Term 4 Week 6 Thursday 15 November 2012

PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

Staffing News
I certainly enjoyed my mid term week of Long Service Leave and had a very exciting time in Melbourne. I’m sure that the rest of this term will go very quickly with just over four weeks of school remaining.
I would like to thank Mrs Hall who acted as Principal in my absence and did a great job in ensuring the school ran smoothly. Also I would like to acknowledge the work done by Mrs Fields in her acting Deputy Principal role. I certainly appreciated all their hard work and efforts and the support given to them by Mr Jenks and Miss Murray.

School World Vision Presentation
Each year a number of our students participate in the World Vision 8 Hour Famine and other World Vision activities. This year our Student Council also raised funds through a Gold Coin Day. In total our school raised just over $1300. This is a fantastic effort. Mrs Alisa Holden has worked closely with our school promoting World Vision and attended last week’s upper school parade. Mrs Holden presented our school with a framed certificate of appreciation which is now displayed in our school office. A big thank you to everyone at Merrimac State School who has supported World Vision. Thanks especially to Miss Parkes and the Student Council and to Mr Epiha who coordinated our participation this year in the 8 Hour Famine.

Creative Minds Challenge Day of Excellence
Last Tuesday, eleven Year 3 and 4 students represented our school at the annual Creative Minds Challenge of Excellence held at Caningeraba State School. The day encourages students to be critical thinkers and they were involved in both team and individual problem solving activities.

The students involved were:-
Luka Zarew, Caitlin Haines, Jasmin Schneider, Lachlan Hill, Dean Power, Ella Moore, Liam Coghlan and Conner Douglas.

The students worked together to creatively solve problems and were excellent role models of our school. Thank you to all our wonderful students who took part and to the parents who helped transport our teams on the day.

A big thank you to Mrs Fields for coordinating our participation this year in the 8 Hour Famine.

Faces of Merrimac
Merrimac State High School has invited our school to participate in their annual performance for 2013. It is entitled Faces of Merrimac. Those children who will be in Year 6 or 7 in 2013 are invited to join our new performing arts group. We will be presenting a performance of approximately 6 minutes. It will encompass dance, mime and acting. We will be asking for support from parents for costumes, sets etc. Most of our practices will be of a Friday afternoon or in lunch breaks however there may be some out of school hours rehearsals required. Feel free to contact Mrs Chilvers for further details. The Merrimac High Musical will be held on 31 May 2013. It is hoped to commence our school rehearsals from the beginning of next year.

Interschool Sport
Last Friday 9 November was the final day for interschool sport. Well done to all our students who have taken part in interschool sport this term. A big thank you goes to the tuckshop ladies, who organise the water and first aid kits for each of the sporting teams. This is really appreciated. Our interschool sporting participation continues to do very well. Mrs Farrar in the office does wonderful job each week coordinating the buses. Thanks to Mr Singh and all the class teachers who have been involved in interschool sport this term. Thank you also to our teachers who have run the school based sports program. A number of parents also assist with our school sports and interschool sports and this help is very much appreciated.

Our successful teams were:

Grand Final – Premiers
Year 7A Girls Touch
Year 7B Girls Touch
Year 6B Girls Touch
Year 7A Boys Touch
Year 6A Boys Touch

Grand Final – Runners Up
Year 6A Girls Touch
Year 7B Boys Touch

Parental Educational Requests - 2013
The process for allocating children to classes is a complex process where class teachers, support teachers and administration use their professional judgement to consider the academic, social and emotional needs of all students and how these needs can be best met the following year. Determining the best possible educational environment for all children is a high priority. If you are aware of specific educational needs for your child, please list these concerns on the relevant form available from the school office. This form is not intended for specific teacher requests but for genuine educational issues. Teacher class allocations have not been finalised at this stage and may not be finalised till the end of term. Parent requests will be considered in light of providing the best
possible educational placement for all students. Because of a number of factors, it is not always possible to meet all parent requests. Forms are available from the school office and must be submitted to the office by 3.30pm Friday 23 November. After this date, class requests will only be considered if operationally convenient to the school.

**Student Leadership Process for 2013**
The leadership process has now started for the positions of Student Leaders, House Captains and Music Captains. An information session was held for interested students on Monday. The student leader process has a strong emphasis on written applications, responses to a range of scenarios, reflection on leadership, preparation and presentation of speech along with a detailed analysis of behaviour and academic history. Information gathered through the process is considered by a panel of teachers with recommendations for appointment made to the Principal.

The selection of House Captains and Music Captains will commence when the student leaders are finalised. Students in each house will be able to vote their captains. Our music staff will meet to determine the positions of Music Captains.

**Year 7 Graduation**
The Year 7 Graduation Ceremony will be held on Thursday 13 December in our Performing Arts Centre (PAC) from 10.00am to 12.30pm.

A Year 7 only disco will be held the same evening at 6.30pm - 8.30pm in the MPC. On the last day of term our Year 7 students will enjoy a special day at Wet 'n Wild (subject to behaviour review).

**Student Placements 2013**
If your child will not be returning to Merrimac in 2013 please fill out the slip below and return it to the school office by Friday 16 November. This will assist in the placements for next year. Please note this does not apply to Year 7 students in 2012.

---

### STUDENT NON PLACEMENT FOR 2013

**My child/children will not** be attending Merrimac Primary next year.

The new school is: ..................................................

Signature: ........................................Parent/Guardian

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student/s Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**School Uniform Donation**

Parents whose children finish at Merrimac at the end of the school year may like to donate their children's old uniforms to our school reserve supply. This would greatly help our spare clothing pool for when children have accidents at school or are in need of borrowing a spare uniform. Parents, please check your uniforms at home as we are missing a few uniforms from our supply. They are numbered on the tag. Also, the Music Committee would be very appreciative of black shoes donations.

