



# Term 1 Newsletter 2021

Issue 1 · 01 Apr 2021

*Merrylands High School*

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# Principal's Report

Mr. Prasad

At Merrylands High School, we strive to create a culture of excellence where improvements in teaching and learning are constantly realised. We are committed to establishing a rich learning culture and maintaining an environment of inclusion and diversity, where students can thrive.

Throughout this term, Merrylands High School completed an extensive situational analysis with consultation from all sectors of the school community.

The input received informed a clear direction for the future, culminating in three areas of focus for the 2021-2024 MHS Strategic Improvement Plan. These areas consist of:

- Strategic Direction 1: Student Growth and Attainment
- Strategic Direction 2: Collaborative Practice
- Strategic Direction 3: Effective Feedback

Transitioning into a post COVID-19 world in 2021 has been achieved through the support and collaboration amongst our school community. This has led to the success of numerous school events such as Harmony Day, Swimming Carnival, Sport Gala Days and International Women's Day celebrations.

Additionally, Merrylands High School has invested in new facilities and technology including the volleyball and basketball courts, sporting amenities block, 21st century learning devices and our newsletter to provide opportunities for our students and community to achieve their aspirations.

On behalf of Merrylands High School, thank you for your valued contributions and support.



# Safe, Respectful Learners

Feel included in our school activities, make friends and reach goals.

## Harmony Day Showcase



Harmony Day was celebrated at MHS on 30th March 2021. Celebrations looked a little different this year but it was still as spectacular as ever! Over 100 MHS students from Years 7-12 participated and shared their passion and cultural dance styles from over 11 different countries.

The Harmony Day Cultural Showcase was well received by all staff and students who viewed the two massive shows. The student performers deserve a special shout out, as they all did an amazing job at organising their own dancers, routines, rehearsals, costumes and

much more within the 3 week time frame allocated. Excellent leadership and collaboration was exhibited by all students involved.

Thank you to all our performers and not to mention our numerous student helpers, backstage crew and staff. Without you all the Showcase couldn't have been as successful as it was. We are looking forward to next year's Harmony Day Showcase already! Remember: 'Everyone Belongs' at MHS!





## Wellbeing Sports Initiative - Spike Ball

Merrylands High School's PDHPE staff have successfully run this term's 'Wellbeing Sports Initiative' which was 'Spike Ball'. Each Tuesday during lunchtime on the oval, students had

the opportunity to engage in weekly fun round robin competitions run by Ms. Raikadroka and Mr. MacNamara. Students paired up with friends to work together against other teams from all year groups. Through successful communication and strategic development, students honed their skills to take down formidable opponents. Honourable mentions go to the year 7 students for successfully defeating the year 10s in the finals. Congratulations and looking forward to Term 2's PDHPE Wellbeing Sports Initiative.



## L. E. A. P. Inquiry and Investigation skills.

LT5 students are participating in the Geography unit of work “Exploring the School Environment”. The students are developing their Investigating and Inquiry skills in this project/unit of work. The students explored the school environment and conducted some investigations in the sitting area near the canteen. The students found that the sitting area



near the canteen is too crowded and it needs some work. They brainstormed ideas as a team and highlighted strengths and gaps of the area. They pitched a proposal by writing a letter to the Principal, Mr Prasad. In the letter, the students disseminated their views and provided some ideas to make the canteen sitting area more user friendly and environmentally friendly. Mr Prasad listened to their views and assured the students that he will look into the concerns raised by the students. A very innovative and proactive approach taken by LT5 students!

## International Women’s Day

International Women's Day was held on the 8th of March and is one of the most important days of the year. The day focuses on celebrating women's social, economic, cultural and political achievements, lobbying for equality and fundraising for female-focused charities. The day also encourages groups to come together to celebrate women and all that they accomplish.



