Prep Orientation
Yesterday we had a very good roll up to both our morning and evening orientation sessions. Special thanks to Mrs Hall, Miss Murray, Mrs McNeilage, Mrs Lambour, Mrs Spencer, Mrs Barrett, Mr Boff, Chappy Steve, Mrs McCann and Mrs Goodman for their presentations. Thanks also to the P&C for providing the refreshments. Thanks to Veronica McCann also who opened up the Bookshop for both the morning and evening sessions and to Thomas Peisley from MOSHC who also attended and assisted with Outside School Care information for parents. We also appreciated the efforts of Teacher Aides Melissa Strudwick, Nicole Herrmann and Sophia Reiser who helped to look after the children during the orientation sessions. We currently have 91 confirmed enrolments for Prep next year. We are hoping that this number will grow to about 110 students by the end of the school year. This will allow us to have four prep classes and a Prep/Year One class for 2014.
Parents of children starting Prep in 2014 are reminded to return their enrolment forms as soon as possible to the school office. This will help greatly in finalising class groups for next year. Proof of birth must be provided with the enrolment forms.

Prep Experience Days
Term Four is an exciting time for our Preparatory Program. Merrimac State School invites new Prep students for 2014 to attend a two hour Prep Experience morning on either 13 or 20 November. The children will be engaged in Early Learning activities relating to Prep. This is to reassure them that school can be an enjoyable place where they can learn safely. They will also get to know some of the areas such as the classroom, playground and toilets. Parents can either drop off or stay for the morning.
Ms Hall will be holding a parent information session in the Performing Arts Centre for interested parents from 9.30am-10.45am. This will allow you to settle your child into the room and be back before the end of the session.

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 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.

Interschool Debating
Last Thursday, Merrimac State School hosted the Interschool Debating Competition. Congratulations to the Merrimac Team who won all their debates in their pool on the day and were named joint champion school. This is a fantastic effort by the Year 7 students who took part in the debating. Thank you to those students who assisted on the day. A big thank you to Mrs Fields, the Year 7 teachers and Merrimac staff who contributed to the success of the competition. In total there were 9 schools that participated on the day. Final results on the day were: Joint 1st Merrimac SS and Coomera Springs SS, 2nd St Varsity College and 3rd Palm Beach SS .
Well done again to the successful members of the Merrimac winning team.

Merrimac High Awards Night
On Wednesday night I attended the Merrimac State High School Awards night. I was very pleased to see so many former Merrimac Primary students receiving leadership, academic, cultural and sporting awards. Well done to all those students involved. The staff of Merrimac High should be congratulated for their efforts and for the high standard of the presentation evening.

Student Leadership Day (Y Lead)
Last Thursday thirty of our Year 5 students took part in a full day interactive leadership and team building program at Caningeraba State School. These students were chosen because they have been involved in various leadership roles throughout this year. From all reports it was a very successful day with the children taking part in many leadership activities. Thanks to Mrs Johns for coordinating this activity and for accompanying the children on the day.

New School Website and QSchools Smartphone App
The app QSchools is available to the school community as a free download via the Apple iTunes store and Google Play.
School Disco Information
Our term 4 Disco is to be held on Wednesday 6 November. The theme is “Bring the Bling”. Dress on the night has to be sensible and respectable. Come along and have a great time at our last disco for 2013. Music - Dancing - Video Clips - Food - Drinks - Fun.
Junior Disco P-3 6.00 - 7.00pm Cost is $2 per student
Senior Disco 4-7 7.00 - 8.30pm Cost is $3 per student
Note: P-Yr3 only to attend the Junior Disco and Yrs 4-7 only attend the Senior Disco.

Writers’ Festival
Last Friday afternoon, a number of our students were invited to the Writers’ Festival at Surfers Paradise State School. Our students had the opportunity to listen and to work with several authors. It was a great experience for our students. Thanks to Mrs McNeilage and those parents who attended and provided transport on the day.

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

School Banking Update - redeem your tokens for a moneybox this year!
In 2014 the School Banking program will be launching a new set of exciting reward items for students to redeem their tokens. Each reward item will continue to be valued at 10 tokens (ie 10 deposits) and there will be two new reward items for students to choose from each term.
With exciting new reward items on offer in 2014, please be aware that the Dollarmites moneyboxes will no longer be available next year. To avoid any child missing out on claiming their moneybox, please let your children know of this change and encourage them to redeem their moneybox this school year.
In an effort to ensure your child doesn’t miss out, the rule of one money box per year has been removed. If your child is trying to collect the series of Dollarmite moneyboxes, they are encouraged to do so before the end of the school year. Please understand that they still need to redeem each moneybox for the required 10 tokens.

