Welcome to a New School Term
The school term has already started at a busy pace with a number of new enrolments on the first day back. Our current school enrolment is 845 students. We would like to welcome all new families to Merrimac and we look forward to an exciting Term 4. This term is ten weeks and I’m sure with all the school happenings and special events, it will go very quickly.

P&C Meeting
The next P&C meeting will be held on Monday 14 October at 6.30pm in the Staffroom. All parents are welcome to attend. Also, the Merrimac Outside School Hours Care meeting will be held on the same evening commencing at 5.45pm in the MPC.

Staffing News
For this term Mr Guy Fitter will be our new 0.7 Special Education Program teacher. We welcome him to our school. Miss Van Den Brink has Long Service Leave from 22 October to 8 November and Mrs Justina Crawford will be replacing her for these three weeks. Miss Van Den Brink is getting married during her leave and we wish her all the very best.

Mrs Stringer has Long Service Leave from 15 to 22 October. Mrs Jan Beggs will teach 3E for these two weeks.

Mrs Riis is reducing her teaching fraction for the majority of this term to 0.8. Mrs Messinbird will pick up the 0.2 fraction and be teaching 6B each Monday.

Staff Transfers
Staff transfers were released at the end of last term. Mrs Michelle Smith who had been on leave from our school for the last three years has received a transfer to Brisbane North. Mrs Amy Macdonald (1D) has also received a transfer to Brisbane South. Both Mrs Smith and Mrs Macdonald are very happy with their transfers as they reside in Brisbane.

Sadly, we will be losing Mr Singh, our PE teacher, to Canigeraba State School. We wish Mr Singh all the best.

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Prep to Year 3 Term Four Swimming
All students from Prep to Year 3 will be involved in a six week swimming program this term commencing in Week 4. More information regarding venue and costs will be sent home at the beginning of next week.

Student Leadership Process for 2014
The leadership process for 2014 will start in Week Two of this term. This year the leadership process will be slightly different to previous years. We will still be having the following positions - Student Leaders, House Captains and Music Captains. Because of Year 7 officially going to high school from the start of 2015, it is necessary to provide our school leadership opportunities to both Year 6 and Year 7 in 2014. A decision has been made to have our normal Year 7 leadership positions (senior leaders) as well as having a similar group of student leaders from Year 6 (Junior Leaders). Both groups of student leaders will have defined roles throughout the year and will receive Leadership Badges and certificates. More information will be provided to parents over the next few weeks.

Breakfast and Fitness Program
Chappy Steve, Mr Epiha and Mr Webster are planning to commence their before school breakfast and fitness program for the upper school children each Wednesday morning commencing in Week Two of this term. Children in Years 5, 6 and 7 have the opportunity to nominate for the fitness program. There will be up to 100 places available. Students will need to commit to attending each week from 8.00am to 8.45am to be part of the program.

Year 5 Parent Meeting – Junior Secondary School at Merrimac State High School
Merrimac State High School Parent Information Meeting for Year 7 students entering high school in 2015 will be on Wednesday 23 October 2013 at 2.00pm in the Science Centre at Merrimac Primary School. All prospective parents are welcome to attend this information meeting that will discuss the progress of the Junior Secondary School (Years 7-9) at Merrimac SHS. Staff will be on hand to answer questions and provide information regarding enrolment, curriculum and the transition of Year 7 into high school. This meeting is targeted for our current Year 5 parents.

PCYC Bridge Award
On Tuesday afternoon, Sergeant Linda Baade from the Gold Coast PCYC addressed all our Year 7 students and informed them about the Bridge Award offered through the PCYC. Further information was given to interested students on the day. Flyers are available from either Miss Parker or through the school office. Interested Year 7 students are encouraged to get involved in the program as it can lead into the Duke of Edinburgh Award when at high school.

