Term 2 Week 3 Thursday 2 May 2013
PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

P&C Meeting
The next P & C meeting will be held on Monday 6 May 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 Outside Hours School Care meeting will also be held on the same evening Monday 6 May commencing at 5.45pm in the MPC. All interested parents are welcome to attend.

International Exchange Parent Committee Meeting
The next Parent IEC Meeting will be held on Monday 6 May at 5.30 p.m. in the staff room. The agenda will focus on the preparations for the upcoming Japan trip in June/July.

Student Leadership Day
On Monday, the year six and seven student council representatives went to a leadership and team building day at Tallebudgera Beach School, Palm Beach. The focus of the program is to enhance the students' ability to communicate effectively in a small group, share ideas, develop plans and perform problem solving scenarios. A big thank you to Miss Parkes and Mrs Lees for supervising the children on the day.

School ANZAC Day Special Service
Merrimac held its annual school ANZAC service on Wednesday last week in the Performing Arts Hall. The school service went extremely well. It was great to see the involvement of so many of our students in the ceremonies. A representative from each class laid wreaths. The choir, band and strings ensemble all performed. A slideshow was presented highlighting the importance of ANZAC day and its relevance to our children and families. Thank you to all who were involved. A big thank you to staff and students who participated in the preparation and presentation of the services. Well done to Mrs McNeillage for organising our school ANZAC Service.

ANZAC Day March at Robina
Thank you to all the Merrimac students who attended the Robina Town Centre ANZAC Day March last Thursday. We had 40 Merrimac students take part in the march. The students carried the school flag and laid the Merrimac wreathes at the Anzac Day Service. Your attendance was much appreciated. Thanks to Mrs Hall and to all the parents who attended on the day as well.

Term Two Reporting To Parents
This term Report Cards will go home on Tuesday 18 June for all year levels. As parent/teacher interviews for Prep to Year 7 were held at the end of Term One, it is expected that there will be few parent requests for interviews. If needed, interviews can be arranged during the last few days of the term or in early Term 3.

NAPLAN
The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. On Tuesday 14, Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 May, students will take the 2013 NAPLAN tests.

NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australia children. It also provides valuable information that allows schools and governments to better target effort and support to help all students achieve their potential and acquire the basic skills to help them build successful and happy lives.

All students are expected to participate in the tests. Students with disability may qualify for reasonable adjustments that reflect the support normally provided to them in the classroom. Some students with very specific circumstances may be exempted from participating in the tests. For information about participation in NAPLAN, you can go to: http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support.html

NAPLAN tests fundamental skills rather than specific content, and as such is not a test for which students can study or drill. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day.

An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may also wish to use their child's results to discuss progress with teachers. More information is available at www.nap.edu.au.

KidsMatter: Australian Primary Schools Mental Health Initiative
Mental health and wellbeing is vital for learning and life. Children who are mentally healthy learn better, benefit from life experiences and have stronger relationships with family members, school, staff and peers. They are better equipped to meet life's challenges and to contribute productively to their families, friends and society in ways that are appropriate for their age. Merrimac State School has adopted KidsMatter. This initiative is designed to assist the school and school community improve the mental health and wellbeing of our students. It will give our school access to the latest thinking and research on mental health and wellbeing and be implemented over three years.

This year our school is focusing on Positive School Community. Our focus is based on the following components:

- Developing staff understanding of mental health and wellbeing and the impact on education outcomes
- Understanding factors that create a positive school community
- Belonging and inclusion
- Recognising the diversity in our school community

If you wish to find out more about KidsMatter please look online www.kidsmatter.edu.au

QCT Excellence in Teaching Awards 2013
Woolworths Earn and Learn Promotion
Keep collecting points for our school until 9th June.

Prep Enrolments for 2014
Enrolments for Prep 2014 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 discipline to be strengthened
The Queensland Government has announced a plan to strengthen school discipline in state schools. The plan is the first of 15 strategies to be developed from the recently released Great teachers = Great results direct action plan. It will reduce red tape and provide principals with the flexibility to work with the school community to implement a range of new and strengthened disciplinary approaches. For more information on Great teachers = Great results visit the DETE website.

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).

Important Information: Parents are asked to read the instructions carefully on the envelope to avoid disappointment with orders. Payment is to be included as per instructions. DO NOT RETURN ENVELOPE TO SCHOOL BEFORE OR AFTER PHOTO DAY. IT MUST BE GIVEN TO THE PHOTOGRAPHER ON TUESDAY 21 MAY AT THE CLASS PHOTO SHOOT. Please Note: Separated parents wanting a second envelope can obtain one from the school the office.

