



# Newsletter 2021

Term Four · 16 Dec 2021

*Merrylands High School*

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# Principal's Report

Mr. Prasad



Dear Merrylands High School Community,

As the school comes to the end of 2021, we can proudly say that the continuity of learning has been maintained throughout online Learning as well as the return to face-to-face teaching. I can't thank everyone enough for your endless hours of effort that you put in to support students—both at home and at school. Special thanks to our



teachers and parents, as usual, went above and beyond the call of duty to provide whatever was necessary to add to our students' already rich school experience. That experience could not occur without the endless energy, skills and devotion of the members of the school community including the safe respectful learners.

Thanks, and well done to an incredible group of professionals who have grown immensely in the areas of technology and provided support to students during the online learning.



A final word to Merrylands high school students. Thank you for all your hard work throughout the school year. I am so honoured to be your principal; you make me proud and given me the confidence and assurance in your learning in a safe respectful learner environment.

Best wishes to our Year 12 students who have successfully graduated from Merrylands High School.

Everyone have a safe and happy summer break.

*Mr. Prasad*

# Awards



## Merit Assembly 2021

Our Bronze, Silver and Gold medallion winners celebrated their successes in front of their peers during the Merit Assemblies on the 3rd and 6th of December. Well done to all the award recipients on their achievements throughout Semester 2.

## Academic & Sports Presentation

Congratulations to the 148 students who have received an award at our 2021 Academic and Sports Presentation. The efforts and achievements of our students in all subject areas is recognised and valued. These students put into action the school ethos of being Safe, Respectful Learners across a variety of learning experiences. Congratulations award winners!



## Year Advisors Award

Ms Sultani and Mr Waraich are outstanding teachers and Year 12 advisors who have ensured that our students' have access to high quality education in a safe, respectful, and highly supported environment. As Year 12 Advisors, they demonstrated outstanding commitment to their students and a willingness to go well beyond the normal responsibilities of a year advisor. The COVID lockdown confronted our students with unprecedented social, emotional, psychological and educational challenges. Ms Sultani and Mr Waraich were extraordinary in supporting students at this time. It is without doubt that several students have Ms Sultani and Mr Waraich to thank for successfully completing the HSC. In addition to the trials presented by the pandemic, many students were confronted by the crisis in

Afghanistan. Ms Sultani and Mr Waraich worked tirelessly in supporting students in this time of emergency by connecting them with support agencies, counselling services and by regularly maintaining connection with highly traumatised students. Both these colleagues are held in the highest regard by our school community. Their professionalism, empathy, work ethic and commitment to quality teaching make them outstanding candidates for this award.





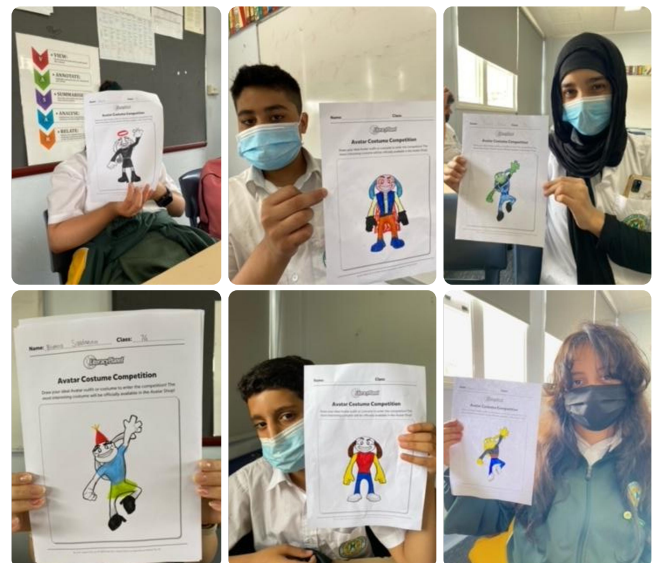
# Safe, Respectful Learners

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

## Avatar Shop Competition



Year 7 and 8 students have been using Literacy Planet to improve their reading comprehension, spelling and grammar for a number of years. Now, they have the opportunity to be part of Literacy Planet like never before in an avatar costume design competition. The winning design will be added to the Literacy Planet Avatar Shop and be available to everyone! Good luck, everyone!



