Term 2 Week 8 Thursday 6 June 2013

PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

Queen's Birthday Holiday
Parents are reminded that on next Monday 10 June, the school will be closed for the Queens Birthday Holiday.

New School Website and QSchools Smartphone App
Last Friday our new Merrimac State School website went live. The home page provides quick access to current events, news stories, newsletter and important website links. Education Queensland has also released a Smartphone app designed to integrate with our new website and provide the school community with convenient portable access.

Features of the app include:
• access the latest school news and calendar events
• receive emergency announcements and information around school closures
• search for the nearest school by current location, postcode, school name or suburb and view school contact details
• follow multiple schools

The app QSchools is available to the school community as a free download via the Apple iTunes store and Google Play.

We are encouraging all our parents to access this App which will link directly to our school and all the latest information, updates and alerts.

Adopt a Cop
Our school is pleased to announce that Senior Constable Charles Wallace from the Mudgeeraba Police Station has been appointed as our school’s Adopt a Cop. Srn Const. Wallace recently visited our school and is looking forward to meeting all the students and many of our parents. This is a Queensland Government initiative to again reinvigorate the Adopt a Cop program in Queensland schools. We look forward to working closely with Srn Const. Wallace and promoting the great work done by our police within our community.

Merrimac State High School Musical
Last Thursday, 70 of our Year 5, 6 and 7 students had the opportunity to participate in the Merrimac State High School musical at the Gold Coast Arts Centre. Our students did a fantastic job and all the feedback was that our students were marvellous and looked so good on stage. The comments from the Merrimac High staff were that our students’ behaviour and conduct was first class. Well done to all our Merrimac Primary students who took part in the musical.

A big thank you to Miss Murray, Mrs Chilvers and Mrs Haywood who have been working with our students for many, many weeks leading up to the performance. Your time and effort was very much appreciated. Thanks also to all the parents who went along and supported our children.

Overall, the Merrimac High musical was a fantastic event. It was a very professional show. I’m amazed by the abundance of talent shown by the Merrimac High students (a number of whom were former Merrimac Primary students). Congratulations to the staff and students of Merrimac High who were involved in a very entertaining musical.

Years 4 to 7 Athletics Days
Next week we will be holding our annual Year 4 to 7 athletics carnivals over two days:

Tuesday, 11th June 9.00am – 2.55pm
Senior Athletics Carnival
9am – 10.00am 800m races
10.00am – 2.55pm Field Events (finals only)

Thursday 13th June 9.00am – 2.55pm
Senior Athletics Carnival (Years 4-7)
100m, 200m, Relays, Ball Games, Novelty Events, Tug-O-War

Students are asked to wear their coloured house shirt, a hat, running shoes and apply plenty of sunscreen. Parents are most welcome to come along and cheer on the students.

On both days, the tuckshop will be selling food and drinks from a small stand near the Year 7 block, by the oval. Coffee and Tea will also be available for parents. During the Senior Sports Carnival days, the tuckshop will still operate as normal from the undercover area.

Children have been trying out for the various field events over the last two weeks. Tuesday’s Field Events are only for students who have qualified for the finals.

Please note that our lower school athletics day (Prep to Year 3) will be held on Tuesday 18 June.

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support
Our School has committed to a review of our Behaviour Management processes through the School-wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) program. This program has been rolled out through many Queensland schools and is an internationally recognised program. It suits our school philosophy of focussing on positive behaviour and teaching expectations explicitly so children know how to interact appropriately. The school has committed to intensive training of staff and a community member. Mrs Veronica McCann, from the bookshop is the P&C representative.

The team have been working all year with the staff to develop clear rules that will be easy for children to remember and enact. These rules will be launched next year. The three rules agreed upon are: Safe, Responsible, Learner. Senior students will now have input on what these rules would look like in different areas around the school. Volunteer staff members are working on signage to reinforce these rules in a positive way around the school.

Lightning Sports Carnivals
The Year 5 Lightning Carnival had to be cancelled recently due to wet weather. It is planned to hold the carnival early in Term Three. We will notify parents through the newsletter when a new date has been confirmed.
Foot Steps Dance Workshops
Merrimac has once again invited The Foot Steps Dance Company to run a series of dance workshops with all year levels (Prep - Year 7) beginning in the first week of Term 3. Students will learn a variety of dance techniques during the sessions with a focus on fun and fitness. The P&C Association have again subsidised this program bringing the cost down to just $5 per child for the entire course. More information will be sent home with each student. Payment is required by Wednesday 10 July.

