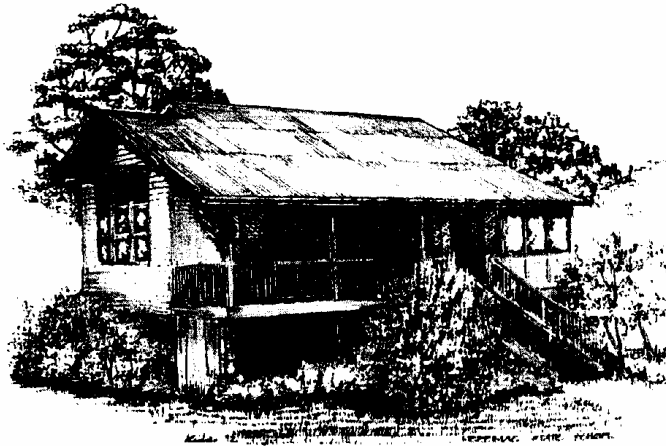


Merrimac State School



School Report 2008

School Community Information

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Introduction:

This report provides an overview of the school's performance over the past year. It highlights strengths and identifies areas for development and improvement.

It provides valuable information for members of the school community on the achievement of the school against declared systemic and school priorities as outlined in the 2008 School Annual Operational Plan.

This Report fulfils two functions:

- It provides the school community, through the School Council and the Parents and Citizens Association with information on the school's progress towards achieving the goals and priorities outlined in the School Annual Report and Operational Plan.
- It provides a base on which the school develops its next School Annual Operational Plan.

Dr. Randall Pointing Principal



Statement of Purpose:

The School Community has developed a vision statement and statement of purpose for Merrimac State School. It was felt that our children are our future. As such the emphasis at Merrimac should be on:

“Educating the Future”

School Vision Statement:

Merrimac State School's vision is to engage our students in life long learning through:

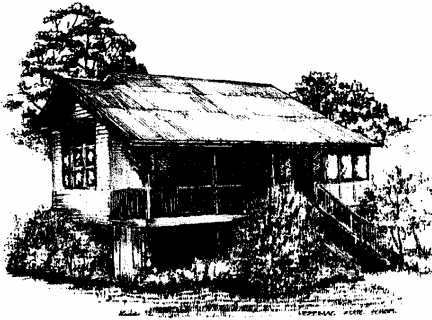
- developing self esteem in a supportive and caring environment
- an emphasis on each child's learning needs and interests
- the effective implementation of a quality curriculum
- the effective integration of learning technology
- a range of cultural, sporting and social activities
- a respect and appreciation for our natural surroundings
- the development of a range of resources and facilities to support quality student achievements
- active participation by students, staff, parents and community members



School Profile (12-12-08)

Location:

Merrimac State School is a state primary school located on the Queensland Gold Coast between Surfers Paradise and the Hinterland. The school was established in 1917 as a one-teacher school and has grown over the years to a school with an enrolment of 739 students covering Prep to Year 7. Merrimac is a coeducational school.



Original One Teacher School Building

Physical Features:

The school is characterised by its original one teacher school building which is backdropped by a bush setting set amidst international level golf courses. All other buildings are relatively new and are of open plan design. The school has carried the slogan 'the country school in the city' as it has maintained a country image during recent urban development.

The learning environment is characterised by low set buildings with double classrooms and withdrawal rooms. A purpose built music facility was constructed during the year. The new facility caters for classroom music and instrumental music lessons. LOTE lessons are held in the original school building. The air conditioning of our whole school was completed in 2008. This was a joint school and P and C initiative. All classrooms and specialist teaching areas are fully air conditioned.

Staff:

Merrimac is staffed by 28 class teachers, specialist teachers in PE, Music, LOTE, Learning Support, Guidance and Library. The administration team consists of the Principal, two Deputy Principals, Head of Curriculum, Business services Manager and two Administration Officers.

The school has eight teacher aides working in classrooms and in the learning support centre. A number of visiting specialists support the school including a Speech Therapist, Instrumental Teachers and Advisory Visiting Teacher (Intellectual Impairment and Physical Impairment). Four cleaners and a full time and a part time janitor groundsperson maintain the school facilities. School management is characterised by a School Council, various School Committees, Curriculum Coordinators and a Student Council. Senior teachers play an important role in management issues.

The majority of staff have been at the school for many years providing a relatively stable staffing mix. Staff include graduates through to senior teachers. There is a high ratio of female to male teachers. The majority of staff is active in pursuing professional development.

Teaching practices vary from cooperative teaching through to single classes with some composite classes. Cooperative planning and teaching is encouraged. The school staff is very supportive and professional in their approach and committed to the students and community.

Students:

The student clientele is characterised by a mix of middle class and sole supporting families. The majority of the school population is stable with many families passing local schools to attend Merrimac.

The school services a wide area including the communities of Merrimac, Merridown, Cararra, Worongary, Nerang, Clear Island Waters, Robina, Mermaid Waters and Mudgeeraba. There are an increasing number of students from southern states and New Zealand. Eleven students currently identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Approximately 12% of the student population access a range of educational services and support such as:- Learning Support; Year 2 Net Support and Year 5 Testing Intervention; Guidance Officer; Speech Language; Educational Adjustment Programs and Appraisalment; English as a Second Language.

An active Special Needs Committee caters for learning support students and students on Educational Adjustment Programs in the area of

intellectual impairment, autistic spectrum disorder and speech and language impairment. A small group of students are supported by a visiting English as a Second Language Teacher.

At Merrimac State School we place a great deal of emphasis on student leadership. Whether it is at a class level, in the playground, at sporting activities or at a whole school level, we try to develop leadership skills and responsibility in all our students. Our student leader positions consist of four school captains, eight sports captains, Years 6 and 7 student council children, Years 4 to 7 class captains, Band Leaders and our Year 6 and 7 Playground Pals.

