Term 3 Week 8 Thursday 29 August 2013

PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

Gold Coast Show Holiday
A reminder to all students and parents that tomorrow - Friday 30th August is a Public Holiday for the Gold Coast Show Day. Please note the Merrimac Outside School Hours Care will not be operating on this day.

Staffing News
A few of our staff have Long Service Leave (LSL) towards the end of this term. Mrs Seward has LSL from 9 September to 20 September. Mrs Denise Boyd will be replacing Mrs Seward for these two weeks. Mrs Taylor has LSL from 9 to 20 September and Mrs Vicky Swaby will be replacing her for these two weeks. Mr O’Connell, our Guidance Officer, has LSL for the last two weeks of term (9 - 20 September) and will be replaced by Mrs Liz Scott.

Mrs Foster commences her Maternity Leave from 5 September through till the end of the school year. Mrs Ingrid Werder will be teaching Year 1C each Friday for the remainder of the school year. Mrs Marion Frentis will be replacing Mrs Foster each Thursday and teaching her Oral Language classes.

Mrs Jenks, our Library Teacher Aide, has LSL from 16 September right through till 25 October. Mrs Helen Parker will replace Mrs Jenks in the Library and Mrs Lisa Friedman will undertake Mrs Parker’s class Teacher Aide role.

Our school recently received an additional allocation of 0.7 teacher time for our Special Education Program. We welcome Miss Sairue Chandan Ram who will be teaching 0.7 in our SEP till the end of Term Three.

Our condolences go to Mr Jeffrey, our School Facilities Officer, whose mother passed away earlier this week. Mr Jeffrey will be on leave till early next week. Mr Paul Leighton will be replacing him for this time.

Term Three Reporting to Parents
Parent/teacher interviews for Prep to Year 7 have been scheduled for the end of this term. The majority of interviews will be held on Wednesday, 11 September from 3.30pm to 7.30pm in the classrooms. A selection of other times will also be offered by the various class teachers. Student folios will be issued at the parent/teacher interviews. These should be returned to school before the end of term. It is hoped that all parents will take the opportunity of attending the planned parent/teacher interviews.

This year we introduced an online booking system for all parent/teacher interviews. For our Term One Parent/Teacher interviews it proved very successful. Parents will again be able to book interviews through PTO. This is an online booking system that makes it very easy for parents to book in their preferred interview times and receive immediate confirmation of their booking.

A letter was sent home with each student, outlining the procedure to follow for making online parent/teacher interview appointments. The letter will have the web link details and your child’s Education Queensland ID Number which will be required to make the interview booking. This is the link that must be used for booking online. Do not use the general PTO website for bookings.

The online system will be open for bookings till Friday 6 September. Please note that interviews with Mrs Seward, Mrs Taffs and Mrs Taylor will need to be made by tomorrow Friday 30 August.

Parents who are unable to access the internet for online bookings will have the option of advising the office of a contact number and we will do the booking for you.

As interviews will be scheduled at 10 minute intervals, your promptness in attending at your scheduled time is appreciated to alleviate unnecessary delays as the evening progresses. If on the day of your interview you find you are unable to attend, please contact the school office on 5569 1555 so the class teacher can be notified as soon as possible. Please leave a message if phoning outside of school office hours.

Students after School
It is expected that the majority of students would be collected by their parents of an afternoon by 3.15pm. After this time the only students within our school grounds should be After School Care children. It has been reported that some parents are allowing their students to play in the school grounds and on forts while they wait in the car park and talk to other parents. This is especially occurring in the area near the MPC where After School Care is based. Only After School Care children have permission to use school forts and to play in this area of an afternoon. Parents are asked to be mindful of this and to adhere to this request.

Jump Rope
Our school received a letter from the National Heart Foundation thanking our Year 4 and 5 students for participating earlier in the term in the Jump Rope for Heart. Our school raised almost $500. This money will be used so that a researcher can obtain an antibody to detect viral or bacterial infection in the heart. Thanks to all involved and to Mrs Haywood for coordinating this year’s event.

Life Education Program
The Life Education Van will be visiting our school towards the end of this term from 5 to 20 September. All students are invited to participate in the Life Education Program at Merrimac State School. Life Education is an important program that effectively educates children about health issues. The Life Education visit is subsidised by the school which reduces the cost to just $7.00 per student (normally $9.00). A parent information session is being held on Thursday 5 September from 2.00pm in the Life Education Van. Payment is due by Monday 2 September.

RUOK Parent Session: All Over The Place
The KidsMatter team have been planning a mental health awareness program in the lead up to RUOK Day on Thursday 12th September. A week of activities is being planned for the students and we have invited Pam Day, from Child Youth Mental Health to join us on Tuesday the 10th of September to work with our students, teachers and parents. Pam has offered to run a session for parents on Anxiety from 2-3pm on that day. A flier about the session is enclosed with the newsletter. If you would...
like to attend this parent session please phone your RSVP to the office. A student program for the week will be outlined in next week’s newsletter.

