Dear Parents/Carers,

The end of the school year for 2016 has arrived and I would like to wish all our students and their families along with our staff a safe, relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break. It has been an action packed and enjoyable year and I would like to thank everyone for your contributions this year. A school like ours runs only due to the hard work of staff, students, families and the wider community.

Our school Presentation Night is on this Thursday 8th December starting from 6pm being held at the PCYC. This year there won’t be any food being served however there will be the option to buy drinks. It will be a much more streamlined presentation night this year and we are hopeful of finishing around 7:45pm. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Last week on parade our Merinda students received their 3 free books as part of the ‘Books for Homes’ program. A massive thank you to Glencorp who provided this opportunity to our students and a big thank you to Leah McDonnell from Ruddy Tomlins & Baxter for presenting the books. As a small school we are hugely grateful for the support we receive from businesses and the local community and we will dearly miss the support that Glencorp has given us.

Congratulations to our Year 5/6 class for winning the Merinda Cup for both weeks 8 and 9. For week 8 their attendance was 97.27% and our school attendance for week 8 was 90.22%. While for week 9 their attendance was again 97.27% and our school attendance for week 9 was 96.35%.

Club Kidpreneur Bowen 2016 Market Day

This Wednesday 7th December at Merinda State School, we will have students first up in the morning selling products that they have designed and made. The revenue that they make will go back to paying off their start-up costs and then any remaining profit will be donated to a social cause of their choosing. It is a
fantastic program and we hope that as a community we can support our local students.

Report Cards

Student report cards will be ready to be picked up from your child’s classroom teacher on Wednesday 7\textsuperscript{th} December by parents/carers. Any report cards that aren’t picked up will be mailed. A note informing families of class placements for students in 2017 will be included with the report card.

Staffing for 2017

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to Danielle Upkett our Guidance Officer for the service she has provided to our school this year. We will miss Danielle and wish her all the best with her new schools. We would like to welcome Tanya Munro to Merinda who will be our Guidance Officer for 2017.

At this point in time our classroom teachers remain the same with Jessie Pawson on Prep-1, Leanne Hubbert on 2-3, Sherryl Sexton on 3-4 and Clare Brazel on 5-6. Of course everything is dependent on our day 8 numbers to ensure that we retain our teaching staff. We will also have Margie Chidley continuing to work with our students in the Learning Support teacher role, Katrina Young as our District relieving teacher and Amanda Parter as our Music teacher. I will also be returning to Merinda for 2017 and look forward to working with our wonderful staff, students, families and community.

A Reminder: Students Enrolling or Departing for 2017

If you have any children who will be leaving Merinda SS next year, or who are enrolling at Merinda SS for next year, could you please let the office know ASAP. This will greatly assist our planning and preparation for classes. Please contact the Office on (07) 4785 2193. Thanks in advance. We are excitedly looking forward to next year.

2017 Key Dates

At this stage, the Office will be open from Monday 16\textsuperscript{th} January onwards. Classroom staff will be back for Student Free Days starting Tuesday 17\textsuperscript{th} January. All classrooms will be open on Friday 20\textsuperscript{th} January from 1:00pm – 3:00pm for you to drop your books and supplies off and to meet your child’s teacher. The first school day for 2017 is Monday 23\textsuperscript{rd} January 2017.

Reminder to parents that the bus zone is not a drop off and pick up zone. The parking and bus zone areas have been relined so please make sure that you park in the correct areas.
What's happening in Prep/One Superstars

It’s hard to believe that I am writing the final newsletter for 2016. This year has been remarkable for Prep-One Superstars. I have watched these children learn to read and write, make new friendships, explore what it means to be a leader, laughed and had fun with them and most importantly, watched them flourish into beautiful little humans.

As the term still isn’t quite over there are a few more events to happen. Wednesday will be our whole school homework party, well done to my 6 students attending.

Thursday morning is our wet play morning and students will need their swimmers or old clothes that can get wet. Students will need to bring their uniform to change back into.

I would like to once again thank everyone for their constant love and support throughout the year. It has been a privilege to work at Merinda State School and I am really looking forward to 2017.

I am so proud of the beautiful year 1 students going up to year 2 and the gorgeous preppies who will be big year 1’s next year! I hope everyone has a restful and safe holidays, see you all next year!

Jessie Pawson 😊

Reading Awards: Jayden Beck, Millie Brown, Makenzie Brazil; Isacc Roberts, Taneika Young, Trixie-Grace Prior, Indi Johnson and Paige Webb
News from 2/3 Smarty Pants Owls

Hi everyone and welcome to the last week of the year!

I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching your child and am very proud of everyone’s progress. We are having a homework party on Wednesday and I will send home a note to let you know if your child will be going. Could you please bring a plate to share Wednesday (those students who are going). Our class party is on Thursday (approximately 12 pm) and this is also our cleaning day so your child may like to wear old clothes and bring a uniform to change into.

Report cards will be handed out to parents on Wednesday afternoon. Any report cards that are not collected will be mailed to you as we would like to make sure they go home safe and sound. I will also give your child’s USB to you on this day if I haven’t seen you beforehand. If you haven’t provided a USB, could you please bring one in as I have created a slideshow of photos taken throughout the year as a gift for you.

All artwork and other work will be sent home at the end of the week as well.

I would like to say that I have had a beautiful year and am looking forward to another wonderful year of learning next year.

Mrs Pott and I wish you all an OWLTASTIC Christmas and safe and happy holidays. See you all in the new year!

Mrs H

BELOW - High Achiever Award Winners: Beau Murphy; Jasmine Fischer; Meghan Claassen, Rhylea Clark, Sahara Reid, Chelsea McConochie, Byron Piggott, Lenox Lawrence, Nash Schluter, Gideon Prior and Lachlan Richardson.

