Term 3 Week 9 Thursday 5 September 2013

PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

P and C Meeting

The next P&C meeting will be held on Monday 9 September at 6.30pm in the Staffroom. All parents are welcome to attend. Also, the Merrimac Outside Hours School Care meeting will be held on the same evening commencing at 5.45pm in the MPC.

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. 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.

Early Arrivals at School

It is recommended that children arrive at school from 8.30am onwards. It is not a ‘play time’ before school. There is no rostered teacher supervision before school. Children are not allowed on the play forts or the school’s oval of a morning. It has been noticed of late that a growing number of children are arriving very early before school.

Any children who have to be at school early and arrive at school before 8.00am must remain outside the school’s administration building until this time. They are then allowed to go to the area outside their classrooms to wait quietly.

Although the behaviour of our students is very good in general, it is more likely for children to misbehave or do the wrong thing if they are at school of a morning for a long time.

Our school has Before School Care, which is held in the Multi Purpose Building. The operating times are from 6.30am to 8.50am.

Enquiries and bookings can be made through the coordinator (phone 55252617). A fully supervised activity based program is undertaken and breakfast is provided. Fee relief is available for eligible families.

Parents may wish to consider using the Before School Care Service where children have to be dropped off early to school on a regular basis.

RUOK Parent Session: All Over the Place

The Kids Matter 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 was sent home with last week’s newsletter. If you would like to attend this parent session please phone your RSVP to the office. Below is an outline of the student program for next week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Display of kites in UCA</td>
<td>Anxiety Workshop 2-3pm MPC conference Room</td>
<td>Book Reading: years 6 and 7 in the library with Mrs Hall</td>
<td>Book Reading: years 4 and 5 in the library with Miss Murray</td>
<td>Book Reading: years 2 and 3 in the library with Mrs Mc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Reading: prep and year one in the library with Dr Painting</td>
<td>Book Reading: prep and year one in the library with Mrs Hall</td>
<td>Softball: Student Vs Teacher game on the oval</td>
<td>Drumming: Emotion Balloons Origami for year 5 Students</td>
<td>Dancing in UCA</td>
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<td>Prep Chalk drawing on the tennis court</td>
<td>Celebrity Heads Friendship bracelets Stress Balls</td>
<td>Headstart conference</td>
<td>Headstart conference</td>
<td>Headstart conference</td>
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Celebrating Teacher Aides’ Day in Schools

Tomorrow is officially Teacher Aides Day in schools and it gives us the opportunity to recognise the great work undertaken by all the Teacher Aides at Merrimac State School. Teacher Aides provide a fantastic service for staff and students in many different roles at our school. The efforts of our Teacher Aides are very much appreciated. This Friday we will hold a special morning tea to say thank you to our wonderful teacher aides on behalf of our whole school community.
South Coast Primary Teachers’ Ball

The South Coast Primary Teachers’ Ball is being held on Saturday 14 September at the Gold Coast Convention Centre. Our school’s representative is Mrs Boccaccini. We all wish her the very best and congratulate her on being nominated as our school’s representative. I’m sure it will be a great night.

Federal Elections

Parents are reminded that the Federal Elections will be held on this Saturday 7 September. Our school will be an official Polling Booth for the McPherson and Moncrieff Electorates. Voting will be held in the MPC. Voting hours are from 8:00am to 6:00pm. Our P and C will be holding a Sausage Sizzle on the day to help raise funds for our school’s Chaplaincy Program. Please come along and support this program on the day when voting at Merrimac State School.

Disability Action Week Information

Disability Action Week will be celebrated from 8 to 14 September. One in five Queenslanders has a disability of some kind, and disability touches the lives of most Queenslanders in some way: through the experiences we have with friends and family, at school, in the workplace and in the community. Disability Action Week aims to:

- encourage positive attitudes towards people with a disability, and
- promote improved access to the wider community.

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring our community is safe, welcoming and inclusive of people with a disability, and their families and carers. This includes providing equal access to housing, health services, education and work, sport and recreation, the arts and cultural activities.

Everybody has a role in creating a truly welcoming and inclusive community, from businesses and government to community organisations and individuals. Please take time this week to talk with your families about disabilities and how we can make others feel included and welcome.

Life Education Program

The Life Education Van is currently visiting our school and will be here till 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 program puts students in situations where they need to make decisions, solve problems and interact with other students by discussing possible alternatives to problem situations relating to their own health. The Life Education visit is subsidised by the school which reduces the cost to just $7.00 per student (normally $9.00). Payment for Life Education sessions can be made up to the money collection day to just $7.00 per student (normally $9.00). Payment for Life Education visit is subsidised by the school which reduces the cost to just $7.00 per student (normally $9.00).