Eisteddfod Performance
Since last week the following groups have performed at the Eisteddfod and have done extremely well:
- Strings and Things - First Place
- Beginner Band - Highly Commended
- Senior Strings - First Place
- Intermediate Strings - Second Place
- Beginner Strings - First Place

This is a fantastic effort.

Congratulations to all our music students (choirs, strings and bands) on a fantastic effort this year at the Gold Coast Eisteddfod. We achieved some excellent results and overall our school has performed extremely well in all areas. This is a credit to our students and also to our fabulous music teachers (Mrs Powell, Miss Deb and Miss Hurst). Thanks to all our parents for your ongoing support of our school’s Music Program and for encouraging and supporting your children with their music aspirations. Our school music program continues to grow from strength to strength.

Year Four Bicycle Education Program
Each year our Year 4 students have the opportunity to attend a Bicycle Safety session at the Ashmore Bicycle Safety Centre. This year each class will attend for a whole day program. For just $4.00 the centre provides helmets and bicycles (including bicycles with balance wheels for beginners). Each class attends separately and the schedule is below: Permission notes have been sent home with each Year 4 student, and should be returned by Friday 6th September at 9.30am.

Class  | Date   | Times          | To bring:
---    | ---    | ---            | ---
4D     | 10 Sept | 9.00am-2.45pm  | MT/Lunch
4B     | 11 Sept | 9.00am-2.45pm  | MT/Lunch
4A     | 12 Sept | 9.00am-2.45pm  | MT/Lunch
4C     | 13 Sept | 9.00am-2.45pm  | MT/Lunch

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.

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

FINANCE NEWS
The finance window operates Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8am - 9.30am. Accepted methods of payment are cash, cheque (made payable to Merrimac SS), EFTPOS/Credit Card. We are currently accepting payments for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Event/Activity</th>
<th>Date of Event</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P-7</td>
<td>Life Education</td>
<td>5-20 Sept</td>
<td>$7</td>
<td>2/9</td>
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<tr>
<td>4A</td>
<td>Bike Education</td>
<td>12 Sept</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>6/9</td>
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<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>Bike Education</td>
<td>11 Sept</td>
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<td>4C</td>
<td>Bike Education</td>
<td>13 Sept</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>6/9</td>
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<tr>
<td>4D</td>
<td>Bike Education</td>
<td>19 Sept</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>6/9</td>
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Please do not send money for excursions to school on Tuesdays and Thursdays as the finance window does not operate and money will not be accepted.

PE NEWS
Regional Athletics
On Monday, seven Merrimac students went to Griffith University for the Regional Athletics. They were Oho Wilson, Jayden Tratt, Troy McKay, Telah Risati, Ben McDonnell, Melanie Lopez and Jordan Guy. They all tried their best against the best athletes in our Region (South Coast). Melanie came 3rd in Discuss and will now represent South Coast at the State AthleticS Championships in October. Well done to all our athletes and good luck to Melissa.

MUSIC NEWS
Following the success of our eisteddfod groups this year here is a list of what is offered at Merrimac for those interested in joining our Music Program. Attendance at Rehearsals is compulsory. Students also receive group lessons of 30 minutes during class time. We will be recruiting for these ensembles for 2014 next term.

- Junior Choir Years 2 and 3 - Fridays 8.00am
- Senior Choir Years 4, 5 & 6 – Tuesdays 8.00am
- Junior Band Year 5 - Mondays 8.00am
- Senior Band Years 6 & 7 – Thursdays 8.00am
- Junior Strings Year 3 – rehearsals in lunchtime
- Intermediate Strings Years 4 & 5 – rehearsals lunchtime/before school
- Senior Strings Years 6 & 7 – Wednesdays 8.00am

Please note we do not have private Piano or Guitar lessons at the school.

P&C NEWS
Sausage Sizzle at the Federal Elections: Merrimac State School will again be a Polling Booth for the upcoming Federal elections to be held on Saturday 7 September. The Elections at school will be held in the MPC. The P&C will be running a Sausage Sizzle during the day. Funds raised will go to supporting our Chaplaincy Program here at school. We will need lots of helpers throughout the day. A reply slip is included in this week’s school newsletter. If you can spare an hour or two, please complete the slip and return it to the school office with name and times please.

Happy Father’s Day
Thank you to all the dads, grandads and other significant male family members who took the time to visit the classrooms and parade on Wednesday afternoon. We trust that you enjoyed your time at school. Best wishes to you all for a happy relaxing Father’s day.