## Real Life Experiences

The HSIE Faculty at MHS continuously seeks opportunities for students to participate in programs that enable them to apply their classroom learning into real life situations. As such, the Year 9 and 10 Commerce students participated in a presentation delivered by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) in Week 7. The presentation was delivered via Zoom by personnel from the ATO, where students learnt about the taxation process within Australia.

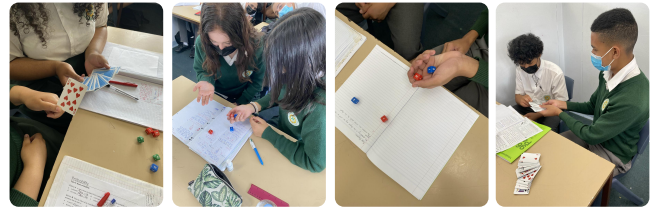


The Smith Family has also partnered with MHS in a Work Inspiration Program whereby the organisation provides first hand work experience to the students. The two companies that are providing work experience are Deloitte and Gallagher Insurance. The first virtual session was delivered during Week 8 via Zoom and 46 students participated, providing them with the opportunity to learn about the corporate world and consider their career choices in the future.



## Probability

As we return to face-to-face learning, our Year 9 students completed the Probability topic in Mathematics. Students used probability to make predictions and to interpret mathematical or real-life situations to solve problems. Students also assigned and used probabilities to make sound judgements. The students completed a range of experiments using different resources including dice, coins, cards and spinners. The Year 9 students thoroughly enjoyed these hands-on activities as they were able to make the connection between the theory of Probability and putting this theory into practice.



## Year 8 Optical Art

This term the year 8 students have been exploring optical illusions in Visual Arts. We have been experimenting with pattern, shape, colour, positive and negative space, and numeracy elements to create artworks that fool the eye. The students have been working on octahedrons to create a three-dimensional optical illusion.



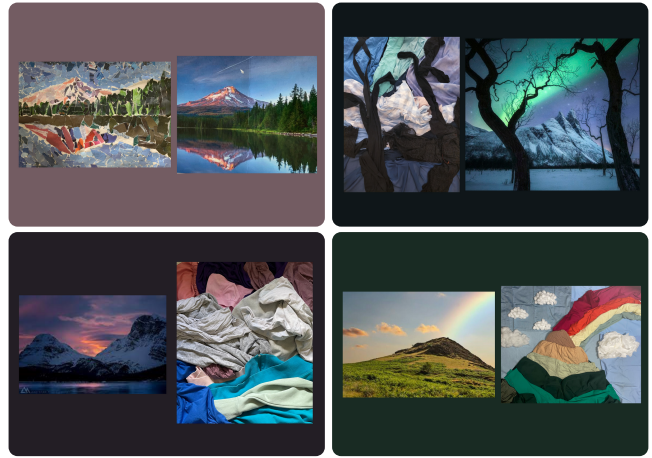
## The Goanna ate my homework

The Students in L.E.A.P 2 class read the story "The Goanna ate my Homework." The students used their comprehension skills to understand the theme of the story. The students were excited to play the story and enjoyed taking up their favorite characters from the story. We organized an open-air show and invited some guests to come and enjoy the free open bush show, but

unfortunately, due to the bad weather, the show was hosted in the classroom. The students worked collaboratively to write their favorite dialogues, practiced rehearsals, and performed inside the classroom. Abbas acted as a news reporter, interviewed all the animals, and inquired, "Who ate Little J's homework." Ahmed worked as a Goanna, Jorel was the Echidna, and Samuel enjoyed hopping like a kangaroo. Ms. Thethi could not resist and chose to be an Emu. Ms. Jasmine acted as a Camerawoman and interviewed Abbas, the reporter.

Mr. Wark attended the show as a guest of honor and appreciated the incredible performance of L.E.A.P students. Well done, students!

Ms. Thethi



## Let's LEAP into Space

We have studied Space this term in LEAP and the students have enjoyed learning about the planets, solar system and spaceships!



## It is beginning to look like Christmas in LEAP

## Year 9 Impressionism Artworks

Throughout Semester Two Year 9 Visual Arts students have explored a variety of art-making activities that catered to online learning and face-to-face experiences. Whilst learning from home Year 9 completed Impressionism Landscapes from clothes. Upon their return to school students completed Impressionism Landscapes using magazines and collage techniques.



