Term 1 Week 6 Thursday 7 March 2013

PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

Parent/teacher interviews for Prep to Year 7 have been scheduled for the end of this term. The majority of interviews will be held on Wednesday, 27 March from 3.30pm to 7.30pm in the classrooms. A selection of other times will also be offered by the various class teachers.

Mrs Barrett has Long Service Leave in the last two weeks of term and therefore has scheduled her parent/teacher interviews for next week (Week 7). Also Mrs Zaal and Miss Rogers have their Year 4 camp in the last week of term so hold their parent/teacher interviews in Week 8 (second last week of term). Separate notes will be sent home for these three classes.

Student folios will be issued at the parent/teacher interviews. These should be returned to school before the end of term. It is hoped that all parents will take the opportunity of attending the planned parent/teacher interviews. Student folios will be issued at the parent/teacher interviews. These should be returned to school before the end of term. It is hoped that all parents will take the opportunity of attending the planned parent/teacher interviews.

This year we are introducing an online booking system for all parent/teacher interviews (except for P5, 4C and 4D). Parents will be able to book interviews through the PTO website. This is an online booking system that makes it very easy for parents to book in their preferred interview times and receive immediate confirmation of their booking.

A letter will be sent home with each student next week outlining the procedures to follow for making online parent/teacher interview appointments. The letter will have the web link details and your child’s Education Queensland ID Number which will be required to make the interview booking.

The online system will be open for bookings from Thursday 14 March through till Friday 22 March. Parents who are unable to access the internet for online bookings will have the option of advising the office of a contact number and we will do the booking for you.

As interviews will be scheduled at 10 minute intervals, your promptness in attending at your scheduled time is appreciated to alleviate unnecessary delays as the evening progresses. If on the day of your interview you find you are unable to attend, please contact the school office on telephone 55 691 555 so the class teacher can be notified as soon as possible. Please leave a message if phoning outside of school office hours.

Electronic Devices

Parents are reminded that children are not permitted to have mobile phones I-pods, PSPs, gameboys and other personal electronic devices at school during school hours. There have been a number of incidents in the past where children have brought these devices to school and they have been used inappropriately, broken or lost. They should not be brought to school.

If a child must have a mobile phone for after school contact, the phone must be handed in at the front office for safe-keeping before school commences and collected at the end of the school day. Phones should be turned off during the day. They are not to be kept in children’s bags. Any phones or other technological devices found in children’s possession during school hours will be confiscated and returned to parents. Please assist us in this area by ensuring that your children are aware of this procedure.

Bus Behaviours

Surfside Bushlines have referred to school a number of recent incidents involving misbehaviours by some Merrimac students on school bus runs. Also our school received a report from a member of the public regarding the misbehaviour of some of our students while travelling home on a school bus. Our school expects students to display their best behaviour on school buses and to follow all bus rules. Surfside has the power to suspend students from their services. Parents are notified from Surfside in writing whenever there has been a breach of the school bus code. Such behaviours are always followed up at school by the school’s administration. Parents are requested to remind their children of the expected behaviours required when travelling on school buses.

P&C News

On Monday night we held our Annual General Meeting. A big thank you to all of our executive and members for the terrific job they have done throughout the past year. We achieved a great deal in 2012 with the support of this dedicated team of people. A special thanks goes to Patricia Gallagher, our outgoing President and to Rebecca Bailey, our outgoing Vice President, both of whom no longer have students at Merrimac. Both Patricia and Rebecca have contributed significantly to our P&C and various sub committees over many years. Their efforts and hard work have been very much appreciated.

Congratulations to the following Executive Members for 2013. We look forward to a successful relationship:

President: Maxine Goodman
Vice President: Cathy Sheppard
Treasurer: John Clark
Secretary: Irma Williams
Assistant Secretary Laura Santiago

A big thank you to all the parents who have nominated to be on the various sub committees during 2013. Our next meeting is Monday 15 April in the staffroom. This is the first school day of Term 2 so please note this on your calendar.

Resources Contribution

The school booklist contained a voluntary student contribution component to assist the school to enhance resources available for student learning. At Merrimac, a large percentage of parents pay this voluntary contribution. Thank you to those who have already paid this contribution. The contribution covers the use of class text books, computer consumables, art and craft materials, photocopying of workbooks, homework sheets, etc. The cost is $60.00 per student. Because the shared curriculum materials are allocated on a class basis, non payment of the contribution reduces the amount of additional resources to all the children within the class.

Some parents may have overlooked or forgotten this contribution. Reminder letters will be sent home next week to parents. Payment of the shared curriculum materials contribution can be made through our school Bookshop.
Mathletics

Mathletics is an online program that supplements our school's Maths Program which all students in Prep to Year 7 use. It can be used both at school and at home. It is a very motivating program for our students. For the last three years the P&C has subsidised the cost of Mathletics for our students.

Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress

ABC Reading Eggs (Prep to Year 2) and Reading Eggspress (Years 3 to 7) were introduced this year as part of the school's Reading Program. With interactive animations, fun games, great songs and lots of rewards, ABC Reading Eggs is a great online place to support your child in learning to read. Children are highly motivated to return again and again as they continue their reading skill journey.

The P&C (Mathletics) and the school (Reading Eggs/Eggspress) will be subsidising the cost of these programs by $5.00 each for 2013. This means that there was a cost of $5.00 for Mathletics and $5.00 for Reading Eggs/Eggspress included in the school booklist. Some parents may have overlooked this payment when they purchased books for the year. To access these programs the $5.00 per program per child cost must be paid. These are not voluntary payments like the Resources Contribution.

Reminder letters will be sent home next week to those families who have not paid these amounts. If payments are not received by the end of term, student Mathletics and Reading Eggs/Eggspress accounts will be disabled. Payments can be made to our School Bookshop. If you have a query re these payments, please contact the Bookshop on 55227846 (open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8.00am to 9.00am).

New Enrolment Surveys

All new families to Merrimac School (Years 1 to 7) will be sent a letter outlining the details of an online school survey. All Prep families have already received information on their enrolment surveys.

Instead of sending home a paper survey, we are asking parents to complete the survey online. This will assist greatly in the collation of the survey responses which is done electronically. It will also tell us how well your children have settled into Merrimac. Parents are asked to complete the online survey by next Friday 15 March. It is hoped that we get a good response to the online surveys. Parents, who do not have access to a computer and the internet, can still collect a paper version of the survey from the school office.

Student Leadership Day

Last Thursday, a number of our student leaders, including year six and seven student council representatives, went to a leadership and team building day at Tallebudgera Beach School. The focus of the program is to enhance students' ability to communicate effectively in a small group, share ideas, develop plans and perform problem solving scenarios. The students had a fantastic time and learnt many leadership and team building skills. Many thanks to both Miss Parkes and Mrs Lees who accompanied the students on their Leadership Day.

Students Personal Details

A Student Personal Details sheet has been sent home with every student. Please check this information carefully. If any changes are required please alter the sheet and return it to the school office tomorrow. If no changes are required do not return the sheet. Please note that parents/carers are always the first emergency contact. If you are including extra emergency contacts please ensure that they are local residents. During this process many changes were necessary. Please endeavour to keep the school up to date with contacts and other information. In case of emergency situations we would like to be able to contact parents quickly.

P&C FUNDRAISER

Our current fundraising event for this year is a "Cookie Dough Fundraiser". Order forms and brochures have been sent home. We are extending the final day for payment till Monday 11 March. Payment can be made through flexischools.com.au or by cash or credit card at the bookshop.

Each tub sold entitles the child to a prize. The more sold the greater value the prize. Full details included in the brochure. Each student has a chance to WIN an iPad and our school will also go into a draw to win two iPads.

Students who sell one or more tubs will also receive a family discount voucher valued at $140 for Baskin Robbins, Stefan Hair Salon and Pixie Foto.

FINANCE NEWS

The finance window operates each Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8.00am until 9.30am. PLEASE NOTE THESE TIMES

Methods of payment are cash, cheque (made payable to Merrimac State School), EFTPOS and Credit Card. Please ensure your child’s full name, class and activity are stated on the front of the envelope for easy processing. Payments using first name only are difficult to process. We are currently accepting money for:

- Selected 3-7 Strings Music Program $100 Now
- Selected 3-7 Strings Instrument Hire $120 Now
- Selected 5-7 Band Music Program $100 Now
- Selected 5-7 Band Instrument Hire $120 Now
- 4C, 4D Camp 25-27 Mar $140 Now
- 4A, 4B Camp 18-20 Mar $140 Now

MONEY ACCEPTED MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS 8AM-9.30AM ONLY. MONEY ACCEPTED AT THESE TIMES ONLY

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Tuckshop Roster for Week beginning Monday 11 March:

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<th>Mon</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thur</th>
<th>Fri</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yoko</td>
<td>Mayumi</td>
<td>Maria S, Mayumi</td>
<td>Naoko, Mayumi</td>
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Consisted of:

- Warm Roast Beef Roll w gravy
- Sumo Cookie Sandwich (Mini Oreo cookies)
- Cyclone Ice Block
- Battle Water

Thanks once again to my volunteers this week. We were hit with power shortages but we all pushed through together to get the orders out. Well Done!

Please check our Meal Deal menu. When the newsletter is sent out the menu printed is for the following week (refer to date).

Welcome to our new P&C parents! Keep supporting our school fundraisers everyone. Every cent is put straight back into our school for the benefit of our children. Have a good week everyone.

~ Denise ~

BOOKSHOP NEWS

- Regular opening hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8am until 9am.