Children Leaving School at the end of Term Two
If your child/children will not be returning to Merrimac for Term Three please notify the school office as soon as possible. We have a number of new enrolments for the start of next term and early notification of students leaving our school will assist with class placement of the new students.

Final Japan Parent Meeting
Next Tuesday 11 June at 6pm in the Science Room we will be holding our final Japan Parent Meeting. All parents are encouraged to attend; students are not required to attend. Please contact the school on 5569 1955 if you are unable to attend. Important issues will be discussed and the complimentary Travel Shirts will be distributed on the night. Children are not to wear these shirts at school this term.

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 the teachers in our schools. The teachers at Merrimac do a fantastic job and parents may like to nominate them for an award. Nomination forms are available from the school office and copies will also be given to the school’s P&C Association (available through the Bookshop). The closing date for nominations is 31 July 2013.

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 week of the term or in early Term Three.

Jump Rope for Heart
For fifty years the Heart Foundation has been dedicated to saving lives by making a difference to the heart health of all Australians. Donations from the community help to fund vital research and now we have the chance to play our part. Over the next few weeks the children in years four and five will have the chance to gain sponsorship with donations going directly to the Heart Foundation to aid this life saving research. However it’s not all about the money, it’s also about teaching our children community spirit and good health through fun activities such as skipping. Most children love to skip and many children in years four and five have been undertaking a skipping club on Monday lunchtimes where they have been learning new skills and having lots of fun with their friends. On the first day back to school, after the holidays, we will be having a "Skip Off" where children will skip for up to an hour improving their own heart health and practicing new skills. But that’s not all! Fundraising has been made much simpler with online donations an easy way to collect with the children having their own donation page where they can write messages and thoughts about personal experiences. Finally the best part for the children is the great prizes they can earn by collecting as little as fifteen dollars. We hope you will encourage your child to have a heart and get behind this worthy cause.

Woolworths Earn and Learn
Parents who shop at Woolies are encouraged to collect the stickers and sticker cards and send them along to the school. Your support of this program would be much appreciated. Woolworths at Carrara have a Merrimac State School collection box at their store. If parents shop at that location, please drop your stickers and cards into the Merrimac collection box. Keep collecting points for our school until 9th June.

Bicycle Helmets
It is expected that all children who ride their bicycles to and from school, wear approved bike helmets. Parents are asked to reinforce this with their students. For the safety of our children it is essential that rules regarding the wearing of bicycle helmets are obeyed.

Parking in the Disabled Car Park Spaces
Our school has two designated disabled car park spaces in our main school car park in front of the tennis court area. Only those parents who have the correct disabled stickers are entitled to use these parks. Anyone else parking in these disabled car park spaces is breaking the law and can be prosecuted. Please do the right thing.
There is also a special disabled car park space within the staff car park. Permission is needed from the school to park in this designated disabled space.

QCT Excellence in Teaching Awards 2013
Nominate now. Are you inspired by an excellent Queensland school teacher? Download a nomination form at: www.qct.edu.au/awards

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. Birth Certificate is a requirement for enrolment.

School Photographs
We have now completed our Class Group, Individual and Brother/Sister photos. Any late orders can be placed directly with Silver Rose on 3262 5788. Sports photos are available online. Go to www.silverrose.com.au/schools
User Name: Groups Password: 285023

BOOKSHOP NEWS
• Opening times: Mon - Wed - Fri 8am to 9am
• Orders can be placed at the bookshop or on flexischools.com.au

TUCKSHOP NEWS
Roster for week commencing 10 June:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Queens Birthday</th>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Meal Deal Thurs 13 June</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Mayumi, Help Please</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5.00* Hot Roast Chicken roll w gravy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Naoko</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Thur</td>
<td>Maria S, Mayumi</td>
<td></td>
<td>Garlic Bread</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Mayumi, Naoko</td>
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<td>JJ Noodle Snack</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Paddlepop Fruit Stack</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Bottled Water</td>
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*add 50c to upgrade to Small playwater or Flavoured milk

P&C NEWS
Fun Run
Thank you to all who participated in our Fun Run on Monday. Reports from the children were that is was indeed fun! Those who are yet to return forms and money will you please do so by this Friday 7 June to the Bookshop. The sooner they are handed in, the sooner you will receive your prizes!
MUSIC NEWS
A reminder to parents and students that there is no choir practice for the remainder of the term as Mrs Powell is away on Long Service Leave.