## Science accomplishments

- HSC finalised for Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Investigating Science
- Preliminary HSC finalised for Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Investigating Science
- HSC 2022 – first assessment tasks completed for Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Investigating Science

- Stage 4 Year 8 School based VALID exam completed in week 10.
- In 2022 the Science faculty is proud to be offering:
  - Biology,
  - Chemistry,
  - Physics,
  - Investigating Science and
  - Earth and Environmental Science



## Investments For Students

Bringing opportunities to our students and community

### Oval Amenities Complete

The construction of the new Oval Amenities Block is now complete. This Block provides a space for students to prepare for sporting activities and spectate the Merrylands High School Soccer teams from the grand stand during future Knockout Tournaments.



including the Cert II in Construction as part of our stage 6 curriculum. We will also be offering white card training to all students studying Industrial Technology Timber and Furnishings in years 10-12.



## White Card Course

This term 14 year 10 and year 11 students successfully completed their white card General Induction Safety Training at MHS. The white card is mandatory training for students wanting to pursue a career in construction based trades and is also required in many jobs such as security and hygiene. Next year the TAS faculty is excited to be



## New IT Classroom

New IT classroom for Information Software Technology, Information Digital Technology Industrial Technology Multimedia. Student helpers refurbished workbenches for Industrial Technology Timber & Furnishings.



## Year 6 LEAP Meet & Greet

Over the last two weeks, we have been welcoming our 2022 Year 7/LEAP students! They have participated in various activities in our classes, met their teachers and their peers. We can't wait to welcome them again next year and begin this amazing journey together!



activities including; Geography, Visual Arts, Music, PDHPE, English and French! The feedback from the students was incredible as they all felt welcome and look forward to the beginning of their new journey at Merrylands High School.

## Decorations For Year 12 Graduation



## Year 6 Orientation Day

In November we had our future year 7 cohort of 2022 visit Merrylands High School for Orientation Day and taster lessons. They were taught how to read their timetable but also a range of other



# Recognition

Recognising and valuing the effort and success by all

## Meet our 2022 School Captains

Congratulation to Linzi Salim and Tarni Farmfield for taking on the leadership role of School Captains in 2022 and congratulations to Badrie El-haj and Malak Issa for also taking on the leadership role Merrylands High School Vice Captains. We would also like to extend our congratulations to our Prefects; Anna Chung, Daniah Amen, Zaynab Sadiqi, Linda Tieu, Eliza Kumar, Hanaan Alammery, Zuhail Rezaie and Yara Ibrahim. Your leadership roles and responsibilities display great excellence and pride for all of our students. Congratulations, leaders of 2022.



## Graduates of 2021

It was a significant day and a memorable one for our Year 12 students who graduated on December 09, 2021. Through hard work, resilience and persistence over the last 2 years, students finally celebrated their graduation and received well deserved medals, trophies and certificates. Graduation in the morning, was followed by a formal dinner in the evening, which provided a final opportunity for students and their teachers to say thanks to each other and say good bye.

## Exemplary work-ethics by EAL/D students

The Teaching and Learning EAL/D Team has been working closely with the EAL/D students who have demonstrated exemplary work-ethic and dedication towards excelling in their learning. Students have worked closely with their classroom teachers dedicating themselves to ensuring they achieve their best in the classroom and consistently seeks opportunities to continue thriving as learners. They have achieved this

through their humility, willingness to accept feedback and commitment towards trying their best to ensure they succeed across all facets of their learning. The efforts and commendable achievement of the EAL/D students has been recognised across Merrylands High School.



## Offers with the University of Technology Sydney

19 Merrylands High School students have accepted their offer to study the degree of their choice at UTS. These students began their journey with UTS at the end of Year 10, as part of

the U@Uni Academy which is a two-year intensive program that introduces students to university life through on-campus activities, workshops, mentoring and tutoring. Students who complete the program are offered a place at UTS.



## Parents & Carers

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



## Universal Design for Learning and Student Motivation

Covid -19 has brought a sudden change in the educational system with a switch to online learning. As an educator, I believe that a transition from face-to-face teaching and learning to virtual education using zoom and other high-tech

platforms has put an onerous pressure on students and teachers alike. All students faced a period of change and uncertainty; In contrast, some students did thrive through intrinsic motivation; others struggled with motivation because of what they perceived as extrinsic motivation in the form of direction and

expectation from the teacher. Like other reflective practitioners, I also searched for innovative sustainable strategies that can be delivered via zoom to develop and maintain student interest and motivation. I strongly agree with Hattie's (2017) view that teaching is not limited to providing innovative methodologies but exploring the most appropriate pedagogy that may foster student growth and motivation.

