



MARGARET RIVER

Independent SCHOOL

EST. 1982 AS NYINDAMURRA FAMILY SCHOOL

MRIS Matters

Our School's Weekly Newsletter — Distributed Fridays

2019 MRIS IQ Focus = Learning Intentions and Success criteria, EQ focus = Resilience

Week 9/10
Term 1
3 April, 2020

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends, “Kaya”.

Congratulations to Amy and Tim Langlois on the safe arrival of Oliver. All the best and we look forward to meeting Finn and Eva’s brother very soon.

Thank you to all for being a part of MRIS. We are trusting that you are keeping well and feeling OK.

“People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” Maya Angelou

In this time of uncertainty and change all staff at MRIS expressed the importance of retaining the home-school connection and maintaining the relationships on which the school is based. The challenge is to determine how this would look and feel for both staff and families. Friendship, connection, compassion and love can prevail during this time, and it may look different but it should feel the same.... This is our aim. xxxx

The importance of the wellbeing of all involved is imperative as we move to this new space of Seesaw in term 2.

During this challenging time our teachers are dedicated to maintaining the progress of all students and to keeping the connections we hold so dear.

Some ‘Silver Linings’ from the Remote Learning our teachers have loved-

- Hearing the students’ voices
- The kindness in the thoughtful and responsive parent comments
- The excitement to be upskilling
- Observing students speaking on cue
- The one-to-one focus
- The happiness of greeting students they have missed
- The way some families have set up learning spaces for their children
- All the parent help offered

Please let us know if there is anything preventing your family from accessing the education our teachers are providing. We would love to know how we can help and support you at this time. eg borrow an iPad.

Happy Holidays ...

Love Wendy

Let’s Keep Connected MRIS!

As MRIS prepared to close its campus this week and the final students participated in their last real-life lessons, we took solace in all the on-ground projects to look forward to when we all come back to school!

MRIS 2020 projects include:

- The further creation of the charming Sensory Zone, that is being led by the Year 6 class (pictured here with Evie Hardy and Max Prolongeau);
- the refurbishment of the Church project which will enable wider use of the building as a library, tutoring & calming space (photographs of the progress will be posted in the coming weeks);
- the rejuvenation of the Frog Bog which the Year 4 class is very excited about;
- the re-boot of the Eco Echidna’s Waste Sorting Station;
- and further improvements to the very popular Outdoor Classroom.



Newsletters will continue to be published every week in Term 2 to help us all remain connected whilst showcasing some of the fabulous remote learning projects our students are creating!

Keep well and let’s continue to *Share the Learning Journey*.

Virtue of the Week: Excellence

You are practising this when you

- Give your best to whatever you do
- Give your best to relationships
- Set noble and realistic goals
- Remember to plan and practice
- Don’t try to do everything
- Develop your special gifts

Weekly Wisdom “May you discover your own special abilities and contribute them toward a better world” Charlene Costanzo

Parenting Ideas: Leading the way for children during the covid-19 pandemic.

<https://www.parentingideas.com.au/blog/leading-the-way-for-children-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

School News

Thank You

- A big thank you to all our families for assisting the teachers and getting Remote Learning up and running for their children.
- To our IT specialist James for going the extra mile with a smile.

Quiet Achievers

To all our students who have been working on Seesaw and getting to know the remote learning process – thank you.

Curriculum Corner

Wadandi Word for the Week

This week's Wadandi word is *Djiljit* which means *Fish* in English.

Governing Body News

This week MRIS MATTERS Newsletter Team talked to MRIS Chairperson, Jessica Worrall about the upcoming AGM on Sunday, April 5 and the new-look Annual Report.

Why did MRIS go electronic rather than postponing the AGM?

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, MRIS decided to defer the scheduled AGM from 22 March to 5 April, 2020 and run it electronically. Under our constitution we need to hold our AGM with 4 months of the end of the financial year i.e. by the end of April.

We can apply to the legislative authority to postpone our AGM for an additional 6 months, but as

- we are unsure of how long we will need to practice precautionary measures associated with COVID-19,
- the agenda was ready to go, and the motions relatively few and simple this year,
- the current GB members are proposing to stay on board -with some reallocation of roles, with only one new independent member nominated to replace Nicky Hanson (Deputy Chairperson) who resigned in January.



