For the last four weeks we have had painters at school undertaking the painting of various buildings and classrooms both internally and externally. This is part of the Government’s increased funding for school maintenance. Normally we try to have painting done during the holidays, but because of the large amount of painting required, it had to be done during the term as well as our upcoming holidays. The internal painting of classrooms has meant some disruptions for classes who have had to be relocated to such rooms as the MPC and PAC Conference Rooms and into our Science Centre. We are quite fortunate to have these rooms available for the classes to use. All painting should be finished for the start of next term.

Staffing News

For the start of next term, we have quite a number of staff changes.
Miss Coleman has Special Leave for all of Semester Two and will be undertaking voluntary aide work overseas. She will be based in Mosho, Tanzania in eastern Africa. This will be a great experience for her and we wish Miss Coleman all the very best. Mrs Amy Crozier (0.6) and Mrs Ingrid Werder (0.4) will be replacing Miss Coleman and teaching Year 1B. Mrs Crozier is returning from Maternity Leave. Mrs Werder has been doing a number of teaching contracts at school and is well known to the students.

Mrs Chilvers has Long Service Leave for the first two weeks of Term Three. Mrs Jan Beggs will be replacing her for this time. Mrs Marshall also has Long Service Leave for the first two weeks of next term. Miss Amber Butler-Davis will be replacing her and teaching Japanese for these two weeks.

For the start of next term, Mrs Messinbird has reduced her teaching fraction from 0.6 to 0.2. Mrs Messinbird will continue her one day a week of CCT releasing Mrs Fields each Wednesday. Mrs Messinbird will not be teaching her 0.4 on Year 3. Mrs Stringer has increased her teaching fraction to 0.8 (four days a week) and Miss Amy McDonald who does 0.8 (four days a week) in the Special Education Program will teach the other 0.2 (one day a week) with Mrs Stringer on Year 3E.

Mrs Taylor has gone back to full time teaching for the last two terms of the school year.

For Term Three, Mrs Prentis will reduce her intervention/mentoring support from two days a week to one day a week. She will continue teaching Year 3C on a Friday.

A new Special Education Program Teacher Aide has been appointed to our school. Mrs Michelle Pickett will commence at the start of next term and be working 15 hours per week. Mrs Pickett has officially been relocated from Mount Isa where she worked at Mount Isa Central State School. We welcome Michelle to our school.

Mrs Lyn Collinge, one of our Teacher Aides has Long Service Leave for the first week of Term 3. Mrs Gail Church will be replacing her for the four days Mrs Collinge normally works at Merrimac.

Mrs Powell returns from her Long Service Leave for the start of Term 3. Thanks to Mr Luke Reichelt who has been replacing Mrs Powell for the last four weeks of this term.

New School Website and QSchools Smartphone App

Our new Merrimac State School website recently went live. 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.

Years 4 to 7 Athletics Days

Our school athletics days planned for this week have both been postponed due to inclement weather and the wet conditions of our school oval. These days will now be held next Monday 17 June and Tuesday 18 June. At this stage our upper school athletic days are as follows:

- **Monday, 17 June 9.00am - 2.55pm**
  - Senior Athletics Carnival (Years 4-7)
  - 9am - 10.00am 800m races
  - 10.00am - 2.55pm Field Events (finals only)

- **Tuesday 18 June 9.00am - 2.55pm**
  - Senior Athletics Carnival (Years 4-7)
  - 100m, 200m, Relays, Ball Games, Novelty Events, Tug-O-War

Junior Sports Fun Day

Our Junior Sports Fun Day is going to be postponed until early next term. The proposed date for the Prep - Yr 3 sports day is Friday 12 July. It is essential that we have the upper school carnivals this term as we need to finalise nominations for the district athletics held early next term.

Year Six Camp News

The dates for this year’s Year Six camp are from Monday 16 to Wednesday 18 September which is in the last week of Term Three. Mrs Riis is our school camp coordinator for this year. Notes will soon be sent out with further information regarding the Year 6 camp.