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework is one such evidence-based pedagogy that provides students with sufficient alternatives to meet the challenge of individual differences and empower them with the independence they need to develop motivation. In addition, UDL delivers a blueprint for creating instructional goals, methods, materials, and assessments that work for everyone — not a single, one-size-fits-all solution but rather flexible approaches that can be customized and adjusted for individual needs (AITSL, 2020; Rose and Meyer, 2002).

Three Core Principles that guide UDL remove barriers from the curriculum and promote independence among students. The first principle, *multiple means of representation* provide students with autonomy to choose the best learning methods suited to their needs, for example, a digital book, a short video clip pertinent to the story being read in the class, and a hard copy for some students to read.

The second principle, *multiple means of action and expression*. For example, allowing students

to demonstrate their knowledge in various ways. This could mean some students using high-tech sources such as developing digital collages to illustrate the concept accompanied by explaining the information while others do role-play or even drawing a mind map to demonstrate their knowledge.

The third principle, *multiple means of engagement*, taps into students' interests and is challenging to implement. The students work closely with teachers to develop project-based learning based on their interests. Instead of planning instruction to fit within a set amount of time, lessons can be structured as a series of instructional activities. The time that activities take will vary depending on the learner's needs and skills. This approach offers challenges to students and increase motivation.



The three principles of UDL empower students to take control of their learning, become expert learners, and achieve positive outcomes and develop intrinsic motivation. Online learning environments that require the use of digital tools as a means for delivery and instruction present many opportunities for incorporating and applying UDL. By explicitly integrating UDL into lesson designing, all students including those who experience challenges while learning can be supported in online learning (Department of Education, NSW, 2020; Rose & Meyer, 2002).

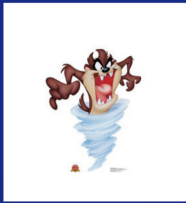

Harsharan Thethi

Special Education Teacher L.E.A.P.



# Term 4 Gallery

**MR. PAPANDREA & MOANA**

MR. PAPANDREA AND MOANA ARE OPTIMISTS DRIVEN BY CURIOSITY AND ADVENTURE. THEY'RE NOT AFRAID TO GO CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO. THEY ARE REALLY DEDICATED. ONCE THEY SET THEIR MIND TO SOMETHING, THERE'S NO STOPPING THEM!



**WELCOME BACK TO TERM 4!**







**MS. RAIKADROKA & MOANA**

MS. RAIKADROKA AND MOANA ARE OPTIMISTS DRIVEN BY CURIOSITY AND ADVENTURE. THEY'RE NOT AFRAID TO GO CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO. THEY ARE REALLY DEDICATED. ONCE THEY SET THEIR MIND TO SOMETHING, THERE'S NO STOPPING THEM!



*Welcome Back*  
TO SCHOOL YEAR 12  
*Have a great week!*









**SARAH & BELLE (BEAUTY & THE BEAST)**

SARAH AND BELLE TEND TO KEEP TO THEMSELVES, BUT IT'S USUALLY JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE THINKING ABOUT THEIR FAVORITE FICTIONAL WORDS. THEY'RE INCREDIBLY SMART AND INDEPENDENT. THEY MAY SEEM QUIET AND INTROVERTED, BUT THEY AREN'T AFRAID TO DEFEND WHAT THEY BELIEVE IN.



Years 7-11 have had a safe return to face to face learning.

Merrylands High School







**MS. DICKIE & BELLE (BEAUTY & THE BEAST)**

MS. DICKIE AND BELLE HAVE THE UNCOMMON ABILITY TO SEE THE BEST IN EVERYONE. THEY BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE HAS A REDEEMING VIRTUE AND ARE CONSIDERED INCREDIBLY EMPATHETIC BY THEIR FRIENDS.



