Term 2 Week 5 Thursday 16 May 2013

PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

Car Park Extension and Ongoing School Parking Priorities

As our school enrolments have grown over the last few years, we have experienced increased pressure on car parking and traffic flow issues around our school. Parents feedback on our school is always very positive. However, the one issue that continually keeps being raised is the car park congestion. Although we keep getting told that our two current car parks are considered to be more than adequate for a school of our size, our school’s P&C Association has been very proactive and has continued working with the Gold Coast City Council to further expand our car parks.

Thanks to the support of our Divisional Gold Coast City Councillor Mr Bob La Castra, we are happy to announce that our school car parks are to be officially extended. This is fantastic news for our school. This project will be primarily funded by the GCCC through Councillor Bob La Castra. The school’s P&C Association is also contributing financially to this project. Without the contribution of funds by our P&C, the car parking project would not have been possible. Mr La Castra has been a great supporter of our school over many years and we are very grateful for all his efforts and financial contribution to this major project.

It is planned for the project to commence in June and be completed by the end of July this year. The majority of the earthworks will be undertaken during the June/July holidays. The car park extension will provide an additional 64 new car park spaces. The new car park will run parallel to the current eastern car park.

Construction work when it commences may cause some interruption to the usual traffic and parking in this area. Please be mindful of this and take extra care when collecting and dropping off students. The new car park will involve the relocation of the existing play fort to another area within Boowaggan Park. This work will commence in the next few days.

Protective barriers have already been erected for the start of this work. Please stay away from this area.

Although an additional car park facility will help significantly by increasing the number of car parks available, we believe that further measures will also need to be explored as our school continues to grow in enrolment numbers.

Recently Mrs Maxine Goodman, our P&C President and myself met with Mrs Ros Bates, the State Member for Mudgeeraba. We discussed a number of other measures which may also assist with the traffic and parking issues around our school. These included such initiatives as a ‘Kiss and Ride’ strategy incorporating the Mettricon parking facility at the end of Boowaggan Road. Also the possibility of Flashing 40kph Traffic Signs on Gooding Drive will be explored. Improved signage and line markings as well as safety barrier fencing will also be considered. Assistance from the Mudgeeraba Police and the Department of Transport will be sought to help provide guidance in relation to traffic flow, parking suggestions and the feasibility of a drop off and collection zone.

We thank Mrs Bates for the assistance she is providing the school in exploring the possibility of implementing these additional strategies. Her ongoing support of our school is much appreciated.

Parents will be kept updated through the newsletter on the developments of our new car park and any new car parking initiatives that will be introduced.

P&C Fundraiser

The P&C is holding a Fun Run at school on Monday 3 June as a major fundraiser for this term. Children should have received sponsor forms and have just under three weeks now to collect Fun Run sponsors. It is hoped that all children will participate as there are some fantastic prizes on offer.

Our P&C has committed a substantial amount of money to the new car park in association with the Gold Coast City Council. This is the main reason for the P&C’s need to increase its fund raising endeavours. Our P&C does a fantastic job and we should support all their initiatives. More details about the Fun Run are included in the newsletter in the P&C news section.

National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEITA)

Nominations are now open for the National Excellence in Teaching Awards. The NEITA Foundation seeks your support in recognising the efforts of our teachers. The teachers at Merrimac do a fantastic job and parents may like to nominate them for these awards. 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.

Canberra 2014 Student Interest Surveys

To gauge the interest for next years planned Capital City - Canberra Study Tour notices have been sent home to students in Years 4, 5 & 6. Please return these forms by Friday 24 May so that we may assess the interest and commence the booking and costing procedure. It is important we receive this information now so that accurate planning and costing can be achieved.

JAPANESE NEWS - Language Perfect World Championships

The CHAMPIONSHIPS are here...

Language Perfect will hold its annual world championships, touted as the largest online languages competition on the planet, from May 20 to 30. Starting at 6pm on Monday night!!!