The young women of Merrylands High School had the opportunity to meet and listen to the story of a former graduating student, Memu Conteh. An international model, writer, YouTuber and entrepreneur, Memu attended her former high school to come and shed some light on her experiences, how they have

shaped her to accomplish what she has today and what she went through to get to where she is. Being in a comfortable and inclusive environment where us women were able to be vulnerable and to speak and listen. It was inspiring to hear Memu speak about her life, her story, where she was and where she is now, her struggles as a woman and her current success despite her hardships. The advice she gave was especially wise and a real eye opener. All the girls had come together as one, where we understood, spoke, listened and learned from each other's experiences and stories.

The overall experience of having such an inspiring individual come and shed such aspiration and enlightenment on the topic of women was delightful and empowering. Memu had a strong presence in the room which displayed how much of an inspirational woman she is. The story



of her journey was really impressive and inspiring for women who strive to achieve high goals in the future. International Women's Day is very special for women all around the world and it

is important for women everywhere to understand where they are, where they are going and what comes next in their amazing journey of life.

## Celebrating International Women's Day in the Library



For International Women's Day, the school library presented displays of books which showcased some of the 445 resources available relating to the topic of Women. Titles of the books displayed included 'Girls who Rocked the World', 'Women in Australia', 'Women and the Olympic Games', 'Girling Up', and 'The Glory Garage'. All the titles can be located using the Oliver Merrylands High School website looking under the search term 'Women'.

## Year 8 Technology Mandatory



Year 8 Technology Mandatory have been researching and investigating different forms of renewable, sustainable and clean forms of energy, in particular *wind energy*. Students in 8GTM, 8TM1 and 8TM5 had many discussions about how electricity is made. Students have gained knowledge and insight about coal and its impact on our economy and the environment. Furthermore, students have demonstrated an understanding through watching documentaries, class discussions and other forms of research of how important it is for not only Australia, but the world at large to invest in wind farms and other forms of clean, renewable and sustainable forms of energy. In this design challenge, students had to create four different designs of Wind Turbines, complete a (PMI) evaluation and construct a model of a final Wind Turbine based on specific criteria like cardboard, straws, masking tape, skewers etc. The majority of students constructed their wind turbines through teamwork, brainstorming and researching. Students evaluated at every step of the design process. Well done Year 8!

## Year 8 Creative Writing

Students have been using 'The writing process' to create a short story. They planned, drafted, revised and edited their work before finally publishing for submission.

## What Is The Highest Score?

Year 8 have been testing their skills with ping pong balls as part of their assessment in Mathematics this term. They have used their own collected data to find statistics such as the mean, median and mode. Students then pooled their data to compare their individual performance to others in their class and across the year. These mathematical skills are also used by sports commentators during professional games. The Mathematics Faculty are proud of the effort that Year 8 put into their assessments, especially using technology to create graphs to display data as well as their skill in calculating the statistics. Great job Year 8!



## Literacy Planet

Year 7 and 8 English classes are improving their literacy skills using on the online program Literacy Planet. Term 1 just ended and the students have already completed over 2000 missions!



Literacy Planet 2000 missions Certificate.pdf



# Incursions

Bringing opportunities to our students.

## Exploring Early Childhood

Year 11 Exploring Early Childhood students were fortunate enough to participate in the 'Reality Works Basic Infant Care Program'. The students were provided with the opportunity to experience the many responsibilities required in being the caregiver of a new infant. Our students embraced the challenge of being a caregiver and enjoyed the experience.



## Heroes with Abilities



This term the LEAP students and staff participated in a football program called Heroes with Abilities. This program gave the students the chance to focus on the skills of football

alongside skills such as coordination, communication, team-work and leadership. The students look forward to participating in this program every Wednesday on the oval.

## Bridge Program



This term Year 10 boys have undertaken the first stage of the **MHS BRIDGE Program**, which is co-curricular program led by **21st Century Learners Organisation** and **Rugby 2 Blues**. The first part of the program led by **Rugby 2 Blues**

ran in periods 4 and 5 each Wednesday. Students used decision making and goal setting in a practical setting and discuss future career opportunities and engage in fun meaningful learning games. The program looks at the entire job application process and builds strategies to overcome barriers that could limit a young person's progression into work or study such as:

- Producing measurable outcomes in a person's quality of life.
- Increasing opportunities for independence and choice for all.