**"The greater the obstacle, the more glory in overcoming it."**  
- Molière

Parade












MR. FLORES & PUMBAA (THE LION KING)


MR. FLORES & PUMBAA ARE INCREDIBLY LIKEABLE AND THE BEST FRIEND A PERSON COULD ASK FOR. THEY ARE BOTH A JOKESTER WHO DOESN'T TAKE THEMSELVES SERIOUSLY AND IS ALWAYS DOWN FOR A LAUGH. THEY HAVE A BIG HEART AND EVERYONE LIKES THEM!



Merry Christmas






MISS BARROW & DORY (FINDING NEMO)

MISS BARROW AND DORY ARE BOTH VERY OPTIMISTIC AND KIND BUT CAN BE A TAD FORGETFUL. HOWEVER, THEY BOTH HAVE A HEART OF GOLD AND ARE WILLING TO GO PULL LENGTHS TO HELP OTHERS.









MISS SMITH & ANNA (FROZEN)

MISS SMITH AND ANNA ARE DRIVEN AND ACTION ORIENTED. THEY SPEND MOST OF THEIR TIME TRYING TO MAKE THE PEOPLE THEY CARE ABOUT HAPPY. THEY ARE GIVING AND FUN-LOVING, AND SOMEWHAT HEADSTRONG.




*The*  
**EXPERT**  
*at anything*  
*was once a*  
**BEGINNER**

HELEN HAYES



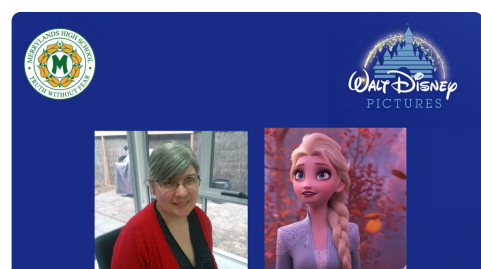
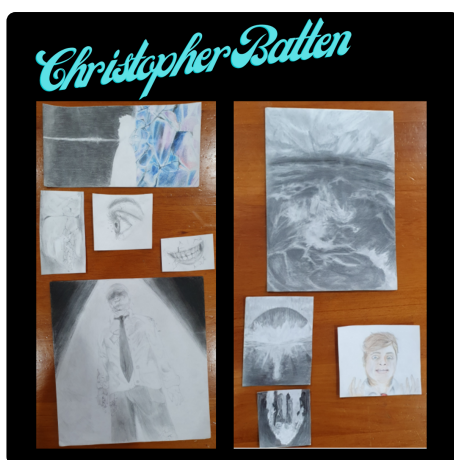
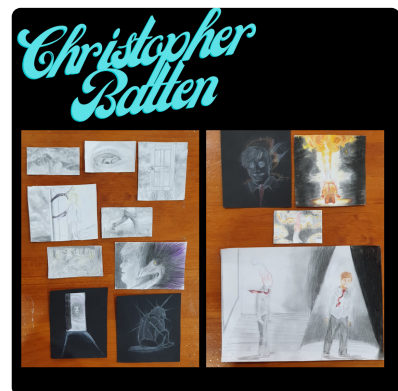


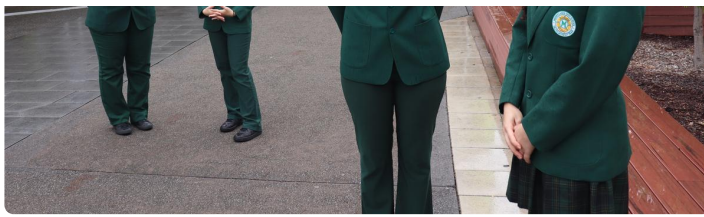


MISS SHADID & TIGGER (WHINNIE THE POOH)

MISS SHADID AND TIGGER ARE ALWAYS FILLED WITH GREAT ENERGY AND OPTIMISM, AND THOUGH ALWAYS WELL-MEANING, THEY ACT ON IMPULSE AND WILL DASH RATHER THAN WALK, AND WHILST THAT CAN EXERCISE A STARTUP, THAT IMPULSIVE LEAP AND RUSH MORE OFTEN THAN NOT IS JUMPING AROUND.











### Ms. NASH & ELSA (FROZEN)

MS. NASH AND ELSA OFTEN COME ACROSS AS QUIET AND RESERVED, BUT THEY'RE TOTALLY DIFFERENT ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW THEM. THEY'RE FUNNY, CREATIVE, AND A LOYAL FRIEND THAT ANYONE WOULD BE LUCKY TO HAVE!