Our school's International Program is very well developed and supported by the whole school community. The program consists of an extended Japanese Program (Years 3 to 7), our Japanese Sister School arrangement, International Fee Paying Students and ongoing study tours.

Curriculum Programs:

Curriculum offerings include English, Mathematics, Science, Studies of Society and Environment, Art, Physical Education and Music. Japanese is taught to all students in Years 5, 6 and 7. Years 3 and 4 also took part in introductory Japanese lessons. Swimming is offered to all year levels with interschool sport and outdoor pursuits available to Years 5-7. The school is continuing to develop its curriculum framework with a focus on essential learnings and standards.

Year 2 Net Intervention is provided for students in Years 2 and 3. Pep commenced in 2007 and is now a full time integral part of our school. In 2008 there was a full intake of Prep students. The large majority of our Prep enrolments continue onto Year One at our school. The school has ample physical resources and a very well resourced school resource centre. Information Technology is a major systemic priority with a Local Area Network completed in 1999 and video conferencing facilities established in 2003. The internet is available in all classrooms. Our school has a purpose built ICT Centre featuring two computer labs and video teleconferencing facilities. Our computers are replaced every three to four years. This ensures the most up to date equipment possible for the students.

Supportive School Environment:

The school's behaviour management program focuses on the provision of a safe and supportive environment. It encourages students to strive to improve their behaviour through rewarding and acknowledging positive behaviour.

Behaviour management procedures are common through all classrooms with a level system based on timeout and responsible thinking. Individual Behaviour Management Plans are implemented for children who need additional support.

Major priority areas include a focus on developmental learning, the development of student self esteem, the integration of learning technology, improved literacy skills, the provision of recreational programs and the enhancement of the physical environment.

Parent Involvement:

Overall, parent support at Merrimac State School is very good. We believe strongly in parent involvement and parents are invited to develop a close link with the school. Good communication between home and school is essential. Communication is promoted through weekly newsletters, class newsletters each term, formal and informal parent/teacher interviews, parent/teacher nights, student folios and report cards, open days and special school activities.

It is the practice at Merrimac to invite parents and other interested community members to help as voluntary aides within the classroom. This is outlined at the parent/teacher evening early in the school year. Parents are also invited to be actively involved in the different parent bodies: P and C Association, Tuckshop Committee, Bookshop and Uniform Shop Committee, Grounds Committee and the Outside Hours School Care Committee. Meetings of these committees are held on a regular basis.

Finances:

The school has a total annual budget in excess of \$400 000 comprising of funds from Education Queensland, parent contributions, P&C Bookshop, school tuckshop, the P&C Association and special purpose grants.

The P&C Association is active in the school with a Bookshop operating throughout the year. Income generated through the tuckshop and bookshop provides significant capital input into the school.

The formation of a Building Fund was undertaken at the beginning of the 2000 school year.

Annual Highlights

During 2008 a number of programs and events were introduced as part of the school enhancement and improvement scheme. The following is a summary of the major events and issues for 2008:

- a very successful Year 6 Camp to Midginbil Hill
- continuation of the Year 4 Camping Program to the Sunshine Coast
- staging of a very successful 'Carols by Candlelight'
- Construction of a purpose built Music facility
- staging of a successful Year 7 Graduation Ceremony
- continuation of a strong emphasis on Anzac Day celebrations
- improvement of school grounds with new gardens and seating
- continuation of parent and community surveys
- successful operation of a School Council
- a very successful visit by our Japanese Sister School to Merrimac
- organisation and running of successful Athletics, Cross Country and Swimming Carnivals
- Student Leadership Program and Leadership Days
- participation in the Australian English, Writing, Computer and Maths Competitions
- coordination and participation in Interschool Sports
- successful Band and Junior Choir participation in the Gold Coast Eisteddfod
- visits to Nursing Homes and Shopping Centre by the School Band and Choirs
- an entertaining Magic of Music concert by all our music students
- whole school Life Education Program
- learning technology in all classrooms
- internet connections to all classrooms
- successful lower school and upper school Talent Quests
- successful junior strings tour
- out of school hours Fits Kids, Aus Kick, tennis, tae-kwon-do and speech and drama lessons
- Year 4 Bike Education Program
- participation in cluster G and T days
- National Tree Planting Day
- successful school discos run by the Student Council

- popular social opportunities for students to participate in State of Origin, trivia and games nights
- educational and informative excursions to complement class units of study
- Completion of the whole school air conditioning program

These events characterise the commitment by administration and staff at Merrimac State School to develop a supportive school environment.

Catering for all Students

Special Needs Support Programs:

During the year 78 referred and assessed students were supported throughout the year by our Learning Support Teacher, visiting specialists and a team of learning support teacher aides. Intervention and support was provided both on an individual and group basis, in and out of the classroom. The Learning Support programs consisted mainly of working with year level groups on their Literacy and Numeracy curriculum, in line with class programs. Some individual reading, writing, spelling and number programs were provided for those students originally appraised Program Type 3. Progress was noted, particularly for those children just below the benchmark. Screening for difficulties in speech/language in Prep was put in place for 40 identified students, many of whom took part in the Support a Talker program which was very successful. Other students have been receiving therapy and individual support from the Speech Language Pathologist. Students with disabilities continue to work within their classrooms with additional specialist support. A plan was submitted and approved for the transition of these Year 7 students to High School.

Throughout the year, teachers identified children about whom they had concerns. These children were referred to the Special Needs Committee. The Committee made recommendations for:

- referral to a number of other specialists such as the Guidance Officer, Speech Language Pathologist, Developmental Assessment Team, Teacher Advisor Educational Adjustments or Advisory Visiting Teachers who assessed and/or supported children
- referral to a Learning Support Teacher for observation and /or testing and support
- a change in the referral form and flow chart to improve specific recommendations for each student and to clarify the area/areas of support required

Individual Education Plans:

During 2008, the following students identified under the Education Adjustment Program, attended Merrimac State School.

