



# Merimbula Public School



## Information for Parents/Caregivers of 5P and 5B Students

Tuesday, July 24, 2018.

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

It is with great sadness that Miss Patterson was informed of her mother's unexpected passing during the school holidays. As a result, she will not be teaching 5P for at least Weeks 1 and 2 of this term. Miss Patterson intends to return to teach 5P as soon as she is able. The students of 5P and 5B were informed of the changes by Mrs Brewer and myself this morning. We discussed each child's 'support and safety plan' which they had developed as part of a unit of work in Term 2, a plan that they can have to follow when they feel sad. We talked to them about talking to their parents, teachers, the school counsellor, possibly friends but not to worry them too much, reading a book or listening to music to take their mind off worries, having a walk or drink of water etc. Year 5 responded well to the discussion. There was no anxiety observed and students will continue to be monitored for such over the coming weeks.

The students are looking forward to writing a card for Miss Patterson on behalf of themselves and their parents, as to not all bombard Miss Patterson on her return.

5P Parent-Teacher-Student 3-Way-Conferences, scheduled for tomorrow, will now take place next Friday. Mrs Brewer will host the interviews for 5P, as well as the ones for 5B tomorrow.

Until Miss Patterson returns, we will endeavour to keep the Year 5 class routine the same as always and we will aim to have continuity in casual teachers where possible. Thank you to Mrs Brewer for preparing all 5B and 5P work over the weekend to support lesson continuity and the replacement teachers, so that all unit outcomes are followed.

Mrs Kellaway will be returning to Merimbula Public School and taking 5P for many of the days in the coming weeks. Mr Jackson, who knows the class and has worked with the Year 5 group, will be taking them for other days. When interviews are being held, Art and Library lessons will be hosted for the classes by their regular Library and Art teachers.

If you have any questions, concerns or would like for your child to get school counsellor support, should they experience anxiety or upset over this news or anything else, please contact me at school on (02)64951266.

Until Miss Patterson's return, Mrs Charlton has kindly offered to take the school Netball Team.

Thank you for your understanding during this difficult time.

Regards,  
Michelle Hulme  
Principal