### Ms. LEON & ELSA (FROZEN)

MS. LEON AND ELSA OFTEN COME ACROSS AS QUIET AND RESERVED, BUT THEY'RE TOTALLY DIFFERENT ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW THEM. THEY'RE FUNNY, CREATIVE, AND A LOYAL FRIEND THAT ANYONE WOULD BE LUCKY TO HAVE!








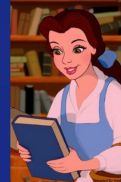


### Ms. BRUCKNER & KIKI AND SEBASTIAN

MS. BRUCKNER, KIKI AND SEBASTIAN ARE ALL SUPER LOYAL TO THOSE THEY CARE ABOUT AND THEY LOVE TO BE HELPFUL. WHILE THEY CAN SOMETIMES BE SENSITIVE, THEY'RE DEFINITELY A KIND SOUL WHO LOVES TO MAKE OTHERS HAPPY!

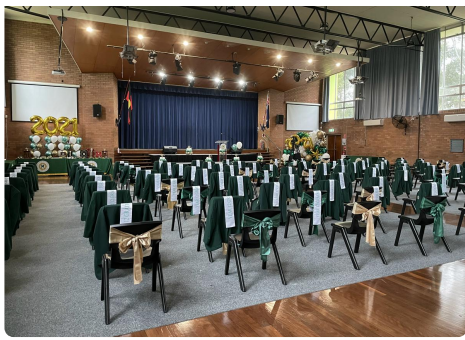


### Ms. TELFER & BELLE (BEAUTY & THE BEAST)

MS. TELFER AND BELLE TEND TO KEEP TO THEMSELVES, BUT IT'S USUALLY JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE THINKING ABOUT THEIR FAVORITE FICTIONAL WORDS. THEY'RE INCREDIBLY SMART AND INDEPENDENT. THEY MAY SEEM QUIET AND INTROVERTED, BUT THEY AREN'T AFRAID TO DEFEND WHAT THEY BELIEVE IN.










**Ms. Rao & Moana**

MS RAO IS LIKE MOANA, AN OPTIMIST DRIVEN BY CURIOSITY AND ADVENTURE. SHE IS NOT AFRAID TO GO CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO AND DO HER OWN THING. ONCE SHE SETS HER MIND ON SOMETHING, THERE IS NO STOPPING HER.









**Mr. Radisic & Belle (Beauty & The Beast)**

MR. RADISIC AND BELLE TEND TO KEEP TO THEMSELVES, BUT IT'S USUALLY JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE THINKING ABOUT THEIR FAVORITE FICTIONAL WORDS. THEY'RE INCREDIBLY SMART AND INDEPENDENT. THEY MAY SEEM QUIET AND INTROVERTED, BUT THEY AREN'T AFRAID TO DEFEND WHAT THEY BELIEVE IN.



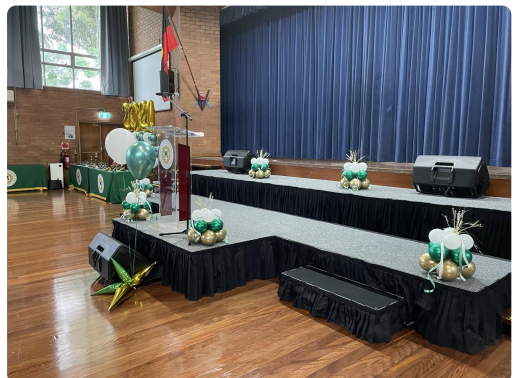






**Mr. Ting & Flynn Rider (Tangled)**

MR. TING AND FLYNN RIDER LIKE TO HIDE BEHIND THEIR WIT AND CHARMING PERSONALITY, BUT THEY'RE REALLY A BIG SPOITIE. THEY ARE INDEPENDENT, HAVE BIG DREAMS AND WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAKE THEM A REALITY.