Students whom have been successful through the Rugby 2 Blues part of the program, will commence the second part of the program in Week 2 next term.

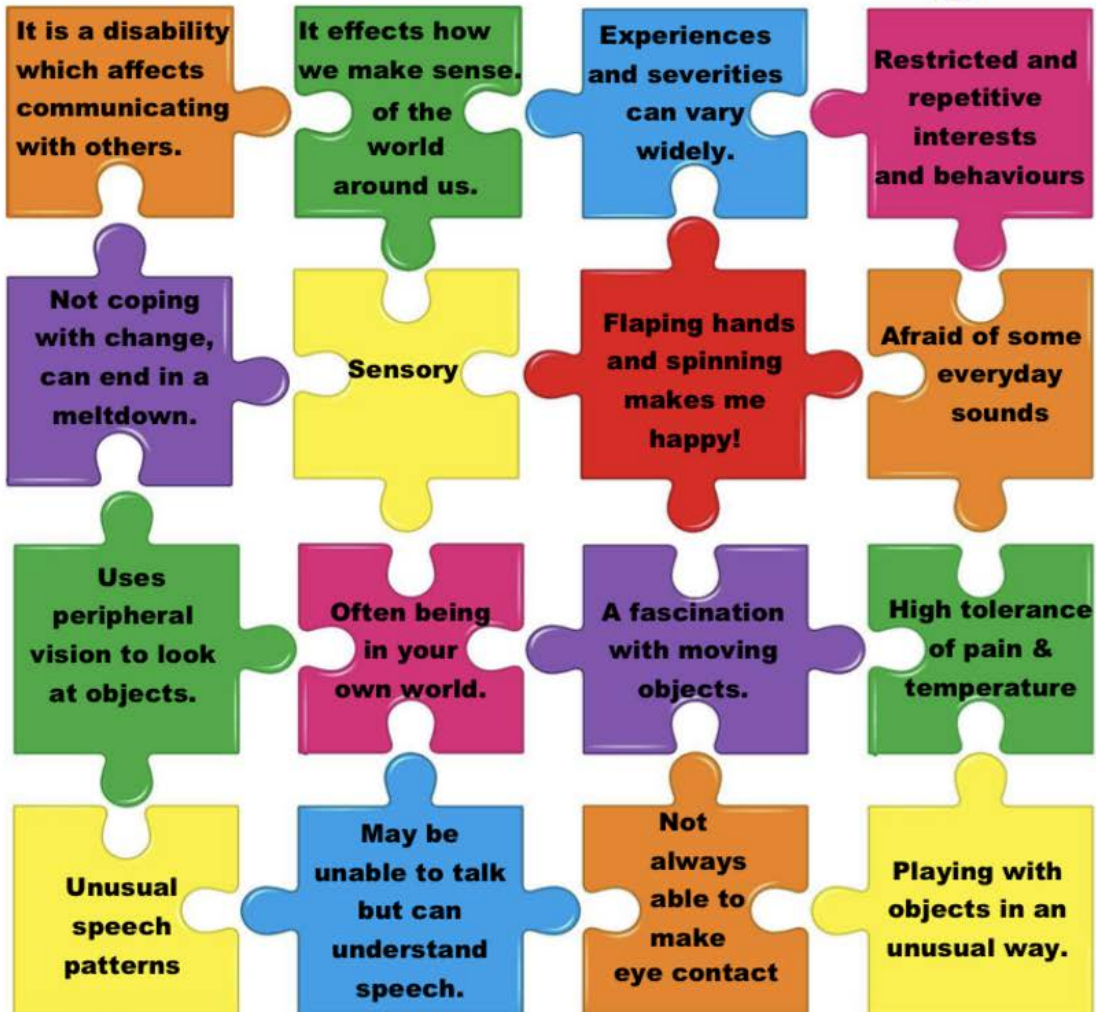
## World Autism Awareness Day

2nd of April is **World Autism Awareness Day**, which aims to increase understanding and acceptance of people with Autism. To recognise this day, students from the LEAP Team baked, decorated and sold puzzle shaped cookies. In order to help mainstream students appreciate the differences in the day-to-day lives of each other, a small group of mainstream students from each cohort were invited into the LEAP classrooms to work with students with Autism.