EAP	II	ASD	SLI	PI	VI
No. of students	3	5	4	1	1

State Wide Data

Year 2 Diagnostic Net Continua:

Reading

Yr/Phase	A	B	C	D	E
2001	7	68	50	0	0
2002	6	81	7	0	0
2003	2	13	75	0	0
2004	2.1	37.5	60.4	0	0
2005	3.4	31.5	62.5	0	0
2006	2.6	60.5	36.8	0	0
2007	7.6	64.8	27.6	0	0
2008	3.4	14.6	82	0	0

Results in 2008 showed the majority of children operating in Phase C.

Writing

Yr/Phase	A	B	C	D	E
2001	19	90	16	0	0
2002	20	73	1	0	0
2003	11	27	52	0	0
2004	2.1	47.9	50	0	0
2005	2.2	44.9	52.8	0	0
2006	3.9	65.8	30.3	0	0
2007	11.4	81.9	6.7	0	0
2008	2.2	29.2	68.6	0	0

Results in 2008 show an increased number of students operating in Phase C.

Number

Yr/Phase	A	B	C	D	E
2001	0	48	77	0	0
2002	0	48	46	0	0
2003	0	13	77	0	0
2004	1	18.8	80.2	0	0
2005	0	14.4	85.6	0	0
2006	0	36.8	63.2	0	0
2007	4.8	67.6	27.6	0	0
2008	1.1	22.5	76.4	0	0

Data in 2008 indicates the majority of students operating in Phases C.

Percentage of Year 2 Students Identified for Additional Support

Year	Area	School %	State %
2001	Reading	27.1	27.2
2001	Writing	24	17.7
2001	Numeracy	21.7	23.3
2002	Reading	27.4	27.4
2002	Writing	29.5	17.2
2002	Numeracy	31.6	22.5
2003	Reading	14.4	25.4
2003	Writing	18.9	15.7
2003	Numeracy	12.2	21.3
2004	Reading	12.5	24.7
2004	Writing	17.7	15.5
2004	Numeracy	17.7	19.9
2005	Reading	21.7	24.7
2005	Writing	17.4	15.1
2005	Numeracy	13.0	19.9
2006	Reading	19.5	24.2
2006	Writing	19.5	15.1
2006	Numeracy	16.9	19.1
2007	Reading	28.6	24.3
2007	Writing	17.1	15.2
2007	Numeracy	24.8	18.9
2008	Reading	9	15.5
2008	Writing	6.7	16
2008	Numeracy	6.7	19

In 2008 the percentage of Year 2 students identified for additional support in Reading, Writing and Numeracy were lower than the State averages.

Year 3 Testing:

An analysis of the 2008 results shows Merrimac to be above the state average in all areas.

Literacy - Reading and Viewing

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
3	2001	508	519
3	2002	531	530
3	2003	537	537
3	2004	532	533
3	2005	523	548
3	2006	528	535
3	2007	521	527
3*	2008	380	364

Numeracy - Number

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
3	2001	538	535
3	2002	554	544
3	2003	536	536
3	2004	535	532
3	2005	523	540
3	2006	524	526
3	2007	487	515

Literacy - Writing

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
3	2001	536	517
3	2002	546	525
3	2003	576	543
3	2004	545	537
3	2005	492	509
3	2006	530	522
3	2007	516	523
3*	2008	412	384

Numeracy - Measurement and Data

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
3	2001	534	541
3	2002	558	548
3	2003	529	541
3	2004	513	536
3	2005	533	544
3	2006	522	528
3	2007	503	522

Literacy - Spelling

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
3	2001	552	528
3	2002	532	527
3	2003	568	542
3	2004	546	532
3	2005	535	544
3	2006	524	533
3	2007	522	528
3*	2008	371	360

Numeracy - Space

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
3	2001	539	539
3	2002	549	544
3	2003	521	542
3	2004	522	533
3	2005	529	543
3	2006	527	536
3	2007	496	522

Literacy - Grammar and Punctuation

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
3*	2008	384	363

Numeracy - Overall

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
3	2006	523	529
3	2007	499	521
3*	2008	378	362

**2004 Year 3 National Schools Benchmark:
% Students above the National Benchmark**

Reading	98.7
Writing	97.5
Number	92.5

**2005 Year 3 National Schools Benchmark:
% Students above the National Benchmark**

Reading	92
Writing	75
Number	92

• Denotes first year of National Testing

**2006 Year 3 National Schools Benchmark:
% Students above the National Benchmark**

Reading	88
Writing	91
Number	89

**2007 Year 3 National Schools Benchmark:
% Students above the National Benchmark**

Reading	95
Writing	90
Number	88

**2008 Year 3 National Schools Benchmark:
% Students above the National Benchmark**

	School	State
Reading	86.4	85.3
Writing	94.2	88.9
Spelling	89.4	87.0
Grammar and Punctuation	90.4	86.3
Numeracy	96	88.9

Year 5 Testing:

Reading and Viewing

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
5	2001	615	615
5	2002	592	619
5	2003	601	617
5	2004	606	613
5	2005	620	614
5	2006	598	608
5	2007	604	606
5*	2008	449	458

Literacy - Writing

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
5	2001	596	616
5	2002	623	608
5	2003	605	612
5	2004	614	609
5	2005	626	606
5	2006	659	627
5	2007	581	600
5*	2008	464	462

Literacy - Spelling

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
5	2001	603	618
5	2002	611	613
5	2003	605	620
5	2004	619	624
5	2005	608	599
5	2006	615	618
5	2007	598	603
5*	2008	457	457

Literacy - Grammar and Punctuation

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
5*	2008	463	469

Numeracy - Overall

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
5	2006	596	599
5	2007	589	588
5*	2008	461	452

- Denotes first year of National Testing

An analysis of the 2008 results indicates Merrimac to be equal or above the state averages in Writing, Spelling and Numeracy. Merrimac was below the state averages in Reading and Grammar and Punctuation.