Outdoor Learning Spaces



Diverse Learning Opportunities

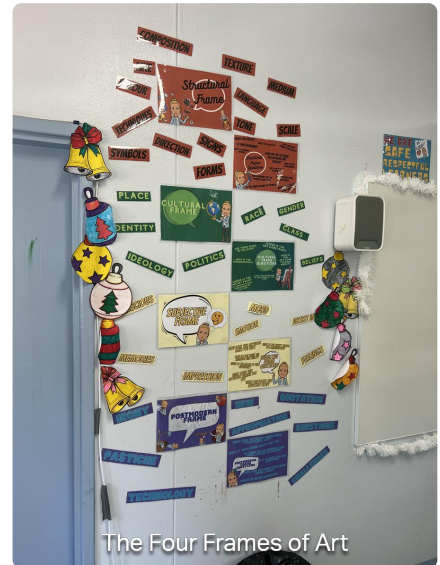
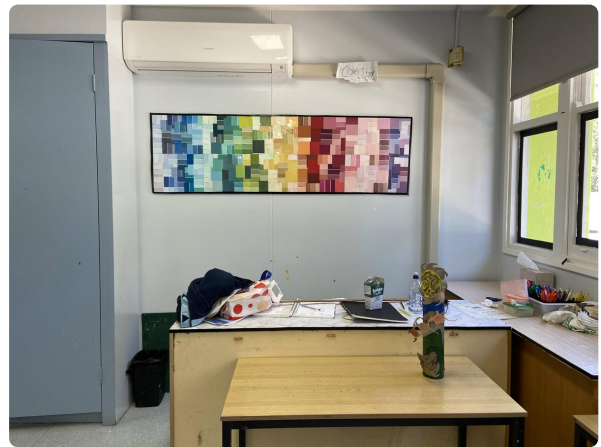


New School Bus for the Students!





Online Learning Merit Certificates



The Four Frames of Art



Art (Room 14)



# Term 1 Calendar

**01**  
**January 2022**

**MERRYLANDS HIGH SCHOOL  
CALENDAR**

**Monday**

- Breakfast Club
- Art Club at Recess in room 15

**Wednesday**

- Breakfast Club

**Friday**

- Breakfast Club

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						School <sup>1</sup> Holidays
School <sup>2</sup> Holidays	School <sup>3</sup> Holidays	School <sup>4</sup> Holidays	School <sup>5</sup> Holidays	School <sup>6</sup> Holidays	School <sup>7</sup> Holidays	School <sup>8</sup> Holidays
School <sup>9</sup> Holidays	School <sup>10</sup> Holidays	School <sup>11</sup> Holidays	School <sup>12</sup> Holidays	School <sup>13</sup> Holidays	School <sup>14</sup> Holidays	School <sup>15</sup> Holidays
School <sup>16</sup> Holidays	School <sup>17</sup> Holidays	School <sup>18</sup> Holidays	School <sup>19</sup> Holidays	School <sup>20</sup> Holidays	School <sup>21</sup> Holidays	School <sup>22</sup> Holidays
School <sup>23</sup> Holidays	School <sup>24</sup> Holidays	School <sup>25</sup> Holidays	School <sup>26</sup> Holidays	School <sup>27</sup> Holidays	School <sup>28</sup> Development Day	29
30	School <sup>31</sup> Development Day					

**02**  
**February 2022**

**MERRYLANDS HIGH SCHOOL  
CALENDAR**

**Monday**

- Breakfast Club
- Art Club at Recess in room 15

**Wednesday**

- Breakfast Club

**Friday**

- Breakfast Club

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Year's 7, 11 & 12 return to school	Year's 8, 9 & 10 return to school	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	Academy <sup>10</sup> Photo Day	Swimming <sup>11</sup> Carnival	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

03

**March** 2022**MERRYLANDS HIGH SCHOOL  
CALENDAR**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Year 6 Open Day	8	9 Prospect Zone Swimming Carnival	10	11	12
13	14 Year 6 Open Day	15	16 Year 8 Vaccinations	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Harmony Day	26
27	28	29	30 Year 7 & 11 Vaccinations	31		

**Monday**

- Breakfast Club
- Art Club at Recess in room 15

**Wednesday**

- Breakfast Club

**Friday**

- Breakfast Club

04

**April** 2022**MERRYLANDS HIGH SCHOOL  
CALENDAR****Monday**

- Breakfast Club
- Art Club at Recess in room 15

**Wednesday**

- Breakfast Club

**Friday**

- Breakfast Club

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	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 School Holidays	20 School Holidays	21 School Holidays	22 School Holidays	23
24 School Holidays	25 ANZAC Day	26 School Development Day	27	28	29	30