WHAT IS

AUTISM



AUTISM

AWARENESS

## Sydney West Open Boys Football (Soccer)

Merrylands High School selected 18 boys to represent the school in the Sydney West Open Boys Football knockout tournament. The first draw of the tournament was a home game for Merrylands against Kellyville High School. The boys took to the field and played with gusto,

which saw them go into half time 5-0 up. The second half was a lot more evenly matched with Kellyville scoring 2 late goals. The robust defense shut down any other scoring opportunities, which gave Merrylands a significant 5-2 victory.



In the second round of knockouts, Merrylands High School Open Boys Football Team audaciously fronted the wild weather to play Cumberland High School at their home ground. The team took to the field with optimism and courage and their efforts were triumphant, winning 2-0. Congratulations to the players who will be progressing to the third round next term.

## Head In The Game Workshop



On Thursday, 40 students from Years 8 and 9 attended the 'Head In The Game' workshop hosted at MHS in partnership with The NRL and Cumberland Council. Former Canberra Raider Alan Tongue facilitated the workshops where he spoke about being resilient with mental health and ensuring that all people have the strategies to cope

with the swift changes that can occur in life. Using these strategies to start often challenging conversations with people is key.

This workshop paired physical activities with some real discussion surrounding the importance of mental health in order to be able to contribute to society in a meaningful way. The Wellbeing team is looking at including more workshops that aim to support the mental health of our students.



## Work Ready Day

This term our Year 12 Vocational Education and Training Students participated in the Work Ready Day. The purpose of the event was to equip our students with skills and knowledge to prepare them for their assigned work placements. This will provide them with relevant and appropriate skills to utilise in the Business Services, Hospitality and Sports Coaching context. A great experience and opportunity for students to become immersed with roles and responsibilities of the VET framework.

# Excursions

Sharing opportunities beyond the gates.

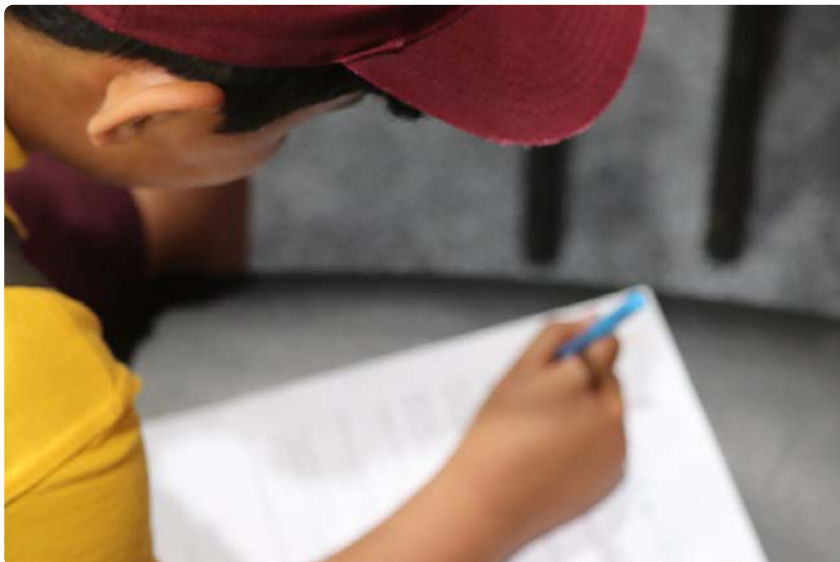


## Year 6 Open Day

Year 6 Open Day was held in Week 8 where students from our local primary schools attended Merrylands High School to experience the 'high school life'. The students participated in taster lessons for subjects such as PDHPE, LOTE (French), Music, History, Geography, Science, Industrial Technology, English and Maths. During these taster lessons, students were introduced to some of the wonderful staff we have here at Merrylands High School, at the same time they received a gist of their future subjects.