Dental Van News
Students in grades (7, 6, 2, PREP, 5/6M, 5A) have been provided with an offer of oral health care examination card to take home.
If your child is enrolled in one of the grades listed above and did not receive an offer of care pack and you would like to arrange for your child to receive oral health care please contact the Oral Health Call Centre 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.

Student Placements 2014
If your child will not be returning to Merriam 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 __________

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>P-3</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>NOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Graduation</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>13 Nov</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>
</tbody>
</table>

SPOR TING NEWS
Girls and Mixed Touch Competition
This weekend we have three mixed touch teams taking part in the South East Queensland Primary Touch Competition at Redlands. Mr Epiha has been coaching the teams in preparation for this tournament. We wish them all the very best.

INTERSCHOOL SPORTS DRAW 1 November
Basketball at St Andrews Primary
Yr 5 vs St Andrews on Court 1 @ 12.45pm
Yr 7 vs St Andrews2 on Court 1 @ 1.55pm
Softball at Coplicks Family Sports Park
A Team vs Worongary on Field 1 @ 1.00pm
B Team vs Caningeraba on Field 2 @ 1.00pm
Boys Touch Mallawa Drive, Palm Beach
5A vs Worongary on Field 5/6 @ 1.35pm
5B vs Caningeraba on Field 2 @ 12.50pm
6A vs Caningeraba on Field 7 @ 1.35pm
7A vs Worongary on Field 10 @ 1.35pm
7B vs Caningeraba on Field 12 @ 12.50pm
Girls Touch at Galileo Way, Currimbin
5A vs William Duncan on Field 5 @ 12.45pm
5B vs Elanora 2 on Field 5 @ 1.30pm
6A vs William Duncan on Field 1 @ 12.45pm
6B vs GCCC on Field 1 @ 1.30pm
Girls Touch at Pizzey Park, Miami
7A vs Worongary on Field 1 @ 12.45pm
7B vs Robina on Field 1 @ 1.30 pm

MUSIC NEWS
Count Us In
Today at 11.00am, selected students from our Senior Choir performed at Surfers Paradise foreshore below the Q1 and at the top of Q1 as a part Of Music Count Us In. This event will be televised so look out for us on tonight’s local news.
Each year on October 31st at 11:30am schools across the nation have participated in Music Count Us In: Australia’s biggest school initiative. More than 600,000 students, teachers and parents from schools all over Australia sign up to learn, rehearse, then perform the same song, on the same day, at the same time.
This year students from 12 Gold Coast schools, took this initiative to “new Heights”. Students performed this year’s music count us in song “Keep On” atop the Q1 and below while students around the country sang along via a live feed on the music count us in website. http://www.musiccountusin.org.au

Magic of Music Concert
Our annual Magic of Music Concert is being held on Wednesday 20th November at 6:00pm. All welcome to attend. Detailed notes for the instrumental and choir students will be given out early next week.

Student Achievement
Jamieson Schmitzer in 5/6M has been cast as “Annie” in the upcoming theatre musical next February. Well done Jamieson.
**P&C NEWS**

P&C Survey - Want to win a bookpack for your child in 2014? Your opinion and feedback on P&C services is important to us, so please follow this link [http://bit.ly/16K939o](http://bit.ly/16K939o) to complete a survey with your child. Your and your child’s feedback is very valuable to your P&C. Let your voices be heard. The result of this survey will help us deliver better services to your family.

This survey is anonymous, unless you choose to enter your details at the end to go into the draw to win your child a FREE book pack for 2014! Please note that only fully completed surveys will be eligible to go into the draw.

If you don’t have access to an online computer, surveys are available from the school office to be returned to the bookshop during operating hours.

This survey will close on Thursday 21 November and the winner of the bookpack will be notified by email. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your feedback is very valuable to us.

**School Disco**

The IEC subcommittee of the P&C run a BBQ at each of our discos. Parents and students are asked to support the BBQ. Also any parent help on the night is much appreciated. All funds raised from the BBQ goes towards our Katsuragi/Merrimac Sister School program.

