Term 1 Week 8 Thursday 14 March 2013

PRINCIPAL'S PAGE

Staffing News
Mrs Barrett has Long Service Leave from 18 to 28 March. Mrs Justina Crawford will teach P5 for these last two weeks of term.

Tribute to Mrs Ann Robertson
Last Friday a number of current and former Merrimac staff attended the funeral of Mrs Ann Robertson. Mrs Robertson had been a Teacher Aide at our school for almost 30 years retiring from Merrimac three years ago. She will be well remembered by many staff, parents and students here at Merrimac.

Special RE Easter Presentation
On Thursday, 21 March our Religion teachers will be presenting two Easter Performances for the lower and upper school in the Performing Arts Centre.

- 1.15pm - 2.00pm  Years 4, 5, 6 and 7
- 2.00pm - 2.45pm  Years 1, 2 and 3

There will be no RE in the last week of Term One.

Conduct of Parents at School
It is expected that all parents at school set a positive example for all students. Parents should always act in a polite and courteous manner when talking to school staff, students and other parents. Parents who disrupt the good order of the school while on school grounds can be held accountable for their actions. Parents at fault can actually have restricted access to the school or even be banned from attending the school for a period of time. This is also enforceable by law.

A recent incident occurred whereby a parent spoke inappropriately to a staff member who was carrying out his duties. Such behaviour is unacceptable. Where a problem exists, it should be referred through the correct channels and raised with the school's Administration.

We have such wonderful parents at our school, but it only takes a small minority to spoil it for others.

Term One Reporting to Parents
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 various class teachers depending on their outside school hours commitments.

Mrs Barrett has Long Service Leave in the last two weeks of term and therefore has scheduled her interviews for this week (Week 7). Also Mrs Zaal and Miss Rogers have their Year 4 camp in the last week of term so will hold their interviews in Week 8 (second last week of term). Separate notes have been 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.

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 was sent home with each student yesterday outlining the procedures to follow for making online parent/teacher interview appointments. The letter has important information that you will need to make bookings.

The online system is now open for bookings through till Friday 22 March at: https://bookings.parentteacheronline.com.au?school=gmrb

We suggest when making multiple bookings that you leave a gap between interview times to allow yourself time to move around the school.

Parents who are unable to access the internet for online bookings can complete the cut off section of the letter, return to the school office tomorrow 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.

Collecting Students After School
Parents are advised not to ask their children to wait around the administration block, particularly on the carpark side, as this is an unsafe practice. Children should be collected from the front of the school, at their class or in the under cover area. The staff car park should not be used as a thoroughfare by students or parents at any time. This is a dangerous practice. We would not like to see anyone getting injured due to unsafe actions.

Headlice
Headlice have been reported in the school. Please check your child for headlice today. To check for lice:

- Apply conditioner to dry hair; and comb through the hair with a fine tooth comb
- Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper tissue and repeat until all hair has been combed
- Rinse comb in water and repeat until all hair has been combed
- Look for lice and eggs on the tissue and comb
- If you find any lice, it is recommended you seek professional advice from your chemist
- A follow up treatment is necessary to ensure all lice are removed

Class notes have been sent home in the year levels concerned.

Mosquitoes at School
The council recently fogged the school, however, the process is only productive for mosquitoes on site at the time of spraying. We have contacted the Council and they are going to fog the school again soon. The mosquitoes this season have been particularly bad due to the very wet conditions we have had since the start of the school year. If your children are susceptible to mosquito bites we suggest applying roll on repellent before children come to school. Children may bring along a roll on mosquito repellent (no sprays or aerosols) to re-apply during the day.
Early Arrivals at School
It is recommended that children arrive at school from 8.30am onwards. There is no rostered teacher supervision before school. Children are not allowed on the play forts or the school oval of a morning. Before school is not a play time for students. Although the behaviour of our students is very good in general, it is more likely for children to misbehave or do the wrong thing if they are at school of a morning for a long time.

Our school has Before School Care, which is held in the Multi Purpose Building and currently has vacancies. The operating times are from 6.30am to 8.50am. Enquiries and bookings can be made through the coordinator (phone 55252617). A fully supervised activity based program is undertaken and breakfast is provided. Fee relief is available for eligible families.

Parents may wish to consider using the Before School Care Service where children have to be dropped off early to school on a regular basis.

Year 4 Camps
I'm sure that our Year 4 students are eagerly awaiting their upcoming camps at the Currumbin Farm School. At the camps the students will participate in some of the following activities: Orienteering, rock climbing, interaction with farm animals, creek life investigations, archery, camp fires, sleeping in tents, team building activities and more.

The dates for 4A and 4B are from Monday 18 March to Wednesday 20 March. The dates for 4C and 4D camp are from Monday 25 March to Wednesday 27 March.

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 have been sent home this week to parents. Payment of the shared curriculum materials contribution can be made through our school Bookshop.

Mathletics, Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress
The P&C (Mathletics) and the school (Reading Eggs/Eggspress) have subsidised 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 must be paid. These are not voluntary payments like the Resources Contribution.

Reminder letters have been sent home this 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).