Year 6 students were also given the opportunity to reflect on their personal interests and write a letter to their future self, offering any advice and words of wisdom that they value. As student wellbeing is a priority at Merrylands High School, the Year 6 students took the time to list 5 adjectives about themselves, an activity designed to promote self care.

We look forward to guiding our future Year 7 students through their learning journey and leading them towards becoming Safe and Respectful Learners.



# Swimming Carnival

It has been an eventful start to Term 1, 2021 with our annual Swimming Carnival being held on Friday the 12th of February at Merrylands Swimming Centre. We had great weather and all staff and students who attended the event had fun. Students had the opportunity to gain house points by participating in both main pool events as well as novelty races.



## Congratulations to our 2021 Swimming Age Champions:

- 12 yrs: Mohamed Al Saadie & Rumaysa Alameddine
- 13 yrs: Ahmad Jaghori & Sara Assaad
- 14 yrs: David Finau & Hiba Assaad
- 15 yrs: Tin Le & Serene Hamad
- 16 yrs: Denzel Calleja & Charlotte Tai
- 17+ yrs: Brock Millar & Katherine Tran



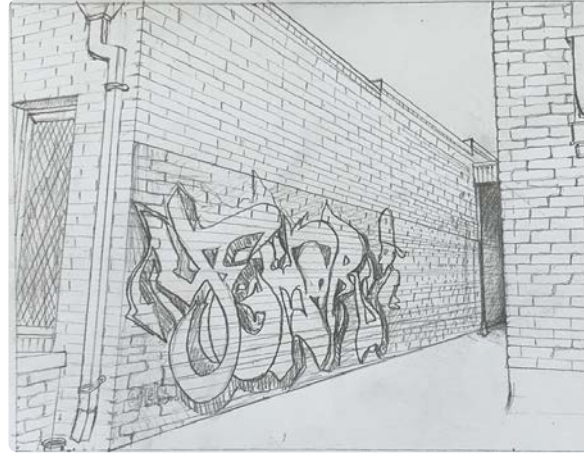
## Asika Interiors



Mr Wark and Mr Wilson visited ex MHS student Tony Asika (centre - black top) who, with his brother Ray (also ex MHS) own the highly successful Asika Interiors in Guildford. Congratulations to Hamzah Issa (centre - orange shirt) who has recently secured a highly sought after Joinery apprenticeship with Tony and Ray. A great story of MHS success and a

community that supports each other.

## Year 11 Visual Art Local Photography Tour



In Year 11 Visual Art, our first topic this semester has been exploring Urban Decay, Architectural Drawing and artists such as Rebecca Bathory and Rob Dobi. Urban Decay photography is the technique of photographing abandoned and rundown buildings. In many cases the buildings haven't been abandoned for more than a few years. Our Year 11 Visual Art students walked down to the old and abandoned *Coolibah Shopping Centre*, where *Sunrise Bakery* was once the local's first stop for fresh bread, pies and sweets. The students photographed and drew the local area and were amazed by the absence of presence.

# Community Investments

Sharing opportunities and success for our students and the community.



## Giving To Our Community

*Dear Mr Prasad,*

*This is just a quick note to express our sincere thanks for hosting our soccer club on your fabulous grounds last weekend. In view of the dreadful weather leading up to the event, the efforts of your grounds staff to prepare the ovals for us was remarkable. We share a few of the images from the day as a testament to the service you provided*



*to your community through your generosity. As our club, and your school, share many players and families, now for well over 20 years, we thank for your role in supporting the health and wellbeing of our community.*

*Regards,*

*Guildford McCredie Uniting Soccer Club.*

## Recycle

Ms Rutter and Mr. P were caught working hard to recycle on behalf of the Merrylands school community.

