep/1 – 95.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3 – 93.47%</td>
<td>2/3 – 93.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 – 96.05%</td>
<td>3/4 – 99.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6 – 93.33%</td>
<td>5/6 – 88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School – 95.32%</td>
<td>School – 93.82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to our Merinda Cup winners Year 3/4 averaging 97.54% attendance for the first two weeks of Term 1. Our school attendance for the first two weeks averaged 94.57%. It’s great to see lots of students at school making every day matter.

Quote of the Week

“No bird soars too high if it soars with its own wings”. William Blake.

Prep/One High Flyers

What a busy start to the term we have had! Prep/One decided to name our class the Prep/One High Flyers, reminding ourselves that we fly high and never give up! The students decided on 4 class rules which they named ways to fly high. They remember these rules and encourage one another every day.

I’d like to thank the parents who made the effort to come to the information session on Tuesday. It is great to have you all involved in your child’s education and will continue to help with our positive community spirit.

Just a reminder that next Wednesday at 3:15pm we will be running an SSP information session in the prep/one classroom. If you can attend this session that would be awesome as it will really help inform you on how we use SSP and how you can support your child's learning at home.

A big thank you to everyone who has been bringing in fruit for a shared fruit break, your hungry munchkins appreciate it!

For history, prep/one need to talk about a special memory they have. To help them with their assessment, I have asked if your child could please bring in a photo or souvenir to help them with their memory.

Students have adjusted well at lunchtimes where prep/one sit at the tables and always eat their healthy lunch first! We are off to a great start this year :)
Jessie Pawson ☺
A big welcome to everyone. We are settling in very well and learning a lot about words and what they are in sentences. The year 2’s are learning how to represent addition and subtraction in different ways and the year 3’s are working on representing their thousands, hundreds and tens. A big thank you to the parents that came along to our parent information session. If you have any concerns or issues please make an appointment time with me to discuss. Have a fantastic week everyone! Stay SUPER! Here are photos of our amazing award winners last week, our SUPERTASTIC foyer display and the year 2 science experiment-testing waterproof or water resistant materials.

Mrs H
Hooked on Learning – a message from 3-4

A big welcome to all returning families and to our new families. I am looking forward to an exciting year with your children. We have made a busy start to the new school year and it is heartening to see the enthusiasm the children have begun the term with.

Our chickens are thriving and a huge thank you to the Webb family for letting us adopt some chickens from them. There are plans for an extension to go onto the chook pen and our worm farm should be up and running next week. We are planning to have our herb/vegetable garden again and the children are looking forward to this.

Lastly, I encourage you to join our class dojo so that you can keep up to date with the goings-on in 3-4.

Cheers from Mrs S.

What’s happening in 5/6?

Welcome back!!!!

5/6 have already shown how amazing they are and what super leaders we have at Merinda State School. We love being able to support our peers and help out with the new students in the school. We have hit the ground running and are having a ball! Watch this space for more 5/6 news.

Miss Brazel
DISCOVER A WHOLE NEW WAY OF BANKING

Join us on Saturday 11th February from 9am until 11am and learn how easy it is to open your child’s school banking account online.

We will also show you ways to enjoy more convenient and efficient banking every day using the latest banking technology.

Enjoy a sausage sizzle (with all proceeds donated to Bowen Collinsville Pet Rescue) and giveaways and let us show you how easy it is to:

- Start Savings Accounts for your children
- Learn more about School Banking

We look forward to seeing you then.
Please note that ATM deposit and withdrawal facilities will be available, but no in branch transactions will be available on the day.

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BOWEN

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Commonwealth Bank of Australia ABN 48 123 125 124
LET'S BEAUTIFY OUR GROUNDS…

We still need drought tolerant plants donated to enhance our lovely little school. Please check your gardens to see what you can spare to the school's advantage.

All plants will be greatly appreciated.

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Mixed Adults & Kids Classes

**SELF DEFENCE TaeKwonDo**

FREE TRIAL - NO NEED TO BOOK - JUST ATTEND ANY CLASS

4.30 - 5.30PM
MONDAYs & WEDNESDAYs
BOWEN State School Poole St HALL

From $35 per month - Family Discounts Offered
We recognise Prior Learning/Belt Levels from other Clubs
Contact Sparring (fighting) for Advanced Students

**ENQUIRIES PH or SMS**: 0433 300 617