I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new school families and new staff members. Our returning students have settled in well to their new class routines and teachers have focussed on the expectations and routines to ensure a positive classroom environment enabling effective learning and teaching to occur.

Our enrolment numbers are currently 234 and based on this enrolment we will maintain our current classes. This Thursday is Day 8, which is the final day for enrolment data used for staffing allocation and funding.

It has been wonderful to witness our new Prep students make a positive transition to their first year of formal schooling.

Positive Behaviour for Learning
Our core values Be Respectful, Enjoy Learning, Stay Safe and be Totally Responsible underpin our behaviour expectations for all students. The BEST values and expectations are clearly articulated in our matrix (attached). Behaviour expectations are formally taught in planned lessons in each classroom across the school.

The weekly focus for behaviour expectations is shared with our school community through the school newsletter and on assembly.

Our expectations for behaviour include our uniform code and the expectation that students will wear the school uniform with pride. The school uniform code also includes appropriate footwear. Please refer to the uniform page in this newsletter.

Copies of the school’s ‘Responsible Behaviour Plan’ are available from the office.

We will advise parents in the near future about an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher.

Parent Power
An effective partnership between parents and school personnel is imperative for students to thrive. There are many ways parents can be involved in their child’s school. Keeping informed and up to date through the newsletter, the school website and the QSchools App is a great way to learn about what is happening. Joining us at assembly of Friday is a wonderful way to stay connected and help celebrate our school. Helping out in classrooms, tuckshop and other events helps build and maintain connections with others in the school community. Joining the P and C Association is another way that parents and carers can stay informed and create connections. We value your input and appreciate any support you feel you are able to extend.

Maintaining a positive relationship ensures we are "Igniting Learning; Shaping the BEST future together".

Regards,
Janelle Groves

Phone: 074696 9666 — Absence Line: 07 4696 9688 — Address: 10 School Road, Meringandan Q 4352— www.meringanss.eq.edu.au
PARENT INFORMATION

Year 3-6 SWIMMING LESSONS: Invoices were sent home on Friday!
Swimming will commence on Monday, 13 February. Please ensure permission slips have
been returned and payment has been made prior to the first lesson. Thank-you.

HOLIDAY READING CLUB: Have you returned your Holiday Reading Club Journal?
For those who participated in the Holiday Reading Club– please ensure that journals
have been returned to enable you to be eligible for the prize draw.

LIBRARY NEWS: School Library Borrowing
Lots of students have been visiting the library for borrowing already which is fantastic!
Each class will have a set day for library borrowing and this will be advised by class
teachers shortly. We are very lucky to also have the Mobile Library visit on Thursdays so
parents can accompany children after school.

Here are some tips for keeping our library books in tip top shape:
- Use a library bag - no bag, no borrowing
- Clean hands and keep food away from books
- Keep books safe from pets and younger siblings.

Happy reading!

OFFICE HOURS: Our school office is open from 8:30am–3:30pm each day!

STUDENT PAYMENTS: Excursions/ Swimming/ etc.
Please ensure any cash payments to the office are in an envelope
that is clearly marked with the details for that payment.

HATS, BADGES & COMMUNICATION FOLDERS: Cash payment requirement.
The school bucket hats, sew on badges and communication folders are available from
the office for purchase. As the items are sold through our P&C a cash payment is
required. Please note that correct cash is appreciated. P&C will endeavour to get
change back to you as soon as sales have been processed.

Reversible Hats: $17.50 each Badges: $5.00 each Communication Folders: $10.00 each

BOOK CLUB ORDERS: Book Club orders are to be placed in a clearly labelled envelope
and put in the “Book Club Box” in the entry of the Resource Centre.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS: see attached
Please familiarise yourself with these expectations and remind your child/ren of what is
expected from them. Thank-you for your help with this matter.