School Cleaners’ Day

This Friday 14 June is designated International School Cleaners’ Day. This day provides an opportunity for our school community to celebrate the valuable contributions of our cleaners. Well done to all our cleaners for the great job that you do at Merrimac State School. We do appreciate all their efforts and hard work.
Non Uniform Day - 'Blue' Dress Day
Thursday 20 June (the second last day of term), will be a Free Dress Day. Children are asked to donate $1 to the Student Council for the privilege to wear sensible free dress clothes. Money raised will be used to support the Asthma Foundation. This is a 'Blue' Dress day in aid of the Asthma Foundation and has been organised by Mr Epiha. Children are invited to wear something blue on the day to show their support for this worthwhile charity organisation.

Lightning Sports Carnivals
The Year 5 Lightning Carnival had to be cancelled recently due to wet weather. The new date for the Year 5 Lightning Carnival is Thursday 8 August.

Lost Property
There is quite a collection of lost property in the box and on hooks in front of the tuckshop. Please check for your child’s property in this area. Putting names on items, especially hats and jumpers, assist with the return of clothes to students.

Language Perfect World Championships 2013- Japanese Language
Congratulations to all the students in Years 4 to 7 who participated in the Language Perfect Championships. We earned 92,011 points, answered 298,397 questions, spent 831 hours online learning Japanese, and Merrimac State School achieved 8th place in Queensland for the number of students’ category. Well done to all our students and thank you to all staff and parents for your encouragement and support!

Merrimac SS also had amazing results in the Green Cluster competition, where we achieved first place out of the Primary Schools participating. Sugoi!

Special congratulations to Alexandra Sologon for achieving an Elite Award with 11,111 points earned during the 10 day competition. Her determination and effort during this contest was exceptional. Well done Alexandra!

This year Merrimac SS had outstanding results with 1 Elite Award, 1 Gold Award, 5 Silver Awards, 16 Bronze Awards and 21 Credit Awards. We look forward to presenting the students with these achievement certificates at senior parade next term. Congratulations! Omedetou Gozaimasu!

ELITE AWARD (10,000+ Points)
Alexandra Sologon

GOLD AWARD (3000+ Points)
Suzanne Soudah

SILVER AWARD (2000+ Points)
Annie Park

BRONZE AWARD (1000+ Points)
Chelsea Fretwell

CREDIT AWARD (500+ Points)
Trinity Munoz

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 just 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.

Forty Hour Famine
This year’s Forty Hour Famine will be from 16th - 18th August. Money being raised is to help support families in Malawi. $40.00 will support a family of 6 for a month. This will help grow crops, supply fresh water, educate a child and much more. Students are encouraged to give up something that is important to them:

- Internet    - Mobile Phone    - Food
- Television    - Talking

Please see Mr Epiha for further information and registration details.

Exiting Car Parks
Parents are asked to follow all road rules when entering and exiting our car parks. Please obey the signage and enter and exit through the correct entrances and exits.

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 R&C Association have again subsidised this program bringing the cost down to just $5 per child for the entire course. Information and permission notes have been 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.

Term Two Reporting To Parents
This term Report Cards will go home on Tuesday 18 June for Prep to Year 3 students and on Wednesday 19 June for all Years 4 to 7 students. We have changed the day for the upper school Report Cards to go home as it is planned to have the Upper School Athletics on Tuesday 18 June.

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
Woolworths Earn and Learn
As you know our school has been participating in the Woolworths Earn and Learn Program. The program has now finished for this year. So a big thanks to everyone who supported our school. We are now at the important stage of the program where Points Sheets are collected and lodged as our Earn and Learn claim. We will then be able to get new educational equipment for our school. The more we collect, the more we can redeem. So this week, please send in your Woolworths earn and Learn Points Sheets and any loose Earn and Learn Points Stickers that you may have at home. Every little bit helps. Thanks again for your support.