More than 200,000 school students around the world will be participating in a cyber-battle to become the world champion of language. All of our students in Years 4 to 7 from Merrimac State School are registered to compete in this event.

Students earn points for producing correct answers- under time pressure- to vocabulary and grammar questions. This year as well as competing against 900 schools worldwide, we have been challenged by Clover Hill SS and Mudgeeraba Creek SS. This year as well as competing against 900 schools worldwide, we have been challenged by Clover Hill SS and Mudgeeraba Creek SS. Let’s all participate and compete not only for ourselves but for our class and for our school!!!

There are over $20,000 in prizes on offer from Language Perfect as the competition will find the world’s most multilingual country, top languages department and top language student. As well as some great prizes from Language Perfect, we are awarding the student with the most points at Merrimac SS with an iTunes voucher, all students who score over 500 points with a Language Perfect Certificate and an opportunity for all students who participate to go into a draw to win an iTunes voucher! Let the Championships begin...

Good luck to all year 4 to 7 students! Ganbatte!

Marshall Sensei
Premiers Reading Challenge - Start reading!
The reading period for the 2013 Premier's Reading Challenge students started this week and ends on Friday 6 September. Our school has registered to participate in the challenge. A special bookmark to track progress will be available for students to cut out in The Courier-Mail next Tuesday (21 May). For more information visit the Premier's Reading Challenge website at http://education.qld.gov.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.

Chappy Steve will also be running a sausage sizzle for $2 each on the morning.

NAPLAN testing - Catch Up Testing
The official NAPLAN testing for Years 3, 5 and 7 was completed today. However, any students who were absent over the last three days will have the opportunity to catch up the tests tomorrow. After this day, no tests will be able to be caught up. Students involved in the statewide testing will receive individual reports later in the school year.

QCT Excellence in Teaching Awards 2013

Wipe Out Waste Van
The Wipe Out Waste Van will be at our school from 21 May to 25 May. Each class has been timetabled for a visit to the Wipe Out Waste Van. Many thanks to Mrs Wakelin for organising the visit to our school. I'm sure the children will benefit from the special class lessons.

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.

Year 5 Lightning Sports Carnival
The Year 5 Lightning Carnival will be held on Thursday 23 May. Students will attend either Miami or Merrimac High School on this day.

Walk Safely to School day tomorrow
Active Kids are Healthy Kids (A message from Education Qld)
Next Friday 24 May, is the designated Walk Safely to School Day. All children throughout Australia are being asked to walk all or part of the way to school with their parents, carers. Walking is one of the best ways to get exercise. It’s free, easy and great for the environment, so try to include a 30 minute walk each day.

For big journeys you can walk to and from public transport, or try leaving the car at least half a kilometre from school and walking the rest of the way. WSTSD is now an annual event promoting the significant physical, mental and social health benefits to be achieved through regular walking. Remember, active kids are healthy kids, so let’s get moving Merrimac families! For more information visit www.walk.com.au.

School Photographs Tuesday 21 May
Silver Rose Photgraphy will be at the school on Tuesday 21 May to photograph groups and students portraits. To ensure you have no problems with your order please read your school photo envelope carefully. We have spare envelopes at the school office if required.

Your child must return their envelope on PHOTO DAY. If your child does not hand in an envelope to the photographer, they may not be photographed for individual portraits. You are welcome to place a late order with Silver Rose but only for group photos.

You can make your payment by cash, credit card (Visa or Mastercard), cheque or money order.

If you have any questions about Photo Day please call Silver Rose on 3262 5788.

Sports Cultural Groups
Do not order Sports or Special Groups on your envelope. Order forms will be available to download from our website approximately one week after photo day. Log onto:


Username: Groups Password: 285023

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

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Roster for week beginning Monday 20 May

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Ham & Cheese or Tomato & Cheese Toastie
Bag of Popcorn (plain)
Paddlepop Fruit Stack
Bottled Water

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

Thank you to my many wonderful volunteers this week. We have a huge week lined up with the Under 8s day next Thursday. The P&C will be selling coffee, tea and hot chocolate during the morning whilst Chappy Steve has a sausage sizzle to offer. A reminder to Year 5 students that you will be away from school ALL day next Thursday so please do not order lunch or morning tea. Also another reminder to Interschool sports students. Please pack a big lunch each week as the Eagle Boys pizza does note arrive until after you have left for sport. Have a good week everyone.