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS: Classroom helpers/ Parent Helpers
If you are a volunteer at Meringandan State School, it is required that you complete a
“Confidentiality and Responsibility” form. These are available at the office. We wish to
thank-you for giving your time to help our staff and students. It is most appreciated.

NEWS FROM THE DENTAL VAN: Appointments for Prep students
Children in prep are welcome to have a dental visit. Please contact the dental van via
phone (0412 034 697) or visit the van to make an appointment. Please do so as soon as
possible as we will be finished at Meringandan State School within the next few weeks.
Thank-you
The Dental Van Team
Meringandan State School Newsletter
Igniting Learning, Shaping the BEST future!

Before and After School Expectations

Procedures for Before School:
- Students (not in OSHC) may enter the school after 8.15am
- All students sit in main undercover area until the 8:45 bell.
- Teachers may collect students from undercover area prior to 8:45, if the teacher is available to supervise students in class.
- Parents of younger students remain with them in the undercover area prior to 8:45.
- At the 8:45 bell students put bags on the racks and get ready for class.
- Teacher aide supervises and monitors behaviour before school from 8.30am.

Before School Parent Expectations
To maximise learning time and to minimise disruption to school and class routines:
- Parents are to ensure that students do not enter the school prior to 8:15.
- Parents who accompany students to school are welcome to sit with their child/children in the undercover area. This would be an ideal time to read with your child.
- At the 8:45 bell parents may walk children to their classrooms and assist with putting away their lunch etc.
- At the 8:55 warning bell parents are to leave classrooms promptly so that the learning time can begin on time. We realise at times parents need to have a quick chat with the teacher however if you need to have a detailed discussion please organise a suitable time to do this. Our expectation ‘right place at the right time’ means learning begins on time.

After School
- At the 2:55 bell teachers direct students to pack and tidy the classroom.
- All students depart school safely and promptly.
- Students departing by bus, line up outside classroom until class teacher calls bus roll.
- Students walk in an orderly manner to bus shelter and waits for bus duty teacher.
- Students waiting at Look Out zone wait on the left side of the path in an orderly line and wait for Look Out teacher.
- Students walking wait safely until bus duty teacher or Look Out teacher supervises crossing the road.
- Students riding bicycles are to wait under the tree near Admin and wait for Look Out teacher to supervise crossing the road.

After School Parent Expectations
- When collecting students at the end of the day, parents wait in the undercover area if at school before 2:55 pm and wait for the bell to collect students.
- For safety reasons, the play equipment is out of bounds before and after school for school students. Under no circumstances should younger children be on any play equipment at any time.

Meringandan State School: Igniting Learning—Shaping the BEST future together.
Meringandan State School Newsletter
Igniting Learning, Shaping the BEST future!

My name is Colleen Sampson and this is my fourth year at Meringandan SS. Prior to here I was at Harristown State Primary School and before that I worked for a number of years in a school in an Indigenous community where I learnt some very valuable skills teaching literacy and numeracy. My role at Meringandan SS is Head of Curriculum three days and on class two days. I will be teaching Science and History in 3F on Mondays and 1P every second Friday. I look forward to a very successful year working with both teachers and students.

My name is Allie Capra and I am the Special Needs Teacher at Meringandan. I have been working at Meringandan for the last five years. I thoroughly enjoy my role, supporting different students with a variety of needs as well as supporting teachers in classrooms. While supporting the students I strongly believe in working closely with parents and other specialists to ensure a holistic approach.

This year I will be working Monday-Thursday. I look forward to seeing you around the school.

My name is Cath Burton and I am the Response to Intervention Teacher. I work with small groups of students from all the year levels focusing on improving their reading skills including sight word knowledge and comprehension. I enjoy listening to reading and playing learning games like sight word snap to engage the students in learning – which means I have loads of fun every day.

Before settling down and having a family I was a classroom teacher in Bundaberg, Mt Isa, Blackbutt and Gatton and a Reading Recovery teacher in Brisbane.

