Term 4 Week 8 Thursday 29 November 2012

PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

P&C Meeting
Our final P&C meeting for the year is scheduled for Monday 3rd December at 6.30pm in the Admin Building. As it is our final meeting, members are asked to bring along a plate to share on the night. All interested parents are invited to attend. Also the next Outside School Hours Care meeting is to be held on the same evening commencing at 5.45pm.

Magic of Music Concert
The music department had the privilege of holding the Magic of Music Concert on campus in our Performing Arts Centre (PAC) last Thursday night. Thanks go to Mrs Joy Powell, Ms Helen Hurst, Miss Deb Body and our wonderful choir and instrumental students who showcased their musical achievements for this year. We had a variety of music styles and cultures represented, with 7 different groups performing. Thank you to Mrs Lush who provided expert accompaniment to our performances. We were also very fortunate to have eleven Merrimac High students (five of whom were former Merrimac Primary students) who performed on the night and also assisted with our various group performances.

Music teachers thanked the parents for their support in getting the young musicians to their practice and performance commitments, encouraging children to practise at home and supporting the teachers during the year. Thank you to all the school staff who assisted on the night. It was very much appreciated.

Thank you to Mr McBlane who helped throughout the evening with the sound system. Mrs Hall did a fabulous job as the MC on the night and we thank her for her ongoing support of our school’s music program.

Strings Performance at Parliament House
Ms Hurst, our Strings teacher, was invited to put forward an item to be included in the Christmas Seniors Concert at Queensland Parliament House. This concert consisted of four school performances and was part of the State’s celebration for Seniors Week, supported by the Speaker of the House, Fiona Simpson. Ms Hurst prepared a combined Chamber Strings group from both Merrimac and Robina State Schools. The children learnt their songs and then combined for two rehearsals. They played a 20 minute set, with a mixture of classical, rock and Christmas pieces. The children played superbly. Thank you to Ms Hurst, Miss Deb and Mrs Lush for their accompaniment and Mrs Hall and Mrs Gallagher who helped with supervision.

Robina Lions Peace Poster Competition
A number of our Year 6 and 7 students took part earlier in the school term in the Robina Lions Peace Poster Competition. Congratulations to Isabella Mollov who was judged as the overall winner from Merrimac State School. Isabella’s poster went on to the regional judging. Also, well done to Gabriel Legaspi who was awarded an Achiever’s Award for his efforts with his poster. Both students were presented with their winning certificates on last Tuesday’s upper school parade by two representatives from the Robina Lions.

Student Leaders
The Student Leader process is still continuing with the announcement of Sporting and Music Leaders planned for this Friday 30 November.

Prep Open Mornings
Merrimac sends a big welcome to all our new 2013 Prep students and their families. We ran two mornings where our new students had the opportunity to experience what it is like to be at school. New Prep students will start on Tuesday 29 January at 8.50am like all other classes and complete a full day. Class placements will be posted on bulletin boards and outside classrooms on the first morning.

School Nurse
The Child Health nurse has now commenced Screening for all Prep Year children. Health Screening enables health concerns to be addressed early, thus ensuring the best opportunity for learning. Screening includes vision and hearing, observation of growth and development, speech, language and social skills. If you wish to have your child participate in this very important health screening, please complete and sign the consent section of the Health History Card sent home with your child and return this to the school office immediately.

Children in Years 1 to 7 that may have a vision or hearing concern may also be seen by the nurse. Children may be referred by a parent or teacher however all children must have a Health History card completed and signed by the parent. Health History cards are available from the school office. Please return the completed card to the school office tomorrow. All parents will be advised in writing of the outcome of your child’s screening.

Parent Class Requests - 2013
Thank you to those parents who have sent in educational requests for 2013. Requests closed last Friday 23 November. The process for forming class groups is well advanced and making late changes is almost impossible to accommodate. From now till the end of the school year, class requests will only be considered if operationally suitable for the school.

End of Year Reporting
Report Cards for all year levels will go home on Thursday 6 December. If parents have any concerns regarding their child’s report, they are encouraged to arrange a meeting with their child’s teacher. Parent/Teacher interviews, if needed, can be arranged in the last week of term.

