Term 4 Week 7 Thursday 21 November 2013

PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

Magic of Music Concert

The music department had the privilege of holding the Magic of Music Concert on campus in our Performing Arts Centre last night. Thanks go to Mrs Joy Powell, Ms Helen Hurst, Miss Deb Body and our wonderful choir and instrumental students who showcased their musical achievements for this year. We now have over two hundred active students in our music program, necessitating both a Junior and Senior music concert so we can fit everyone in the Hall. Senior medals were given to our leaving Year 7 students who will be sorely missed from our program.

Thanks to Merrimac High students who performed on the evening. Thank you to Mrs Kush who provided expert accompaniment to our performances. Mr Greg McBlane worked tirelessly on the sound so the audience could have the full benefit of the students’ music making skills.

Music teachers thanked the parents for their support in getting the young musicians to their practice and performance commitments, encouraging children to practise at home and supporting the teachers during the year. Thank you to all the school staff who assisted on the night. It was very much appreciated. Ms Hall did a fabulous job as the MC on the night and we thank her for her ongoing support of our school’s music program.

Enrolment Management Plan

Our school’s official Enrolment Management Plan (EMP) has now been gazetted and is now in place. Our school has an identified enrolment boundary and catchment area. Our official enrolment capacity is 854 students and we should endeavour not to go above this total. In 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 submitted their enrolment forms before the EMP was finalised and signed off (18 November 2013) are able to be enrolled at Merrimac even if residing outside our catchment area. Now that the EMP has come into force, we 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.

Staffing News

Mrs Seward has Long Service Leave for the last two weeks of school from 3 to 13 December. Originally Miss Stephanie Coleman was to return from her leave and replace Mrs Seward. Miss Coleman will not return from South Africa until the end of the term. Miss Amber Butler-Davis will now replace Mrs Seward and be teaching Year 4A for the last two weeks of term.

Volunteers’ Afternoon Tea

An afternoon tea will be held for all our wonderful volunteers at 1.45pm on Wednesday 4 December in our Science Room to say thank you to our many parents and friends who assist in our classrooms, tuckshop, bookshop, discos, P&C and on various committees. Please come along and enjoy the afternoon tea. Mr Bob La Castra, our Gold Coast City Councillor, has been invited along to help celebrate this occasion and to help present certificates to the many volunteers at Merrimac.

Parental Educational Requests – 2014

Parents have had four weeks to submit educational requests for class placements for 2014. The date for parent requests has now closed and class groups are being formulated. Late class requests will be accepted but marked late. Late requests will only be considered if operationally convenient to the school.

Year 7 Graduation

The Year 7 Graduation Ceremony will be held on Thursday 12 December in our Performing Arts Centre (PAC) from 10.00am to 1.30pm.

A Year 7 only student disco will be held the same evening at 6.30pm - 8.00pm in the MPC. On the last day of term our Year 7 students will enjoy a special day at Wet n Wild (subject to behaviour review).

School Uniform Donation

Parents whose children finish at Merrimac at the end of the school year may like to donate their children’s old uniforms to our school reserve supply. This would greatly help our spare clothing pool for when children are in need of borrowing a spare uniform. Parents, please check your uniforms at home as we are missing a few uniforms from our supply. They are numbered on the tag. Also, the Music Committee would be very appreciative of donations of black shoes.

Carols by Candlelight Information

The annual Merrimac Christmas Carols event is fast approaching and scheduled for the evening of Monday 9 December. Recently a letter about Kmart Wishing Tree donations was sent home and another letter was sent home appealing to your generosity for hamper donations. We ask that families consider donating a small gift for a child, adult or grandparent to assist with making Christmas a little brighter for those in need. The class that donates the greatest amount of gifts will receive a prize for their efforts. All gift donations, which will be given to the Salvation Army, can be delivered to 4C or 4D along with hamper items which will be raffled on Carols night. We thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity in making Christmas a little brighter for others.

End of Year Reporting

Report Cards for Prep to 7 will go home on Thursday 5 December. If parents have any concerns regarding their child’s report, they are encouraged to arrange a meeting with their child’s teacher. Parent/Teacher interviews, if needed, can be arranged in the last week of the term.
Human Relationships Education (HRE)
The school’s HRE program for Years 5, 6 and 7 is being implemented in Weeks 7 and 8 of this term. Information and permission letters for the respective year levels (Years 5 to 7) have already been sent home.

