



Merimbula Public School



Friday, July 28 2017

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Stage 2 students will be participating in 'The Pillowcase Project' on Tuesday, August 8 2017 at 11:45am in the Jackson Hall. This Project is a school-based disaster preparedness education program designed to target Years 3 to 4, to build their knowledge and capacity in disaster preparedness and overall resilience to emergencies, natural or man-made, individual or community-wide. Adapted from an existing American Red Cross program, the project was originally inspired by the events of Hurricane Katrina in the US. Students of a local University used pillowcases to carry their cherished and basic possessions while evacuating campus. Upon hearing this, Red Cross staff developed the concept of using a pillowcase as an emergency kit. The program quickly grew into an educational preparedness program that has since become known as 'The Pillowcase Project'. The success of the project in the US prompted the Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' Global Disaster Preparedness Centre to select a group of national societies to pilot the program internationally. Australia was selected as one of six nations worldwide to participate.

The project includes Red Cross representatives delivering a free 60-minute session at our school in Years 3 and 4. The fun and interactive session includes: A discussion about the importance of being prepared; an activity to help students prepare their minds for the emotions that may arise before, during and after an emergency; an activity to showcase what to pack in the event of an emergency; and each student given a pillowcase to decorate and take home to start their own personal emergency kit. At the end of the session, the students will receive a letter to their parents/guardians including: An Emergency RediPlan postcard; a 'Talking with Children about emergencies' information sheet; and a parent/guardian survey.

Please return your child's permission note to your child's class teacher no later than **Monday, August 7 2017**.

Yours Sincerely

Manda Brewer
3 – 6 Assistant Principal

Please return this note to your class teacher by Monday, August 7 2017

I give permission for my child _____ of class _____ to attend the 'Pillowcase Project' in Jackson Hall on Tuesday, August 8 2017 at 11:45am.

Signed: _____ Date: _____



Education &
Communities

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Proud to be part of the
Sapphire Coast Learning
Community!