Dental Van News

Students in Year 6 and 7 are able to make appointments to have a dental check-up at the dental van. Please call 1300 300 850 to arrange.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>To bring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4D</td>
<td>10 Sept</td>
<td>9.00am-2.45pm</td>
<td>MT/Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>11 Sept</td>
<td>9.00am-2.45pm</td>
<td>MT/Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A</td>
<td>12 Sept</td>
<td>9.00am-2.45pm</td>
<td>MT/Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4C</td>
<td>13 Sept</td>
<td>9.00am-2.45pm</td>
<td>MT/Lunch</td>
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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>4A</td>
<td>Bike Education</td>
<td>12 Sept</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>6/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>Bike Education</td>
<td>11 Sept</td>
<td>$4</td>
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<td>Bike Education</td>
<td>13 Sept</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>6/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4D</td>
<td>Bike Education</td>
<td>19 Sept</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>6/9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. To avoid disappointment please make payment as soon as you receive notification of an event taking place. If you leave it till the due date circumstances may prevent you from paying and where cut offs are enforced due to provider requirements students may miss out on events.

PE NEWS

Sporting Success

Congratulations to Oryaan Kalolo who took part recently in the 12 Years and Under State Rugby Union Championships at Goondiwindi. Oryaan did extremely well and was named the Best and Fairest player in the South Coast team. Well done Oryaan.

INTERSCHOOL SPORTS DRAW 6 SEPT

Basketball at Elanora SS
Yr 5 vs Elanora on Court 1 @ 12.45pm
Yr 7 vs Caningeraba on Court 1 @ 1.55pm

Softball at Coplicks Family Sports Park
A Team vs Hillcrest on Field 1 @ 1.00pm
B Team vs St Andrews on Field 2 @ 1.00pm

Boys Touch at Robina Common
5A vs Elanora on Field 4 @ 1.35pm
5B vs Elanora White on Field 4 @ 12.50pm
6A vs Robina on Field 7 @ 1.35pm
7A vs Palm Beach on Field 8 @ 1.35pm
7B vs Hillcrest on Field 12 @ 12.50pm

Girls Touch at Galleon Way, Currumbin
5A vs Elanora on Field 4 @ 1.35pm
5B vs Elanora White on Field 4 @ 12.50pm
6A vs Robina on Field 7 @ 1.35pm
7A vs Palm Beach on Field 8 @ 1.35pm
7B vs Hillcrest on Field 12 @ 12.50pm

Girls Touch at Pizzey Park, Miami
7A vs BYE
7B vs William Duncan on Fld 5 @ 1.30
MUSIC NEWS

Merrimac High School Music Workshop for Years 5, 6 and 7

To assist your child in the transition from Primary School to High School and to give you an insight into their school, Merrimac High would like to invite your child to their Instrumental Music Workshop that will be held on Tuesday 10 September from 4.00pm - 5.30pm. 5.30pm arrival of parents for tea and coffee, and attend the students concert at 6.00-6.30pm.

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.

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


STUDENTS OF THE MONTH


TUCKSHOP NEWS

Roster for week commencing: 9 September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity/Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life Education Van at Merrimac</td>
<td>5 – 20 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.00pm Parent Session for Life Education</td>
<td>Thurs 5 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day of the Premier’s Reading Challenge</td>
<td>Fri 6 Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal elections in MPC</td>
<td>Fri 7 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.45pm MOSHC Meeting</td>
<td>Mon 9 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.30pm P&amp;C meeting</td>
<td>Mon 9 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4D Bicycle Education Program</td>
<td>Tues 10 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.00-5.30pm IM Workshop at Merrimac High (followed by concert at 6.30pm)</td>
<td>Tues 10 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4B Bicycle Education Program</td>
<td>Wed 11 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.30pm to 7.30pm Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
<td>Wed 11 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4A Bicycle Education Program</td>
<td>Thurs 12 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4C Bicycle Education Program</td>
<td>Fri 13 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6 Camp</td>
<td>16 - 18 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robinia High School Orientation Day</td>
<td>Fri 20 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last school day of Term Three</td>
<td>Fri 20 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
<td>Mon 7 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>First day of Term 4</td>
<td>Tues 8 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Free Day</td>
<td>Mon 21 Oct</td>
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</tbody>
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Many thanks to our volunteers this week. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Parents please remind your children to hand in their lunch orders when they arrive at class. Too many late orders are appearing and we are sometimes unable to fulfill the order due to exhausted stock. If this occurs we will find an alternative.

Students should only be coming to the tuckshop if they have money to buy something or if they have a query. All other students will be asked to move away to make way for paying students. Thank you.

~ Denise ~

Hatchlings - Dancing, Singing and Acting (Yrs 1 - 7)

Hatchlings classes are about to commence after school at Merrimac State School. Teach your children to come out of their shell through performance. Classes will be held on a Thursday afternoon from 3.15pm to 4.15pm in the Performing Arts Centre. Flyers were sent home with all students earlier this week. For further details please phone Renee on 0468461394 or visit the website at www.hatchlingshids.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Order can be placed at the bookshop or on flexischools.com.au
- Please note you can now order Bookshop News Online.
- Orders will close on Monday at 4pm.
- Students should only be coming to the tuckshop if they have money to buy something or if they have a query. All other students will be asked to move away to make way for paying students. Thank you.
- Have a good week.

~ Denise ~