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

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Roster for week beginning Monday 6 May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Meal Deal 9 May $5*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Yoko</td>
<td>Beef Burger w cheese, lettuce, tomato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Mayumi</td>
<td>JJ Noodle Snax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Naoko</td>
<td>Zooper Dooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Maria, Mayumi</td>
<td>Bottled Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Naoko, Mayumi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*add 50c to upgrade drink to flavoured milk or small playwater

Many thanks to both my adult and student volunteers this week. Your assistance in our school tuckshop is very much appreciated. Our Yr 7 student helpers are learning and working. It’s a pleasure to have them lending a hand and learning customer service skills, maths and some basic food lessons. Well done students! Don’t forget to take a look at our online ordering system. It’s quick and easy to set up and orders can be placed well in advance. Have a good week and best of luck to all Interschool students. Stay hydrated!

~Denise~

P&C NEWS

Celebrating Mothers Day
All mums are invited to share afternoon tea on Tuesday 7 May at 2pm in the Under Covered Area in front of the tuckshop. Come along and meet other mums and celebrate together. Afternoon tea will be provided by the P&C.

P&C Newsletter
Our first P&C newsletter has been included with this newsletter. We hope to make this a regular monthly newsletter to keep you informed of all of current initiatives and priorities. We look forward to receiving your feedback.

MUSIC NEWS

Magic of Music Concert
The Merrimac SS Magic of Music Concert will be held on Wednesday 22 May in the PAC. Everyone is welcome to attend. Entry Fee: Gold Coin Donation.

Session 1 6.00pm - 6.45pm Students to arrive at 5.30pm
Junior Choir – Meet Mrs Powell in Hall. side stage
Intermediate Strings – Meet Miss Hurst in the Music Room
Junior Strings – Meeting Miss Hurst in the Music Room
Junior Band – Meet Miss Deb in Science Resource Room, next to PAC
Session 2 7.15pm – 8.15pm Students to arrive at 6.45pm or earlier if they wish to watch the Junior Concert
Senior Choir – Meet Mrs Powell in Hall. side stage
Senior Strings – Meet Miss Hurst in Music Room
Senior Band – Meet Miss Deb in Science Resource Room, next to PAC
Full School Music Uniform is to be worn. Look forward to seeing you all for a night of fine music entertainment.

PE NEWS

School Cross Country Carnival Results
Our school Cross Country on Tuesday proved a very successful event with a beautiful sunny day. The children put in a fantastic effort and there was lots of cheering throughout the day. A big thank you to all staff who worked on the day and to the parents who came along to watch. Mr Singh did an excellent job in organising and coordinating the carnival. The day ran very smoothly. Thanks also to the Year 7 students who assisted with the lower school races.

Congratulations to all students who raced on the day and earned points for their House. Well done to our winning House and also to the lower school races.

Cross Country Age Champions

Age Champions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Boys Champion</th>
<th>Girls Champion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 yrs</td>
<td>Adrian Spiridon</td>
<td>Georgina Stevens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 yrs</td>
<td>Ethan Leighton</td>
<td>Katie Deeble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 yrs</td>
<td>Jayden Doughty</td>
<td>Krystal Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 yrs</td>
<td>Shunsuke Zamma</td>
<td>Melita Watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 yrs</td>
<td>Clarke Kelhear</td>
<td>Ebony O’Halloran</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The top 4 students from our school cross country (10 years to 13 years) are eligible to take part in the District Cross Country Carnival to be held on Tuesday 7 May. These students will receive the relevant information from Mr Singh.
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Subaru BMX National Championships kicks off today. With 1300 riders registering this week it will be one of the biggest championships held by BMX Australia. To be held at Sleeman Sports Complex in Brisbane. One of our own will be competing for his spot in the Aussie team to then travel to New Zealand in September for the world titles. We would like to wish Riley Thompson of 7c all the best of luck as he hits the track alongside Australian BMX hot shots Sam Willoughby and Caroline Buchanan.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT FOR 3 MAY

Rugby League at Pizzy Park, Miami
11B vs Burleigh on Field 1 @ 12.50pm
Open R vs Palm Beach on Field 2 @ 1.35pm
Rugby League at First Park, Mudgeeraba
11A vs Marymount on Field 2 @ 12.50pm
Netball at First Park, Mudgeeraba
Year 6 vs Mudgeeraba on Court 6 @ 1.25pm
Year 7 vs Mudgeeraba on Court 3 @ 1.45pm
Soccer at St Vincents School, Clear Island Waters
Girls 6A vs St Vincents on Field 3 @ 12.40pm
Girls 7A vs Caningeraba on Field 2 @ 1.35pm
Soccer at Marymount College, Burleigh Waters
Boys 5A vs Marymount on Field 3 @ 12.40pm
Boys 6A vs Marymount on Field 1 @ 1.35pm
Boys 7A vs Marymount on Field 1 @ 12.40pm

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK


HAVE YOUR SAY AS PART OF THE WORKING PARENTS RESEARCH PROJECT

Researchers from the University of Queensland are looking for working parents to take part in a survey looking at the effects of working life on Queensland children and families. We are particularly interested in Fly-in/Fly-out (FIFO) and Drive-in/Drive-out (DIDO) workers but value and encourage input from all kinds of working parents. The survey will only take around 30-45 minutes to complete. Your involvement will help the field to learn more about the effects of different work circumstances and settings on children and families. Your participation will also assist in developing ways to properly support working parents in the future.

