From the Principal
As Term 3 draws to a close I’d like to wish our Merinda community a wonderful and safe holiday period. A huge thank you to our hardworking Merinda staff, P&C and parents who helped with our school disco last Friday. Without everyone’s efforts the event wouldn’t have run as smoothly as it did and even though the weather decided to heat up for us it couldn’t stop the dancing moves of our students, teachers and parents.

During week 9 we celebrated our Book Fair and the response from our school community was fantastic! At the end of the week our school had sold $2091 worth of books and other items which is absolutely brilliant for a school of our size. Thank you to all our wonderful students, parents and community members who supported this event.

For Term 4 we begin school on Tuesday 4th October and this will also see the introduction of our new same day notification system. Parents will be notified of absent alerts or emergency school alerts through SMS to your nominated mobile phones rather than being phoned directly. Please ensure that all your contact details are up to date with the school office.

Reminder to parents that the bus zone is not a drop off and pick up zone. Please make sure that you park in the correct areas.

The ‘Merinda Cup’ for class attendance for week 8 was won by Year 5/6 with 94.55% and in week 9 Year 2/3 won with an impressive 98.26%. Our school attendance has been hugely impacted by illness and students having days off for other reasons over the last month being below the 90% mark for weeks 5-8. So it was really nice to see our overall school attendance closer to where it should be during week 9 at 92.75%. Only 5 school days left for Term 3, so make every day a winner!

Quote of the Week
“When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on”. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Make it Grow!
Merinda State School would like to add to our gardens. At the moment the gardens are looking a bit sad, so we would like to bulk them up with some beautiful plants. We are asking our parents and the community if they would be able to donate any drought tolerant plants to the school. We would greatly appreciate any contribution. Help us make our school beautiful.

Upcoming Event
Enviro Week 3-4 Excursion
Thursday, 15th September 2016
Please return permission notes to the officer before 11:00am on Thursday. This excursion is free.

Dress Green for the Environment
Friday, 16th September 2016
Dress in as much green as you can, from your shirt to your shorts and even your hair.
Gold coin donation.

Last Day of Term 3
Friday, 16th September 2016
Please if you are around the school over the holidays; keep an eye out for anything unusual.
Keep our school safe. If you do see anything unusual, call school watch on 13 17 88.

Dates for Term 4
Public Holiday – No School
Monday, 3rd October 2016

First Day Term 4
Tuesday, 4th October 2016

P4P – Prep Classroom
Tuesday, 4th October 2016

Pupil Free Day – No School
Monday, 17th October 2016

Year 5-6 Paluma Camp
Wednesday, 26th October to Friday, 28th October 2016
Notes for the camp will be sent home at the end of the week.
P/1 Super Stars News
Hi everyone we have had a busy and awesome term 3. Indi said "I think the disco was exciting because we got to listen to lots of music, drink lots of soft drink and dance!" Oliver said "I liked playing with the play group last week because I got to show the little kids how to act at school!" It has been an amazing, busy term for prep/one and I am really proud of all their efforts. Prep/One and I would like to invite parents in on Wednesday morning from 9-10am for a shared morning tea and to hear prep/one's awesome poems they have worked really hard on. It would be greatly appreciated if you're able to bring a small plate of food to share. A reminder that it would be fantastic if all home readers are returned on Friday before the holidays so we can keep an inventory for next term. Thank you all for your constant support and I wish you a safe, happy and restful holidays. See you next term! Miss Pawson

Prep 4 Prep 2016
Merinda State School will again this year be holding Prep 4 Prep days for our 2017 Prep students. If you know of any families who are looking for a fantastic little school to enrol their children for Prep next year, please share the following dates. We look forward to meeting all of our fresh new faces.

4th October 2016 - PCYC will be coming out today to speak about all of the amazing activities and services they provide for our school.
18th October 2016 - Dental Van will be coming out today to speak about having healthy teeth and the services they provide for our school.
25th October 2016 - P&C will be speaking today about the wonderful projects they have running and ways in which our community can become involved.
1st November 2016 - School Nurse will be coming out today to speak about healthy living and the services that they provide for our school.
8th November 2016 - Girudala will be coming out today to speak about nutrition and the ways they engage in our school community.

News from 2/3 Smarty Pants Owls
Wow, Term 3 sure did fly by. I would like to say thank you to all of my students who worked very hard to complete all of their assessment. They should all be very proud of themselves. Remember to keep reading over the holidays. Have a super Owl-tastic break and I look forward to seeing all of your smiling faces ready to Term 4. Mrs H.

