Term 1 Week 9 Wednesday 27 March 2013

PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

Staffing News

Mrs Sloss, our Support Teacher, returns from her leave for the start of next term. A big thank you to Mrs Prentis and Mrs Boyd who have been replacing Mrs Sloss in her absence. We also thank Mrs Boyd for her work in the Library during this term.

In Term Two, Mrs Prentis will work two days a week (Monday and Tuesday) providing a combined Intervention and Support Teacher role. She will also continue to teach Year 3C each Friday.

Mrs Kate Bentley who was appointed at the beginning of the year as our upper school Deputy Principal, has had to extend her leave till the end of Term Two due to the illness of a close family member. Therefore, Miss Murray will continue in the acting DP role and Mrs McNeilage in the acting HoC role for Term Two. This will allow for some ongoing consistency in these two roles. Both Miss Murray and Mrs McNeilage have been doing a great job in their respective roles during this term.

For Term Two Mrs Werder will be replacing Mrs Neilage in the Library for her Literacy/Library lessons from Monday to Wednesday. She will also continue to teach Year 3C each Friday.

Mrs Fields, our school’s Numeracy Coach, has Long Service Leave for the first three weeks of next term. During her leave Mrs Fields will replace Miss Richards undertaking the Numeracy Coaching role. Mr Greg Chin will replace Mrs Fields in 7C Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Mrs Moore, one of our Prep Teachers, is taking Long Service Leave from the start of Term Two through till the end of the school year. Sadly, her mother has become quite ill and Mrs Moore will be her primary carer for this period of time. We do wish Mrs Moore and her mum all the very best. Mrs Donella Dhu will be replacing Mrs Moore in P4 for the remainder of the school year.

Mrs Dhu comes to us from Broadbeach State School where she has been teaching for the last two years. I’m sure that she will fit in very well here at Merrimac.

Mrs Barrett will return from the start of next term from her Long Service Leave. A big thank you to Mrs Crawford who has been teaching P5 for the past two weeks.

Mr Jeffrey, our Facilities Officer, has Long Service Leave from Monday 15 April to 22 April. Mr Paul Leighton will be replacing him for this time.

No Pupil Free Day – Term Two

Parents are reminded that the last day of the school term is tomorrow, Thursday 28 March. Children will return to school on Monday 15 April. Parents are reminded that there is no designated Pupil Free Day at the start of Term Two. All children are expected to return to school on Monday 15 April.

From everyone here at school, we wish all families a happy and safe Easter Vacation.

New Enrolment Surveys

After about eight weeks of school, all new Prep families and new families from Years 1 to 7 were recently encouraged to complete an online survey.

The surveys have provided the school with some valuable information about the services offered by our school and also how well children have settled into Merrimac. Thank you to all the parents who completed the online surveys and provided constructive feedback and suggestions.

Some interesting points from the surveys were:

- A large number of families send their children to Merrimac through personal recommendations and from visiting the school
- Those who attended the Prep Orientation Sessions and the Parent Information meetings were extremely pleased with the presentations
- Overall parents were happy with the service provided by the office and administration staff, the Parent Information Booklet and the Bookshop and Tuckshop Service
- Almost all children have settled into Merrimac school life very well
- A large majority of parents are very happy with the classroom teachers
- An extremely favourable response to the school newsletter and the school’s website
- 100% of respondents said that they would recommend Merrimac School to a friend.

Many positive comments were made about our school. They included:

- Grounds are beautiful with lovely green spaces
- Great facilities
- Very friendly staff
- Approachable and supportive teachers
- My child is happy to come to school every day
- The behaviour management system is very effective
- Never seen my son so happy to do Homework
- Great teaching
- Parents are reminded that the last day of the school term is tomorrow, Thursday 28 March. Children will return to school on Monday 15 April. Parents are reminded that there is no designated Pupil Free Day at the start of Term Two. All children are expected to return to school on Monday 15 April.

It is very pleasing to receive such positive feedback, in particular the recognition of the great work done by our classroom teachers and school staff. It is interesting to note that a number of our new enrolments have come from interstate, overseas and various private schools and are extremely happy with the education provided at Merrimac.

It is important that our school strives to maintain its high standards. For this to happen, a combined effort from school staff, parents and children is always needed. We should all be looking at ways to continually improve our school. Again thank you to those parents who made suggestions and comments on the survey forms. Many of the recommendations will be reviewed and considered for the future. Be assured that our P&C is continuing to work with the GCCC to find solutions for improving the car park arrangements at our school.