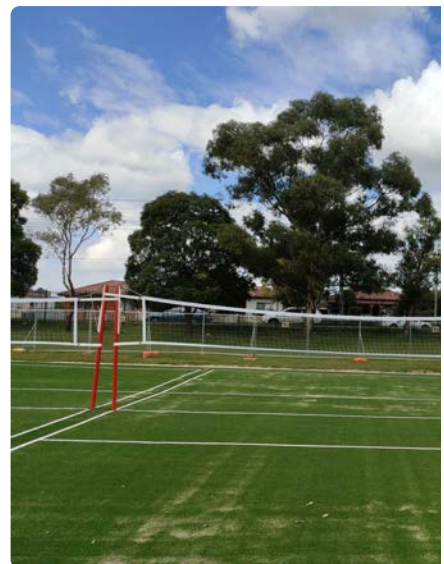
Full marks to both of them for their wonderful community spirit!



## Amenities Block Update



We have been watching the construction of the new Amenities block very closely. The plumbing has recently been added and we are hoping for completion in mid May. Our new volleyball courts are also underway and we are excited to see our students to be playing together on them very soon!



# Parents & Carers

Sharing your child's education journey with parents and carers.



## Accessing the Student & Parent Portal

A screenshot of a web browser showing the login page for the Merrylands High School Student and Parent Portal. The browser's address bar displays the URL [merrylandshs.sentral.com.au/portal/login](https://merrylandshs.sentral.com.au/portal/login). The page features the school's crest at the top, followed by the text "Merrylands High School" and "Student and Parent Portal". Below this, it says "Please enter your username and password below". There are two input fields: the first contains the username "alysha.rowley" and the second contains a masked password "\*\*\*\*\*". A "Sign In" button is located below the password field, and a link for "Forgot Password?" is positioned just below the button. The Sentral Education logo is at the bottom of the page.

1. Head to <https://merrylandshs.sentral.com.au/portal/login>
2. Enter your student's DET username and password (what your student uses to log on to school computers and the student portal)
3. The dashboard below will appear. Use the tabs on the left of the page to find your student's timetable, attendance record, school reports and other important documents.

Home - Staff Portal - Department: x My Dashboard x +

merrylandshs.sentrall.com.au/portal/dashboard

Merrylands High School  
Student Portal

Dashboard

Dashboard Bulletins Daily Notices

**My Timetable:** Check your student's weekly timetable  
**Resources:** Find copies of important documents such as newsletter past editions

**Attendance:** Check your student's attendance including unexplained absences  
**Reporting:** Check your student's academic achievement and download a printable copy of the report under 'Published Reports'

Today's Timetable

P 0	Quad
P1	7VM2 (7VM2) ROOM 15 WITH R ALYSHA
P2	7EMAA (7EMAA) ROOM 4 WITH S MANZOOR
RECESS	
P3	7ENUMA (7ENUMA) ROOM 2 WITH M BENJAMIN
P4	7ESC (7ESC) ROOM 26 WITH T

https://merrylandshs.sentrall.com.au/portal/dashboard/daily\_notices

## Student Attendance



# EVERY MINUTE COUNTS...

When your child misses just...	That equals...	Which is...	And therefore, from Kindy to year 12, that is...
10 minutes a day	50 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ¼ a year of school
20 minutes a day	1 hour and 40 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly a year of school
½ hour a day	½ a day of learning a week	4 weeks a year	Nearly 1 ½ years of learning
1 hour each day	1 whole day of learning each week	8 weeks per year or nearly a term a year	Over 2 ½ years of learning

Your child's best learning time is at the beginning of the day!

We start at 9:00am!  
BE ON TIME!



## Want Frequent Updates?

*Do you often ask your child "What did you do at school today?" and get the response "Nothing" ?*

Merrylands High School has been committed to keeping our students, parents, carers and community members up to date with the daily posts shared online about our students successes and events.

Follow us on our school's Facebook and Instagram pages for frequent updates and provide yourself with conversation starters for when your child returns home from school.