A Blast from 3/4 Class!
Firstly I am pleased to announce that I didn’t pull any muscles or break any bones at the school disco. Thank you so much Miss Pawson and Miss Brazel for a great afternoon and for some really cool music! Secondly, I would like to thank students and parents for a fantastic term 3. It’s hard to believe 10 weeks have passed us by. Some changes will be happening next term with homework but I will announce those at the beginning of term 4. Please feel free to take whatever you want from our herb garden. Congratulations to students who obtained their bronze and silver behaviour awards, I expect to be awarding many more of you next term. Have a safe and happy holiday, be kind to each other and see you in October. Cheers Mrs.S.

What's Happening in 5/6?
The year 5-6 class has really enjoyed increasing their technology skills this term and have been able to test their new skills in many fun activities. The creation of their Drama Documentary saw some epic acting skills. Make sure to relax and have fun over the school holidays and get some family time all together. I look forward to seeing you all for the final Term for 2016. Term 4... we got this!

Ticket Books
Thank you to everyone who has taken home ticket books to sell. Just a reminder that all sold and unsold tickets are to be returned with money to the school office by close of business 11th November 2016. If you would like to sell more books please come into the school office and we will gladly provide you with more booklets. Prizes will be drawn on the 25th of November 2016 at 9am.

TaeKwonDo
Self Defence TaeKwonDo classes for adults and children will be available at Bowen State School. Sessions are on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30 to 5:30pm. The first session is free, commencing Term 4. Rates are $35.00 per month. Phone Anna on 0433 300 617 for more information.
Save the Children – Play2Learn

Merinda State School has a fantastic and very valued partnership with Save the Children Australia. Through their mobile play scheme, parents and carers of children from 0 to 5 years are able to play and talk in a secure, safe and professional environment. The program promotes child safe activities as well as strong community values. Children are exposed to many fun and stimulating activities to get their little minds turning, the play group also gives parents are carers a chance to interact with other families in their community. To make sure that this amazing program continues we need our communities support. If you have a child between 0 – 5 years or have family or friends with a child or children in this age group, get involved; it’s free. Come to Merinda State School on Thursdays between 9:00am and 11:00am to join in the fun. Please contact Kylie Bell for more information on 0438 202 058.
**Intensive Swim Course**

A ONE-WEEK INTENSIVE “SWIMMING STROKE DEVELOPMENT” COURSE

During the *second* week of the school holidays (Mon 26 to Fri 30 Sep) we are offering classes as follows:

- **MORNING SESSIONS ONLY** -
  
  6.00-6.45am   Senior and Junior Squad levels
  7.00-7.30am   Mini Squad level

The decision was made to offer this course during the second week of school holidays so a “chill out” period from the daily pressures of life can be enjoyed in the first week. Then during the second week, the course will be conducted early morning (hopefully) without interfering in any other planned activities.

One particular stroke will be the focus each day, and this will make it easier to flow into squad sessions when Term 4 begins the following week.

If you are interested in booking your child into this program but you’re not sure what level they are, please phone to book an assessment.

It’s time now to book your child, as numbers will be limited each day to maximize attention and progress for everyone.

To book, phone or email me (see details below).

I look forward to meeting you soon.

Cheers

Sheri Schofield
M: 0410.553.147
E: kands21@bigpond.com

ASTCA – Bronze Coaching Licence

Austswim Accreditations: TSWS; TCS; TPD; A&I (Assessor)
Blue Card; Senior First Aid Certificate; CPR Certificate
Swim Squad
LTS – LEISUREBOWEN POOL - P: 4786.1230

...SWIMMING SQUAD INFORMATION...

Time to book your child into a time slot as numbers will be limited each day to maximize attention and progress for everyone.

- AFTERNOON SESSIONS -

All Squad levels are as follows:

3.30 – 4.15 pm Mini Squad
4.15 – 5.15 pm Junior Squad
4.15 – 5.45 pm Senior Squad

Initially they will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays until there is sufficient demand – when we will extend across to Mondays and Fridays.

All assessments are conducted between 3.00 and 3.30pm or after 5pm.

To book, phone or email me (see details below).

I look forward to meeting you soon.

