Term 4 Week 5 Thursday 7 November 2013

PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

P&C Meeting
Our next P&C meeting is scheduled for Monday 11th November at 6.30pm in the Admin Building. All interested parents are invited to attend. There will be no Outside School Hours Care meeting this month as our coordinator Thomas is on leave next week. Any MOSHC issues can be raised through the normal P&C meeting.

International Exchange Parent Committee Meeting
The next Parent IEC Meeting will be held on Monday 11 November at 5.30p.m. in the staff room. Next year we will be hosting Katsuragi Elementary School as part of our Sister School Arrangement. Preparations for this visit have already started. We need new members and all interested parents are invited to attend. In 2015, Merrimac will again travel to Japan. Parents who wish to be considered for this trip need to be active IEC participants and a great way of doing this is by assisting with Katsuragi’s visit next year.

Staffing News
Mrs Taffs has Long Service Leave next week from 11 to 15 November. Mr Akito Nishioka will teach 4B for this time. Mrs Chilvers has Long Service Leave from 18 November to the end of the school year. Mr Ben Shaw will teach 56M for these four weeks. Also Mrs Bird has Long Service Leave from 18 November to the 13 December. Mrs Prentis, who normally teaches Year 3C each Friday, will be teaching the class fulltime for the last four weeks of the term.

Remembrance Day
Remembrance Day is next Monday 11 November. Our school will commemorate the significance of Remembrance Day and at 11.00am by observing a Minute of Silence.

Canberra 2014 Update
All places have been filled for the Canberra 2014 Program with a group of students on the waiting list. In the event of vacancies parents will be contacted. It is possible that places will become available through until Easter 2014. A newsletter will be sent home early next year with payment dates and further information. Although we have a waiting list of students for the Canberra trip for next year, we did not get enough numbers to make it feasible to expand our program to two full buses. It was therefore necessary to restrict the numbers to the capacity of one large bus which is 60 students.

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 procedure 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 will 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.

Music Count Us In
Last Thursday at 11.00am, selected students from our Senior Choir performed at Surfers Paradise foreshore below the Q1 and at the top of Q1 as part Of Music Count Us In. This event was televised by the local Channel 9 News. Thank you to Mrs Powell for all her hard work in preparing the students.

Each year on October 31st at 11:30am schools across the nation participate in Music Count Us In: Australia’s biggest school initiative. More than 600,000 students, teachers and parents from schools all over Australia signed up to learn, rehearse, and then perform the same song, on the same day, at the same time.

This year students from 12 Gold Coast State schools took this initiative to “new heights”. Students performed this year’s Music Count Us In song “Keep On” atop the Q1 and below on the beach while students around the country sang along via a live feed on the Music Count Us In website. http://www.musiccountusin.org.au

Year One Protective Behaviours Program
‘Act for Kids’ trained educators will be coming to support Year 1 teachers in running a five week protective behaviours program called, ‘Be Safe With Emmy’. This program educates young children in how to identify their feelings, identify safe and unsafe situations, decide who are their safe people and talk about safe and unsafe secrets. The program is delivered in a child friendly way with Emmy, a puppet character giving children most of the information. There are activity sheets that parents can go through with their child to reinforce the ‘Keeping Safe’ messages. For further information go to: www.actforkids.com.au

Human Relationships Education (HRE)
The school’s HRE program for Years 5, 6 and 7 will be implemented in Weeks 7 and 8 of this term. Information and permission letters for the respective year levels (Years 5 to 7) have been sent home.
today. The cost of these lessons is approximately $10 per child but for this year the P&C and school have jointly funded this program. Student participation will be monitored and feedback from parents will be sought to gauge the successfullness of the program and whether we continue with it in the future as a school funded activity.

Parent Information Booklets
New Parent Information Booklets for 2014 have been prepared. These are provided to all new enrolments and beginning Prep families. Additional copies are available from the school office for anyone who may be interested in obtaining a copy. The Parent Information Booklet is also available on the school’s website.

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. The QSchools has just been updated and now includes information on our Tuckshop, Bookshop, enrolment forms and documents, as well as continuing to give information on newsletters, calendar of events, newsexeds and alerts. All parents are encouraged to access this free App on their IPhone or Android phone. If you already have the QSchools installed, please update the app to access the latest features.

Dental Van News
Students in grades (7,6,5,2,PREP) have been provided with an offer of orthal health care examination card to take home. ( Packs are being mailed out today).
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 Success
Congratulations to Year 6 student Eliza Vellacott, who recently won the Gold Coast Libraries Creative Writing Competition. Eliza wrote a fantastic short story on the theme ‘Across the Universe’. Eliza has won for herself an Apple I Pad and was presented with her prize by the GCCC Mayor Mr Tom Tate at a special presentation at the GCCC Chambers. Well done Eliza. Keep up the creative writing.

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.

