Nominations Open for Inspirational Teachers

Nominations have opened for the 2013 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards for Inspirational Educators (NEiTA). Supported by the Australian Scholarships Group (ASG), the ASG NEiTA Awards this year celebrate 20 years of acknowledging and applauding dedicated and passionate teachers across Australia.

The awards remain the country’s only national, independent teaching awards program giving parents, students, early childhood and school communities the opportunity to publicly recognise their inspirational teachers, principals and directors. NEiTA chairman Terry O’Connell said quality education remains crucial in Australia.

‘NEiTA - with the support of ASG - has helped raise the profile of teaching and the important work educators do in the community. We know first-hand the difference quality teaching makes in the community and to our children’s future,’ he said.

‘We need to keep encouraging passionate young minds to enter the teaching profession to ensure our children get quality education outcomes and the best start in life.’

NEiTA spokesperson and TV ambassador Gorgi Coghlan joined Mr O’Connell in urging parents, school councils, parent associations, management committees, secondary student councils and community groups to nominate their great teachers, principals and directors.

To nominate an inspirational teacher visit the 2013 NEiTA ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards website, phone NEiTA on 1800 624 487 or email neita@asg.com.au for a form.

Monitoring Children’s Internet at Home

Using the internet safely

Internet safety is important at school and equally important at home and all other public places. Our students can very capably navigate their way to all manner of websites, school related and peer related. Keeping them safe while encouraging them to explore and learn is a balancing act and does require some planning. By planning to be cybersafe in any location, children are more likely to have rewarding online experiences. There are four key steps to cybersafe practices in the home:

- educate
- empower
- make the computer safe
- supervise

The four work together towards positive and safe online use. The aim is not only to protect children but to help them learn to make good decisions.

Educate—an essential part of keeping children safe is making them aware of risks, and talking to them about how to avoid potential problems. Visit the Cybersmart website for internet safety information and educational programs suitable for children’s use.

Empower—encouraging and supporting children is a positive step towards making them feel confident in their internet use. Children need to know they can make the right choices. Sometimes what is right for their friends might not be right for them. They need to know they can talk to a parent if something happens online that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Make the computer safe—one of the most practical ways to help children stay safe online is to set up the home computer with an internet content filter and other security software.

Supervise—children may behave differently online, than they do in person, so it’s important to be involved. By placing the computer in a family area, supervision becomes easier.

For more information on keeping our children safe online visit ACMA http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/

Premier’s Reading Challenge

It’s Premier’s Reading Challenge time again. Merrimac State School has once again registered to take part and we’re hoping for an even greater participation this year. A love of reading is one of the most important skills we can teach our children and the Reading Challenge will help foster this. Children are encouraged to read as many books as possible from now right up to Friday 6 September. The reward for participating in this program is a special certificate from our Premier. Children from Prep to Year 2 need only ‘experience’ and/or read 20 books. Years 3 and 4 need to read 20 books while Years 5 to 7 need to read only 15 books, as their books are longer.

Please feel free to ask either your child’s teacher or Mrs McClavey (1C) who is our school’s coordinator, for further information and the relevant record forms. Guidelines, registration details and booklists are available on the Premier’s Reading Challenge website www.eq.edu.au/schools/readingchallenge

Under 8’s Day

Under 8’s Day is being celebrated at Merrimac State School on Thursday 23 May from 10.00am-12.30pm. Each teacher will be setting up some exciting early childhood activities. High School Students from Robina High will also be attending to run some fabulous stalls for our P-3 students including music, face painting and woodwork.

As teachers will be on stalls running the activities, we need parents/grandparents/caregivers to assist on the day to take small groups of children around the various activities on the oval. Younger siblings are welcome. Notes are being sent home this week to gauge parents’ interest. Families are invited to bring a picnic morning tea to share with their child between 11.00-11.30am.

Request for References

From time to time a number of requests are made by parents and children for references to various Private Schools. The Gold Coast Primary Principals’ Association has determined that such references should not be supplied. This decision has also been ratified by our School Council. It is felt that the making available of the School Report Card and any National Testing is sufficient documentation for all Private Schools. This means that the school will not be able to assist with requests for written references. This also applies to individual teachers in an official capacity. A copy of the child’s Report Card and National Testing will be made available if requested by parents.
**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

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<th>Roster for week beginning Monday 13 May</th>
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<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
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<td>Yoko</td>
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**MEAL DEAL 16 MAY $5**

- Oriental Chicken
- Nuggets with Fried Rice
- JJ Noodle Snax
- Paddlepop Cyclone
- Bottled Water

*add 50c to upgrade to Flavoured milk or Small Playwater

**BOOKSHOP OPENING HOURS** 8.00AM - 9.00AM MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS

**P&C NEWS**

**Upcoming Fundraising Events – Fun Run**

As part of our major fundraising initiative on behalf of your P&C we will be conducting a Fun Run on Monday 3 June. Family support is most appreciated. Funds raised will go towards our carpark extension.

Students have received a sponsorship form and can start collecting donations now. Students who receive $10 or more in donations will be entitled to a prize of their choice and will also receive a family discount voucher for AMF Bowling, Baskin Robbins, Stefan Salon and Pixie Foto valued at $140.

The sponsorship form details the selection of prizes available. Also a 2GB P3 player will be given to the highest fundraising student and a free surprise party for the highest fundraising class. Each student will also receive a Berri Quelch frozen juice stick on the day of the event.

Win an iPad – each student has the chance to win an iPad. At the end of each term a winner will be selected. If one of our students wins the prize, our school will also win two iPads. So don’t forget to enter. For more details on this promotion and how to enter, please view the back page of the sponsorship form or visit www.myschoolathon.com.au.

Once the fundraiser is complete, please cut out the ‘how to claim your prize section’ on the sponsorship form and return along with your monies to the tuckshop by 3rd June. Please be sure to fill out your prize request.

The individual prizes will be delivered shortly after. Happy fundraising, and we look forward to seeing you at our Fun Run to cheer on the students.

**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 the 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

**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

Full School Music Uniform is to be worn. Look forward to seeing you all for a night of fine music entertainment.

**PE NEWS**

**District Cross Country**

On Tuesday, we had 22 students attend the District Cross Country at Pizzey Park. All the students tried their hardest against tough opposition from all our District Schools. With approximately 130 students in each race it was very pleasing to see most of our students finish high up the order, with some finishing in the top 20. Well done to all our students for participating, you were a credit to the school and many thanks to Mrs Lees, Mr Singh and the parents for assisting and cheering on our runners throughout the day.

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

Congratulations to Levi Bellert who has been selected in the Zone 4 Rugby League team to take part in the Zone 4 Carnival during the June/July holidays in Ipswich. We wish Levi all the very best.

Congratulations to Kai Angel who competed in the Australian BMX Racing Titles last week. Kai finished 2nd in Australia for his age group. Kai now qualifies to race for Australia at the BMX World Titles held in New Zealand in July this year. Good luck Kai.
Soccer at Italo/Australian Club, Clear Island Waters
Boys 5A vs Canigeraba on Field 2 @ 12.40pm
Soccer at St Vincents School, Clear Island Waters
Boys 6A vs St Vincents on Field 1 @ 1.35pm
Soccer at Robina Common, Ron Penhaligon Way Robina
Boys 7A vs Canigeraba on Field 3 @ 12.40pm
Soccer at Marymount College, Burleigh Waters
Girls 6A vs Marymount on Field 1 @ 1.35pm
Girls 7A vs Marymount on Field 1 @ 12.40pm

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Lace up and walk safely to school
Parents and students are encouraged to lace up their shoes and take part in Walk Safely to School Day on Friday 24 May. You are invited to get up early on this day and join thousands of other Australians walking all or part of the way to school. For those who live too far to walk, why not try parking the car a few blocks away and walking the rest of the way? The day promotes the important message that active kids are healthy kids. For more information visit the Walk Safely to School website at www.walk.com.au.

2014 Enrolment Evening
Merrimac State High School Enrolment Information Evening for students in Year 8, 2014 will be on Tuesday 4 June, 2013 at 6.30pm in the Merrimac High School Hall. All prospective students and parents are welcome to attend this information evening. Staff will be on hand to provide information on enrolment, curriculum and facilities. Enrolment packs will be available from Merrimac SHS Admin or @ www.merrimacshs.eq.edu.au.