Numeracy - Number

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
5	2001	590	581
5	2002	559	602
5	2003	598	610
5	2004	629	614
5	2005	612	610
5	2006	613	601
5	2007	582	579

Numeracy - Measurement & Data

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
5	2001	589	588
5	2002	566	609
5	2003	600	613
5	2004	642	627
5	2005	603	612

5	2006	584	598
5	2007	597	592

Grammar and Punctuation	84.0	85.7
Numeracy	92.9	87.6

Numeracy - Space

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
5	2001	583	590
5	2002	588	608
5	2003	602	616
5	2004	641	620
5	2005	635	612
5	2006	585	602
5	2007	588	596

Year 7 Testing:

Reading and Viewing

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
7	2001	679	685
7	2002	701	690
7	2003	673	689
7	2004	676	697
7	2005	677	689
7	2006	653	678
7	2007	669	672
7*	2008	531	520

**2004 Year 5 National Schools Benchmark:
% Students above the National Benchmark**

Reading	83
Writing	97.2
Number	96.3

Literacy - Writing

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
7	2001	672	678
7	2002	696	681
7	2003	677	699
7	2004	709	707
7	2005	762	746
7	2006	703	696
7	2007	695	681
7*	2008	543	514

**2005 Year 5 National Schools Benchmark:
% Students above the National Benchmark**

Reading	85
Writing	97
Number	89

Literacy - Spelling

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
7	2001	697	696
7	2002	710	693
7	2003	665	691
7	2004	691	698
7	2005	701	687
7	2006	666	684
7	2007	683	676
7*	2008	538	522

**2006 Year 5 National Schools Benchmark:
% Students above the National Benchmark**

Reading	88
Writing	95
Number	91

Literacy - Grammar and Punctuation

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
7*	2008	532	511

**2007 Year 5 National Schools Benchmark:
% Students above the National Benchmark**

Reading	76
Writing	93
Number	82

**2008 Year 5 National Schools Benchmark:
% Students above the National Benchmark**

	School	State
Reading	81.4	81.8
Writing	89.0	86.1
Spelling	88.0	84.8

Numeracy - Overall

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
7	2006	668	653

7	2007	653	648
7*	2008	548	532

- Denotes first year of National Testing

An analysis of the 2008 results indicates Merrimac to be equal or above the state averages in all areas.

Numeracy - Number

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
7	2001	664	673
7	2002	703	684
7	2003	676	687
7	2004	671	678
7	2005	682	665
7	2006	665	656
7	2007	657	648

Numeracy - Measurement and Data

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
7	2001	682	676
7	2002	689	684
7	2003	668	687
7	2004	665	672
7	2005	679	668
7	2006	665	653
7	2007	666	651

Numeracy - Space

Year Level	Year	School Avg	State Avg
7	2001	687	672
7	2002	696	688
7	2003	671	686
7	2004	655	673
7	2005	672	670
7	2006	679	654
7	2007	647	648

**2004 Year 7 National Schools Benchmark:
% Students above the National Benchmark**

Reading	91.8
Writing	98
Number	81.2

**2005 Year 7 National Schools Benchmark:
% Students above the National Benchmark**

Reading	96
Writing	99
Number	93

**2006 Year 7 National Schools Benchmark:
% Students above the National Benchmark**

Reading	84
Writing	96
Number	86

**2007 Year 7 National Schools Benchmark:
% Students above the National Benchmark**

Reading	91
Writing	99
Number	87

**2008 Year 7 National Schools Benchmark:
% Students above the National Benchmark**

	School	State
Reading	95.1	91.4
Writing	95.1	87.2
Spelling	97.6	88.3
Grammar and Punctuation	89.0	86.6
Numeracy	96.4	94.3

School Based Data

Numeracy Review:

In 2003 the Numeracy Review was amended in line with the school's new Mathematics Overview.

Yr 2003	Term 1	Term 4
Year 2	84	90.3
Year 3	74.8	77.7
Year 4	76.4	72.9
Year 5	64.5	78.1
Year 6	56.3	71.5
Year 7	63.0	67.1

Yr 2004	Term 1	Term 4
Year 2	82.5	82.1
Year 3	76	75
Year 4	75.5	66.2
Year 5	65	68.5
Year 6	58	72.1
Year 7	69.2	61.6

Yr 2005	Term 1	Term 4
Year 2	76	86.7
Year 3	73	77.9
Year 4	78	71
Year 5	69	73.7
Year 6	57	73.4
Year 7	61	67.5

Yr 2006	Term 1	Term 4
Year 2	84	81
Year 3	77	65
Year 4	74	74
Year 5	67	76
Year 6	64	65
Year 7	66	63

Yr 2007	Term 1	Term 4
Year 2	73	82
Year 3	67	65
Year 4	69	71
Year 5	66	65
Year 6	61	70
Year 7	68	67

In 2008 the Numeracy Review was amended in line with the school's new Mathematics Overview.

Yr 2008	Term 1	Term 4
Year 2	-	
Year 3	57	
Year 4	56	
Year 5	61	
Year 6	55	
Year 7	54	

* Term Four 2008 Numeracy Data is not available.

Number Facts Review:

The school has undertaken a Number Facts review since 1999 in Years 4, 5, 6 and 7. The review involves both written and oral testing. This will be an ongoing review allowing results to be compared from one year to the next.

Oral Number Facts

	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7
1999	74	91	94	93
2000	78	91	93	96
2001	74	91	95	96
2002	80	89	93	97
2003	78	91	91	93
2004	75	90	93	95
2005	87	88	94	96
2006	87	91	90	96
2007	81	91	95	97
2008	79	89	94	99

Written Number Facts

	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7
1999	82	92	91	95
2000	88	93	94	97
2001	78	93	96	97
2002	86	90	95	98
2003	83	94	95	95
2004	75	90	93	94
2005	86	88	95	98
2006	89	93	93	96
2007	88	91	96	99
2008	86	91	95	97

Take Home Readers Review:

All school Take Home Readers are levelled according to the Reading Recovery Program levels. This is to allow children to read at their appropriate reading age level. Each child's reading is analysed before they are allowed to move onto another level. A record is kept of each child's reading level. Such data over time shows both individual student progress as well as providing a guide for whole school achievements.