Human Relationships Education (HRE) Parent Session
Thanks to those parents who attended the HRE parent session last Thursday afternoon. Many thanks to our HRE coordinator, Mrs Zarew, for running this session. I hope the parents in attendance found it informative.
Religious Education Program
Thursday 6 December will be the last day of Religious Education for the year. A Religious Education Christmas Presentation will be held on this day in the Performing Arts Centre for all cooperative and Catholic RE children. The Years 4 to 7 presentation will be from 1.15pm to 2.00pm and the Years 1 to 3 presentation will be from 2.00pm to 2.45pm. A special thank you goes to all the Religious Education teachers who visit the school each week.

Appropriate Internet Use and Face Book
As you would be aware the internet is an amazing tool and one that schools can use as a great resource for wonderful research and interest. Of course like any tool it has the potential to be misused and abused. Parents are reminded to set up guidelines in the home and to talk to children about appropriate and inappropriate use of the internet and of possible consequences. Parents need to be informed of websites that children are accessing on the internet for example through sites such as YouTube. Did you know that children need to be thirteen years of age to hold a Face Book account? Many children using Face Book give out too much personal information including full name, phone, address and phone number. This is not a safe practice for internet use.

We encourage parents to act responsibly: be involved in children's computer time, place the computer in a busy, public part of the home and check the history of their activity and then find ways to check the deleted history! Kids are smart and quick. We need to keep up with them to keep them safe.

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.

Student Placements 2013
If your child/ren will not be returning to Merrimac in 2013 please fill out the slip below and return it to the school office tomorrow morning. This will assist in the class 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

Student/s Name ___________________________ Class __________
_________________________ ___________________________  
_________________________ ___________________________  

Faces Of Merrimac
In preparation for next year's performance we need to start collecting and making props. If you have any of the following items could you please drop them in to Mrs Chilvers (6A) classroom.

Plastic bottle tops, string, empty washed plastic bottles, any old shell bracelets, elastic, African art that we could use or get inspiration from, African or tribal style material, cane baskets that we could borrow, body paint. Basically bits and pieces that you may have lying around that we could use to make African instruments or jewellery etc.

Thank you

Performance Group

Win iPad Minis for Christmas with School Banking
Simply making a deposit through School Banking will put you in the draw to win one of twelve iPad Minis (2 per state) valued at $369 each for Christmas.

Make a deposit into your CommBank YouSaver account at school on 3 or 10 December.

Every student that makes a deposit during the competition period will go into a draw to win an iPad Mini (16GB with wi-fi).

For more information and terms and conditions visit www.commbank.com/au/schoolbanking

Volunteers' Afternoon Tea
An afternoon tea will be held for all our wonderful volunteers at 1.30pm on Wednesday 12 December in our Science Centre (next to the PAC) to say thank you to our many parents and friends who assist in our classrooms, tuckshop, bookshop, discos, P & C and on various committees. Please come along and enjoy the afternoon tea. Mr Bob La Castra, our Gold Coast City Councillor, has been invited along to help celebrate this occasion and to also help present certificates to the many volunteers at Merrimac.

Carols By Candlelight
The Carols by Candlelight will be held on Monday the 10th of December at 6:30pm. Gates will open at 5.30pm. The Carols will be held on the school's oval and entry is $5 per family of four or a gold coin donation per person. The cost includes 1 raffle ticket which will put you in the draw to win a number of fantastic prizes and of course more raffle tickets can be purchased on the night. These prizes include: at least 5 hampers, bicycles, family passes to AMF Bowling Robina, a Savilles Butcher voucher, 2 rounds of golf at both Lakelands and Palm meadows and the list goes on!

The Student Council will be running a sausage sizzle on the night as usual. Sausages on bread will be on sale from 5:30pm so that busy parents can feed their hungry hoards before the singing starts. Please support the stall as all profits will be going straight back into supporting your child's education. The P&C are providing a special event at our Carols night once again this year. We will be having another spectacular fireworks display at the end of the night after the raffle draws (weather permitting). Please stay until the end to enjoy the display.

