Principal News
What a fantastic first three weeks we have had here at Merinda State School. All classes have dived into some wonderful new units, including some very fun drama, science and music classes, we have hosted the Surf Lifesaving Australia ‘Beach to Bush’ safety presentation, and the best is yet to come during the next 7 weeks including: Presentation Night, Graduation, the Life Education Van, Braveheart’s Presentation, and even a visit from a very special player from the Cowboys might make a visit to the school.

A very big part of our term 4 activities, and something that we are very excited to be launching this week, is our Prep for Prep program. It will run on Tuesday’s for the next month and introduce students and parents to schooling life. We will have some wonderful presenters including our own Prep/1 teacher Leanne Hubbert, our Year 5/6 teacher Helena Tully, our Guidance Officer Sarah Shaw, as well as a dental van presentation and nutritional talk and more. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our newest students and parents to our community here at Merinda.

Another major term 4 event occurs this Friday the 30th of October. It marks Queensland’s celebration of ‘World Teachers Day 2015’. Personally, I would like to thank each and every teacher, past and present, at Merinda State School for making us the

Upcoming Event

**Halloween Disco**  
30th October 2015  
6pm to 8pm

**P&C Meeting**  
02nd November 2015

**Prep for Prep and Dental Talk**  
03rd November 2015

**Yr 6 to 7 Transition Information Night**  
04th November 2015

**Brave Hearts**  
05th November 2015  
Parents Welcome  
11:30am

**Prep for Prep and Nutritionist Talk**  
10th November 2015

**Cowboys Visit**  
12th November 2015

**Prep for Prep**  
17th November 2015
community that we are today. It is an absolute pleasure to be working with Leanne, Sherryl, Leah and Helena and I thank them kindly for the hard work that these dedicated teachers put in to ensure high levels of student outcomes.

**Principal’s Award**
A very special congratulations to Teak Power who received the first ever ‘Principals Student of the Week’ Award in recognition for his support and kindness shown to all students of the school and in particular helping a young student in need during week 3 of the term. Along with this award, Teak won a $5 tuckshop voucher in recognition of this wonderful effort. The ‘Principals Student of the Week’ Award will be presented each Friday on parade to the student that demonstrates maturity and kindness in supporting other peers within our school community. We congratulate Teak once again for his great effort.

**Welcome**
I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the newest member of our teaching staff for 2016. Miss Bess Ponnampalam. Bess has been kind enough to write a letter to the staff, students and parents/caregivers of our community to introduce herself. This letter will be coming home this week so keep an eye out for that. I am sure you will join me in welcoming Bess to our school community. We look forward to working with her in 2016.

**Woolworths Earn and Learn**
We would like to thank everyone involved in the Woolworths Earn and Learn program. Our teachers have just placed the order for 15,000 points and have ordered, amongst other things, Unifix Blocks for mathematics and Reading Shelves for two separate classrooms. Again, on behalf of the Merinda State School community, we would like to thank everyone who contributed to this great initiative.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upcoming Event</th>
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<td><strong>Planet Rhythm Drums</strong></td>
<td>17th November 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Yr 6 to 7 Transition Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Yr 6 to 7 Transition Day</strong></td>
<td>02nd December 2015</td>
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<td><strong>Christmas Concert</strong></td>
<td>04th December 2015</td>
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<td><strong>Presentation Night</strong></td>
<td>04th December 2015</td>
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<td><strong>Life Education Van</strong></td>
<td>04th December 2015</td>
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<td><strong>P&amp;C Meeting</strong></td>
<td>07th December 2015</td>
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<td><strong>Graduation</strong></td>
<td>10th December 2015</td>
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Health Notice
Due to the end of flu season, we are trying to control the spread of germs at the school as this week has seen a large rise in students away sick. Could we please ask that any student that is showing the signs of flu be kept home to rest to avoid spreading the flu to other students and staff. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

P&C News
P&C are still looking for willing helpers to give a hand during tuckshop on Tuesdays and at the Sunday markets. If you are interested please contact Mary-anne Cowan.

Halloween Disco
Our Halloween Disco is just around the corner. If you haven’t already, make sure you are getting your costumes ready. This Friday the 30th of October our P&C and Student Council will transform our Undercover Area into a Halloween Disco students will never forget. The menu went home with students last week and we ask that those orders are returned as soon as possible before you miss out. The night runs from 6pm-8pm and due to supervision not being covered until 5.45pm, we ask that students not remain at school until the beginning. Gates will open at 5.45pm and parents/caregivers will have the option of staying with their child(ren) over the course of the disco, or sign them in and sign them out at the time of arrival and departure. We really look forward to seeing you all there.