The reading level data is collected at the end of Term 3 in each year.

Take Home Reader Levels 1-30

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
1	6.3	7.8	7.13	8.62	7.31	7.31
2	21	22.7	21.1	20.9	16.34	18.49
3	25.5	25.6	23.8	23.6	22.32	23.38
4	27.2	27.7	28.9	26.4	26.88	25.94
5	29.0	28.1	28.6	29.8	28.74	28.21
6	29.7	29.6	29.5	29.8	29.59	29.38
7	30.0	30.0	29.9	30.0	30.0	30.0

Developmental Readers Review:

All school readers are levelled according to the Reading Recovery Program levels. In class children are placed on appropriate developmental reading levels. A record is kept of each child's developmental reading level. Such data over time shows both individual student progress as well as providing a guide for whole school achievements.

The reading level data is collected at the end of Term 3 in each year. The results for the last five years have been included

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
1	7.6	9.5	8.5	10.7	8.83	8.81
2	23	23.6	23.9	23.7	18.21	20.28
3	28.5	28.7	26.5	26.3	24.34	24.92
4	30.2	32.8	32.1	30.4	31.07	29.55
5	33.8	33.4	32.5	34.8	34.73	33.61
6	36.5	36.7	36.8	37.4	37.44	37.14
7	38.5	36.1	37.9	37.2	37.86	38.01

Reading Ages

During Terms 1 and 4 all students in Years 1 to 7 undertake the Burt Reading Test. Results of the Burt tests allow the school to make comparisons with previous years results and also to gauge overall reading progress.

Burt Reading Levels (Year 2003)

	Feb 2003		Nov 2003	
	RS	RA	RS	RA
Yr 1	-	-	28	6.9
Yr 2	32	7.01	47.1	8.04
Yr 3	52	8.06	64.2	10.03
Yr 4	59	9.07	66.3	10.06
Yr 5	68	10.08	75.6	11.10
Yr 6	79	12.04	84.2	12.6+
Yr 7	84	12.6+	93.5	12.6+

Burt Reading Levels (Year 2004)

	Feb 2004		Nov 2004	
	RS	RA	RS	RA
Yr 1	-	-	27	6.08
Yr 2	31	7.00	48	8.05
Yr 3	46	8.03	59	9.07
Yr 4	67	10.07	75	11.08
Yr 5	70	11.00	75	11.08
Yr 6	80	12.06	83	12.6+
Yr 7	85	12.6+	89	12.6+

Burt Reading Levels (Year 2005)

	Feb 2005		Nov 2005	
	RS	RA	RS	RA
Yr 1	-	-	27	6.08
Yr 2	35	7.04	46	8.03
Yr 3	46	8.03	60	9.09
Yr 4	59	9.07	68	10.09
Yr 5	72	11.03	77	12.00
Yr 6	77	12.02	83	12.6+
Yr 7	86	12.6+	93	12.6+

Burt Reading Levels (Year 2006)

	Feb 2006		Nov 2006	
	RS	RA	RS	RA
Yr 1	-	-	27	6.08
Yr 2	31	7.00	45	8.02
Yr 3	49	8.06	57	9.04
Yr 4	58	9.05	69	10.10
Yr 5	69	10.10	76	11.10
Yr 6	82	12.06	87	12.6+
Yr 7	87	12.06+	93	12.6+

Burt Reading Levels (Year 2007)

	Feb 2007		Nov 2007	
	RS	RA	RS	RA
Yr 1	-	-	29	6.10
Yr 2	29	6.10	43	8.01
Yr 3	42	7.11	56	9.02
Yr 4	57	9.04	66	10.06
Yr 5	67	10.07	76	11.10
Yr 6	81	12.06	87	12.06+
Yr 7	88	12.06+	94	12.06+

Burt Reading Levels (Year 2008)

	Feb 2007		Nov 200	
	RS	RA	RS	RA
Yr 1	-	-	29	6.08
Yr 2	32	7.01	44	8.01
Yr 3	46	8.03	56	9.02
Yr 4	60	9.09	68	10.09
Yr 5	70	11.00	76	11.10
Yr 6	80	12.06+	84	12.06+
Yr 7	89	12.06+	92	12.05+

Spelling Ages

During Term 3 all students in Years 4 to 7 undertake the Waddington Diagnostic Spelling Test. This test is implemented each year to compare with previous years and gauge spelling progress.

The Waddington Spelling test has a highest spelling age level of 11.

Year 4-7 Spelling Ages

	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7
2003	9yrs 0mths	9yrs 5mths	10yrs 1mth	10yrs 1mth
2004	9yrs 6mths	9yrs 7mths	10yrs 3mth	10yrs 4mths
2005	9yrs 4mths	9yrs 7mths	9yrs 9mth	10yrs 5mths
2006	9yrs 5mths	10yrs 0mths	10yrs 1mth	10yrs 5mths
2007	9yrs 5mths	9yrs 10mths	10yrs 2mths	10yrs 1mths
2008	9 yrs 1 mth	9 yrs 4 mths	9 yrs 11 mths	10 yrs 3 mths

PAT R Reading

2004	Term One	Term Four	Term One	Term Four
	Mean	Stand Dev	Mean	Stand Dev
Year 4	22.78	6.01	24.87	6.24
Year 5	21.31	6.16	23.16	6.57
Year 6	18.63	7.98	22.18	7.76
Year 7	16.23	6.38	18.54	7.18

