Principal News
Welcome back to Term 3! I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday and are refreshed and ready for everything that is happening this term. It certainly has been a busy start to the term with our P&C holding food stalls at both the Bowen Super Boats and the Hansen Park Markets over the weekend, along with our students and teachers jumping straight into their work this term. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out over the weekend and who continue to assist with the P&C’s fundraising efforts.

Unfortunately, our tuckshop convenor Mrs Toms has decided to step down from her position. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jodie for all her hard work with tuckshop this year and wish her all the best for the future.

Over the holidays, Linda Venn and myself had the privilege of presenting the S4 (Supporting Small School Science) program at CONASTA (the National Science Teachers’ Conference) in Perth and it was very well received by the workshop participants. I also spent time in Adelaide working on my Masters and, while there, had the chance to share the program with Professor Tom Fleischner, the Director of the Natural History Institute at Prescott College, Arizona who was most impressed with our work and the students’ achievements.

Upcoming Event

**Astronomy Day / Night**  
23rd July 2015

**District Athletics**  
31st July 2015  
Queens Beach SS

**NAIDOC Week**  
10th August 2015

**Jump Rope Launch Day**  
16th August 2015

**Stripey**  
28th August 2015  
Year P-2  
Proserpine Entertainment Centre  
Notes will go home this week

**Merinda Idol**  
18th September 2015

**Jump Rope Jump Off**  
18th September 2015

**Biggest Morning Tea**  
18th September 2015
It is going to be another extremely busy term, with many events already booked on our calendar. On Monday 10 August, we will be holding NAIDOC celebrations here at school and we would like to invite the whole school community to participate in these celebrations. Throughout the term, we will also be celebrating Book Week, National Science Week and Enviro-Week as well as participating in Jump Rope for Heart, holding a Biggest Morning Tea to fundraise for the Cancer Council and holding a ‘Merinda Idol’ competition to show off the wonderful talents of our students here.

This term, we will be continuing our focus on positive behaviour here at Merinda. Our rule of the week this week is ‘I respect the privacy of others’ – this is a particularly important rule as our lives become more publicized through the world of social media. It is important for us to enforce with our children that comments and messages posted on social media sites such as Facebook are public and can be viewed by a wide variety of audiences. Remembering to speak (and type) positively about themselves and others is an important life skill.
Have a wonderful week everyone!

**The Challenge Games**

This year, our school will be participating in the North Queensland Challenge Games. The purpose of The Challenge Games is to provide two days of fun, friendship and participation in a range of sport and fun activities for school **students who have a disability**. These activities include running, jumping, throwing and team events plus many other fun/novelty activities. Students may participate in as many or few events as they wish, according to their own level of interest and ability. The Challenge Games are held at the Townsville Sports Reserve on Wednesday 29 August and Thursday 30 August, from 10am each day. All children with a disability are welcome to participate. Parents of participating children will need to organise their own transport and accommodation. The school will cover the cost of student registration. Mrs Sally Hanneman has offered to organise our school team and can be contacted at longsally@bigpond.com or 0405676328. For more information about the games visit [http://www.thechallengegames.com.au](http://www.thechallengegames.com.au)

**Newsletter Day**

Please note that due to office hour’s changes the newsletter will now be handed out every second Tuesday. We thank you for your understanding.
**Playgroup**

It has been widely researched that children under the age of five are in a stage of rapid brain development. To ensure optimum growth is achieved, a child needs loving relationships and a fun, stimulating environment to thrive. Playgroups offer babies and young children a wide variety of fun experiences that help them to learn about their world, make friends and develop new skills.

Playgroups provide mums, dads, grandparents and caregivers a chance to meet and build friendships, which allows for a safe environment to share ideas and experiences. For over 40 years, Playgroup has proved to be a strong source of support to parents and carers with many long-term friendships beginning at Playgroup.

Parents are their children’s first teachers. Families at Playgroup can facilitate children’s play and learning by providing a rich, learning environment, time to interact with their peers, and activities to bond with their caregivers.

**Why Join Playgroup?**

- Provides a quality play experience for babies and children
- Allows parents and carers to make friends and build their social networks
- Gives families the opportunity to get out of the house each week
- Allows children to learn routines and prepare for kindergarten and school
- Opportunity for parents and carers to spend quality time with their children
- Children can learn about friends
- Allows parents to be involved in their local community and learn about local services.
- Early learning opportunities assist with successful transitions into Kindy and Prep.
- Children develop positive links with the school and wider community.

Merinda State School Playgroup meets on Thursday mornings from 9-11am right here at school, add us to your weekly calendar! Please share our playgroup with other families who you think may like to come along.

**District Athletics**

Please note that the District Athletics Carnival will be held at Queens Beach State School, the venue has been changed since the original notes were sent home. Good luck to all our competitors!
**Every day counts**
As we begin our new term, parents and carers are reminded of the importance of sending children to school every day. Being at school every day counts, with one day absent each week quickly adding up to two months of missed lessons in a year. Unless your child is ill, it is expected that your child will be at school learning every day of the school year. More information on the importance of regular school attendance is available at [http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/index.html](http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/index.html)

**P&C News**
Merinda P&C needs a new tuck shop convenor. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Mary-Anne on 0408008195. If you can help out at any time, even if it is only an hour, we would love to encourage you to come along. Tuck shop will continue for the next 3 weeks with a revised menu (thanks to our volunteers!) until the next P&C meeting. Hopefully, at this time a new convenor will be appointed with a new menu. We would like to thank Jodie Toms for her services as convenor.

