Principal News
I cannot believe that we have finished the 2014 school year already. This term has been very busy with school events and rigorous classroom curriculum delivery. Please have a great break and come back refreshed for a great start to 2015.

Prep News
A very Merry Christmas to Prep! Wow! What a year! Prep has worked so hard and are well on their way to move into year 1. We look forward to some exciting events this week – class party on Wednesday. Each student is asked to bring in a plate of food for our shared Christmas lunch at 11am. Swimming fun at the pool on Thursday. Presentation night on Friday. Mrs Pirie, Mrs Nisbet and Mrs Pethers are very proud of each of you and have had a fabulous year together. We wish our families a safe, happy and festive holiday. A big thank you to all our wonderful parent helpers – you have been amazing and I have truly valued your support. Even though you will be on a well-earned holiday Mrs Pethers asks that all Prep ‘keep reading every day!’ Thank you Prep for making my year so special! M/E/RR/Y CH/R/I/S/T/M/A/S (using my duck hands) Mrs P ;)

1/2 News
Well we are close to the holidays and Mrs H has had a lovely year with you all. A big thank you to all of the class for working so hard this year and the fantastic effort you have put into your work. What an OWLTASTIC YEAR! Hope Mrs H hasn’t overwhelmed you all with our ‘owl tantics’! We have a busy week ahead full of fun things to make and do. Hope you all have a happy holiday full of laughter and joy. Stay safe and looking forward to seeing you all again next year. Stay wise and have a hoot in the holidays everyone! Mrs H

Upcoming Events

P&C News Special Meeting to be held:
the 10th December 2014 at 7:30am.

School Breakup
Please speak with individual class teachers for more information

Swimming Carnival/Fun Day
11th December 2014
Bowen Swimming Pool
All notes must be returned to the office by 10.12.14

Year 6/7 Graduation
11th December 2014
QB Hotel

Presentation Night
12th December 2014
PCYC
3/4 News
What a busy and fun year full of learning we have had! It has been wonderful to teach some students for more than a year. I am proud of everyone’s achievements and I look forward to seeing you all again next year. I hope you all have a happy and safe holiday. Remember to read daily and keep your brain active.

5/6/7 News
Best of luck to our Graduating Seniors! What a fantastic year we had in year 5/6/7 class. We wish our 6 and 7 students all the best for their new adventure at High School. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe holiday. We will see everyone in the New Year.

Reading Hub News
Wow, what a great success we have had with our early morning reading hub. Thank you everyone that joined us. I want to congratulate all the students from 5/6/7 who helped out morning after morning. Thank you also to the 3/4 students I could regularly rely on to help out when needed. A huge WELL DONE to the Prep’s, Grade 1 and Grade 2 students who turned up every morning and read to their older school mates. You guys ROCK!!! Happy Holidays everyone, have a wonderful and safe time and remember to keep reading. Mrs Bruce.

Chappy News
This year has come to an end, and so as seasons continue to change, so does the way things look. I am absolutely thankful and filled with gratitude to have journey through 2014 with every member of our Merinda state school family and community. I pray for a relaxing and unwinding break as we celebrated the year that has been and rejoice in the opportunities the New Year brings. I pray that you will have peace and comfort through this festive season. God Bless. Chappy Cam.
**P&C News**

**Special Meeting to be held:** Save the Date for Wednesday the 10\(^{th}\) December 2014 at **7.30am** in the morning under the covered area. This is a special meeting, any general business information will not be discussed. Please attend this meeting to have your interests represented. Thank you Tanya Giles.

**2015 Classes**

Merinda State School’s staffing has been confirmed for 2015. A note with more information regarding which class your child will be allocated in will go home on Friday with your child’s report card, along with important reminders for the holiday period.

Our Teachers for 2015 will be as follows:
P/1 – Mrs Leanne Hubbert
1/2 – Miss Leah Florence
3/4 – Ms Hayley Laidlow and Ms Jasmin Richards
5/6 – Mrs Helena Tully

Mrs Judy Adsett will be continuing as our PE Teacher in 2015.

Today we welcome Ms Hayley Laidlow to our school for the school handover. Ms Laidlow is an experienced small school Principal who will do a fabulous job at our school in 2015 while I am acting in the Principal Capability Officer. We also welcomed Ms Jasmine Richards to our school. Ms Richards has come to us from Queens Beach State School. Ms Richards will be on class to days a week in the 3/4 class working alongside Mrs Laidlow. Mrs Tully will be continuing her role as STLAN. Ms Richards will be taking whole school music lessons.

**Keep a Watch on Our School These Holidays**

With the holidays fast approaching, we need you to look out for after hours crime in our school. If you see anything suspicious, please call School Watch on 13 17 88. The School Watch program is a partnership between the Department of Education, Training and Empltyment, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, thft and arson in Queensland Schools. If you do see something suspicious, please don’t attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security deal with the matter. Keep the number handy – 13 17 88 – and let’s work together to help create a safer school environment.
**In a NUTSHELL...**
Practical and positive advice from your school’s Guidance Officer!

**THIS WEEK: How to build upon self-esteem**

Here are 5 tips in teaching kids the skills to build their self-esteem:

As 2014 draws to an end, the New Year will bring with it a big change for all students, particularly the Preps coming to school for the very first time and the Year 6 and 7 students making the move from Primary to Secondary. It can bring with it ups and downs and transitions and change can be a major source of stress for many kids. Consider the following to relieve any anxiety:

- Talk about the new change as much as possible – the more they know, the less anxious they will be. Encourage them to talk about how they feel about it and reassure them it is normal to be a little anxious about it
- For the little ones, read story books about going to school, watch video clips about the first day so they get familiar with the situation. **You** may even decide to devise a little goodbye routine and practice this a few times before their first day
- Come up with a specific drop off and pick up spot and time so that your child knows you will be there for them at the end of the day
- Be positive and enthusiastic – your child is more likely to look forward to the change if you are positive about it (leave the “it’s a scary thing my baby going to high school/ school” conversation to your friends and around your child say things like “it’s going to be so exciting – you will love every minute of it and you will be fine.”
- Find a buddy for your child – maybe someone they can walk into school with on the first day/week
- Be prepared ahead of time (eg: school lists/ uniforms etc to ease any anxiety over not being organised and ready

- Miss Ross