2005	Term One	Term Four	Term One	Term Four
	Mean	Stand Dev	Mean	Stand Dev
Year 4	22.32	6.65	24.57	5.41
Year 5	21.12	7.29	23.77	6.4
Year 6	20.03	7.27	24.11	7.72
Year 7	16.53	6.45	19.17	6.42

2006	Term One	Term Four	Term One	Term Four
	Mean	Stand Dev	Mean	Stand Dev
Year 4	22.29	7.30	25.7	6.3
Year 5	22.64	6.04	25.1	6.8
Year 6	21.80	7.61	23.6	8.1
Year 7	16.78	6.00	20.2	6.8

2007	Term One	Term Four	Term One	Term Four
	Mean	Stand Dev	Mean	Stand Dev
Year 4	21.4	6.5	24.6	6.9
Year 5	21.1	7.0	23.8	7.1
Year 6	21.5	7.0	25	7.4
Year 7	17.9	7.3	19.8	7.1

2008	Term One	Term Four	Term One	Term Four
	Mean	Stand Dev	Mean	Stand Dev
Year 4	20.7	6.7	22.8	7.2
Year 5	21.1	6.3	23.5	6.8
Year 6	20.5	7.8	24.4	9.0
Year 7	17.7	5.7	19.9	7.7

PAT R Vocabulary

	Yr 2004
Year 4	64
Year 5	58
Year 6	46
Year 7	32

	Yr 2005
Year 4	65
Year 5	58
Year 6	57
Year 7	37

	Yr 2006
Year 4	66
Year 5	56
Year 6	47
Year 7	41

	Yr 2007
Year 4	66
Year 5	56
Year 6	52
Year 7	39

	Yr 2008 (beg)	Yr2008 (end)
Year 4	54	62
Year 5	51	57
Year 6	39	47
Year 7	36	40

Technology

Year 6	80
Year 7	84

Student/Computer Ratios

Current student to computer ratios is as follows:

Year	Years 1-3	Years 4-7
2003	1:9	1:7
2004	1:7.6	1:3.6
2005	1:7.3	1:3.4
2006	1:5	1:5.1
2007	1:5.5	1:5.5
2008	1:5.5	1:5.5

2003 Satisfaction Levels

With Access To Computers

Parents	70%
Students	65.8%

2004 Satisfaction Levels

With Access To Computers/Technology

Parents	72.9%
Students	50%

2005 Satisfaction Levels

With Access To Computers/Technology

Parents	62.1%
Students	53.4%

2006 Satisfaction Levels

With Access To Computers/Technology

Parents	71.8
Students	70.8

2007 Satisfaction Levels

With Access To Computers/Technology

Parents	73.5
Students	68.1

2008 Satisfaction Levels

With Access To Computers/Technology

Parents	79.4
Students	64.1

ICT Year Level Testing Averages

	Yr 2004
Year 1	87
Year 2	79
Year 3	84
Year 4	72
Year 5	77

ICT Year Level Testing Averages

	Yr 2005
Year 1	69
Year 2	71
Year 3	70
Year 4	81
Year 5	85
Year 6	84
Year 7	99

ICT Year Level Testing Averages

	Yr 2006
Year 1	75
Year 2	83
Year 3	86
Year 4	67
Year 5	76
Year 6	89
Year 7	84

ICT Year Level Testing Averages

	Yr 2007
Year 1	75
Year 2	94
Year 3	91
Year 4	92
Year 5	88
Year 6	95
Year 7	89

The ICT Year Level Testing was not undertaken in 2008.

Technology Focus

Merrimac continues to build on its successes with ICT and completed a full scale audit for the MOE roll out and for the One School Server configuration in 2008.

This significant upgrade will further communication and maintain high quality internet access and secure file storage for both staff and students. Classrooms continue to have shared banks of computers supplemented with access in all student areas throughout the school.

In summary the major achievements in 2008 included:

- The implementation of the Managed Operating Environment throughout the school.
- The roll out of the Computers for Teachers Program
- The ongoing integration of ICTs across the curriculum through a focus on integrated units of work
- The replacement of digital scanners.
- The replacement of classroom printers
- The ongoing use of video conferencing between Merrimac and Katsuragi Elementary School.
- New Video conferencing initiatives to Canada and China
- The redevelopment of a Junior Computer and Senior Lab to Interactive Whiteboard Suites.
- The upgrading of the Year 7 Computer lab.
- Professional development activities in Teamboard, Easiteach, Photo story and Microsoft Excel.

With the range of new technologies introduced in 2008 and linked with the rapid uptake of ICTs, Merrimac continues to be a pace setter and lighthouse within the Queensland educational community

Behaviour Management

During 2008 the school was able to manage the majority of student misbehaviour within the lower levels of the management system (Levels 1-3) with students being placed on Levels 4-9 as follows:

Level	Total
4 - one session timeout	742
5 - two sessions timeout	65
6 - three session timeout	12
7 - one days timeout	5
8 - internal suspension	1
9 - external suspension	8
10 – exclusion	0

Many of these consequences apply to only a small percentage of children at our school.

Excellence in Behaviour Awards:

At the end of each term children who display a high standard of behaviour are awarded Excellence in Behaviour Certificates. To achieve this award, children will not have received more than two Level 2's or above for inappropriate behaviour. Almost 70% of our children receive these certificates at the end of every term.

Also privilege cards are given to children for very outstanding behaviour. Only children, who receive no levels or only one level one in any given term, will receive these cards. Over 50% of our children receive these certificates at the end of every term. Overall the standard of behaviour at Merrimac is very good.

Student Disciplinary Absences:

In 2008 six students were suspended for between 1 and 20 days for behaviours including offensive language, disobedience and misconduct.