P&C Fund Raiser – Calendars and Cards
A reminder to parents that information regarding the Calendar and Card fund raiser by the P&C will be sent home soon with each child. Please support this initiative and encourage all your children to participate.

BOOKSHOP NEWS
- Opening times: Mon - Wed - Fri 8am to 9am
- Orders can be placed at the bookshop or on flexischools.com.au
- Volunteers needed: If you can spare an hour on Monday or Wednesday at 8:15am we would appreciate your help as we are coming up to the busy season. All volunteers receive a 10% discount on purchases.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK
Keira Ford, Ben Huaut, Sariyah Daly, Sasha McDonald, Lachlan Ferguson, Holly Pallin, Crystal Roberts, Sawa Kihano, Jacob Boff, Yuuto Osabe, Kiahna Burton, Loachie Blackler, Chelsea Jones, Cameron Kraft, Marcus Graddy, Georgia Pike, Harlee Fisher, Dominic Davey, Imogen Knutsen, Bryce Pearce, Braydon Stone,

TUCKSHOP NEWS
Roster for week commencing: 2 September

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<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Yoko H</th>
<th>Meal Deal 5/9 $5*</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Mayumi / Jin</td>
<td>• Nachos w mild salsa &amp; lite cheese</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Naoko / Yoko M</td>
<td>• Gingerbread Person</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Maria S / Magumi</td>
<td>• Frozen Orange Pieces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Naoko, Mayumi</td>
<td>• Zooper Dooper</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Bottled Water</td>
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Thank you volunteers for your help this past week. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. The warmer weather is upon us now and our Slushy machine is in overdrive! Cups of Slushy are just $2 and remember our bottled water is still only $1.50. Please consider the online ordering system through Flexischools especially if a large note is in your purse. We don’t carry too much cash in the mornings. The cut-off for online ordering is 9am each day and orders can be placed days, weeks or a month in advance! If a child is away from school on any pre-ordered lunch day then please call us and we can arrange the order to be cancelled. Phone 5530 3961. Have a good week everyone! ~ Denise ~

Tennis Lessons at Merrimac Primary
New Hot Shots tennis class Monday mornings 7:45 - 8:45am. Contact Michael at Breakpoint Tennis on 0414 464 032 for details and bookings

P&C Sausage Sizzle 7th September
I can spare some time to help at the P&C sausage sizzle and would be happy to assist:

Name: ____________________________________________

Time Available: __________________________________

Contact No: ________________________________

Return to School Office by 5 September

MATHS AT HOME

Maths at Home #9
Topic: Teaching tables with Tallies
(Ann Baker method, maths educator)

NOTES: Obviously to teach this method, students need to have a good understanding of tally marks. A rhyme Ann Baker uses to teach tally marks is “One, two, three, four, don’t forget to shut the door”.

Tally marks are an effective method used to teach the times tables as the children are able to split numbers to use the fives, tens and twos counting patterns. As these are the first counting patterns we teach, children develop a good understanding of them through skip counting, before multiplication and times tables are introduced.

Here are several examples:

* 6 x 5

\[
6 \times u = 30
\]

Initialy students may need the full visual:

\[
6 \times u u u u u = 30 (6 \times 5)
\]

* 6 x 7

\[
6 \times u = 30
\]
\[
6 \times yy = 12
\]
\[
> \quad 42
\]

* 4 x 8

\[
4 \times u = 20
\]
\[
4 \times yy = 8
\]
\[
\quad > \quad 28
\]
\[
4 \times y = 4
\]
\[
\quad > \quad 32
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UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 30 Aug</td>
<td>Gold Coast Show Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 - 20 Sept</td>
<td>Life Education Van at Merrimac</td>
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<td>Thurs 5 Sept</td>
<td>2.00pm Parent Session For Life Education</td>
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<td>Fri 6 Sept</td>
<td>Last day of the Premier’s Reading Challenge</td>
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<td>Mon 9 Sept</td>
<td>5.45pm MOSHC Meeting</td>
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<td>Mon 9 Sept</td>
<td>6.30pm P&amp;C meeting</td>
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<td>Tues 10 Sept</td>
<td>Year 4 Bicycle Education Program</td>
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<td>Tues 10 Sept</td>
<td>4.00-5.30pm IM Workshop at Merrimac High followed by concert at 6.30pm</td>
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<td>Sat 14 Sept</td>
<td>Federal Elections</td>
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<td>16 - 18 Sept</td>
<td>Year 6 Comp</td>
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<td>Fri 20 Sept</td>
<td>Robina High School Orientation Day</td>
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<td>Fri 20 Sept</td>
<td>Last school day of Term Three</td>
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<td>Mon 7 Oct</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Tues 8 Oct</td>
<td>First day of Term 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 21 Oct</td>
<td>Student Free Day</td>
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