Platinum Cards/Merit Certificates

Certificates and cards will be given out to the children early next term. This means that the behaviour data will be accurate for the whole of Term One.

Successful Merrimac Talent Quests

Once again our lower and upper school Talent Quests proved very popular with both the students and parents. Congratulations must go to Mrs Powell for her organisation of these events. Thanks also to the Merrimac staff for your help and to the upper school children who assisted with both Talent Quests.
Book Donation
Mrs Sarina Thompson, one of our parents presented a book to the library that her son Liam and herself had written and published. It is a story about Liam’s stay in hospital and all the people who helped him get better. A big thank you to Sarina and Liam. I’m sure that it will be a well read library book.

School Watch
The School Watch program is aimed at reducing crime, vandalism and arson in schools. Over the school holiday period, parents are asked to keep a watchful eye on our school as they drive past. Any suspicious actions, especially at night time, should be reported to the police or to School Watch (phone 131 788). Other than the Vacation Care Program, there should be no need for children to enter the school grounds over the holiday period. State Government Security and random police patrols will monitor the school premises.

Successful Year 4 Camps
Both the Year 4 camps that were held over the last two weeks went extremely. Overall, the weather was quite good. The children enjoyed their camping experiences at the Currumbin Farm School. Congratulations to all the students who were on their best behaviour and had a fantastic time. A big thank you to all the teachers and staff who attended the camps and did a great job with the children.

Term One Parent/Teacher Interviews this Afternoon/Evening
The majority of Parent/teacher interviews for Prep to Year 7 will be held this afternoon from 3.30pm to 7.30pm in the classrooms. Student folios will be issued at the parent/teacher interviews. These should be returned to school tomorrow. As interviews will be scheduled at 10 minute intervals, your promptness in arriving at your scheduled time is appreciated to alleviate unnecessary delays as the evening progresses. If for some reason you cannot make your scheduled time please contact the school office on 5569 1555. If after hours then leave a message, thank you.

Free Dress Day
Our school raised $800.00 for the Make a Wish Foundation from its Free Dress Day last Friday. A big thank you to everyone who supported this very worthwhile cause.

Children Leaving School at the end of Term One
If your child/children will not be returning to Merrimac for Term Two, please notify the school office tomorrow.

Woolworths Earn and Learn starts
From the 8th April through to 9th June, when shopping at Woolworths collect points from the checkout operator and place them on a points sheet. There will be one Woolworths Earn and Learn point for every $10 spent. Once completed place your points sheet in the collection box either at school or at your local Woolworths.

Once the program closes on the 9th June, we will compile all of our completed points cards and send them back to Woolworths.

Again this year, points will be traded in for valuable school resources from Modern Teaching Aids.

Parents who shop at Woolies are encouraged to collect the stickers and sticker cards and send them along to the school. Your support with this program would be much appreciated.

Prep Enrolments for 2014
This year we currently have 112 Prep students. This is a very good intake of new students. Prep is an extremely important part of our school. We are already getting many inquiries regarding Prep for 2014. In October each year our school holds a morning and evening orientation session for our new families. In November we also hold Prep experience days for our future Prep students. Enrolments for Prep for next year can be made at the school’s office. Parents of Prep students for next year are encouraged to start enrolling their children. Early enrolment allows the school to be better prepared for the 2014 school year.

P&C FUNDRAISER
Cookie Dough Fundraiser
Cookie Dough was available for collection this afternoon up until 6.15pm at the PAC. All purchasers were notified by correspondence last week. If you have not collected your order please contact the school bookshop tomorrow morning as a matter of urgency. As previously advised the school cannot be held responsible for uncollected orders over the holiday break.

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. Envelopes 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 Yrs 5-7</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>Total $1999</td>
<td>Balance Owing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

PE NEWS
School Swimming Carnival (Yrs 5 - 7)
Our Swimming Carnival for Years 5, 6 and 7 students will be held tomorrow at the Merrimac High School Pool. The carnival will commence at 9.30am and conclude around 2.00pm. Buses will transport the children 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 a 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.

Results of tomorrow’s swimming carnival will be published in the first newsletter in Term Two.

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

Sporting Success
Well done to Chase Laviolette (Year 5C) who did an outstanding job at the recent QLD School State Swimming Championships. Chase made finals in 5 individual events, and came home with 3 medals. Congratulations, Chase! What a fantastic effort.