Are you a working parent?
Do you have a child aged between 2 and 12 years?
Are you willing to provide 30-45 minutes of your time?

For further information and to take part in the survey, please visit: https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/workingparents
All participating parents will be eligible to enter a draw to win 1 of 10 $100 Coles/Myer gift cards!

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 6 May</td>
<td>Education Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 10 May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 6 May</td>
<td>5.30pm IEC Meeting (Japan Trip)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 6 May</td>
<td>5.45pm Outside School Hours Care meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 6 May</td>
<td>6.30pm P and C Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 7 May</td>
<td>2.00pm Merrimac High to talk to Years 5, 6 and 7 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 7 May</td>
<td>District Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 9 May</td>
<td>Year 6 Lightning Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 14 to</td>
<td>NAPLAN Testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 16 May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 17 May</td>
<td>Catch up NAPLAN Testing Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 20 to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 24 May</td>
<td>Under 8’s Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 20 to</td>
<td>Wipe Out Waste Van at Merrimac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 24 May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 21 May</td>
<td>School Photos Class Groups/Graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 21 May</td>
<td>Australian Computer Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 22 May</td>
<td>Magic of Music Concert 6.00pm Juniors 7.00pm Seniors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 23 May</td>
<td>Year 5 Lightning Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 23 May</td>
<td>Prep to Year 3 Under 8’s Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 29 May</td>
<td>School Photos – catch up and sibling photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 29 May</td>
<td>School Disco (Week 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 30 May</td>
<td>Merrimac High Musical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 3 June</td>
<td>5.30pm Merrimac IEC Meeting (Japan Trip)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 3 June</td>
<td>5.45pm Merrimac Outside School Hours Care meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 3 June</td>
<td>6.30pm P&amp;C Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 10 June</td>
<td>Queens’ Birthday Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 12 June</td>
<td>Senior Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 13 June</td>
<td>Senior Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 18 June</td>
<td>Report Cards to be sent home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 19 June</td>
<td>Junior Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 21 June</td>
<td>Last day of Interschool Sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 21 June</td>
<td>Last school day for term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2014 Scholarship Offer

Merrimac State High School is pleased to offer scholarships for students in Year 8 for 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 merrimacshs.eq.edu.au. Applications close 15 May 2013.

Robinia State High School
Yrs 6 & 7 Information Evening Sessions
(Repeated from 21 March 2013)
Thursday 9 May 5.30pm – 7.00pm
Thursday 12 September 5.30pm – 7.00pm
These sessions will be conducted in the Library
Orientation Day
Friday 20 September 2013 9.30am – 1.00pm
RSVP for Information Evening to: Judy
Phone: 5562 3440 or email: jgalb2@eq.edu.au
Merrimac State School
Parents & Citizens Newsletter
April 2013
‘Improving Today to Benefit Tomorrow’

Presidents Blurb
Welcome to our first edition of ‘Your’ Parents and Citizens newsletter. I want to introduce myself along with the following executives of your new P&C Committee:

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

We are all very excited to have been elected into these roles and are very much looking forward to continually improving our key responsibilities at Merrimac State School, which include your:

» MOSHC (Merrimac Outside School Hours Care)
» Bookshop
» Tuckshop
» Fundraising
» P&C International Committee

My personal aim as President is to open the doors of communication between our parents, students and our school body. We want to hear what you have to say, we invite your opinions and contributions to making our school the best school it can be.

Get Involved
Make a Difference
Your next meeting
Monday 6th May
6:30pm - Staffroom

Current Projects

➢ Car Park Extension
➢ Additions to the Chippy Hut

Fundraising
We had a very successful cookie dough fundraiser, thanks to all the families who supported this. All monies raised will be going towards the Carpark extension which is generally the main complaint that the school receives. We are hoping to get this started very soon. If you have a fundraising idea, contact your fundraising committee at Chelsea.evringham@gmail.com

Working towards funding a better education for all our children.

Contact us
pandc@merrimacss.eq.edu.au

Get Involved!!!
We would love to get your ideas and feedback. If you would like to be involved in the decisions that matter to your child’s education then come along to the next meeting or flick us an email if you can’t make it. We would love to have your input.

Website
We are currently working with the school to put a lot more information on the school website for parents to access information about P&C matters.

WATCH THIS SPACE!
Monthly recipes, surveys, events, What’s on, CIP ideas [launching a continuous improvement program]

To Ponder:
Have you ever thought, that buying a pair of school shorts from your school’s bookshop rather than ‘Best and Less’ actually gives you more than a pair of shorts? Your child also get their own text book rather than having to share. Better education for all.

‘SUPPORTING YOUR SCHOOL, SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN’