New School Term
Welcome back to Term 2. The school term has started at a busy pace with quite a few new enrolments on the first day back. We would like to welcome all new families to Merrimac and we look forward to an exciting Term 2. Our school enrolment to date is 851 students.

Very Successful School Events
In the last two weeks of Term One, we had a number of very successful school events. These included the lower and upper school Talent Quests, Years 5 to 7 School Swimming Carnival, Year 4 Camps and Prep to Year 3 Easter Hat Parade. Well done to all involved. There was great parent support for all these activities and the children involved had a fantastic time. Thanks also to all parents who attended the parent/teacher interviews at the end of Term One. Overall, there was a large number of parents from each class who attended the individual parent/teacher interviews.

Staffing News
For the start of Term Two we have a number of planned staff changes.

Our school has received official notification that Mrs Kate Bentley is no longer based at our school. For this term, Miss Murray will continue in the acting Deputy Principal role and Mrs McNeillage will continue in the acting Head of Curriculum role. For Term Two Mrs Werder will be replacing Mrs Mac in the Library for Literacy/Library lessons from Monday to Wednesday and Mr Haddock will work each Thursday and Friday for ICT lessons.

Miss Richards has Long Service Leave for the first three weeks of this term. Mrs Fields is replacing her as our acting Numeracy Coach each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mr Chin will be replacing Mrs Fields in Year 7 for this time.

We welcome to Merrimac Ms Donella Dhu who is replacing Mrs Fields in Year 7 for this time. Mr Jeffrey, our Facilities Officer, is on Long Service Leave till 22 April. Mr Paul Leighton is replacing Mr Jeffrey for this time.

Our school has been allocated an additional day of Special Education Program teacher time for the remainder of the school year. This means that Miss Amy McDonald will work four days a week in SEP (Monday to Thursday) and do CCT/NCT each Friday.

Mrs Riis has had to take a week of emergent LSL from 15 to 19 April. Mr Paul Leighton is replacing Mr Jeffrey for this time. Mr Jeffrey, our Facilities Officer, is on Long Service Leave till 22 April. Mr Paul Leighton is replacing Mr Jeffrey for this time.

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School ANZAC Day Service
A school ANZAC Day Service will be held at Merrimac on Wednesday 24th April in the Performing Arts Centre from 2.00pm to 2.30pm (prior to the lower school parade). Parents are invited to attend on this afternoon ceremony. The service will involve the laying of class wreaths.

ANZAC Day March at Robina
On ANZAC Day (Thursday 25th April) Merrimac children are encouraged to take part in the Robina Town Centre ANZAC Day March. Should your child/ren wish to participate they should meet Dr Pointing and Mrs Hall at the marshalling area outside Target in Arbour Lane at 8.15am for a parade start of 8.30am. This will be followed by a service at 8.45am in the auditorium at the Robina Community Centre and you and your families are welcome to attend the parade and service. Wreaths can be laid during the service. Refreshments will be served after the service and you are invited to join all parade participants and guests for morning tea.

Platinum Cards/Merit Certificates
Overall the standard of behaviour last term was good with a pleasing number of children receiving Merit Certificates. Merit Certificates (5 or less points with no L4 or L5). Platinum Cards are awarded to students with exemplary behaviour (no more than 1 point). Parents are encouraged to support Merrimac’s Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students.

Class Newsletters
Class Newsletters will be sent home next Friday, 26th April by all class teachers. Class Newsletters are an important form of communication between school and home. They outline curriculum content for the term, reminders about class rules, behaviour management, teacher expectations and homework expectations. Any special events and activities are also be highlighted in the Class Newsletters.

Electronic Devices at School
Students are reminded that they are not permitted to have mobile phones, I-pods, PSPs, gameboys or other personal electronic devices at school during school hours. It is almost impossible to monitor the use of these devices at school and children are able to access material that is not suitable for school. This includes inappropriate music, unsuitable games and improper images.