Click on the links below to follow our pages and stay up to date.

#### FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/merrylandshigh>



#### INSTAGRAM

@merrylandshs



### Year 7 'Meet the Teacher' Afternoon



On Wednesday 31st of March, parents of Year 7 students were invited for an informal meet and greet with the teachers at MHS. It was great to see such a turn out at an important event, allowing for parents and carers to finally see our school.

Thanks to teachers for providing insight into student's learning and development thus far at Merrylands High School.

# Holiday Programs



CUMBERLAND  
CITY COUNCIL

Cumberland City Council's FREE school holiday clinics which will be held over the two weeks.

Registrations open on Monday 29th March at 7.00pm

BOOK A FREE HOLIDAY CLINIC IN THE LINK BELOW

<https://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/healthandwellbeing>



## **Skateboarding Session 3 (12.00pm - 1.00pm) Ages 12 to 18**

TUESDAY 6 APRIL 2021

Come down and take advantage of a 'Pop up Skateboarding clinic' held by Skate Now. So whether you've skated before or if this is your first time it's the perfect opportunity to jump on...

Nemesia St Netball Courts (Entry via Gardenia Parade)



## **Basketball (1:00pm-3.00pm) Ages 5 to 18**

TUESDAY 6 APRIL 2021

Come and join us for our Basketball Clinic this school holidays. You will learn some drills taught by experienced basketball coaches, play games, shoot some hoops but most of all have fun.

Auburn Basketball Centre



## **Badminton (10:00am-12:00pm) Ages 5 to 14**

WEDNESDAY 7 APRIL 2021

Join us for the ultimate combination of badminton and fun. We offer a perfect mix of drill work, fitness and match play strategy. You are sure to have fun these school holidays

Westmead Progress Hall



### **Pickleball (10:00am-12.00pm) Ages 5 to 18**

**THURSDAY 8 APRIL 2021**

Join us for our inaugural school holiday clinic of Pickleball. Pickleball is a paddleball sport that combines elements of badminton, table tennis, and tennis. Two or four players use solid...

Auburn Basketball Centre



### **Hip Hop Class Session 2 (2:30-3:30pm) Ages 12 to 18**

**THURSDAY 8 APRIL 2021**

Hip Hop dance class will get you moving to the music and you will learn new ways to explore movement embrace creativity and have fun.

The Granville Centre



### **Tenpin Bowling - Session 2 (2.00pm - 3.00pm) Ages 12 to 18**

**FRIDAY 9 APRIL 2021**

Come down and take advantage of our tenpin bowling clinic. Learn a new skill or practice some of the skills you already know. Its strike time!

Tenpin City - Lidcombe Shopping Centre




### **Outdoor Bootcamp Session 2 (10.00am - 11.30am) Ages 12 to 18**

**MONDAY 12 APRIL 2021**

Come down and spend some time outdoors enjoying some bootcamp activities with our qualified trainers. You will work up a sweat but have fun doing it.


Daniel Street Park (Field closest to amenities block)



**Zumba (1.00pm - 2.00pm) Ages 12 to 18**  
**WEDNESDAY 14 APRIL 2021**

Perfect for our younger Zumba fans to get the chance to be active and jam out to their favorite music.

Berala Community Centre



**Tennis Session 1 (10.00am-10:45am) Ages 10 to 18**  
**THURSDAY 15 APRIL 2021**

ANZ Tennis Hot Shots is tennis for young people  
Please only book into one session only

Civic Park Tennis Courts

## Unity Day - Wednesday 14 April



**Wednesday 14 April 2021**

Session 1: 9.30am – 12pm  
Session 2: 1pm – 3.30pm

**FREE FOOD**  
**FREE DRINKS**  
**FREE RIDES**  
**INFO STALLS**  
**SHOW BAGS**  
**FREE EVENT**

Scan QR code to register: 

**ATTENDANCE TO THIS YEARS EVENT IS BY ONLINE REGISTRATION ONLY!**

**Whitlam Leisure Centre - 90 Memorial Avenue, Liverpool, 2170**

KARI Community Unity Day aims to bring the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community together in a day of celebration and information sharing in a family fun & friendly environment.