~Denise~

P&C NEWS

Upcoming Fundraising Events - Fun Run
As part of our major fundraising initiative our P&C 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.

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 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 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.

Date Saver
On Saturday 13 July the P&C have organised a local photographer to come to our school to take family portraits. These might make a great Father’s (or Grandfather’s) Day gift and is an opportunity to update your family portrait and help raise funds for our Carpark extension project as well. More information will be sent home soon.

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 the Hall, side stage
Senior Strings – Meet Miss Hurst in the 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

School Athletics
Our school athletics will be held towards the end of Term Two. The dates are:
Senior Athletics - Tuesday 11 June and Thursday 13 June (Week Nine)
Lower School Athletics - Tuesday 18 June (Week Ten)

INTERSCHOOL SPORT FOR 17 MAY

Rugby League at Firth Park, Mudgeeraba
11A vs St Vincents on Field 2 @ 1.35pm
Open R vs Mudgeeraba on Field 1 @ 1.35pm
Rugby League at Marymount College, Burleigh Waters
11B vs Varsity on Field 1 @ 12.50pm
Netball at Firth Park, Mudgeeraba
Year 6 vs William Duncan on Court 8 @ 1.25pm
Year 7 vs Hillcrest on Court 1 @ 1.45pm
Soccer at Italo/Australian Club, Clear Island Waters
Boys 5A vs St Vincents on Field 1 @ 12.40pm
Soccer at St Vincents School, Clear Island Waters
Boys 6A vs Mudgeeraba Creek on Field 3 @ 1.35pm
Girls 6A vs Worongary on Field 2 @ 12.40pm
Girls 7A vs St Brigids on Field 2 @ 1.35pm
Soccer at Glennon Park, Nerang
Boys 7A vs MARYMOUNT on Field 1 @ 12.40pm

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 17 May Catch up NAPLAN Testing Day
20 -24 May Under 8’s Week
20-24 May Wipe Out Waste Van at Merrimac
Tuesday 21 May School Photos Class Groups/Graduation
Tuesday 21 May Australian Computer Competition
Wed 22 May Magic of Music Concert 6.00pm Juniors
7.00pm Seniors
Thurs 23 May Year 5 Lightning Carnival
Thurs 23 May Prep to Year 3 Under 8’s Activities
Wed 29 May School Photos – catch up and sibling photos
Wed 29 May School Disco (Week 7)
Thurs 30 May Merrimac High Musical
Mon 3 June 5.30pm Merrimac IEC Meeting (Japan Trip)
Mon 3 June 5.45pm Merrimac Outside School Hours Care meeting
Mon 3 June 6.30pm P&C Meeting
Mon 10 June Queens’ Birthday Holiday
Tues 11 June Senior Athletics
Thurs 13 June Senior Athletics
Tues 18 June Report Cards to be sent home
Tues 18 June Junior Athletics
Fri 21 June Last day of Interschool Sport
Fri 21 June Last school day for term

Maths at Home #2
Topic: subitising
NOTES: When you look at a small group of objects, you may not need to count at all; you just know how many are there. This is subitising. As you look at the group, you suddenly know how many are there. This is NOT subitising. When you look at a small group of objects, you may not need to count at all; you just know how many are there. This is subitising. As you look at the group, you suddenly know how many are there. This is NOT subitising.

ACTIVITY:
- Show your children regular arrangements of objects to help them learn to subitise. Start off rolling a standard die or drawing a playing card with the digits whited out - can your child subitise the correct number - who’s number is the biggest, yours or theirs? Smarties are great to use too and very tasty.

Before you read to your child each night. Read a counting book together. Is your child able to subitise the number of objects on each page? Can you?