**Human Relationships Education (HRE)**
The school's HRE program for Years 5, 6 and 7 will be implemented in the last three weeks of Term Four. A HRE parent session has been planned for Thursday 22 November in the MPC Conference Room from 3.15pm to 4.00pm. Mrs Zarew, our HRE Co-ordinator will run the session to familiarise parents with our HRE Program and the resources involved. Interested parents are invited to attend. The meeting will be quite relevant to new parents and parents of upper school children. Information letters for the respective year levels (Yrs 5 to 7) will be sent home next week.

**Carols By Candlelight**
A reminder that this year's Carols by Candlelight will be taking place on Monday the 10th of December. It will once again be held on the oval and gates will open at 5:30pm for a 6:30pm start. Earlier in the term, we appealed to your generosity by encouraging families to donate a gift to the Knart Wishing Tree. We are overjoyed to have already received more than two dozen gifts for children, parents and grandparents. A display of these gifts is being arranged so that we can all watch this wonderful collection of gifts grow. We understand that some families may not be in a position to donate gifts and have also encouraged children to utilise their pocket money or complete chores to earn money for gift purchases. Thank you to all the families that have generously donated gifts so far and to any families that do so in the following weeks. A reminder that all gifts should be delivered to Miss Rogers (4C) or Miss Zaal (4D) labelled with the intended recipient (e.g. Boy aged 5-10, From John 2A) and name and class of the gift giver. A reward will be supplied to the class with the most donations.

**Booklists**
Orders can be placed with the Bookshop any Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 8.00am - 9.00am for all your 2013 stationery and uniform requirements. Copies of booklists and uniform price lists are available from the office.

**FINANCE NEWS**
Parents are advised that all finances must be completed no later than 9.30am tomorrow 16 November in readiness for end of year closing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Event Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Pay by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selected 5/6/7</td>
<td>2013 Japan</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>16 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Shine - AFL</td>
<td>1st 60 only, 29 Nov</td>
<td>$7</td>
<td>16 Nov</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BOOKSHOP NEWS

- On-line ordering is now available through Flexischools. Getting online is easy and only takes a second to register. Simply go to www.flexischools.com.au and click “Register Now”.
- Opening hours Mon-Wed-Fri 8am - 9am.
- Special Opening Hours for 3 Dec – 14 Dec. Bookshop will open every morning from 8am - 9am.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

TUCKSHOP NEWS
Roster for Week beginning 19 November:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Yoko, Steph S</th>
<th>Meal Deal - Thurs 22 Nov $5*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Steph S, Mayumi</td>
<td>• Nachos w Salsa &amp; Cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Mayumi, Steph S</td>
<td>• Hello Panda Biscuits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Maria S</td>
<td>• Paddlepop Cyclone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Naoko, Mayumi</td>
<td>• Bottled Water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Add 50c to upgrade to Flavoured Milk or Small Playwater

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity/Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 22 Nov</td>
<td>Prep 2013 Experience Day 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 22 Nov</td>
<td>Merrimac Magic of Music Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 22 Nov</td>
<td>HRE Parent Session 3.15pm to 4.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 27 Nov</td>
<td>School Council meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 3 Dec</td>
<td>5.45pm Outside School Hours Care meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 3 Dec</td>
<td>6.30 pm P&amp;C meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 5 Dec</td>
<td>Merrimac High IM workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 6 Dec</td>
<td>Report Cards to go home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 10 Dec</td>
<td>Carol by Candlelight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 13 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 Graduation Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 13 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 Graduation Disco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 14 Dec</td>
<td>Last day of Term Four</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 14 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 Wet ‘n’ Wild excursion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Newsletter Items from Education Queensland


Make your grandparents’ day on 18 November
Families are encouraged to get behind Grandparents’ Day on Sunday 18 November. Grandchildren and families can celebrate by doing something special such as sending their grandparents a special postcard or certificate, treat them to lunch, or just spend time together doing something you enjoy.

A range of free resources is available including posters, postcards and downloadable certificates of recognition for grandparents. To order posters and postcards or download certificates and other Grandparents’ Day resources, visit www.communications.qld.gov.au/communityservices/seniors-support-initiatives/grandparents-day

Did you save your cash bonus for school costs?
Did you budget and use your cash bonus wisely? Saver Plus provides free financial education, budgeting and savings tips to assist you in making your money go further! Saver Plus will even match your savings dollar for dollar, up to $500 towards education costs. There’s no catch!

To be eligible you need to have:
- A Health Care or a Pensioner Concession Card
- A child at school or starting next year
- Some regular household income, e.g. you are a partner may have casual, part-time, full-time or seasonal work.

Contact your local Saver Plus Worker on 1300 610 355/ saverplus@bsl.org.au

Sun Safety in our school
Sun safety is important for our school because our students are here during peak times for ultraviolet radiation (UVR), which is 10am to 3pm.

Cancer Council Queensland says childhood sun exposure contributes significantly to a person’s risk of developing skin cancer in their lifetime, so our school encourages sun safe behaviours.

Wearing wide brim hats, sun protective clothing, sunscreen and keeping in the shade as much as possible are good habits to get into and we encourage parents and staff to set a good example for our students.

Parents and guardians can check out Cancer Council Queensland’s website http://www.cancerqld.org.au/page/prevention/skin-cancer/ for more information on being SunSmart

Turn page for this week's puzzle……………………………………………


Add It Up: The number in each circle is the sum of the numbers in the two circles below it. Try to add the numbers in your head before you write anything down. Was the number you found for the top circle right?

- First triangle: 6 (4 + 7 + 3 + 2)
- Second triangle: 1 (3 + 6 + 7 + 1)
- Third triangle: 7 (9 + 4 + 8 + 7)