Cartoon Classes
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Dental Van News
Students in grades (7, 6, PREP, 2A, B, C, D) are now being offered the opportunity to contact the Child and Adolescent Oral Health service to arrange for a Dental Examination. A parent or legal guardian is required to attend the first appointment to complete Parental Consent and Medical/Dental History form.
If your child is enrolled in one of the grades listed above, please contact the Oral Health Call Centre on 1300 300 850 Monday to Friday 8.00 am - 4.30 pm excluding Public Holidays.
If your child requires disability access please identify this requirement with the Call Centre Operator.

Human Relationships Education (HRE)
The school’s HRE program for Years 5, 6 and 7 is normally implemented by our class teachers in the last three weeks of Term Four. This year our school is planning to use Family Planning Queensland to run our school’s HRE Sexuality Program. This involves Years 5, 6 and 7 only. For this year, the P&C and school will jointly fund the program so there will be no cost to the students. The content of the program will be very similar to previous years with a scaling back of some of the topics in Year 7. A number of schools have been using Family Planning Queensland to present their school’s HRE.

A parent session will be held next Thursday 17 October from 2.00pm to 2.55pm in the MPC Conference Room. This session will be run by a representative from Family Planning Queensland. It will familiarise parents with the content of the HRE program and the resources involved. Interested parents are invited to attend. The meeting will be quite relevant to new parents and parents of upper school children. Information letters for the respective year levels (Years 5 to 7) will be sent home early next week.

The Family Planning HRE student sessions will be held in Weeks 7 and 8 of this term on the following dates – 18, 19, 25, 26 and 27 November. A timetable for each of the classes will be developed and published in a future newsletter.

Student Leadership Day Wednesday 9 October
Many thanks to Miss Parkes and Mrs Les for organising the Leadership Day yesterday at the Tallebudgera Beach School for our Class Captains, Student Council children and nominated Year Six students. I’m sure that all the students had a great day as they experienced many worthwhile leadership activities.

NAPLAN Report Cards
Every Year 3, 5 and 7 student who participated in the 2013 NAPLAN test will soon receive an individual report containing their results. These reports will be sent home either today or tomorrow. The report will provide a range of information about your child’s performance on each of the literacy and numeracy tests. It also contains a detailed guide on what is assessed in each test and how to interpret the results. Once received, parents and carers are encouraged to thoroughly read the report and the explanatory notes. While these tests are important ‘point-in-time’ indicators or ‘snapshots’ of student achievement in literacy and numeracy, the results should be considered along with other information collected by our school about your child’s performance.

If you have any questions or concerns about NAPLAN testing, please contact your child’s class teacher or the school office.

Term Four Y Lead
For the past four years, in Term Four, we have sent 30 of our Year 6 students to the Y Lead student leadership day at Miami High School. This will again happen this year. In addition, we will be taking part in a Year 5 Y Lead day at Caningeraba State School. We will also be able to send 30 Year 5 students to this day. Students who have displayed leadership abilities throughout the year have been invited to attend these days. More information has been provided to the nominated students. The dates for the Y Lead days are:

Year 6 - 17 October at Miami State High School
Year 5 - 24 October at Caningeraba State School

Class Newsletters
Class Newsletters will be sent home next Friday 18 October by all class teachers. Class Newsletters are an important form of communication between school and home. They outline curriculum content for the term, reminders about class rules, behaviour management, teacher expectations and homework expectations.

Any special events and activities will also be highlighted in the Class Newsletters.

Sports/Musical Photos Wednesday 16 October
Silver Rose will be visiting our school on Wednesday 16 October to photograph the current sports teams and musical groups. Ordering will be available online @ www.silverrose.com.au/schools
Username: Groups Password: 285023 approximately one week after the groups have been photographed. The photo size is 25cm x 20cm and the cost is $15. All children participating in the groups will be included in the photo. The groups to be photographed are:

Junior Choir Senior Choir Beginner Strings
Beginner Band Intermediate Strings Senior Band
Senior Strings Advanced Band Yr5 Boys Touch
Yr6 Boys Touch Yr7 Boys Touch Yr5 Girls Touch
Yr6 Girls Touch Yr7 Girls Touch Yr5 Basketball
Yr7 Basketball Softball A Softball B