New School Website and QSchools Smartphone App
The QSchools app is available to the school community as a free download via the Apple iTunes store and Google Play. The QSchools app 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, newsfeeds and alerts. All parents are encouraged to access this free App on their iPhone or Android phone. If you already have the QSchools app installed, please update the app to access the latest features.

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 tomorrow. This will assist in the placements for next year. Please note this does not apply to Year 7 students in 2013.

Student Banking
Please make a note in your diary that the last day for student banking will be Monday 2 December. There will be no student banking on the last week of term.

Philippines Disaster Appeal
We would like to thank everyone who has generously donated items to the Hygiene Packs for the Philippines Disaster Appeal. We can all do a little to help out so we are holding a “Monday Medical Drop off Morning”. This will be in the undercover area in front of the tuckshop on Monday 25 November between 8am-9am. We are still collecting toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, combs, face washers, etc in the Prep 3 classroom. Friday 29 November is the last day of collection so please bring your donations in as soon as possible.

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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Payment by</th>
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<tbody>
<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>
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Please make payment of these two events as soon as possible so we can confirm transport arrangements. Thank you.

STUDENT NON PLACEMENT FOR 2014
My child/children will not be attending Merrimac Primary next year.

The new school is: _____________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature: ______________________________________

Student’s Name ___________________ Class ____________

_________________________ __________________________

SPORTING NEWS

Interschool Sport
Last Friday was the final day of Interschool sport for the term. A number of our teams were in grand finals or were overall premiers for the season. A full list of results will be published in next week’s newsletter. Well done to all of our interschool sports participants.

A big thank you goes to the tuckshop ladies, who organise the water and first aid kits for each of the sporting teams. Also we are very appreciative of the efforts of Mrs Farrar in the office who organises the buses and the newsletter sports draw each week. Also Mr Singh does a great job in coordinating our interschool sport participation.

Special thanks to staff and parents who volunteer their time to take teams on a Friday and for training them during their lunch times. Our interschool sporting participation continues to flourish and this is due to the supportive efforts of our class teachers. Thank you to all our teachers who have run the school based sports during the term.

IMPORTANT INTERSCHOOL SPORTS NEWS
Please return all sports shirts washed to your coach. First team to bring back all team shirts will win a prize from Mr Singh. Also, please check if you have old interschool sports team shirts that you may have forgotten to return. No questions asked, just return to the office.

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 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.

Next P&C Meeting
The final P&C meeting for the year will be held on Monday 2 December commencing at 6.30pm in the school Admin Building.

Special P&C Meeting
A special P&C Meeting will be held just prior to our next P&C meeting commencing at 6.15pm. This meeting will determine the P&C financial auditors for the year.

Artworks
Calendars have arrived and have been distributed to children. If you have any queries please contact coordinator Yoko through the tuckshop. Leave your name and number at the tuckshop and Yoko will return your call.

BOOKSHOP NEWS for all your stationery and uniform needs
- Opening times: Mon – Wed – Fri 8am to 9am
- Orders can be placed at the bookshop or on flexischools.com.au
- Special Opening Times - from Wednesday 4 December until Friday 13 December (last day of School) the bookshop will open from 8am – 9am every day.
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK


UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>25, 27 Nov</td>
<td>Years 5, 6 and 7 Family Planning HRE lessons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 2 Dec</td>
<td>Last Day for Student Banking</td>
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<td>Mon 2 Dec</td>
<td>5.45pm Merrimac Outside School Hours Care meeting</td>
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<td>Mon 2 Dec</td>
<td>6.15pm Special P&amp;C Meeting to determine P&amp;C Financial Auditors</td>
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<td>Mon 2 Dec</td>
<td>6.30 pm P&amp;C meeting</td>
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<td>Tues 3 Dec</td>
<td>IM Workshops at Merrimac High (selected students)</td>
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<td>Thurs 5 Dec</td>
<td>RE Christmas Presentations</td>
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<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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<td>Thurs 5 Dec</td>
<td>Report Cards to go home</td>
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<td>Mon 9 Dec</td>
<td>Carols By Candlelight</td>
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<td>Thurs 12 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 Graduation Ceremony</td>
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<td>Thurs 12 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 Graduation Disco</td>
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<td>Fri 13 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 13 Dec</td>
<td>Last day of Term Four</td>
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Many thanks to my volunteers this week. Your help is appreciated. Have a good week. ~ Denise ~