**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 4 November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mayumi</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Yoko M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Maria, Mayumi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Jin, Mayumi</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Meal Deal 7 Nov $5*

- Nachos w Lite Cheese & Mild Salsa
- Gingerbread Biscuit
- Jelly Stick
- Zooper Dooper
- Bottled Water

- Add 50c to upgrade to a Small Playwater or Flavoured Milk

**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

Jazz Capel, Olivia Molloy, Georgia Tsinoglis, Brooklyn Parker, Leilani Setiu, Donovan Peisley, Jack Keong, Koki Yamamoto, Monaee Atutahi-Rogers, Blake Goodman, Tuki Tuiravakai, Poppy Zarew, Leaulu Warby, Axel Daly, Mikayla Thorn, Kiara Latoo, Cooper Brandis, Dao’quin Tavalu, Grace Sawyer, Carter Rigter, Luke Harris, Bella Read, Josh Yeh, Charlotte Kershaw, Emma Tennant, Zackary Muskee, Anze Maric, Ella Stewart, Adrian Spiridon, Taichi Odonaka, Ethan Leighton, Shilo Kwocksun, Hayley Bond, Abigail Wyse, Riley Read, Jin, Mayumi

**ENROLLING AT MIAMI STATE HIGH SCHOOL**

Miami State High School recognises its prime obligation to provide access to an appropriate educational service for students residing within this community as defined by its local catchment area. Because of enrolment capacity and growth, Miami State High may be unable to meet this obligation in future unless action is taken to manage enrolment. An Enrolment Management Plan (EMP) has been formally gazetted by the Department of Education, Training and Employment for the school. This sets out the conditions under which students may be enrolled from ‘Out of Catchment’.

The requirements for enrolment into Miami State High School in accordance with the EMP will take immediate effect for students enrolling into years 8, 9, 10 and 11 this year and from the first school day, Tuesday 28 January 2014, for year 7 students enrolling into year 8 in 2014.

A copy of the EMP and related information will be available on the school website [www.miamishs.eq.edu.au](http://www.miamishs.eq.edu.au) shortly.

If you want to verify that your address is within our catchment area, it is available online via the following Department of Education Training and Employments EdMap website: [http://statistics.oesr.qld.gov.au/reverse-proxy/schools/catchment/catchmentmaps/](http://statistics.oesr.qld.gov.au/reverse-proxy/schools/catchment/catchmentmaps/)

Parents of current year 7 students wishing to enrol at Miami State High School for 2014 are encouraged to enrol their child this year to avoid the need to comply with the requirements of the EMP.

Please don’t hesitate to contact the school on 5554 0333 if you wish further information.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 - 8 Nov</td>
<td>Pat Maths Testing Yrs 3, 5 and 7</td>
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<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>Mon 11 Nov</td>
<td>Year One Protective Behaviours Program (five Mondays)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Nov</td>
<td>Remembrance Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Nov</td>
<td>5.45pm Merrimac Outside School Hours Care meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Nov</td>
<td>6.30pm P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Nov</td>
<td>7.00pm Robina High Awards Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 13 Nov</td>
<td>Prep Experience Day (2 groups)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 15 Nov</td>
<td>Last day of Interschool Sport</td>
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<tr>
<td>18, 20, 25, 27 Nov</td>
<td>Years 5, 6 and 7 Family Planning HRE lessons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 20 Nov</td>
<td>Prep Experience Day (2 groups)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 20 Nov</td>
<td>Merrimac Annual Music Concert in PAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 2 Dec</td>
<td>5.45pm Merrimac Outside School Hours Care meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 2 Dec</td>
<td>6.30 pm P&amp;C meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 3 Dec</td>
<td>IM Workshops at Merrimac High (selected students)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 5 Dec</td>
<td>RE Christmas Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 5 Dec</td>
<td>Report Cards to go home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9 Dec</td>
<td>Carols By Candelight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 12 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 Graduation Ceremony</td>
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<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>
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**Measles Health Alert - Education Queensland Update**

Queensland Health is concerned about the number of measles outbreaks in Queensland this year. Measles is a highly infectious disease that begins with symptoms such as fever, tiredness, cough, runny nose and/or red inflamed eyes. Measles can lead to complications such as middle ear infections, pneumonia (lung infection) and encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).

Measles can spread very easily. Vaccination is the only way to prevent measles. Queensland Health encourages anyone who has not had two measles-containing vaccinations, or who is not sure about their vaccination status, to get vaccinated as soon as possible. The measles vaccine is free from your local doctor for anyone born from 1966 onwards.

If parents think their child might have measles, they are advised to keep them away from school and make an appointment with a doctor or phone 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) to organise medical assessment. More information is available from [http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/ViralInfections/measles_fs.asp](http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/ViralInfections/measles_fs.asp)