Student Enrolments

Student Enrolment Trends:

Enrolment Trends (Preschool to Year 7)	
Year	Enrolment (Census)
1994	514
1995	545
1996	563
1997	590
1998	601
1999	648
2000	758
2001	805
2002	812
2003	799
2004	735
2005	706
2006	700
2007	706
2008	716

Breakdown of 2008 School Enrolments:

Year Level	Male	Female	Total
Prep	45	59	104
1	23	23	46
2	40	48	88
3	51	56	107
4	53	38	91
5	51	51	102
6	56	39	95
7	45	38	83
Total	364	352	716

School Enrolment Surveys:

This year all families of new Prep children and Year One children were surveyed after approximately six weeks of attendance at Merrimac State School. A similar survey is also given to all new enrolments in Years 2 to 7 after about six weeks of schooling at Merrimac. The feedback from these surveys helps to provide information to the school on how the children have settled into their new school life and also how happy the parents have been with the services they received at the school.

Such data is collated and shared with the relevant school staff and school community. It is interesting to note that:

- Almost 50% of new enrolments come about through personal recommendations, visiting the school’s website and actual school visits
- 99% of new enrolments say they would recommend Merrimac State School to a friend

Data From The New Enrolments Survey

Service Provided By Office and Administration				
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unsatis
60	36	4	0	0
Relationship Between Your Child and their Teacher				
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unsatis
50	40	10	0	0
The School’s Weekly Newsletter				
Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unsatis
49	48	3	0	0

Student Destinations:

- Merrimac State High School – 45 %
- Robina State High School - 18 %
- Other State High Schools – 11 %
- Total to State High Schools – 74 %
- Total to Private Schools – 26 %
- 92% of Merrimac Prep students enrolled in Year 1 at Merrimac State School

Student Data**Student Opinion Survey Data:****2004 Year 5 Student Satisfaction Ratings**

Goals	School	State
Student Outcomes	3.19	3.19
Curriculum	3.03	3.05
Pedagogy	2.88	2.97
Learning Climate	3.35	3.20
School Climate	2.91	2.85
Resources	2.94	2.91
Overall	3.07	3.04

2005 Year 5 Student Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Student Outcomes	3.16	3.22
Curriculum	3.01	3.08
Pedagogy	2.92	3.00
Learning Climate	3.24	3.23
School Climate	2.58	2.86
Resources	2.92	2.95
Overall	2.99	3.07

2006 Year 5 Student Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Student Outcomes	3.33	3.20
Curriculum	3.22	3.07
Pedagogy	2.92	3.01
Learning Climate	3.42	3.22
School Climate	3.09	2.88
Resources	3.22	2.97
Overall	3.22	3.08

2007 Year 5 Student Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Student Outcomes	3.39	3.22
Curriculum	3.27	3.09
Pedagogy	3.38	3.03
Learning Climate	3.50	3.25
School Climate	3.06	2.90
Resources	3.22	3.01
Overall	3.32	3.10

2008 Year 5 Student Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Student Outcomes	3.24	3.22
Curriculum	2.98	3.09
Pedagogy	2.99	3.02
Learning Climate	3.08	3.25
School Climate	2.62	2.91
Resources	2.90	2.99
Additional Items	2.79	2.89
Overall	2.95	3.07

2004 Year 7 Student Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Student Outcomes	2.97	3.01
Curriculum	2.98	2.87
Pedagogy	2.68	2.83
Learning Climate	3.13	3.00
School Climate	2.61	2.71
Resources	2.74	2.70
Overall	2.87	2.86

2005 Year 7 Student Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Student Outcomes	3.05	3.04
Curriculum	2.87	2.90
Pedagogy	2.72	2.85
Learning Climate	3.10	3.03
School Climate	2.98	2.73
Resources	2.68	2.75
Overall	2.93	2.90

2006 Year 7 Student Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Student Outcomes	3.08	3.04
Curriculum	3.02	2.91
Pedagogy	2.97	2.87
Learning Climate	3.06	3.04
School Climate	2.85	2.77
Resources	3.06	2.80
Overall	3.02	2.92

2007 Year 7 Student Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Student Outcomes	3.07	3.05
Curriculum	2.98	2.93
Pedagogy	2.88	2.87
Learning Climate	3.13	3.08
School Climate	2.83	2.78
Resources	2.83	2.80
Overall	2.96	2.93

2008 Year 7 Student Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Student Outcomes	3.24	3.05
Curriculum	3.10	2.94
Pedagogy	2.96	2.86
Learning Climate	3.18	3.08
School Climate	2.95	2.77
Resources	2.92	2.80
Additional Items	2.27	2.58
Overall	2.98	2.89

Parent Data**Parent Opinion Survey Data:****2004 Parent Satisfaction Ratings**

Goals	School	State
Student Outcomes	3.03	2.92
Curriculum	3.20	2.99
Pedagogy	2.98	2.83
Learning Climate	3.20	2.97
School Climate	3.07	2.86
School-Community Relations	3.09	2.96
Resources	2.92	2.78
Overall	3.07	2.91

2005 Parent Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Student Outcomes	3.03	2.94
Curriculum	3.19	3.01
Pedagogy	3.12	2.85
Learning Climate	3.27	2.99
School Climate	3.18	2.88
School-Community Relations	3.24	2.96
Resources	2.69	2.80
Overall	3.10	2.92

2006 Parent Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Student Outcomes	3.17	2.92
Curriculum	3.41	2.99
Pedagogy	3.09	2.84
Learning Climate	3.24	2.98
School Climate	3.18	2.88
School-Community Relations	3.20	2.96
Resources	3.02	2.80
Overall	3.19	2.91

2007 Parent Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Student Outcomes	3.13	2.92
Curriculum	3.22	2.97
Pedagogy	3.08	2.82
Learning Climate	3.31	2.96
School Climate	3.13	2.85
School-Community Relations	3.21	2.94
Resources	2.86	2.82
Overall	3.13	2.90

2008 Parent Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Student Outcomes	3.15	2.92
Curriculum	3.32	3.00
Pedagogy	3.05	2.83
Learning Climate	3.18	2.98
School Climate	3.24	2.86
School-Community Relations	3.20	2.93
Resources	3.13	2.81
Additional Items	3.19	2.85
Overall	3.18	2.90

Additional Information:

85% of parents were satisfied that their children were getting a good education at Merrimac State School.

