Term 1 Week 1 Thursday 30 January 2014
PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

New School Year
Welcome back to the 2014 school year. The beginning of the term has started at a hectic pace, with quite a number of new enrolments to the school. Our total school enrolment to date is 853 students. In addition, we still have some more students still to return to school next week and a few more new enrolments to start. We welcome all our new families to our school and I do encourage you to be actively involved in your children’s education and to be a part of the Merrimac school community.

A special welcome is extended to all our new Prep students. In total we had 111 new Prep students who all seemed to have had a great start to their schooling life at Merrimac.

For the commencement of the school year we have 34 class groups. Education Queensland reviews school numbers at the end of Week 2. If there are to be any class changes these will happen at the beginning of Week 3 and parents will be informed.

We have a number of teachers returning to school from extended leave. We welcome back Miss Kitching (Year 2), Miss Coleman (Prep/Yr 1) and Mrs Moore (Year 1).

A warm welcome also to the following new staff: Mr Ben Shaw (Term One Contract - Year 6) and Mrs Pamela Chalip (Guidance Officer).

Welcome back to a number of contract teachers for 2014 –Mrs Michelle Cavalier (Year 1), Mr Basil Epipa (Year 7), Miss Bonnie Rogers (Year 4), Mrs Ingrid Werder (Year 2), Mr Chris Haddock (Lib/ICT) and Miss Amy McDonald (SEP, Yr 3 and Non-Contact Time).

All our general specialist teachers remain the same as 2013. Mr Haddock will continue on contract for Term One in the Library. This year all specialist lessons will again be 30 minutes in duration. This includes PE, Music, LOTE (Japanese) and Library lessons. LOTE is officially offered to Years 6 and 7 students. Our school is fortunate enough to be able to also offer LOTE to our Years 4 and 5 children. Years 4 and 5 receive two thirty minute Japanese lessons per week, while Years 6 and 7 will receive the equivalent of 3 thirty minute lessons a week.

For the start of the year it was very pleasing to see almost all children dressed smartly in their school uniforms. This includes the wearing of hats in school colours. It is hoped that this continues throughout the year.

Staffing Update
Mrs McClavey is still recovering from her snapped achilles tendon and will be away for the first two weeks of the term. Mrs Werder who takes this class each Friday will be teaching 1C in Mrs McClavey’s absence.

Mr Harrison will be on sick leave till next Wednesday. He has spent some time in hospital but is now at home and recovering well. Mr Haddock will be teaching 7C while Mr Harrison is away and Mrs Purcell will work in the Library for this time.

Mrs Barrett has Long Service Leave from 3 to 7 February. Mrs Denise Boyd will be teaching in P4 for these five days.

School Newsletter
The school newsletter is an important source of information between school and home. Newsletters will be sent home on Thursdays with the youngest child in the family every week. Please check your child’s school bag each Thursday for the Newsletter to keep up to date with current school events. Additional copies are always available in the foyer of the school office or on our website at www.merrimacss.eq.edu.au.

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.

2014 Teacher Allocations
We currently have 34 class groups. It is possible that changes could be made after the Day 8 Enrolment Collection at the end of Week Two. Parents will be notified if any changes are to occur.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Class Teachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Jill Spencer, Vicki Lamburd, Chris Boff, Kylie Barrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep/Yr 1</td>
<td>Stephanie Coleman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Michelle Cavalier(Sem One Contract), Amy Crozier (0.6)/Rachael Moore(0.4), Angela McClavey(0.8)/Ingrid Werder(0.2 Contract), Cindy Boff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Sam Jacobs, Chrystene Conder, Trudy Taylor, Kate Kitching, Rhonda Wakelin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Sarah Zarew(0.6)/Kimberley Chipp(0.4), Paddy O’Malone(0.8)/Kimberly Chipp(0.2), Rosaly Bird (0.8)/Marion Prentis(0.2), Sophie Stringer (0.8)/Amy McDonald (0.2 Contract)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4</td>
<td>Penny Ferguson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Dom Seward(0.8)/Meagan Greenway(0.2), Lisa Taffs, Bonnie Rogers(Sem One Contract), Tania Zoal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Andrew Elliott, Kate Johns, Deb Haywood, Louisa Chilvers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Leita Parkes, Ben Shaw(Term One Contract), Louise Riis, George Webster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Brod Harrison, Kerri Fields, Basil Epipa (Sem One Contract)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
School Parades
Our Upper School Parades (Years 4-7) and our Lower School Parades (Years P-3) will commence next week in the Performing Arts Centre. The Upper School parade will be held on Tuesday afternoons from 2.30pm to 2.55pm while the Lower School parade will be held on Wednesday afternoons from 2.30pm to 2.55pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