Importantly prior to proceeding this way, we did give the community a chance to object – no objections were received!

Can this technology assist with future AGMS to allow our members who can't attend to participate?

The meeting is not technically on line, it is being done by e-mail. We circulated the proposed way to proceed, we sent the agenda, then followed it with links to the documents to be considered at the meeting (last year's Minutes, The Annual Report and the Audited Accounts). Questions can be e-mailed back to the Secretary to allow Q&As to be collated before we send the voting papers out. School members can just hit reply on their 'voting papers' e-mail with Yes or No to the motions to submit their vote - as long as we get it by mid-day on Sunday, 5 April. We need at least 10% of members to vote to obtain quorum – so please get your votes in!

Holding a fully online meeting for 40 or 50 members is just a bridge too far at this time - this way is more inclusive given that some of our members have poor access to high speed broadband. I anticipate that the AGM will revert to the usual practices combined with a social occasion in 2021.

However as we should get lots of practice with online meetings in the next little while (having just held our first GB online meeting!), I believe we will be able to get some members to join the 2021 AGM online if they wish.

The new Annual Report looks great – is this document something members can expect every year?

Thank you – and yes but it may become more concise. We have been gradually building up to issuing this style of Annual Report – and I am so pleased we were ready to roll with it this year! The Annual Report is a merger of what we report to the AGM (as an incorporated association) together with the annual compliance information (as required under Section 77 of the Australian Education Act 2013 to receive Australian Government funding). We usually cover a lot in an hour's presentation of reports at the AGM, and then there are the subcommittee reports that are usually tabled for information. So for our first time round, the 2019 Annual Report is a little weighty, but hopefully members can cherry pick the information they are interested in. And it does demonstrate the incredible richness, diversity and caring of our School Community!

Thankyou Jessica.

<https://mris.wa.edu.au/download/4068/>

Class News

Kindy

with Helen & Noela

Thanks to everyone for collecting their home packs. If there is anything else the school can help you with please don't hesitate to let me know. I'm looking forward to continuing the learning journey with our lovely kindy class next term remotely and maintaining strong two way communication with families. Everyone take care yourself and your families at this time.

Pre-primary

with Ann ,Amanda, Julie, Raine & Jasmin

I would like to send a big thank you to Julie, Amanda and Sasha who continued to run the Pre Primary while I have been away for the past few weeks. Such a wonderful team! Thank you to all the families for their continued support. I am sending you lots of love during this tricky time and I wish you all the best. We will chat next term! If you have any questions in the meantime please don't hesitate to contact me. I will contact you via Seesaw early next week to let you know when your child's activity pack is ready.

Year 1

with Skye & Janine

I just want to say thank you so much for all your care and support in helping both your children and me throughout the term. I am so grateful for all the parent help, hearing the children read and a huge thank you to my gorgeous class co-ordinators. It has been so delightful getting to know you all and I look forward to continuing making connections next term.

Have a safe and enjoyable break.

Year 2

with Kate & Amanda

It has been an unusual week but we are overwhelmed with the support from our beautiful families. We are in this together!

During this week We have been enjoying our little class of 5 while trialling lessons on Seesaw with you all. Please make sure you check your email and Seesaw regularly to connect with myself and Amanda. It has been a delight to hear the children's recorded responses and photographs of completed tasks. Our goal is to have all year two students logged in to their personal journals and completing some tasks by Friday so we are all set up and ready to go in Term 2. Please let us know if you have any difficulties, concerns or questions.

Keep in touch. We are here to help!

Year 3

with Kate & Jacki

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Thank you for the wonderful start to the year that we had in our classroom. The children really settled well into our classroom and learning routines. The learning environment was fun, friendly and productive. I really look forward to when we can all come back together again. Thank you for all your support in moving to remote learning and for accessing activities on Seesaw so we can begin using this new platform for teaching and learning. I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable holiday break and find ways to make the most of this strange situation we are all facing. I will be in touch with you before the start of next term to provide more information about what the learning program will look like in Term 2. Wishing you happiness, good health and love.