P&C FUNDRAISER
Cookie Dough Fundraiser Thank You
The cookie dough fundraiser has now closed. We have sold 886 tubs to 101 people with a profit of $3,544.00.

It is planned to distribute the tubs on Wednesday 27th March which is the day of the parent teacher meetings. Thank you to all those families and community who supported this fundraising activity.

FINANCE NEWS
The finance window operates each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8.00am until 9.30am. 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:

<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</td>
<td>Yrs 5-7</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>Balance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total $1999</td>
<td>Owing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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MONEY ACCEPTED MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS 8AM-9.30AM
MONEY ACCEPTED AT THESE TIMES ONLY

LEADERSHIP DAY
On 28th February a small group of children from Years 6 and 7 went to a student leadership day at Tallebudgera Beach School. Miss Parkes and Mrs Lees had organised this. On the day we did many fun activities including raft building (what a blast), faulty towers, evolution and fill the pole to get out the tennis ball. Some activities were not in the water and we also played other games that showed how our personalities and traits are all different. We were split up into two groups and each group had a Tallebudgera Beach School Instructor. One man's name was Pete and the other man's name was Bryce. They taught us how to work in a team by IPAR, I stands for Identify, P stands for Plan, A stands for Act and R stands for Review. We swam in the creek and had a huge water fight with everyone! Luckily it was the one day in the week that wasn't covered with rain! It was so much fun and it couldn’t get any better.

Written by Molly Bishop & Lily McBlane

TUCKSHOP NEWS
Tuckshop Roster for Week beginning Monday 18 March:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Meal Deal Thursday 21 Mar $5*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Yoko</td>
<td>Cheese/Tomato Toastie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Linda</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Mayumi, Yoko</td>
<td>Fairy Floss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Maria S, Mayumi</td>
<td>Cyclone Ice-block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Naoko, Mayumi</td>
<td>Bottle Water</td>
</tr>
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*add 50c to upgrade to Flavoured Milk or Small Focus Playwater

Many thanks to all my volunteers this week and to all our parent helpers around the school! Your assistance is very much appreciated. Our last Meal Deal for the term is on 21 March. On Thursday 28 March which is the last day of Term I we will have a SPECIAL EAGLE BOYS PIZZA BIG LUNCH.

Also, the last day of the term is our Senior School Swimming carnival. We are looking for helpers on the day to set up and sell food and drinks at a mobile tuckshop at Merrimac State High School. If you can help in any way please see me at the tuckshop.

Thanks again for your support and have a good week.

~ 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
Talent Quest Finals
Thursday 21st March  Seniors- Years 4 - 7  9.00am - 11.00am
Juniors - Years 1-3  11.30am - 1.00pm
Where: In the PAC Hall
Parents and friends are welcome to come along...

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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Name: _________________________ Class: _____

Student Name: _________________________ Class: _____

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.

PE NEWS
School Swimming Carnival (Yrs 5 - 7)
Our Swimming Carnival for Years 5, 6 and 7 students will be held on Thursday 28 March (last day of term) at the Merrimac High School Pool. The carnival will commence at 9.30am and conclude around 2.00pm. Bus and transport will be provided to and from the pool. Buses will start leaving from the school at 8.45am. Presentations will be held at the swimming pool at the end of the carnival if time permits. Spectators are invited to come along to the pool and cheer on the children. We suggest you bring a fold up chair for your comfort. No two piece swimmers allowed unless a T shirt or sun shirt is worn over the top. Children will be competing for their various sports houses and are asked to wear their house colours.

Birmingham - Yellow  Davidson – Green
Gooding – Red  Hamilton - Blue

Hats and sunscreen are compulsory. Shade will be provided for the children. Children are asked to take their morning tea, lunch and water bottle with them in their school bag. The tuckshop is hoping to sell a limited amount of food (chips and drinks) but this will be dependent on sufficient volunteer helpers. If you can assist on the day, please see Denise in the tuckshop.

If the weather forces the postponement of our swimming carnival, it will be rescheduled for later in the school year sometime in Term Four.

Interschool Sport for Years 5-7
Interschool Sport starts in the first week of Term 2 and the cost will be $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 are currently having sign ons. 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS - Term One

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<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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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>25 - 28 Mar</td>
<td>IM/Choir Open Rehearsals Week</td>
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<td>Mon 25 Mar</td>
<td>Katsuragi Video Teleconference (3.30pm to 7.30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>Fri 29 Mar</td>
<td>Good Friday holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 15 April</td>
<td>First school day of Term Two</td>
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Dance Classes - The Young Generation Dancers offers Jazz, Ballet, Tap and Hip Hop Classes in the Merrimac PAC every Wednesday afternoon from $6 per class. Juniors 3.30 - 5.00pm, 10 yrs and over from 5.00pm. Phone Toni on 0402949780 for info and bookings.

Benowa State High School Expo Evening for Year 8 in 2014
Tuesday 26 March commencing at 5.00pm in the Benowa SHS Sports Hall. Enquiries phone 5582 7333
Characteristic cards used at the Leadership Day at Tallebudgera