Booklists
Orders can be placed with the Bookshop each day till the end of term 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
Receipting for school activities has now ceased for 2012. Parents of students travelling to Japan next year are asked not to deposit payments via internet banking until after the commencement of the 2013 school year. We will advise in the newsletter next year when you can commence paying the remaining amount.
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

A big congratulations goes to Drew Collins who gained a bronze medal for his multi event at the Track and Field National Championships in Adelaide last weekend. Drew also participated in the medley relay team which not only won the gold medal but broke the national record. What an achievement Drew, well done. Merrimac is very proud of you.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK


TUCKSHOP NEWS

Roster for Week beginning 3 December:

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<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Yoko, Steph</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Mayumi</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>Steph S, Mayumi</td>
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<td>Thur</td>
<td>Maria S</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>Naoko, Mayumi</td>
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Meal Deal - Thurs 6 Dec $5
- Chicken Snack Wrap (1/2 wrap, lettuce, mayo, chicken chippies)
- Paddlepop Cyclone
- Bag of Popcorn
- LOL Fruit Juice

For the final week of term (10-14 Dec) we have some menu changes. Please note:

Monday 10 December we will have Sushi to sell @ $2.80 roll.

Tuesday 11 Dec is our usual menu.

Wednesday 12 Dec we will have Eagle Boys Pizza at Big Lunch @ $2.50 slice.

Thursday 13 Dec Closed at Morning Tea and over the counter sales only at Big Lunch.

Friday TUCKSHOP IS CLOSED FOR CLEANING AND FUMIGATION NO SALES ON THIS DAY AT ALL.

Reminder: No flexi orders available from 10-14 December. ~ Denise ~

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity/Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 3 Dec</td>
<td>5.45pm Outside School Hours Care meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 3 Dec</td>
<td>6.30 pm P&amp;C meeting</td>
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<td>Wed 5 Dec</td>
<td>Merrimac High TM workshops</td>
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<td>Thurs 6 Dec</td>
<td>Report Cards to go home</td>
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<td>Mon 10 Dec</td>
<td>Carols by Candlelight</td>
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<td>Thurs 13 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 Graduation Ceremony</td>
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<td>Thurs 13 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 Graduation Disco</td>
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<td>Fri 14 Dec</td>
<td>Last day of Term Four</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 14 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 Wet ‘n’ Wild excursion</td>
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<td>Tue 29 Jan</td>
<td>1st School Day for 2013 for P-7 students</td>
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Merrimac In Action Day
Year 8 - 2013 Orientation Day
Merrimac State High School is holding an Orientation Day ‘Merrimac in Action’ for enrolled and prospective students entering Year 8 in 2013. Students will explore each subject area through works on display, computer applications, scientific experiments and sports, just to name a few. Entertainment, a healthy lunch, games and a swim in the pool will complete a jam-packed day.

Year 7 parents and caregivers are welcome to join our staff for morning tea - a great time to meet those people who will be working with your children in 2013 and beyond. Please submit your enrolment form prior to the Orientation Day.

When: Thursday 6 December, 2013
Where: Meet at Merrimac State High School Hall
Time: 9:15am to 2.45pm


Queensland Rugby League
Mod + Summer Coaching Camps
Coaching at its best - performance & skill improvement guaranteed. Venue: Runaway Bay Sports Centre

Mod Players - U10 to U12 Yrs
"Where you learn the game"
Wed 19 - Fri 21 December

Jnr Players - U13 to U15yrs
"Improving and developing skills"
Tue 18 - Fri 21 December

Registration forms available at www.qrl.com.au under development tab or for more info contact Trish Ubanks at QRL South East Queensland on 3367 6060 or email to t.ubanks@qrl.com.au

RSPCA Christmas Fair
Sunday 2 December 9.30am - 2.00pm
Live Music, Rock Climbing, Farmyard Feeding, Jumping Castle, Market Stalls, Food & More!

STALL HOLDERS WANTED - from $10
1226 Currumbin Creek Road, Currumbin Valley
Phone: 5533 0312 or email aclark16@eq.edu.au

See next page for this week’s puzzle.
Word Pyramid: There is a clue for each word. The first is a one-letter word. Each word uses all of the letters from the previous word plus one more letter. The order of the letters may change. Can you build the whole pyramid?

- A child’s usual place in the family car (2 words)
- When your project or plans start to take backward progress
- What you could use to carry your Easter eggs.
- You can do this action with wheeled-shoes, or on ice.
- What you did in your chair yesterday during class.
- A job you need to get finished.
- Can be used to indicate in, on or near a location.
- This word is a clue that there is one of something.