Sheri Schofield
M: 0410.553.147
E: kands21@bigpond.com

ASTCA – (Australian Swim Teachers & Coaches Association)
Bronze Coaching Licence

Austswim Accreditations:
Teacher of Swimming & Water Safety;
Teacher of Competitive Strokes;
Teacher of People with Disabilities;
Access & Inclusions (Assessor)

Blue Card
Senior First Aid Certificate
CPR Certificate
Book Week School Disco
Prep Open Day

Tuesdays October 4th, 13th, 25th, 1st and 8th November 9am-11am

Why choose Merinda State School?
- Dedicated and skilled staff
- Pleasant, welcoming and friendly environment
- Active P&C and positive parental engagement
- Green Team Environmental Warriors
- Small School Values
- Large, spacious school grounds

Our school offers:
- SSP as part of our literacy approach
- A hands-on approach to learning
- Units that follow the Australian Curriculum
- Exceptional teacher aide support

RSVP Today!!
Open to all, call our helpful office staff today to book your spot on (07) 4785 2193. We are excited to meet you all and welcome you into the Merinda family.

A curriculum that focuses on:
- Integrating literacy into all aspects of learning
- Developing inquiry skills
- Critical and creative thinking
- Problem solving
- Effective communication
- Incorporating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island cultures into our learning
- Active participation
Win a Trip to Australia Zoo
Meet 'Scout' the Tiger Cub
Celebrate 100 years of Cub Scouts

The Competition:
It's 100 years since Cub Scouts began and to celebrate you could win an all inclusive trip for a family of four (2 adults and 2 children) to Australia Zoo, Sunshine Coast.

You'll be treated to a Platinum Zoo Adventure of behind-the-scenes animal encounters, your own personal guide, your own personal photographer and an awesome VIP gift pack.

Fly courtesy of Flight Centre Group Travel and stay at the Oaks Oasis on the Sunshine Coast.

While you're there, visit 'Scout' the new tiger cub, sponsored and named by Cub Scouts!

To enter log onto www.cub100.com
and fill in the online entry form.

Want to know more about Cub Scouts?
Contact your local Cub Scout Group or go to www.scouts.com.au

Bowen Cub Scouts
We are looking for extra Cub Scout Leaders - if this sounds like you...
please contact Lesley Bullemor email bowenscoutgroup@outlook.com

One person per entry. All entrants must be over 18 or have permission from a parent or guardian.
Competition opens 10am June 1 2016 and closes 4pm October 31 2016. Winners will be posted to www.cub100.com. Terms and conditions at www.cub100.com.
COASTCARE
CONWAY BEACH
FREE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM
DYNAMIC COASTLINES
TUESDAY SEPT 20TH

FUN ACTIVITY MORNING
Young beach lovers are invited to learn about how our coasts are formed and change over time, how animals adapt and move to survive in our region through a morning of fun filled activities and games.
For kids aged 5-12 (all siblings welcome)
Prizes and giveaways
Places are limited so register now to secure your spot.

9AM - 11AM

DID YOU KNOW?
Storms, tides, winds and waves shape and move our coastline. Conway beach has large tidal flats, a coastal reserve with protected dunes and a small township. In the last cyclone that hit in 2016, cyclone Yasi, there was damage to vegetation and houses at Conway Beach.
Have you heard about climate change? What does this mean for us and the animals and plants that live on our coast? Imagine what Conway Beach may look like in 50 years time...... What can we all do to protect our coasts and the animals and plants that live there?
Come along to find out more!

Where: Conway Beach (Near the toilet block)
When: Tuesday 22nd September 2016 from 9:11am
Cost: FREE
Supported by Eco Barge, Whitsunday Catchment Landcare, Whitsunday Regional Council and GBRMPA!!!!
Please bring a water bottle, wear enclosed shoes and sun smart apparel.
Parents/guardian supervision required.

For more information and TO REGISTER contact:
Olivia.Brochurst@reefcatchments.com or call 0429 033 541
Bowen Junior TRIATHLON
Pace Yourself in Paradise

Bowen Towage Services

Saturday 15th October 2016

Join in the tri fun with the kids’ own version of the Bowen Triathlon 2016. Swim along the beach, ride along the esplanade and run along the boardwalk to the finish at the Surf Club. It’s about giving it a go and having a whole lot of fun being active, plus you’ll get a finisher’s medal and other goodies.

JUNIOR TRI DISTANCES

7 years and under
25m Swim - 500m Cycle - 200m Run

8-10 years
100m Swim - 3km Cycle - 500m Run

11-12 years
200m Swim - 6km Cycle - 1km Run

Entries online at
www.whitsundaytriclub.com

Contacts
WILLIAM DAWSON    Email drinmore@ozemail.com.au    Mobile 0419 203 787