



SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parents, Carers and Community,
This week Merimbula Public School has celebrated Education Week. Education Week is an annual celebration of NSW public education and the achievements of our schools, students and education system.

The 2022 Education Week theme is “*Creating futures – education changes lives*”. This week we have celebrated the quality education we provide and the opportunities available to everyone in NSW public education. We have also celebrated the achievements of our school, students and learning community.

On Monday we held our Education Week Assembly, which saw our Semester 2 SRC Leaders inducted and our school Athletics Carnival Champions recognised. We also celebrated being this year’s Far South Coast PSSA District Athletics Carnival Championship School, following outstanding results at last week’s Sapphire Coast PSSA District Carnival.

At our assembly, we also recognised the amazing efforts, skills and talents of our Ski and Snowboarding Team, Snow Sports excursion participant resilience and growth, the skills and efforts of our winning Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball Teams, AFL Teams and Girls’ Touch Football Team.

Academic results and improvements were also celebrated, with Semester 1 reports being referred to and with staff preparing to celebrate academic achievements in next week’s Parent Teacher Interviews. If you haven’t already booked in to speak with your child’s teacher, please contact them via Class Dojo to make an appointment.

This week our students and families have had the opportunity to visit the amazing, virtual Sapphire Coast Learning Community Art Show, as well as, our own Merimbula Public School Art Show in the Jackson Hall, yesterday and today. It was so nice to see parents and caregivers come and visit the show after school yesterday.

Our achievements, growth and ongoing student success could not be possible without the collaborative efforts of our parents, carers, families, P&C and dedicated staff team. We are very lucky and fortunate to have such a wonderful school community.

Semester 1 Student Reports:

K-2 and Family Class Semester 1 student reports were sent home last week. Stage 2 and 3 reports were sent home this week. Thank you for your patience in waiting to receive the reports a couple of weeks later than usual. Each year I look forward to reading each and every student report.

COMING EVENTS

Week 4:

Monday, August 8: 2023 Kindy Special Transition 9.30-10.30am; 1M Assembly 2.05-2.55pm;

Monday, August 8 and Tuesday, August 9: Parent-Teacher Meetings (via phone appointment);

Thursday, August 4: Family Classes Visit the Aquarium and Rock Pools with Bournda Environmental Education Centre;

Week 5:

Thursday, August 18: Library classes start visiting the Book Fair to complete ‘wish lists’;

Week 6:

Monday, August 22: 2023 Kindy Special Transition #2 @ 9.30-10.30am; KP Assembly 2.05-2.55pm;

Thursday, August 25: Book Fair and Book Parade @ 12pm;

Week 7:

Wednesday, August 31: P&C Father’s Day Stall;

Friday, September 2: P&C Father’s Day BBQ Breakfast.





With the end of Term 2 being extremely busy, I took the reports home to read in the school holidays. Unfortunately, I became unwell with COVID at this time and didn't want to read and sign the reports, and potentially send them home to infect our families! I hope that you now enjoy reading your child's reports as much as I did.

You will be able to see, in your child's report, what they learnt about and their efforts and achievements in different subject areas. Teachers have also commented on strengths, achievements and areas for improvement in English, Mathematics and other Key Learning Areas (KLAs). Future directions for the other KLAs are commented on within the 'Future Directions' box and 'General Comments' section. Effort and application in subject areas is shared, as well as, commitment to learning and positive behaviour. Student attendance up to Week 8, Term 2 is also shared in your child's report.

Michelle Huddleston – Principal

Supporting Attendance: High attendance is always aimed for in schools. Whilst we would love to have increased attendance, we support and thank families in keeping their children at home when they are unwell/have flu-like symptoms. This allows us to keep our students and staff well, and learning on site. If your child is not sick, or showing flu symptoms, they should be at school. Appointments should be made outside of school hours where possible, as should vacations and other family leave. Where a valid reason is not shared for late arrival, early departure or absences, student absences are recorded as unjustified. Patterns of repeated unjustified absences are required to be reported to a Home School Liaison Officer.

Voluntary Contributions: Due to the lockdowns/interruptions of 2020 and 2021, we did not collect voluntary contributions. 2022 invoices for Voluntary Contribution have been sent home today. For those who can make payment, funds will go towards playground equipment and school scooters/bikes/skateboards.

Sapphire Coast Learning Community Art Show **REMINDER**

Use the QR Code below to enter the Sapphire Coast Learning Community of Schools' 2022 Virtual Art Showcase!!!

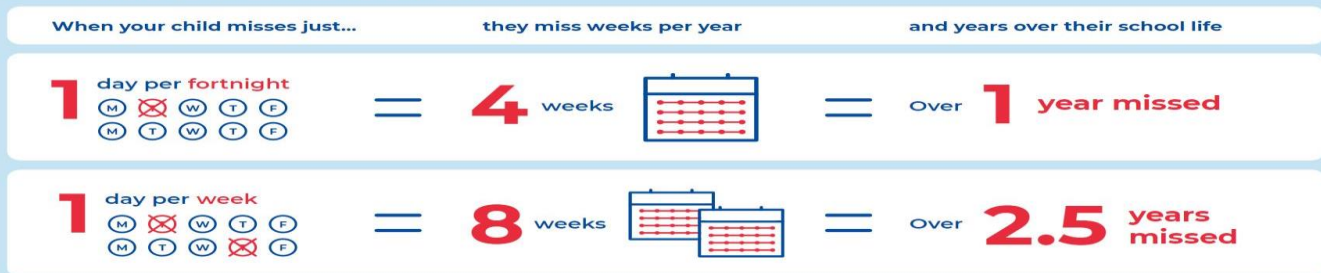


Parent/Teacher Interviews **UPDATE**

Over the last two weeks, student absences/illness has increased. Yesterday we had over 50 students absent. Last Friday, we had over 80 students absent unwell/on leave, with an additional 54 students at the District Athletics - contributing to 38% of students not being at school. As a result of increasing colds, flu and COVID cases, Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held via phone only, and not face-to-face.

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...



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This is the only official Facebook page for Merimbula Public School.



Compulsory school attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my Legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The Importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.

My child won't go to school what should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The NSW Department of Education recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.