Term 4 Week 3 Thursday 24 October 2013

PRINCIPAL'S PAGE

Proposed Class Groupings For 2014

The school's administration is at present working on class groupings for 2014. Planning is currently being based on 34 class groups (the same number of class groups as this year). The actual number of classes will depend very much on projected enrolment figures for the start of next year. At this stage we are planning for the following number of classes in each year level:

- Prep Year: four classes
- Year One: four classes
- Year Two: five classes
- Year Three: four classes
- Year Four: four classes
- Year Five: four classes
- Year Six: three classes
- Year Seven: three classes

These year level compositions, however could still change depending on the changing enrolment numbers. The number of composite classes could either be reduced or increased depending on year level enrolments. Final arrangements for class groups will not be finalised till the start of the 2014 school year. All Class groups will be published on the first day back next year on the block wall at the next to the bookshop and outside all classes. This will lessen the chance of forced changes to class groups which usually happens over the Christmas period.

Parental Educational Requests - 2014

The process for allocating children to classes is a complex process where class teachers, support teachers and administration use their professional judgement to consider the academic, social and emotional needs of all students and how these needs can be best met the following year. Determining the best possible educational environment for all children is a high priority. If you are aware of specific educational needs for your child, please list these concerns on the relevant form available from the school office. This form is not intended for specific teacher requests but for genuine educational issues.

Teacher class allocations have not been finalised at this stage and may not be finalised till the end of term. Parent requests will be considered in light of providing the best possible educational placement for all students. Because of a number of factors, it is not always possible to meet all parent requests. Forms are available from the school office and must be submitted to the office by 3pm Friday 15 November. After this date, class requests will only be considered if operationally convenient to the school.

Enrolment Management Plan

Our school has been advised that we must introduce an Enrolment Management Plan (EMP) for the commencement of the 2014 school year. Our school has an identified enrolment boundary and catchment area. We have been told that our school’s enrolment capacity is 854 students and we are not to go above this total. In addition our Prep enrolment for next year is not allowed to exceed 113 students. All students currently enrolled as well as siblings and staff members’ children are all fine to continue at Merrimac even if they reside outside our boundary. All future enrolments who submit their enrolment forms before the EMP is finalised and signed off (expected to be around mid-November) will be able to enrol at Merrimac even if residing outside our catchment area. After the EMP comes into force, we then have to monitor our enrolments. All future enrolments who live within our boundary are fine to attend and cannot be refused enrolment. All new enrolments will need to show proof of residing within our catchment area. However, those residing outside our catchment area, may have to go on a waiting list or be refused enrolment if there are no vacancies within the various year levels within our school. As I find out more details re the EMP I will share these with the Merrimac community through the school newsletter.

Independent Public Schools (IPS)

Last week the Independent Public Schools were announced for 2014. Unfortunately Merrimac was not successful in our application. In total an additional 54 IPS will commence next year. Of these, nine schools were successful from the South East Region. These comprised high schools, special schools and primary schools. Broadbeach and Tallebudgera Primary Schools are two of the successful schools closest to ours. We will watch with interest how they go next year as IPS schools and hopefully learn from their achievements. As a school community we can relook at our interest and apply again in 2014. The School Council and P and C had supported our IPS application this year. Thanks to everyone else who also supported our school’s IPS application.

Staffing News

MRS O’Mullane will be taking emergent Long Service Leave from 28 October to 4 November. Mrs Jan Beggs will be replacing Mrs O’Mullane for these five working days.

Canberra 2014

Preparations are currently underway for our 2014 Canberra Camp which will be held from 7 – 12 September 2014 at a cost of $1200 per student. The fee includes return flights to Sydney, transfers between Sydney and Canberra, coach transport in and around Canberra, accommodation, meals, entry fees, hire of snow equipment, team track suit and insurance.

Earlier this year an expression of interest was sent to all Year 4, 5 and 6 students to gauge interest in the camp. As a result of this we have booked transport and accommodation for 60 students and 6 staff members.

A non-refundable deposit of $200 is required this year to secure a position in the 2014 camp. The remaining $1000 will be due in four instalments in 2014.

As outlined in the Merrimac SS Responsible Behaviour Plan, participation in camps and excursion is subject to a behaviour review. In the event that a school based decision is made that a student is not permitted to participate due to a behaviour review, the deposit will be refunded. Unfortunately no refunds can be provided for families who change their minds about attendance.

Students in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be issued with a Canberra Permission Slip on Monday 28 October. Payment of the $200 deposit can be made from Wednesday 30 October at the finance window.