Platinum Cards/Merit Certificates
Overall the standard of behaviour last term was good with a pleasing number of our children eligible for Merit Certificates. Merit Certificates (5 or less points with no L4 or L5) for Term 3 will be sent home this week. Platinum Cards are awarded to students with exemplary behaviour (no more than 1 point). Parents are encouraged to continue to support Merrimac’s Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students.

interschool sports draw 11 oct
Basketball at St Andrews Primary
Yr 5 vs St Andrews on Court 1 @ 12.45pm
Yr 7 vs Hillcrest on Court 3 @ 1.55pm

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

Boys Touch at Robina Common
5A vs Mudgeeraba on Field 5 @ 1.35pm
5B vs Burleigh Maroon on Field 5 @ 12.50pm

Girls Touch at Gallean Way, Currimb, on Court 3.
5A vs Elanora on Field 5 @ 12.45pm
5B vs Elanora on Field 2 @ 1.30pm
6A vs Elanora on Field 1 @ 12.45pm
6B vs Elanora on Field 1 @ 1.30pm

Girls Touch at Pizzey Park, Miami
7A vs Robina on Field 1 @ 12.45pm
7B vs Elanora on Field 1 @ 1.30 pm

SPORTING SUCCESS
Joc Thompson of 4B raced in the Qld State BMX Championships 2013. He was first overall for his age group in the PRE TITLES and came 2nd in Qld on the Day of the Finals of the Championship.
He now races for the next 12 months with a special Q plate with 2 on it. Congratulations Joc, well done!
You wish to make a purchase, please follow these instructions:

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB**

Orders can be placed online via the Flexischools website at www.flexischools.com.au or call Andy Robinson on 0413888643. Please pre-register so we can collect your little soccer player from class.

**TOTAL FOOTBALL ACADEMY SOCCER PROGRAM**

TFA will be running a lunch time soccer program at Merrimac for P-Year 7 students. Registration forms have been distributed today to interested students. The 7 week program starts on Friday 18 October 1.10pm-1.40pm. Cost is $55. To sign up online visit www.totalfootballacademy.com.au or call Andy Robinson on 0413888643. Please pre-register so we can collect your little soccer player from class.

**MUSIC NEWS**

Welcome back to busy Term 4. All rehearsals have commenced this week and congratulations to the Senior Choir students who remembered to come on Tuesday. We have two big events this term.

- *Music Count Us In – Senior Choir only Thursday 31 October*
- *Magic of Music Concert – Wednesday 20 November 6pm*

Rehearsal Times:

- Mondays 8am Junior Band
- Tuesdays 8am Senior Choir, Beginner Strings
- Wednesdays 8am Senior Strings
- Thursdays 8am Senior Band
- Fridays 8am Junior Choir

**P&C NEWS**

**Calendar Fundraiser**

As an annual school event we are once again fundraising using Artwork from each student in our school. This year you are able to order your child's artwork in the form of a Calendar, Mouse-pad, Diary, Card sets or I-phone cover. This year you are able to order your child's artwork in the form of a Calendar, Mouse-pad, Diary, Card sets or I-phone cover.

- Artwork from each student in our school.
- Orders can be placed at the bookshop or on flexischools.com.au
- Orders can be placed online via the Flexischools website at www.flexischools.com.au (please ensure you have registered free online first with our school).

Alternatively, you can bring both THE ORDER FORM and MONEY in a SEALED BAG or ENVELOPE CLEARLY STATING the STUDENTS' NAME and CLASS. Please ensure correct money is inside and take to the tuckshop. Money is not accepted at the finance window for this activity. This is an exciting fundraising event for both students and families as they make great Christmas gifts and for the first time Christmas Cards too. All Artwork has been created in class. Please support your child and school by placing an order today.