My outside interests include working on the family cattle property, building in stone and growing vegetables despite the free ranging chooks. Both on the farm and at school I believe that with enthusiasm and perseverance you can achieve great things.

One thing I miss about being a classroom teacher is getting to know students’ parents well. If you would like to have a chat I am at Meringandan on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and if you can’t find me (my timetable keeps me on the move) just leave a message with the office and I will contact you.

Welcome to 2017!
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Meringandan Support Staff
Cath Burton
Allie Capra
Kerry Thompson
Colleen Sampson

Kerry Thompson – Master Teacher
I started at Meringandan SS in 2012 as a classroom teacher, then Acting Head of Curriculum (HOC). In 2015 I was appointed as Master Teacher at Meringandan and Kingsthorpe SS. My role as Master Teacher includes:
- working with leadership team to prioritise the teaching of literacy and numeracy within the school’s curriculum and teaching framework
- improving and enhancing teaching practice for all staff by researching and modelling quality teaching across all year levels
- providing coaching and guidance to teachers and other staff in delivering quality teaching
- improving the capacity of school teams to use evidence based assessment to inform teaching and learning
- supporting all staff in the analysis of, and response to, systemic and student data.

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If you need a name card, please contact the office.

**Look Out Zone**

*Remember:* The loading zone is a few minutes zone by law. If your children are not able to be loaded within this time, the law requires that you move on, find a park and then find your children. We understand that finding a park can be difficult or require a walk back to the school, however this is in the interest of safety and it is also a signed limited time zone.

**Step One**
Families queue and display their family name tags on the dash (Drivers do not leave their vehicle).

**Step Two**
Stay in car while a staff member in the school grounds, sends out your children.

**Step Three**
Load and leave safely after your children have arrived.

**Step Four**

Wait while a caller on the footpath uses a 2 way radio to call the family name to a staff member in the school grounds.

**Step Five**
Look Out for your children. The caller confirms with children that this is the family vehicle.

If you need a name card, please contact the office.

**Look out zone wet day procedures:**

If it is raining during the pick-up of an afternoon students will assemble in the undercover area. Parents are to queue as per normal in the pick-up zone, leave their vehicle and collect their child/children from the undercover area and escort them to their vehicle then depart in a prompt manner.

If you intend to use the LOOK OUT ZONE, please complete the slip below and return it to the office. We will then provide you with a name card to display to be easily identified by LOOK OUT ZONE Staff.

**FAMILY NAME TO BE DISPLAYED:**

**LOOK OUT ZONE**

**Student/s:**
JEWELLERY—SMALL PLAIN STUDS OR SLEEPERS ONLY. ONE PIERCING ONLY IN EACH LOWER EAR LOBE.

SHOULDER LENGTH HAIR NEATLY PULLED BACK FROM FACE. HAIR ACCESSORIES—BLUE, BLACK, NAVY, WHITE OR RED.

FULL BRIMMED NAVY BLUE HAT, MERINGANDAN BUCKET HAT OR NEW REVERSIBLE BUCKET HATS ($17.50) AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

SCHOOL SHIRT

CLOSED IN SHOES—JOGGERS OR SCHOOL SHOES (Preferably a plain colour)

SHOES

SOCKS—WHITE OR NAVY

SHOELACES—PLAIN, DARK OR WHITE

BOYS SHORTS—NAVY (no logos)

GIRLS—NAVY SHORTS, SKORT or SKIRT—MODEST LENGTH—MID THIGH OR LONGER (no logos)

GIRLS MAY ALSO WEAR NAVY OR BLACK LEGGINGS/TIGHTS UNDER THEIR SHORTS, SKIRTS OR SKORTS ONLY.

OTHER JEWELLERY—WATCHES AND MEDICAL ALERT BRACELETS ONLY.