Year 4

with Sara & Jacki

Thank you for all the feedback and effort with SeeSaw. I really appreciate the time you have taken to use it the last few weeks as it will make for a smooth transition next term. I hope you all have a nice Easter break and I look forward to touching base soon. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns.

Year 5

with Jacob, Bel & Jasmin

We made it! Thank you everyone for the support and encouragement this term. It is wonderful being part of a community of parents and children so adaptable and positive even in the face of a little worldly chaos and uncertainty. Have a warm and nourishing Easter. I look forward to next term. Keep in touch if you have any questions regarding seesaw and term planning via my email or seesaw.

Year 6

with Laura

Thank you so much to the children for giving their best to attempt to have a go at all the different types of tasks provided on Seesaw. The work has been amazing and I am so proud of your efforts. I am here to help Monday to Friday, 9 to 4pm via phone and messages. If there are any issues we can work them out together. To the parents thank you so much for your kindness and support. Take care of each other.

School Dates & Info

School Calendar

Tues 28 Apr: Term 3

Other News

Change of Season : Bunuru to Djeran

Djeran (April to May)

Colours: red, brown, grey

Climate: Cooler weather begins, first dew.

Known as: Ant season (season of the adulthood)

Djeran season at last sees a break in the really hot weather. A key indicator of the change of season is the cool nights that once again bring a dewy presence for us to discover in the early mornings this tells the yoongan jarli of the country that Kaala (fire) is to be put onto the Boodja (country) to ensure a slow cool burn.

The winds have also changed, especially in their intensity, with light breezes common and generally swinging from southerly directions (i.e. south east to south west).

Djeran is a time of the flying ants and red flowers especially from the red flowering gum (*corimbia ficifolia*), as well as the smaller and more petite flowers of the summer flame (*beaufortia aestiva*). As you travel around the South West area, you may also notice the red 'rust' and seed cones forming on the male and female sheoaks (*allocasuarina fraseriana*).

Banksias start to display their flowers ensuring that there are nectar food sources for the many small mammals and birds that rely upon them.

Traditionally, foods at this time of year included the seeds that had been collected and stored for treatment from the zamia during the previous season along with the root bulbs of the yanget (bullrushes), fresh water fish, frogs and turtles.

This is also the season for gathering Kaloor or Emu Plums (*Podocarpus drouynianus*) that is rich in vitamins and is the symbiotic relationship the people of the land share with the Wetj (Emu) that it is written into the Daatin or Djinda (Stars) in the Milky Way.

As the season progresses, the nights will become cooler and damper along with some cool and rainy days which also means that traditionally mia mias (houses or shelters) were now repaired and updated to ensure they were waterproofed and facing in the right direction in readiness for the deep, wintery months to come.

During this season you will hear the Ngarlook (white tailed cockatoo) calling in the Ngaralang Djilit (herring fish) who are bringing the Ngari (Salmon) closer to the coast ready for the people to spear.

This Cultural knowledge is courtesy of Wadandi Cultural Custodian Izaak Webb.

Community Corner

Rapids Landing Dental Therapy Centre is currently open to provide **Emergency Dental Service for ONLY urgent cases** to all children from age 5 through to 17 (or end of year 11 whichever comes first). Our current opening hours are 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday until the 9th April. We are unable to take routine care appointments until further notice. We will be open for some dates in the April School Holidays. If the clinic is closed please call 9754 4460. Term 2 could see some changes in our opening hours and we will endeavour to keep everyone updated.

WA Country Health Services

Dear Parents,

We understand that this time is extremely challenging for all families and everyone may need some extra support. Looking after your own mental health as well as your child's and family's is very important.

Please know the school health nurses are still available if you need support, or if you have health or developmental concerns about your child. We can offer alternative methods for appointments including telephone consults or video conference calls.

Below are contact numbers and links to useful online resources.

Coronavirus Health Information Line: 1800 020 080

www.healthywa.wa.gov.au

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/videos/coronavirus-video-mental-wellbeing>

<https://www.redcross.org.au/news-and-media/news/talking-to-kids-about-covid-19>

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/>

Kind Regards,

Karen, Jill, Serena, Danielle and Clare

WACHS-SW.NaturalistePrimarySchoolNurses@health.wa.gov.au