If a child must have a mobile phone for after school contact, the phone must be handed in at the school office for safe-keeping before school commences and collected after school concludes. They are not to be kept in children’s bags.

Advertisements Disclaimer
Although we at times include advertisements in our school newsletter we do not necessarily endorse products or the information provided. It is important that parents thoroughly investigate products or services advertised and make their own informed decision.
Woolworths Earn and Learn starts

When shopping at Woolworths between now and 9th June 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.

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 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.

School Dress Code and Jewellery Policies

Parents and students are reminded that our school has an approved School Dress Code and Jewellery Policy. These have been approved by our school’s P & C Association. Along with the school’s responsible Behaviour Plan, parents are made aware of these policies when enrolling students at our school. Copies are available from the school office or can be found on the school’s website. Parents are asked to reinforce our school’s expectations with their children.

School Forts/Playgrounds

Students are reminded that the school forts/playgrounds are out of bounds both before and after school. At these times there is no staff rostered on duty which means there is no assistance if an accident happens. Parents are asked to support this school rule and are reminded that it applies to all children whether parents are in attendance or not. After School Care children are not allowed on the school forts until after 3.30pm each afternoon.

School Student Banking - School Rewards Program

Student Banking is conducted at school each Monday morning. A big thank you to Mrs Jo Benjamin who volunteers each week to process the banking. This is very much appreciated.

As part of student banking, the Commonwealth Bank incorporates an exciting Rewards Program designed to encourage children to get into the habit of making regular savings. Every time students make a deposit at school they receive a Dollarmites token which can be redeemed for a range of exciting reward items in recognition of their regular savings. Students will have lots of fun saving their tokens for these cool gifts.

School Photographs

Silver Rose will be here to take class and graduation photos on Tuesday 21 May and Sports, Family (Brother/Sister) and Catch Up Individual photos on Tuesday 28 May (note this is a change of date). Envelopes will be sent home early May. For your information prices as follows: Value Pack $29 (includes class group and individual photos), Class Photos $19, Sports Photos $15, Brother/Sister Pack $22. Parents are asked to read the instructions carefully on the envelope to avoid disappointment with orders. Ensure payment is included as per instructions. The envelope is to be returned on photo day to the photographer with the oldest sibling.

BOOKSHOP OPENING HOURS 8.00AM – 9.00AM
MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Roster for week beginning Monday 22 April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Student</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Yoko</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Mayumi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Naoko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>ANZAC DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Naoko, Mayumi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NO MEAL DEAL ON THURSDAY 25 APRIL DUE TO ANZAC DAY HOLIDAY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Welcome back everyone! We trust you enjoyed the break. Many thanks to my returning volunteers and also to those parents who help in the classrooms and around the school. Your assistance in our school is very much appreciated. No Meal Deal next week due to ANZAC day holiday. Have a good week everyone. ~Denise~

PE NEWS

School Swimming Carnival (Yrs 5 - 7)

Our Years 5 to 7 swimming carnival at the end of the term proved a very successful event. The venue at Merrimac High was excellent. We certainly appreciate the support given to our school by Merrimac State High School.

A big thank you to all the staff who worked on the day and to the many parents who came along and cheered the children on. Mr Singh did an excellent job organising and coordinating the carnival. Thanks to our parent helpers who assisted with the mobile tuckshop and the time keeping. The day ran very smoothly.

Congratulations to all students who attended the swimming carnival. We were proud of your efforts on the day, the behaviour was excellent and everyone had a great time.

School Swimming Carnival Results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Age Champions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10yrs</td>
<td>Chase Laviolette, Oho Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11yrs</td>
<td>Abi Stringer, Connor Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12yrs</td>
<td>Lauren Martin, Jonty Zarew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13yrs</td>
<td>Yvonne Huang, Clarke Kelhear</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Quite a number of our age champions broke records on the day.

Mr Singh has kept an official record of these.