INTERNATIONAL SPORT FOR 7 JUNE
Rugby League at Pizzey Park, Miami
11A v Elanora on Field 3 @ 1.35pm
11B vs Coningeraba on Field 1 @ 12.50pm
Open R vs Broadbeach on Field 3 @ 12.50pm
Netball at Firrth Park, Mudgeeraba
Year 6 vs BYE
Year 7 vs Varsity 2 on Court 3 @ 12.45pm
Soccer at Broadbeach State School
Boys 7A vs Broadbeach on Field 1 @ 12.40pm
Girls 7A vs Broadbeach on Field 1 @ 12.40pm
Soccer at St Vincents School, Clear Island Waters
Boys 6A vs St Vincents on Field 3 @ 12.40pm
Boys 5A vs Broadbeach on Field 2 @ 12.40pm
Soccer at Robina Common Fields, Robina
Girls 6A vs Marymount on Field 4 @ 1.35pm

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

COMMUNITY NEWS

MERRIMAC OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE
POSITION VACANT
Merrimac OSHC is seeking an Assistant Co-ordinator who possesses the following Skills and Qualities:
- Minimum qualification of Diploma of Childcare (or be actively studying towards the Diploma)
- Must have Certified Supervisor Certificate
- Hold current First Aid Certificate & Blue Card
- Have extensive experience with Kindy Manager Software
- An in depth knowledge of NQF Childcare reform and My Time-Our Place philosophies
- Experience in the OSHC industry directly, including relative knowledge towards applicable Regulations & Legislations
- A kind and nurturing attitude, whilst still have an ability to firmly encourage appropriate behaviour and effective disciplinary techniques
- Work effectively in a Team based environment, while also possessing confident Leadership skills
- Will be expected to be available for Before School Care, After School Care and Vacation Care, inclusive of early mornings and late afternoons/evenings

The successful applicant will be considered for 25hrs per week, under the State Award. Applications close Friday 14 June 4pm. Further enquiries to Thomas on 5525 2617. Applications can be sent to MOSHC, Boowaggan Road, Merrimac 4226.

MATHS AT HOME #5
Topic: Mathematics Language
NOTES: It is important to talk mathematics language with your children, as well as having them write it and understand it. There is a lot of language in the early years as children learn strategies to assist them in solving increasingly more complex problems. Ann Baker, a mathematical researcher and educator uses the language of the ‘Secret Code’.

Ann Baker’s SECRET CODE:
CO = Counting On (only 1, 2 or 3). Students learn the counting sequence can start anywhere. Eg. 7 + 2 or 24 + 3.
CB = Counting Back (only 1, 2 or 3). This allows children to learn the number sequence backwards and what comes before.
TA = Turn-Arounds. Children learn it is more efficient to begin with the larger number. 26 + 12 is the turn-around for 12 + 26.
D = Doubles. Important for + and x. 4 + 4 leads to 40 + 40, 400 + 400 and 2x facts.
ND = Near Doubles. It literally means two numbers are close to a double. 4 + 5, you could double 5 - 1 or double 4 + 1.
RF = Rainbow Facts. In brief, they are pairs of numbers that add together to make 10. 4 + 6, 7 + 3, 9 + 1 are some.
FN = Friendly Numbers. These numbers end in a 0. It is easy to add these numbers, as only the tens digit changes. 40 + 6 = 46, 40 + 16 = 56, 100 + 7 = 107.

UPCOMING EVENTS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 10 June</td>
<td>Queens’ Birthday Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 11 June</td>
<td>Senior Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 13 June</td>
<td>Senior Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 18 June</td>
<td>Report Cards to be sent home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 18 June</td>
<td>Junior Athletics</td>
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<td>Fri 21 June</td>
<td>Last day of Interschool Sport</td>
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<td>Fri 21 June</td>
<td>Last school day for term 2</td>
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<td>Mon 8 July</td>
<td>First school day for term 3</td>
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