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>
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<tbody>
<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>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Seaworld</td>
<td>$35 or $12</td>
<td>2 Dec</td>
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SPORTING NEWS
Touch Football Tournament
Last weekend a group of Year 6 and 7 students attended the Queensland Primary Schools Touch Tournament with Mr Epipa. A mixture of 30 boys and girls represented Merrimac State School. Merrimac entered three mixed teams into the tournament with great results. Every student gave 100% and comments received from Referees and Coaches from other schools were very positive. Our students did our school proud by displaying great teamwork, respect for their opponents and Referees and most of all superb sportsmanship. As Coach of the team, Mr Epipa said he could not be more pleased with the way our students represented the school in the wider community. It was a great weekend with great memories that will be remembered by all the students and parents that were present.

INTERSCHOOL SPORTS DRAW 8 November
Basketball at St Andrews Primary
Yr 5 vs Elanora on Court 3 @ 12.45pm
Yr 7 vs Elanora on Court 3 @ 1.55pm
Softball at Coplicks Family Sports Park
A Team vs St Andrews on Field 3 @ 1.00pm
B Team vs Worroway on Field 2 @ 1.00pm
Boys Touch Mallawa Drive, Palm Beach
$35 or $12
5A vs Elanora on Field 1 @ 1.35pm
5B vs Burleigh White on Field 5 @ 12.50pm
6A vs Robina on Field 14 @ 1.35pm
7A vs William Duncan on Field 10 @ 1.35pm
7B vs Elanora on Field 12 @ 12.50pm
Girls Touch at Galleon Way, Currumbin
$40 or $16
5A vs William Duncan on Field 2 @ 12.45pm
5B vs Mudgeeraba on Field 5 @ 1.30pm
6A vs Robina on Field 7 @ 12.45pm
6B vs Caningeraba on Field 4 @ 1.30pm
Girls Touch at Pizzey Park, Miami
7A vs Burleigh on Field 2 @ 12.45pm
7B vs Elanora 2 on Field 2 @ 1.30 pm

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/16k939g to complete a survey with your child. You 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 in 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student/s Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
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Artworks Fundraising
Thank you very much for your support, we raised a fantastic amount of $2825!! The artworks will be delivered mid November.

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 11 November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mayumi</th>
<th>Meal Deal 14 Nov $5*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Yoko H</td>
<td>Chicken Chippies &amp; side salad tub with cheese &amp; mayo sachet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Yoko M, Help Pls</td>
<td>Gingerbread person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Maria S, Mayumi</td>
<td>Zooper Dooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Mayumi, Help Pls</td>
<td>Bottled Water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Add 50c to upgrade to flavoured milk or small playwater

MUSIC NEWS
Magic of Music Concert
The annual Merrimac State School Magic of Music Concert will be held on Wednesday 20th November in the Merrimac School PAC Hall. Family and friends are all invited. Entry Fee: Gold Coin Donation
The program has been separated into two sessions. Please note the following performance information.

Session 1. 6.00pm – 6.45pm
Students are to arrive at 5.30pm
Junior Choir - Meet Mrs Powell in the Hall - side stage.
Junior Strings - Meet Ms Hurst in Music Room
Junior Band - Meet Miss Deb in Science Resource Room

INTERMISSION
Tea, coffee and light supper will be served in the foyer for parents.

Session 2. 7.15pm – 8.45pm
Students are to arrive at 6.45pm
Senior Choir - Meet Mrs Powell in Hall - side stage.
Senior & Intermediate Strings - Meet Ms Hurst in Music Room
Senior Band - Meet Miss Deb in Science Resource Room

Full School Music Uniform is to be worn.
Long Black Pants, Black Socks, Black shoes and Blue School Music Polo Shirt.

PLEASE NOTE: IMPORTANT INFORMATION
Music Polo Shirts will be collected after the performance so students MUST BRING A SPARE SHIRT to change into.

Strings News
Thank you to those students who have returned their expression of interest forms for the 2014 strings program. A letter advising the outcome of your application will be sent home next Wednesday and an information meeting will be held soon (date to be advised).

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK
Kyle Relph, Maggie Koo Tam, Eli Perkins, Teigan Thomas, Eva Lawrie, Emily Lovell, Cody Rybak, Jacob Seib, Bella Britton, Rosa Stoker, Bowen Lin.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Nov</td>
<td>Year One Protective Behaviours Program (five Mondays)</td>
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<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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<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>Year 1 Seaworld</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 5 Dec</td>
<td>Year 2 Dreamworld</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 Candlelight</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>
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<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

Computers for Sale - Payment and Collection Wednesday 13 Nov 2013
Dell-Vista, ex classroom computers
- 32byte, 26 Ram, 80GB HDD
- Cables, Mouse, 17” Monitor, Keyboard
No service, support, or warranty with these machines
$80 each - only 20 available. Payment to finance window from Monday 11 November - between 8.00am - 9.30am.

Lost Watch
Silver Jag watch, Rectangle face with stainless steel linked wrist band. Reward offered if handed in. If found please take to school office and leave contact details.