Sporting Success

Congratulations to Connor Oseman who has been selected in the Gold Coast South Touch team. Well done Connor.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT FOR 19 APRIL

Rugby League at Pizzey Park, Miami
11B vs Varsity on Field 3 @ 1.35pm
11A vs St Vincents on Field 4 @ 12.50pm
Rugby League at Firth Park, Mudgeeraba
Open R vs Mudgeeraba on Field 1 @ 1.35pm
Netball at Firth Park, Mudgeeraba
Year 6 vs St Brigids on Court 8 @ 12.5pm
Year 7 vs Mudgeeraba on Court 3 @ 12.45pm
Soccer at Broadbeach State School
Boys 5A vs Broadbeach on Field 2 @ 12.40pm
Boys 6A vs Broadbeach on Field 1 @ 1.30pm
Boys 7A vs Broadbeach on Field 1 @ 12.40pm
Girls 7A vs Broadbeach on Field 2 @ 1.30pm
Soccer at Glenmore Park, Nerang
Girls 6A vs Worongary on Field 3 @ 12.40pm

Please Note: Phone the school office between 10am and 11am on Friday mornings if you are uncertain if games are on. At this stage Round 1 will proceed, however, if weather conditions change or any fields are closed, then all games will be postponed.

MUSIC NEWS

Choir Rehearsals
Welcome back to Term 2. Choir rehearsals are up and running this week. Congratulations to all those Senior Choir students who made the effort to be at rehearsal on Tuesday morning. Rehearsal times are the same as last term:

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

Upcoming Performances

Week 2
Snr Choir, Snr Band, Snr Strings performing at Anzac Day Assembly on Wed 24 April 2pm PAC

Week 6
Magic of Music Concert for all Choir and Instrumental Groups on Wed 22 May from 6pm
Under 8’s Day the Snr Choir performing on Thur 23 May at 11.30am

Beginner Strings
The Merrimac Beginner Strings group is off to a flying start. In order to prepare for upcoming concerts we need to rehearse ALL beginner students together. Rehearsals start next week. Details as follows:

When: Tuesday mornings
Time: 8.00am This is a great opportunity for your child to advance their skills and it is important all students take part to ensure a cohesive sound for performances.
Venue: Merrimac SS Instrumental Room (where we have our lessons)

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH
Schon Egami, Jett Caruana, Lachlan Ferguson, Hugo Landon, Carrin Emery, Sarah Berghuis, Cameron Kraft, Luke Winkerei, Mikayla

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed 24 April School ANZAC Day Service
Thurs 25 April ANZAC Day Holiday
Mon 29 April Student Leadership day at Tallebudgera Beach School
Tues 30 April School Cross Country
Mon 6 May to Fri 10 May Education Week
Mon 6 May 5.30pm Merrimac IEC Meeting (Japan Trip)
Mon 6 May 5:45pm Merrimac Outside School Hours Care meeting
Mon 6 May 6.30pm P and C Meeting
Tues 7 May 2.00pm Merrimac High to talk to Years 5, 6 and 7 students
Tues 7 May District Cross Country
Thurs 9 May Year 6 Lightning Carnival
Tues 14 to Thurs 16 May NAPLAN Testing
Friday 17 May Catch up NAPLAN Testing Day
Mon 20 to 24 May Under 8’s Week
Mon 20 to Fri 24 May Wipe Out Waste Van at Merrimac
Tues 21 May School Photos Class Groups/Graduation
Tues 21 May Australian Computer Competition
Wed 22 May Magic of Music Concert 6.00pm Juniors
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UPCOMING EVENTS

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).
2014 Scholarship Offer
Merrimac State High School is pleased to offer scholarships for students in Year 8 - 2014. Scholarships may be awarded for high achievement in: academic performance, sports, instrumental music, dance, drama and singing. Applications are available from Merrimac SHS Admin or online at 222.merrimacshs.eq.edu.au. Applications close 15 May 2013.