Our fundraising committee has been hard at work, with food stalls at the NAIDOC celebrations and the Super Boats as well as their regular fortnightly Hansen Park Market stall. We are always looking for volunteers to help and if you can spare any time on a Sunday morning please contact Aleisha on 0428 434 724 or Sam on 0499 998 383.
Our next meeting is the 3rd of August at 6:30pm, in the school library. We welcome everyone to come along.

**Drop Off Times**
Children must not be dropped off at school prior to 8:00am unless prior arrangements have been made with the school. Prior to 8:00am there are no staff on duty to supervise your child. In order to keep your child safe, please ensure that they are dropped off no earlier than 8:00am.

**Fruit Break**
Fruit Break is an important part of your child’s day. The energy boost helps them to learn all the wonderful things they need to succeed in school. Can parents please donate a piece of fruit to the school every week for fruit break? We would greatly appreciate any contribution. A Big thank you to our parent helpers who chop up our fruit for us.
**Crocheting for Vanuatu**

We had an awesome term! I am personally very proud of every child involved. Some kids came in and gave it a go; others committed themselves for the whole term and have produced some beautiful amazing blankets. We had children from grade 1 all the way to grade 6 joining in. They have made small squares which are being sewn together to make big blankets. Prior to joining ‘Crochet Club’, many of these children didn’t know how to crochet; to do what they have done is just an amazing effort!

We now have 10 beautiful blankets to send over to some children in Vanuatu. These blankets will be given to children on the surrounding islands of Vanuatu, where some of the children are still living under tarps along beaches. These blankets will be very much loved. We have also decided to send colouring in books along with pencils with each blanket. Any donations for this would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped into the office. Children have also been encouraged to write letters if they wish. I will be sending all blankets, books, gifts and letters to Tash at Impact Vanuatu after next Friday. They are an awesome organisation who has continued to support the outer islands that have not received a great deal of financial aid.

I again would like to thank all the kids involved, and also a big thank-you to everyone who donated wool and hooks. I look forward in giving everyone an update when the blankets arrive in Vanuatu.

Mrs Toms

**Knitting this term.**

This term we are learning how to knit. It has been decided that we knit teddy bears to also send away to children in need. The children are already doing extremely well. Some of our knitting needles are quite large for our children with smaller hands so if anyone has any needles around the 4mm mark they wish to donate it would be greatly appreciated. We are also in desperate need of wool; again any donations are very much appreciated.

**Woolworths Earn and Learn**

Don’t forget to collect your earn and learn stickers for Merinda State School. You can drop your stickers in the box at Woolworths or in the office. Help us collect enough to get some awesome educational resources for our school!
**P/1 News**
A big welcome back to everyone. I hope you had a wonderful holiday. This term we have quite a few exciting things happening, especially learning all about dinosaurs. We will be constructing our very own dinosaur in technology and writing a factual text about our favourite dinosaur during English. Our little hoots are so super eager to learn and write about dinosaurs already! At the end of the term, we will be exhibiting our work by creating a dinosaur museum so watch this space!

There is a SSP sound booklet in homework folders for us all to practice reading every night. Remember reading is the key to all learning!! Have a great week everyone! Mrs H, Mrs N and Mrs B.

**1/2 News**
Dinosaurs! Dinosaurs! Dinosaurs! We are all loving learning about different types of dinosaurs and are eager to represent our knowledge by writing simple and compound sentences on various facts. Another exciting topic in our classroom is Yayoi Kusama, the artist we will be studying this term in Visual Arts. One of the styles of art that she is famous for is transforming white spaces into a colourful display full of dots. We are very excited to replicate her style of art by using our fridge. As you enter our classroom you will see our fridge transform into a colourful display of varying sized dots. Not only is it fun but the children are also enhancing their fine motor skills.

**3/4 News**
Year 3/4 have come back for term 3 ready to learn. We are learning about the first settlers and their journey to Australia. Before the holidays the children worked hard on the 3D visual art sculptures. They were required to plan, design, construct, display and reflect on a 3D plant sculpture based on their knowledge and understanding developed through science and geography. They are currently displayed in the office foyer. I encourage you to have a look.
The 5/6 class are looking forward to a fantastic term. Here are some images of our "super minute-to-win-it" challenge that happened on our rewards day. Congratulations to our winner Zion Prior! HUGE congratulations to Lily Horspool who has represented Merinda state school and qualified for the national competition in equestrian. During the holidays Lily competed in the Queensland competition and on her first day she placed 3rd in showman and 4th in her dressage test. We look forward to supporting her on her journey to the Australian competition and seeing the red and black colours ride.

Lily was also the guest speaker at the annual Rotary Changeover dinner. She spoke beautifully about her achievements (which are notable for an 11 year old!) to a room of over 50 adults which included many important people such and the vice-Mayor Andrew Willcox. I congratulate Lily on her ability speak so confidently about her sport. Here is a photo of her at the dinner.

Don't forget to view our awesome blog for great work and regular information- tullycrew.edublogs.org
Foster carers are as different as the young lives they transform

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Blog It!
P/1  http://prep-1littlehoots.edublogs.org/
½  http://featheredfriends.edublogs.org/
3/4  http://merinda3and4.edublogs.org/
5/6  http://tullycrew.edublogs.org/
Merinda Super Heroes

Tia Bunn, Gypsy Annear and Dustin Clark with their 3D Art Work that is displayed in the Office Foyer.