Please note that due to the coach capacity a maximum of 60 students can attend. Should more than 60 students express interest in attending, a waiting list will be developed. Deposits will not be accepted after the first 60 students have paid, however, students names will be recorded on a waiting list for possible future inclusion.
ICAS Australian Maths and English Competitions
On this week’s lower and upper school parades all the students who
last term sat for the Australian Maths and English Competitions
were presented with their certificates. Well done to all those
students. Congratulations to the following students who received
special achievement certificates.
Maths Competition:
Credit Certificates - Yui Okagawa, Sophie Caruana, Annie Park and
Koyo Yanagisawa
Distinction Certificates - Josh Yeh, Hayato Kaneko and Ella Moore
English Competition:
Credit Certificates - Ethan Leighton, Hayato Kaneko and Annie Park
High Distinction Certificates – Jayde Pallin and Ella Moore
I would like to acknowledge the achievement of both Jayde and Ella
in receiving the highest level of High Distinction. This is a fantastic
effort. In particular, Ella Moore achieved 100% correct in her
completion. This is the first time that a student from Merrimac has
achieved such a feat. In recognition of Ella’s effort she has been
invited, along with her family, to a special function in Brisbane
where Ella will be presented with an achievement medal along with
other state winners. Congratulations Ella on a fantastic effort.

World Teachers’ Day 25 October - newsletter
This Friday we celebrate the great work of our teachers on World
Teachers’ Day. The quality teaching evident in our classrooms every
day has a powerful effect on students’ performance. Visit
http://education.qld.gov.au/community/events/world-teachers-
day.html for more information.
We wish all our teachers a great day and thank them for their hard
work and dedication to our school.

2014 Prep Enrolments
We are currently accepting Prep enrolments for 2014. Enrolment
packs are available at the office. All enrolments must be
accompanied by the child’s birth certificate. The school will be
holding a Prep Orientation Day on Wednesday 30 October 2013 in
the MPC. The morning program runs from 9:00am to 11:00am and
the evening program runs from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Parents will have
the opportunity to purchase Book Kits and Uniforms at the end of
each of the sessions.

Sports/Musical Photos
Silver Rose visited our school last week. All students photographed
were issued with a business card detailing how to place an order.
Please ask your child for the card.

Booklists
Booklists for all students in Years P-6 will be issued next week.
Orders can be placed with the Bookshop any Monday, Wednesday or
Friday between 8.00am – 9.00am.

Student Placements 2014
If your child will not be returning to Merrimac in 2014 please fill
out the slip below and return it to the school office by Friday 15
November. This will assist in the placements for next year. Please
note this does not apply to Year 7 students in 2013.

STUDENT NON PLACEMENT FOR 2014
My child/children will not be attending Merrimac Primary next year.
The new school is: ..............................................................
Signature: ..................................Parent/Guardian

Student/s Name Class

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.

Prep to Year 3 Term Four Swimming
All students from Prep to Year 3 will be involved in a swimming
program commencing in Week 4. It is a six week program and
children will travel by bus to Swim World at Worongary. Permission
letters and payment advice have been sent home to each student in
P-3. The six week swimming program will cost $50, which equates
to just $8.30 per lesson. Cost also includes transport to and from
the pool. Children will require togs (no bikinis), goggles, swimming
cap and towel for the program. Children can change into thongs for
the pool - this is optional. Please label all items as we often have
lost clothes and equipment. All uniforms and underwear worn on the
day should also be named.

Prep to Year 3 Term Four Swimming Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Payment by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursdays</td>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>3A, 3D, 3E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fridays</td>
<td>Years 1</td>
<td>2, 3B, 3C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See your child’s class for specific times.

FINANCE NEWS
The finance window operates Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
from 8am - 9.30am. These are the only times money is accepted.
Please ensure you include first name, surname and class on notes for
easy processing. We are currently accepting money for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Payment by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selected Music</td>
<td>Count Us In</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>28 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Dreamworld</td>
<td>$40 or $16</td>
<td>2 Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Seaworld</td>
<td>$35 or $12</td>
<td>2 Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-3</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>28 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Graduation</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>13 Nov</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Important Information
To ensure participation in events please make payment as soon as
possible after advise of an upcoming activity. Where cut off dates
apply late payments cannot be accepted.