P/1/2 News
A big welcome to week four. We are in the full swing of the term and have been working really hard on all of our tasks. The classes have enjoyed making ‘friction frogs’ during Science and will be making their toy very soon. We have been reading a lot of fractured fairy tales and these are so funny and enjoyable. The students have been trying to convince the teachers to like a story better than another. During Mathematics, we have been learning about data and graphs. Students have been having a great time participating in Drama games and activities as well. Don’t forget to read EVERY DAY with your child as this is the building block to all learning. Please remember to bring in homework folders so we are able to change readers. We are excited about our Prep to Prep program that starts this week! Have a great week everyone! Miss Florence and Mrs Hubbert.
3/4 News
Year 3/4 have been working hard this past week completing a math assessment, monitoring our plants and debating important issues such as whether homework is a good thing or a bad thing (guess what the majority spoke about). In science we are learning a lot about physics and this week we continue to learn about light. We will begin to form our inquiry questions for our history unit this week and continue to develop our acting skills. The children are very excited about the variety of plants we have growing and are looking forward to taking their plant home in a few weeks. Remember if there is anything you are concerned about to give me a call or leave a message at the school for me to call you, alternatively pop in and see me. The children would love to show you the work they have been doing.

5/6 News
Our students of the week for week two were Isabel Dunn and Charlee Anderson. For week three they were Maxie Johnson and Teeal Tanna. Congratulations on your awesome work! 👏 Our seniors are participating in their transition program with Mr Murray from the high school. The parent information night is on the 4th of November and the transition days will be in week 9. We also have our Year 6 graduation dinner booked for the 8th of December! So please save the date. Our whole class, is currently communicating and learning through the 2015 Global Read Aloud Project. This is very exciting as we have been sharing our learning with a range of students from around the world. To view some of responses follow the link on the blog or go to //http:globalreaders.edublogs.org

Supporting Our Local Business
Kylie’s Family Dental is now open. Support our local businesses and make an appointment to get the smile you deserve.
Our Leaders of the future need Leaders today!

Of the 12 men that have walked on the moon... 11 were Scouts !!!

Bowen Scout Group have plans to open a Joey Scouts section (6 yo to 8 yo) at the beginning of 2016. We already have one leader, we are nearly there!

**Cub Scouts** (8 yo to 11 yo). As of next year our leader is only available every second week, which means we will need to drop back to fortnightly meetings instead of weekly. This section urgently needs more leaders to take our members on the opposite weeks.

Our Scouts section (11 yo to 15 yo) is also in need of two leaders—with our current leader resigning at the end of the year, this section is in danger of closing.

We also have limited vacancies available for youth members (6 yo to 18 yo) in Cubs, Scouts and Venturers.

**Leaders:**

Require no prior knowledge or experience of Scouting
Are people who have an interest in working with youth (6 yo - 18 yo).
Come from all walks of life and backgrounds.
Must be eligible to receive a Positive Notice/ Blue Card

Scouts Australia, as a Registered Training Provider, delivers Certificate III and IV level training to all adults in the organization in both Leadership and Business (Frontline Management). Diploma level training is also available.

**Training is provided at no cost to leaders.**

Being a leader does take time however we have a role for everyone - if you can offer just a few hours a week, work shiftwork or seasonal work, we would still appreciate your commitment to work with us.

If you would like more information, please contact:

**Group Leader, Kay Knight, ph 0407 772 197 or bowenscoutgroup@outlook.com.**

We also have vacancies in Leadership roles in our Support Committee—Fundraising, Grants and Publicity Officers
The Museum of Tropical Queensland, based in Townsville and part of the Queensland Museum Network, is running the **My Favourite Place in Queensland Photography Competition** to encourage photographers of all ages to snap and share the best of the Sunshine State and win over $5,000 in prizes.

There are **three age categories**: primary school (Years 1 to 6), secondary school (Years 7 to 12) and an open category (18 years of age and over).

For all the details, visit our website ([www.mtq.qm.qld.gov.au](http://www.mtq.qm.qld.gov.au)), complete the online entry form and submit your photograph **before 5pm on Monday 30 November 2015**.

Importantly again this year, we **don’t ask for** the copyright for the photos submitted.

Entries will be featured regularly on our Facebook page ([https://www.facebook.com/museumoftropicalqueensland](https://www.facebook.com/museumoftropicalqueensland)) and the winning and highly commended photographers will be announced in early 2016.

If you have any questions about the competition, call 4726 0603.
The TUH ‘Big Thank You’ Giveaway

Just by saying a ‘Big Thank You’ to our teachers, you can help our school win one of 5 x $1000 education resource bursaries.

Your child can also win one of 100 x $50 gift vouchers just by entering.

All you have to do is visit bigthankyou.com.au and say in 50 words or less how your teacher helps to inspire a love of reading (parents can help younger students with their entry).

The ‘Big Thank You’ Giveaway is proudly sponsored by TUH, a health fund that was founded in Queensland 43 years ago to serve the education community.

TUH was also the proud principal sponsor of the 2015 Premier’s Reading Challenge.
Merinda Super Heroes

**Budding Green Thumbs** - Brody, Amy, Gypsy and Bohdi showing us their gardening skills with some of the plants they are growing in the 3/4 classroom.

**Puppeteers** – Hugh, Milli, McKenzie and Trinity with their hand crafted sock puppets. They are SUPER-SOCK-TASTIC!!

Blog It!
P/1  [http://prep-1littlehoots.edublogs.org/](http://prep-1littlehoots.edublogs.org/)
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