MUSIC NEWS

Choir Rehearsal Times

- Junior Choir - Friday Mornings 8.00am - 8.45am
- Senior Choir - Tuesday Mornings 8.00am - 8.45am

FINANCE NEWS

The P&C (Mathletics) and the school (Reading Eggs/Eggspress) subsidised the cost of Mathletics for our students. The Bookshop on 55227846 (open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8.00am until 9.30am).
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS

Band
All Senior band students are progressing well and are almost all are attending rehearsal on time. Well done!

Exciting news…..Junior Band will commence next Monday at 8.00am. Students are asked to arrive by 7.50am and help with setting up. Most students already have their “Standard of Excellence Book”. This book is vital for the continued learning of all students. If you have not done so yet, please purchase a copy of this book. Thank you all parents for helping your child learn to read the rotating timetable. I have sent an email to all band students. If you have not yet received this please email me at dbody4@eq.edu.au - so I can add you to my database. Miss Deb

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK


2013 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS

ALL STUDENTS IN YEARS 3 TO 7 ARE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Sitting Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>21 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>31 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>13 August</td>
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Student Name: __________________________  Class: ________
Computer: ________  English: ________  Maths: ________

Student Name: __________________________  Class: ________
Computer: ________  English: ________  Maths: ________

Student Name: __________________________  Class: ________
Computer: ________  English: ________  Maths: ________

I give permission for my child/ren to participate in the above ICAS competition/s. I enclose $8.00 entry fee for each child for each competition. I have ticked the competitions they wish to participate in.

Parent/Caregiver Name                          Signature

Please make payments to the finance window Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays between 8.00am-9.30am no later than Wednesday 27 March.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH


PE NEWS

Regional Swimming Carnival
Chase Laviolette did extremely well at the recent Regional Swimming Carnival. She has now qualified for the State Swimming Championships to be held in Brisbane from 24 to 26 March. Chase has qualified for eight different events. This is a fantastic effort and we wish her all the very best.

Interschool Sport for Years 5-7
Interschool Sport starts in the week of Term 2 and the cost will be approximately $65. Girls can choose from Soccer, AFL and Netball. Boys can choose from Soccer, AFL and Rugby League. Teams are entered based on interest. In the event that numbers are low, some sports may not be available. We will be having sign on tomorrow. Please talk to your children and let them know if you are happy for them to sign up. Any parents who would like to help coach or manage a team please see Mr Singh. We are looking forward to a great Interschool Sport Season.

Hot Shots Tennis
This term years 2-5 have experienced Hot Shots tennis as part of the PE program. If your child would like to continue on with some more Hot Shots Tennis please contact 0414464032 to find out how to claim 2 more FREE sessions!!

Surfing for 56M, 67M, 7C
Due to beach closures the surfing schedule has been set back 1 week. The above classes will commence their lessons next Wednesday 13 March and continue until 27 March.

Swimming for 4A and 4B
Due to camp commitments in week 8 these classes will have a double lesson the week before camp which next Wednesday 13 March.

UPCOMING EVENTS - Term One

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>11 - 15 Mar</td>
<td>Pat Maths Testing (Years 3, 5 and 7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 - 20 Mar</td>
<td>Year 4 Camp 4A and 4B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 20 Mar</td>
<td>Last day of Year 4 and 5 swimming</td>
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<td>Thurs 21 Mar</td>
<td>Talent Quest Finals</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 - 27 Mar</td>
<td>Year Four Camp 4C and 4D</td>
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<td>25 - 28 Mar</td>
<td>IM/Choir Open Rehearsals Week</td>
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<td>Mon 25 Mar</td>
<td>Katsuragi Video Television (3.30pm to 7.30pm)</td>
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<td>Wed 27 Mar</td>
<td>Last day of Year 6 and 7 Surf Program</td>
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<td>Wed 27 Mar</td>
<td>National Young Leaders’ Day in Brisbane (School Captains)</td>
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<td>Wed 27 Mar</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews (3.30pm to 7.30pm)</td>
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<td>Thurs 28 Mar</td>
<td>Years 5 to 7 swimming carnival at Merrimac High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 28 Mar</td>
<td>Last day of Term One</td>
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<td>Fri 29 Mar</td>
<td>Good Friday holiday</td>
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<td>Mon 15 April</td>
<td>First school day of Term Two</td>
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ATTENTION
Yr 5, 6 and 7 Families

JAPANESE IMMERSION PROGRAM
Parent Information Evening at Robina High School on Thursday 14 March
5pm – 6:15pm in room GS410

If you are interested in working hard with a class of like-minded and well-behaved students, and you are interested in getting excellent results at school - you are invited to come and hear about our exciting Japanese Immersion Program.

An excellence program for excellent students
We hope to meet students & parents on the 14 March at Robina High.

RSVP & enquiries to sskin26@eq.edu.au

PARENTS WHO HAVE ALREADY ATTENDED A MEETING DO NOT NEED TO ATTEND AGAIN