Plain navy track pants or long pants (no logos)

SCHOOL JUMPERS OR JACKETS OR PLAIN NAVY JACKET OR JUMPER (School logo only)

Be Respectful—Wear your uniform with pride!
SCHOOL UNIFORM

The P&C Association endorses the wearing of school uniform at all times to show respect for their school and to ensure adequate sun safety.

All uniforms can be purchased from Hannas, Ruthven Street, Toowoomba. The NEW Reversible Bucket Hats (House colour and name on the inside) are available from the school office for $17.50.
Please note: Payment of cash is required for the Reversible Bucket Hats.

PRIDE IN APPEARANCE

Wearing the school uniform displays pride in our school. We believe the following expectations also reflect pride in appearance, adhere to workplace health and safety issues and show consideration for our school values.

BOYS SUMMER UNIFORM

- School polo shirt (Prep students may wear a plain light blue polo shirt with school emblem embroidered on the left if school shirt not feasible).
- Plain navy shorts (no logos)

GIRLS SUMMER UNIFORM

- School polo shirt (Prep students may wear a plain light blue polo shirt with school emblem embroidered on the left if school shirt not feasible).
- Plain navy skort, skirt or shorts of modest length, mid-thigh or lower.

WINTER UNIFORM

Girls & Boys

- School jumper or jacket or plain navy jumper or jacket ONLY! (No logos or colourful designs).
- Plain navy track pants. Girls may wear navy tights under their shorts, skirt or skort.
- Spray jacket now available from Hannas.

SHOES AND SOCKS

Girls & Boys

- Plain navy or white socks & plain school shoes/joggers. (We prefer students do not wear brightly coloured joggers). We prefer plain, dark or white shoelaces only please.

- Prep: Velcro joggers with a grip sole are required for Prep footwear. It is imperative that children wear shoes that they are able to manage themselves. (Lace up shoes create a problem for staff. A significant amount of time can be lost helping children manage these at the expense of quality teaching time.) Please spend time with your child teaching them how to independently put their shoes on, prior to sending them to Prep.
HATS
Broad brimmed hats are compulsory and in line with EQ Sunsafe Policy.
- Navy full-brimmed hat or Meringandan State School bucket hat
- **School reversible bucket hats**: navy with school emblem embroidered on one side and HOUSE colour and name (GANDAN or MOORIN) embroidered on the other side. (available through the P&C or school office) $17.50 each.

HAIR
- Hair should be tidy and pulled away from the face.
- Accessories should reflect the school colours (blue, navy, white, black or red).
- Hair should be styled in a way as to not be singled out. We prefer hair to be of a modest style. Mohawks are inappropriate.

JEWELLERY & MAKE-UP
- Make up and finger nail polish is not to be worn.
- Jewellery is limited to watches, medic alert bracelets and earrings as per the following guidelines. **Inappropriate items will be confiscated**.
  - **Earrings**: Must be discreet, small, inconspicuous studs or sleepers.
  - Maximum of two earrings, one in lower lobe of each ear.

SWIM SHIRT
Swim shirts (rash vests) must be worn by Prep-Year 7 students during all water based activities including swimming lessons. Colour is optional, but you may wish to consider school colours when purchasing a new swim shirt.

FREE DRESS DAYS
We encourage common sense during free dress days. Students should wear clothes that are modest and appropriate to our school context and follow sun safety guidelines e.g. shirts with sleeves.
It is not appropriate for students to wear items with:
- Lego’s endorsing alcohol, cigarettes or inappropriate items.
- Inappropriate slogans or words.
- Shoe string straps/ Tops with midriff displayed.
- Short skirts or shorts.

SCHOOL BADGES Can be purchased from the school for $5.00 each.

Above: An example of appropriate Prep footwear.
Have you downloaded the QSchools App? The QSchools app is a convenient way to receive up-to-the-minute information from Queensland state schools.

Read about events that are happening in our school via the “News” tab!

Not sure when an event is on? Click on the “What’s happening” Tab or check out the Events Calendar
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