95% of parents were satisfied that our school is a good school.

Staff Data**Staff Opinion Surveys:**

Education Queensland implemented School Staff Opinion Surveys for the first time on a Statewide basis in 1999. The data collected is broken down into Teaching and Non Teaching Staff.

2004 Teaching Staff Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Physical Work Environment	2.91	2.61
Relationships	3.23	2.99
School Operations	2.98	2.77
Staff Morale	2.99	2.94
Support/Resources/Training	2.79	2.50
Work Roles	2.94	2.86
Work Value/Recognition	2.82	2.81
Overall	2.94	2.77

2005 Teaching Staff Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Physical Work Environment	2.95	2.63
Relationships	3.24	3.00
School Operations	3.14	2.79
Staff Morale	3.19	2.95
Support/Resources/Training	2.84	2.52
Work Roles	3.03	2.87
Work Value/Recognition	2.90	2.82
Overall	3.03	2.78

2006 Teaching Staff Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Physical Work Environment	3.13	2.66
Relationships	3.32	3.00
School Operations	3.29	2.79
Staff Morale	3.35	2.96
Support/Resources/Training	2.96	2.54
Work Roles	3.17	2.89
Work Value/Recognition	3.10	2.83
Overall	3.17	2.79

2007 Teaching Staff Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Physical Work Environment	2.76	2.69
Relationships	3.15	3.02
School Operations	2.79	2.77
Staff Morale	2.98	2.96
Support/Resources/Training	2.77	2.56
Work Roles	2.86	2.87

Work Value/Recognition	2.75	2.83
Overall	2.86	2.79

2008 Teaching Staff Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Physical Work Environment	3.07	2.68
Relationships	3.31	3.02
School Operations	3.11	2.78
Staff Morale	3.26	2.96
Support/Resources/Training	2.70	2.56
Work Roles	3.00	2.84
Work Value/Recognition	2.92	2.82
Overall	3.01	2.79

2004 Non-Teaching Staff Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Physical Work Environment	2.73	2.82
Relationships	3.07	3.03
School Operations	2.84	2.84
Staff Morale	2.80	3.00
Support/Resources/Training	2.78	2.80
Work Roles	3.06	3.08
Work Value/Recognition	2.76	3.01
Overall	2.86	2.93

2005 Non-Teaching Staff Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Physical Work Environment	3.04	2.85
Relationships	3.22	3.05
School Operations	3.06	2.86
Staff Morale	3.13	3.03
Support/Resources/Training	2.91	2.82
Work Roles	3.31	3.09
Work Value/Recognition	3.13	3.02
Overall	3.10	2.95

2006 Non-Teaching Staff Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Physical Work Environment	3.03	2.86
Relationships	3.19	3.03
School Operations	2.97	2.84
Staff Morale	3.18	3.01
Support/Resources/Training	2.84	2.81
Work Roles	3.08	3.07
Work Value/Recognition	2.84	3.00
Overall	3.01	2.94

2007 Non-Teaching Staff Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Physical Work Environment	2.92	2.87
Relationships	3.14	3.05
School Operations	2.80	2.86
Staff Morale	2.97	3.03
Support/Resources/Training	2.76	2.82
Work Roles	3.02	3.07
Work Value/Recognition	2.90	3.03
Overall	2.92	2.95

2008 Non-Teaching Staff Satisfaction Ratings

Goals	School	State
Physical Work Environment	3.12	2.86
Relationships	3.26	3.06
School Operations	2.98	2.86
Staff Morale	3.04	3.04
Support/Resources/Training	2.84	2.81
Work Roles	3.03	3.06
Work Value/Recognition	3.04	3.02
Overall	3.02	2.94

Professional Development:

- 15% of general component of school grant budget expended on learning and development for school staff
- 77.2% of workforce engaged in learning and development opportunities

Professional Development

During 2008 all staff had access to personal professional funds with staff participating in a range of technology, literacy, mathematics, behaviour management, QCAR and productive pedagogy programs and inservice activities. All school staff also participated in the Community of Schools Conference in August. In addition professional development funds were allocated for system and school priorities including:

- QCAR
- Aspiring Leaders
- Business Service Managers Workshops
- Business Service Managers Conference
- Core Business Day
- Encouraging Diversity
- Japanese Conversation
- WP Rehab Recertification
- Sound Waves

- Early Years
- EB Delegation
- QIM Qorkshop
- Prep Reflection Days
- Joomla
- Support a Talker
- Aust Govt Summer School
- Curriculum Conference
- Values Framework
- Summer School
- QOSA Training
- QASSP Conference
- Teachers Ball
- QASSP Implementing Scope & Sequence
- E Learning Expo
- Cheque Signatory Training
- ALD Seminar
- Beginners Teachers
- ASD & Aspergers
- FABIC
- World Teachers Awards
- ICIS LOTE Workshop
- Grammar Workshop
- Finance Workshops
- Managing International Student Enrolments

Staff Absenteeism

Staff absenteeism ranged from 0 days through to 14 days. The average days absent for Teaching Staff were 6.04 days.

The average number of days absent for Non Teaching Staff was 5.15 days.

Days Absent	Teaching	Non Teaching
0	4	3
1	1	2
2	2	3
3	4	1
4	2	-
5	2	1
6	7	1
7	6	2
8	5	2
9	5	-
10	3	1
11	1	1
12	-	1
13	1	1
14	1	-

2008 Financial Report

Opening Balance January 2008 \$230720

Closing Balance December 2008 \$125734

	Planned Expense	Actual Expense
Learning	\$ 222110	\$ 235101
Schools	\$ 256690	\$ 420185
Workforce	\$ 29000	\$ 43554
TOTAL	\$ 507800	\$ 698840

	Actual Income
State	\$ 37151
Commonwealth	\$ 369909
Other	\$ 137383
TOTAL	\$ 544443