Class Award: Beau Murphy
SPORTING CELEBRITIES:


Cal Lynch Soccer Team Reps: Jasiah Maher, Amy Windridge, Toby Jameson, Saxon Cowan, Jude Ryan, James O’Connor, Brody Moorhead and Bohdi Lawrence.
A Blast from 3/4 Class

I can’t believe a year has come and gone. Sometimes we don’t see what we have done until we can take a breath and look back. Just like our humble little garden, we have all grown together and while we are all very different we make a beautiful combination.

I hope your children have enjoyed the year together and I wish each and every one of you a safe, relaxing and happy break.

Just some reminders – Homework party is on Wednesday; students who are able to go will get a note; Thursday morning is wet day with everyone asked to wear togs or old clothes so we can clean the chairs and tidy trays; Thursday afternoon is party time. A plate of food for the homework party and the class party would be greatly appreciated.

Until next year, cheers from Mrs S.

Gold Award: Savannah Piggott
Reading Awards: Lumay Claassen
What's happening in 5/6?

This is it! 10 lovely leaders are on their way to high school next year. All of us at Merinda wish them all the success and happiness for their future.

We will miss them terribly and can’t wait to hear all about their new adventures. Graduation was such an awesome night that we will all cherish.

Year 5’s are looking forward to being seniors next year! It’s been a great year full of laughter and learning. We are all very much looking forward to the holidays and wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. See you next year and ‘follow your dreams’…

Miss Brazel

Certificates of Recognition: Saxon Cowan, Chelsea McLeod and Jude Ryan
Paluma Camp 2016

Students with Miss Pawson, Miss Brazel and P-1
GRADUATION DINNER:

School Captains

Graduation Certificate…

2016 - A Class Act
The evening was full of fun and laughter

YEAR 6 PARENTS...

If you would like to order Year 6 group photos of the following:

School Captains; Sports Captains; Year 6 Graduates; and Merinda Madness

We have samples in the office for you to choose from at a cost of $20 each.

Books for Home: Jasiah Maher, Jude Ryan, Leah McDonnell, Bohdi Lawrence, Saxon Cowan, Haley Webb, Beau Murphy, Oliver Bond, and Tyler Vandenberg.
Our school is the venue for a weekly Play 2 Learn program from “Save the Children’.

Some Prep/1 students enjoyed the ‘hands on’ engagement today – reading; puzzles, water pond, construction and interactive play.

Ms Chidley read interacting animal stories which made the sounds of each animal.

This was a lovely happy morning for our class.

Seasons Greetings to everyone, and I’m looking forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Mrs Chidley
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.

QUEENSLAND RAIL IS REQUESTING EVERYONE TO BE RAILSMART...

With the upcoming school holidays, Queensland Rail is urging families and students to be railsmart by following these simple rules at level crossings and around rail property.

- Pay attention to signs and signals
- Never enter a level crossing if the red lights are flashing and pedestrian gates/boom gates are closed or closing
- Always look for the second train
- Keep yourself and your mates safe by not taking shortcuts and unnecessary risks around tracks
- Avoid the distractions of headphones and mobile phones.

Trains can weigh upwards of 10,000 tonnes and can take more than one kilometre to stop.

Disobeying level crossing signals or trespassing on railway property is not only dangerous, but illegal and could result in prosecution or electrocution from overhead powerlines carrying 25,000 volts. Remember, railways are not playgrounds.

Queensland Rail is encouraging parents and schools to discuss this important safety information with their students, empowering them to be railsmart.

Further information and resources for teachers and students can be found by visiting:
- queenslandrail.com.au/roadsaresnotplaygrounds
- queenslandrail.com.au/railsmart
- tracksafeeducation.com.au
CLUB KIDPRENEUR
BOWEN 2016

MARKET DAY

“Lift Your Marks”
Bookmarks, Pencil Holders & Pencils
Prices range from $1.50 to $10 Special Gift Bulk Buy Pack $10
All profits donated to Cancer Council & Salvation Army

“CHEAKZ Productions”
Designer Shirts $10 each
Matching Stickers $2.50 each
All profits donated to The Lighthouse Foundation & Skin Cancer Foundation

“ROKZ”
Pet Rocks With Attitude $3.00 each
All profits donated to Assistance Dogs Australia

“Pot Plants Power”
Grow Your Own Plants $2.50 each
All profits donated to Bowen Hospital

“1EZAM”
Jewellery Earrings, Necklaces & Bracelets
Prices range from $2.50 to $5.00 each
All profits donated to Breast Cancer Foundation

“Dino Rocks”
Find Your Dinosaur $2.50 each
All profits donated to Dementia Care Australia, Cancer Council and Lung Foundation Australia

“K.C.T Stationery”
Sparkly Pencils and Rulers
Prices range from $2.00 to $3.00
All profits donated to Bowen Hospital

“J.D.J Designs”
Notebooks & Bookmarks
Prices range from $1.50 to $5.00
All profits donated to Brain Cancer

“Balloons R Us”
Balloon Toys
Prices range from $2.00 to $5.00
All profits donated to Bowen Hospital

WHERE & WHEN
Queens Beach State School
Monday 5th December 2016

Merinda State School
Wednesday 7th December 2016

Powell Street Night Markets
Thursday 8th December 2016

ALL THESE ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE—GREAT GIFT IDEAS!
Please support these Kidpreneur businesses.
Bowen Community Carols At The Sound Shell

When: Saturday 10th December
Where: Bowen Sound Shell Front Beach
Time: 6.00pm

** Carols **

** Free Sausage Sizzle **

** Glow Sticks on Sale **

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