MUSIC NEWS
Choir Rehearsal Times
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

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

Talent Quest Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instrumental</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Isaac Shelton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Miku Odaoka, Jeremy Mikeska, Jack Thorn, Axel Daly, Cameron Kraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Emma Mollison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Cullen Hargan Jesse Errington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Tenisha Wilkey, Taylor Martin, Hallie Taffs, Mackenzie Emerj, Isabella Anderson, Sophie Caruana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Katia Whitford, Tara Georgjiev</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singing</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Mikayla Hayes, Melanija Marie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Jorja Lepp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Ella Stewart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Jack Tidy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HC</td>
<td>Leilani Bodewes, Armani Martinez, Lily Marshall</td>
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</table>

Senior Talent Quest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instrumental Jnr</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Aimee Maselli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrumental Snr</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Aaron J Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrumental</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Annie Park, Emily Howard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama Jnr</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Chloe Flack, Byron Hamilton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Vann Daly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama Snr</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Alex Sologan, Olivia Cubley, Chelsea Fretwell, Codi Henare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance Jnr</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Freesia Huang, Tiarne Hutchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance Snr</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Molly Bishop, Jessinta Holmes, Lily McBlane, Boston Hale, Christina Frasca, Georgia McLeod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Zandile Mpofu, Lauren Martin, Natika Boydpratt, Lily McBlane, Bella Molloy, Emilie Dawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Summer Gaylard, Elissa Monte, Shauna Cassidy, Lauren Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singing Jnr</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Charlotte Tsingolis, Jamieson Schmitzer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Maria Anderson, Hayley Bond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Singing Snr</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Sophie Geogeghan, Tori Haywood, Emma Lush, Shantelle Mountney, Krystal Law</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Brooke Steelhoirst</td>
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Choral Camp Success

Congratulations to the following students who attend the Choral Camp at Mt Tamborine. Hannah Whiteley, Yazzmann Carter, Cerina Chan, Byron Hamilton, Lilika Fujii, Nataly Black, Summer Roze Darke and Alexandra Sologon. 70 students from the South Coast region attended. We are very proud that Merrimac was represented. It was a huge success! Students and teachers had a wonderful concert on the last night which was truly entertaining. See photo on the next page.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK


P&C NEWS

P&C Meeting

The next P & C meeting will be held on Monday 15 April (first day of Term Two) at 6.30pm in the Staffroom. All parents are invited to attend. P&C Meetings are a good way to find out what is happening in your child’s school. The Staffroom is situated at the end of the Administration Building.

The next MOSHC meeting will also be held on the same evening (15 April) commencing at 5.45pm in the MPC. All interested parents are welcome to attend.

There will also be a Katsuragi Parent IEC meeting on Monday 15 April at 5.30pm in the staffroom.

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Roster for Week beginning Monday 15 April:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 15/4</th>
<th>Yoko</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 16/4</td>
<td>Mayumi, Naoko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 17/4</td>
<td>Maria S, Mayumi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 18/4</td>
<td>Mayumi, Naoko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 19/4</td>
<td>Mayumi, Naoko</td>
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</table>

Wow our first term is over! Thanks so much to all our volunteers throughout the term. Your assistance in the tuckshop and around the school whether it’s reading in the classes or helping with fundraising and mobile tuckshop times is so greatly appreciated. Also, to the new volunteers helping with our sports teams, thank you so much. Just a reminder that tomorrow we will be having Eagle Boys Pizza only at Big Lunch. Pizza slices are $2.50 each and flavours are Hawaiian, Meat Lovers or Vegetarian. Good luck to our Swimmer participation at MSHS tomorrow. Have a good break everyone and see you next term.

~ Denise ~

BOOKSHOP NEWS

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

UPCOMING EVENTS – Term One

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wed 27 Mar</th>
<th>Parent/Teacher Interviews (3.30pm to 7.30pm)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 28 Mar</td>
<td>Years 5 to 7 swimming carnival at Merrimac State High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 28 Mar</td>
<td>Last day of Term One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 29 Mar</td>
<td>Good Friday holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 15 April</td>
<td>First school day of Term Two</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Merrimac SS AFL Auskick Centre

Cost only $60.00!!!
To pay online register at aflauskick.com.au
Please print registration form and bring along to first session
Please make cheques payable to: AFL Queensland
Sign on and 1st Session Venue: Merrimac SS Oval
3.10 – 4.10pm – Wednesday 24 April
For more info contact Tim Searl on 5594 5722
FAQ – Kids turning 5 in Calendar year can participate. If you miss the first session, you can join the following week. No specialist clothing required (football boots not necessary).