SPORTING SUCCESS
Congratulations to Ethan Benigno in 4C, who has been selected to
represent in the Gold Coast U9’s Futsal competition for the second
year running. Good luck Ethan.
Congratulations to Trinity Munoz who completed her RAD Ballet
exam Grade 6 and received a Merit. Well done

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS DRAW 25 OCTOBER
Basketball at St Andrews Primary
Yr 5 vs St Andrews on Court 1 @ 12.45pm
Yr 7 vs St Andrews on Court 3 @ 1.55pm
Softball at Coplicks Family Sports Park
A Team vs Hillcrest on Field 2 @ 1.00pm
B Team vs St Andrews on Field 3 @ 1.00pm
Boys Touch Mallawa Drive, Palm Beach
5A vs Robina on Field 2 @ 1.35pm
5B vs GCCC on Field 4 @ 12.50pm
6A vs Mudgeeraba on Field 8 @ 1.35pm
7A vs Hillcrest on Field 10 @ 1.35pm
7B vs St Andrews on Field 11 @ 12.50pm
Girls Touch at Galleon Way, Currumbin
5A vs GCCC on Field 8 @ 12.45pm
5B vs Robina on Field 5 @ 1.30pm
6A vs Caningeraba on Field 1 @ 12.45pm
6B vs Caningeraba 2 on Field 1 @ 1.30pm

Girls Touch at Pizzeey Park, Miami
7A vs Caningeraba on Field 1 @ 12.45pm
7B vs St Andrews2 on Field 5 @ 1.30 pm
7A vs Caningeraba on Field 1 @ 12.45pm
6A vs Caningeraba on Field 1 @ 12.45pm

Eisteddfod Results – Speech and Drama
Congratulations to the following Merrimac students who competed at the Speech and Drama Eisteddfod at Somerset College recently:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Commended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yr 5</td>
<td>Troy Turman 2nd</td>
<td>Ethan Leighton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 6</td>
<td>Jazz Jensen</td>
<td>Commended</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Duologue Years 5, 6 & 7
Ethan Leighton and Jazz Jensen Commended

P&C NEWS

Calendar Fundraiser
Thank you very much for your support of this P and C fundraising activity. Orders now closed.

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 28 October

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Mayumi</th>
<th>Monday Meal Deal 31 Oct $5*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Yoko H, Help Please</td>
<td>- Fish Head Torpedo crumbed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Yoko M, Help Please</td>
<td>- fish burger with lettuce &amp;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Maria S, Mayumi</td>
<td>- mayo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Jin, Mayumi</td>
<td>- Spooky Gummy Bite (soft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- confectionery treat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Brain Freeze *frozen Juice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- cup)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Bottled water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 25 Oct</td>
<td>Arts Council Performances 9.00am Yrs 3 to 7, 11.30am Prep to Yr 2 - both sessions full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 25 Oct</td>
<td>World Teachers’ Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 30 Oct</td>
<td>Prep Orientation Day (9.00am and 6.00pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 31 Oct</td>
<td>Gold Coast Music Count Us In (Senior Choir)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 - 8 Nov</td>
<td>Pat Maths Testing to be implemented this week Yrs 3, 5 and 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 5 Nov</td>
<td>1.00pm to 3.00pm Year 7 Learning Support students visit to Merrimac State High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 6 Nov</td>
<td>School Disco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 8 Nov</td>
<td>Last day of Interschool Sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Nov</td>
<td>Year One Protective Behaviours Program (five Mondays)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Nov</td>
<td>Remembrance Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Nov</td>
<td>Merrimac Outside School Hours Care meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Nov</td>
<td>6.30pm P&amp;C Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Nov</td>
<td>7.00pm Robina High Awards Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 13 Nov</td>
<td>Prep Experience Day (2 groups)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18, 20, 25, and 27 Nov</td>
<td>Years 5, 6 and 7 Family Planning HRE lessons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 20 Nov</td>
<td>Prep Experience Day (2 groups)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 20 Nov</td>
<td>Merrimac Annual Music Concert in PAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 2 Dec</td>
<td>5.45pm Merrimac Outside School Hours Care meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 2 Dec</td>
<td>6.30 pm P&amp;C meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 3 Dec</td>
<td>IM Workshops at Merrimac High (selected students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 5 Dec</td>
<td>RE Christmas Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 5 Dec</td>
<td>Report Cards to go home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 9 Dec</td>
<td>Carols By Candlelight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 12 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 Graduation Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 12 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 Graduation Disco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 13 Dec</td>
<td>Last day of Term Four</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 13 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 excursion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Merrimac State High School Enrolment Year 8 2014
An enrolment evening will be held on Wednesday 6 November at 6.30pm in the High School Library for interested parents.
Enrolment packs will be available or can be accessed at www.merrimacshs.eq.edu.au. Enquiries to 55958666.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK


STUDENTS OF THE MONTH