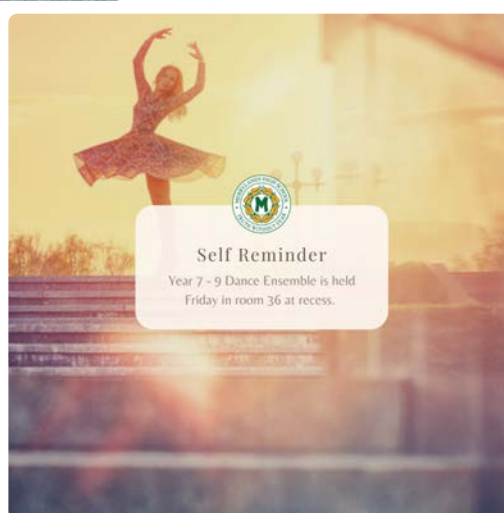
 **KARI** 

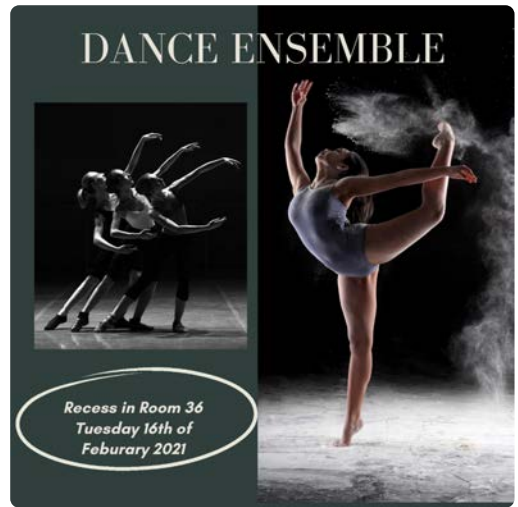
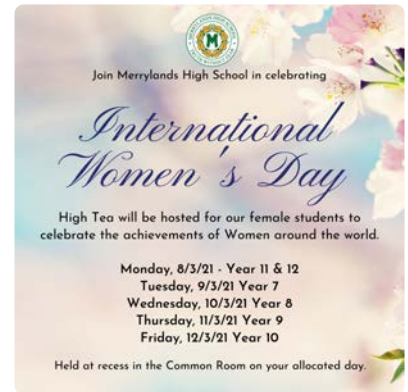
Unity Day aims to bring the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community together in a day of celebration and information sharing in a family fun and friendly environment. Register to attend this event by scanning the QR code on the flyer to the left.

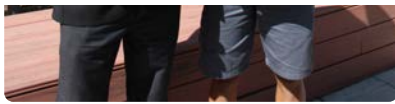


# Term 1 Gallery

## Opportunities for Success









# Term 2 Calendar

Download a PDF copy of our Term 2 MHS School Calendar 2021



Term 2 MHS Calendar 2021.pdf

## 04

### APRIL



## MERRYLANDS HIGH SCHOOL

### CALENDAR

**Monday**

- Breakfast Club
- Art Club at Recess in room 15

**Tuesday**

- Guitar Group at Lunch in room 35

**Wednesday**

- Breakfast Club
- Make It Club at recess in Room 44

**Thursday**

- Basketball Clinic 3-4pm at the MHS Basket Ball Courts

**Friday**

- Breakfast Club
- Year 7-9 Dance Ensemble at recess in room 36

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 School Holidays	2 School Holidays	3 School Holidays
4 School Holidays	5 School Holidays	6 School Holidays	7 School Holidays	8 School Holidays	9 School Holidays	10 School Holidays
11 School Holidays	12 School Holidays	13 School Holidays	14 School Holidays	15 School Holidays	16 School Holidays	17 School Holidays
18 School Holidays	19 Staff Development Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Year 11 Life Ready incursion	27	28	29	30 Year 11 Work Ready Day	