Welcome back to the Easter holidays. I hope you had a wonderful break and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. On the first day back of term, we hosted Michael Slocombe, School Discipline Auditor. Mr Slocombe earned exceptionally well, rating in the top 3% of schools in Queensland. We are very proud of our results and it shows that children at Merinda are really experiencing top quality education which is testament to our exceptional teachers and support staff. We did! Make a reminder that your school hats have arrived. They can be purchased from the office for $10. A big thank you to the parents, teachers and support staff who marched with the children as part of the Bowen ANZAC Day ceremony. Your support was very much appreciated. This week we have our Assistant Regional Director at our school on Wednesday working with our teachers. Have a wonderful fortnight and remember that everybody counts at Merinda.

Make every day count in 2014

Make 2014 the year when your child doesn’t miss a day of school. Research shows that students who have good patterns of attendance are more likely to achieve at school. If students aren’t at school or don’t stay the whole day, they are missing valuable lessons. Check out the new Every Day Counts video at DET Victoria /http://www.youtube.com/DETQueensland

Photos

School photos will be taken on Friday the 30th of May (Week 6 of Term 2). Please ensure children are in full school uniform for this important event.

Principal Business Meeting – May 20th and 21st

I will be attending the Principal Business Meeting on the 20th and 21st of May. Merinda has been asked to present about our Putting Ficus on the Data Improvement Agenda on the 21st. Mrs Helena Tully and Mrs Kristy Pethers will be attending the Principal Business Meeting on the 21st as part of this presentation. We are delighted and thrilled that Merinda has again been recognised as leaders in education and look forward to showcasing what we have done. Mrs Leanne Hubbert and Miss Leah Florence will be the teachers in charge for these two days while we are in Townsville.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews will be next week. This year we are trialling an online booking system that allows you to book your interview online, so no more paper work! If you don’t have access to the internet at home, that’s fine, you are able to ring the office and Mrs Hartley can book the time for you. More details to come by the middle of the week.

NAPLAN 2014 – Community NAPLAN workshop

Just a reminder that I will be presenting a community NAPLAN workshop Girdula this Thursday. The first session will run from 10 to 11. The second session will run from 5 to 6. Everyone is welcome. Look forward to seeing you there. Girdula has now volunteers who attend our school for homework clubs to help in the classroom with children who need extra support. These volunteers all have blue cards and will start work at our school this week. We thank Girdula for this wonderful opportunity and community network link.

Parent and Community Year Seven Transition to High School Meeting

When: Friday the 9th of May 2014
Where: Merinda State School

Topics for discussion -
Meet with the Bowen High School Team
Important dates for our 2014 NAPLAN Workshop Girudala for 2015
Joining the High School P&C
Open question time

Note of the Principal

Young leaders encouraged to nominate for youth parliament – news letter

The ASC National Indigenous Youth Parliament is looking for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people interested in government and the parliamentary process. Six Queensland and two Torres Strait Island representatives aged 16 to 25 will be selected. More information is available from: http://www.asc.gov.au/Indigenous/iypp.htm

Chaplain Report

One of my highlights this year has been watching the development of skill during lunch time activities. I want to commend all the children that have been playing soccer over the last few weeks. The communication and teamwork, has been extremely exciting to watch as it continually develops. The ‘fruit break’ and ‘Top Up’ breakfast program is going well, with special thanks to Woolworths for their continued partnership. This year I am sharing some practical ‘Feel Good’ strategies that we can all benefit from.

Daily rigorous exercise for just 10-15 minutes will rid your body of built up tension as well as release more endorphine. Exercise will not only enable you to maintain your general feel-good attitude and reduce stress, anxiety and built up tension, it will also ensure your body is strong and healthy. Everybody is busy, but nobody is too busy to incorporate 15 minutes of exercise into their daily routine. The goal is to exercise 15 minutes a day, 6 days a week, every day of the year for the rest of your life. Set yourself up to succeed by making your exercise goals sustainable and achievable. Be honest, you have 15 minutes a day, make the best use of your time by exercising.

Have an awesome week ahead! If you have a need or just want to talk to someone, come chat to Chappy!

Prop

Welcome back to 2nd term. Prop have begun their first week very early and focused on letters. We had our first interview with Mr P and we have been waiting for our ‘Owl Speech Sound Pics’ to be ready. We have learnt about the ‘Vincent Van Gogh’s sunflower seeds in the school garden bed which we look forward to watching grow and then use them for a retake on ‘Vincent Van Gogh’s Sunflowers’. The motivation evident last week to complete homework tasks was outstanding. Hopefully we will be seeing all children attend the end of term homework party. Please ensure that your child is reading each night and that it is signed in their homework book.

Don’t forget to keep checking out our blog (http://mrshubberts.edublogs.org) for new updates and engaging games.

Yr 1-2

Welcome back and hope you all had a wonderful holiday. Last week we learnt about ANZAC day and made a poppy with our very own message on the stem. We explored 2D and 3D shapes in maths and will be continuing to learn about them this week as well. This term we will be learning about descriptive language and retelling our favourite stories. The class did amazing writing about their very own ‘thingamajig’. Please visit the classroom to read their wonderful sentences about their character. We have an exciting term ahead. Please browse our class blog for more details about what we will be learning this term. Owl Speech Sound Pics is in full flight this term and we can’t wait to see our fantastic spelling and writing achievement. Here’s the secret of our address on our blog (http://mrshubberts.edublogs.org). Looking forward to a wonderful term with you all. Mrs H.

Yr 3-4

Welcome back to an exciting term ahead. It was very pleasing to see the high numbers of attendance for all of last week. In History last week we studied the meaning of ANZAC Day, who commemorates this significant event and symbols used to show respect for soldiers that fought at war. It was fantastic to see children at the ANZAC Day service representing our school and showing their respect. I look forward to hearing about connections they made with what we have been learning and what they experienced.

In Art this term we will be studying two artists, Andy Warhol and Vincent Van Gogh. For one of our art lessons the students will be creating their own version of the ‘Andy Warhol Soup Can’. If you have any cans that you have finished with or will no longer use, may you please bring them in. We have also planted sunflower seeds in the school garden bed which we look forward to watching grow and then use them for a retake on ‘Vincent Van Gogh’s Sunflowers’.

Prop

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Yr 5-7

What a big start to the term! Our school captains started the week with a very important interview with our school discipline auditor, Mr Michael Slocombe. The school captains/leaders then had the responsibility of hosting our school ANZAC ceremony on Thursday followed by marching as part of the ANZAC ceremony on Friday! Wow! What a big week for our leaders. Our Bowen High School coordinator, Mr Sam Williams, starts his weekly visits next Tuesday. He will be meeting and working with our year five and six children to help prepare them for high school in 2015. We welcome Mr Williams to our school and the 5/6/7 class. We were also fortunate to have our adopt a cowboy visit our class last week. Lachlan Coote and Sam Pau visited our class and talked about health eating and healthy lifestyle choices. Finn and Lily were very lucky to be picked to read to the cowboys. They did a great job. We look forward to welcoming the cowboys back to our school and class.

WAKAKIRRI UPDATE

Students in grades 3-7 who will be participating in our Wakakirri event this year are Kylah, Lachlan, Callum, Jarryd, Kyla and Keziah. They have an exciting week ahead. Please browse our class blog for more information.

2014 – COMING EVENTS

NAPLAN Workshop Girudala

01-05-2014

Principal Business Meeting

09-05-2014

Yr 7 Transition to High School Meeting

20-05-2014

Principal Business Meeting

21-05-2014

Principal Business Meeting

30-05-2014

School Photos