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB**

Book Club brochures were given to students in class yesterday. If you wish to make a purchase, please follow these instructions:-

- Complete the order form on the back of the brochure including the child’s name, class and phone number at the top;
- Clearly label an envelope with “Book Club Order”;
- Into this envelope, place the order form together with correct money or cheque payable to Scholastic Australia (or utilise the credit card option on the order form);
- Put the envelope in the box at the finance window at school (finance window is open Mon/Wed/Fri 8am-9.30am);

**ORDERS CLOSE 9.30AM NEXT FRIDAY, 18TH OCTOBER**

Unfortunately, no late orders can be accepted as the bulk order will be placed with Scholastic Book Club that day.

**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 14 October

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mayumi, Help Please</th>
<th>Mon 20 Dec</th>
<th>5.45pm Merrimac Outside School Hours Care meeting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Yoko H, Help Please</td>
<td>Tues 3 Dec</td>
<td>IM Workshops at Merrimac High (selected students)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Naoko, Yoko M</td>
<td>Wed 23 Oct</td>
<td>2.00pm to 2.45pm Year 5 Parent session on Junior Secondary Schooling in Science Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Maria S, Mayumi</td>
<td>Thurs 24 Oct</td>
<td>Inter School Debating Day at Merrimac</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
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<td>Thurs 24 Oct</td>
<td>Year 5 Lead day at Caningeraba State High School (selected students)</td>
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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Fri 11 Oct Interschool Sport resumes
- Fri 11 Oct Kelly Sports P-4 commences
- Mon 14 Oct 6.30pm P&C meeting
- Mon 14 Oct 5.45pm Merrimac Outside School Hours Care meeting
- Wed 16 Oct School Sport and Music Photo Day
- Thurs 17 Oct Year 6 Y Lead day at Miami High School (selected students)
- Thurs 17 Oct 2.00pm to 3.00pm Parent Family Planning Meeting
- Fri 18 Oct Merrimac SHS SWD transition (five Fridays)
- Mon 21 Oct Pupil Free Day
- Wed 23 Oct 2.00pm to 2.45pm Year 5 Parent session on Junior Secondary Schooling in Science Centre
- Thurs 24 Oct Inter School Debating Day at Merrimac
- Thurs 24 Oct Year 5 Lead day at Caningeraba State High School (selected students)
- Fri 25 Oct World Teachers’ Day
- Wed 30 Oct Prep Orientation Day (9.00am and 6.00pm)
- Thurs 31 Oct Gold Coast Music Count Us In (Senior Choir)
- 4 – 8 Nov Pat Maths Testing to be implemented this week Yrs 3, 5 and 7
- Tues 5 Nov 1.00pm to 3.00pm Year 7 Learning Support students visit to Merrimac State High School
- Wed 6 Nov School Disco
- Fri 8 Nov Last day of Interschool Sport
- Mon 11 Nov Year One Protective Behaviours Program (five Mondays)
- Mon 11 Nov Remembrance Day
- Mon 11 Nov 5.45pm Merrimac Outside School Hours Care meeting
- Mon 11 Nov 6.30pm P&C Meeting
- Mon 11 Nov 7.00pm Robina High Awards Night
- Wed 13 Nov Prep Experience Day (2 groups)
- 18,19,20, 25, 26 and 27 Nov Years 5, 6 and 7 Family Planning HRE lessons
- Wed 20 Nov Prep Experience Day (2 groups)
- Wed 20 Nov Merrimac Annual Music Concert in PAC
- Mon 2 Dec 5.45pm Merrimac Outside School Hours Care meeting
- Mon 2 Dec 6.30 pm P&C meeting
- Tues 3 Dec IM Workshops at Merrimac High (selected students)
- Thurs 5 Dec RE Christmas Presentations
- Thurs 5 Dec Report Cards to go home
- Mon 9 Dec Carols By Candlelight
- Thurs 12 Dec Year 7 Graduation Ceremony
- Thurs 12 Dec Year 7 Graduation Disco
- Fri 13 Dec Last day of Term Four
- Fri 13 Dec Year 7 excursion