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
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 17 June:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Yoko, Help Please</th>
<th>Meal Deal Thurs 20 June $5.00*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Mayumi, Help Please</td>
<td>• Oriental Chicken Nuggets (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Naoko</td>
<td>• Gingerbread people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Maria S, Mayumi</td>
<td>• Paddlepop Fruit Stack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Mayumi, Naoko</td>
<td>• Bottled Water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Many thanks to my volunteers this week. Your help is very much appreciated. Well, another term is almost over and as we cruise closer to shut down we are reducing our stocks of food and drinks. We will advise any students if a substitution is required for their lunch orders. Next Tuesday is the Snr School Athletics catch up day and we are asking for volunteers to help sell food and drinks from a mobile tuckshop near the Year 7 block. If you can help please contact me in the tuckshop or call into the stall on the day. Your help will enable other volunteers to go cheer their children on. Have a good week everyone. ~ Denise ~

P&C NEWS
Fun Run
Thank you to all who participated in our Fun Run last week. Those who are yet to return forms and money will you please do so by this Friday 14 June to the Bookshop. It is hoped to have the student prizes available for distribution in the last week of term.

P&C Fundraiser
Please book your time for the Laura Jean Portrait fundraiser ASAP (for the car park extension) to be held outdoors (with studio back up) at school on Saturday, 13 July. Flyers were sent home last week. For $25 you will received a FREE 10x13 inch portrait and frame and $25 will go direct to the P&C towards the car park extension. Additional photos and CDs are available at additional cost. Examples of more photos can be seen at https://www.facebook.com/LauraJeanFundraising and http://www.laurajean.com.au/. Please email Irma at irma.williams@xtra.co.nz to book your time. Payment can be made through the bookshop by cash/Eftpos and now also online through flexischools.com.au. Once payment and order forms are received you will receive a confirmation slip with the appointment time and venue.

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.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT FOR 14 JUNE
Rugby League at Firth Park, Mudgeeraba
11B vs Hillcrest on Field 2 @ 1.35pm
Open R vs Mudgeeraba on Field 2 @ 12.50pm
Rugby League at Tugun Juniors, Galleon Way Currumbin
11A vs St Augustines on Field 2 @ 1.35pm
Netball at Firth Park, Mudgeeraba
Year 6 vs Worongary on Court 7 @ 1.25pm
Year 7 vs Hillcrest on Court 1 @ 12.45pm
Soccer at Robina Common Fields, Robina
Boys 7A vs Caningeraba on Field 1 @ 12.40pm
Boys 5A vs Caningeraba on Field 3 @ 1.35pm
Girls Yr7 vs Caningeraba on Field 1 @ 1.35pm
Girls Yr 6 vs Worongary on Field 4 @ 12.40pm
Soccer at St Vincents School, Clear Island Waters
Boys 6A vs St Vincents on Field 1 @ 12.40pm

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

UPCOMING EVENTS
Mon 17 June Upper school athletics
Tues 18 June Upper school athletics
Tues 18 June Prep to Year 3 Report Cards to go home
Wed 19 June Years 4 to 7 Report Cards to go home
Fri 21 June Last day of Interschool Sport
Fri 21 June Last school day for Term 2
Mon 8 July First school day for term 3

Mighty Multi Sports by Kelly Sports
Mighty Multi Sports allows your child to play a range of dynamic and active programs including basketball, soccer, crazy games (example Poison Ball & AFL Football). The 7 week program is open to students in Prep to Year 4 and will run on the school oval commencing Friday 12 July from 3.10pm - 4.10pm with the last session being held on Friday 12 September. Cost is $99 (enrol online at www.kellysports.com.au/zone/goldcoastnorth and search for Merrimac State School. Students in Year 1 - 4 meet in the undercover area in front of the tuckshop and coaches pick up preps from their classrooms.)