Car Park Congestion
At the beginning of each year there is always congestion in the car park area. Last year we had an additional car park built for the school. Our car parks are considered to be more than adequate for a school of our size and they are larger than most other school car parks.

It is important that all parents use the car parks responsibly and show patience especially at the beginning of the school year when there is increased traffic use.

Parents are reminded that the teachers’ car park and the truck delivery roundabout in the school grounds are not a pick up or drop off area for children. This practice is very dangerous and could endanger your children. Also parents and students should not walk through the staff car park when arriving or leaving school. Please follow these instructions to ensure the safety of our entire school community, we do not wish to see any accidents due to irresponsible actions.

Parent/Teacher Meetings:
This year’s parent/teacher meetings have been set down for Week Three and each year level will have a designated day and time for their parent/teacher meeting. The schedule is published below. Parent invitations with a reply slip have been sent home this week with all students. Please confirm your attendance by returning the reply slip to your child’s class teacher.

The idea of the parent/teacher meetings is to give parents the chance to meet as a group with each of the class teachers. Teachers will discuss such things as class rules, behaviour management, teacher expectations, various curriculum issues, homework, parent assistance in the classroom and other topics which may be raised. It is a good chance for parents to ask any questions or express any concerns that they may have. All parents are encouraged to attend the scheduled parent/teacher meetings.

FINANCE NEWS – payments accepted from 3 Feb
The finance window operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8am – 4.30pm in the administration building commencing next Monday 3 February. Payments for school activities are accepted at these times only. Payments can be made by Cash, Cheque (made payable to Merrimac State School), EFTPOS or Credit. Some payments may be direct deposited. Details will be provided for those events where this option is available. Please ensure if you do use this method of payment that you do not combine payments as it becomes difficult to determine the breakdown of what you are paying for. Parents are also advised to ensure payment is made by due dates as final numbers are often required and your child will miss out on an event if they have not paid by the due date. Commencing next Monday 3 February we will be accepting payments for the following:

3.15pm to 4.15pm Wednesday 12 February – Specialist teachers will be available for individual parent meetings in their base rooms.

Breakfast and Fitness Program
Chappy Steve, Mr Epiha and Mr Webster are planning 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. Parent help would be very much appreciated.

Dental Van News
Students in 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D (7, 6, 3, 1 were offered in 2013) have been provided with an offer of oral health care examination card to take home.

If your child is enrolled in one of the classes listed above or are new to the school 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 between 8.00 am – 4.30 pm Excluding Public Holidays.

If your child requires disability access please identify this requirement with the Call Centre Operator.

Early Arrivals at School
It is recommended that children arrive at school from 8.30am onwards. There is no rostered teacher supervision before school. Children are not allowed on the play forts or the school’s oval in the morning.

Any children who arrive at school before 8.00am must remain outside the school’s administration building until this time. They are then allowed to go to the area outside their classrooms.

Although the behaviour of our students is very good in general, it is more likely for children to misbehave or do the wrong thing if they are at school in the morning for a long time.

Our school has Before School Care, which is held in the Multi Purpose Building. The operating times are from 6.30am to 8.50am. Enquiries and bookings can be made through the coordinator on phone 55252617. A fully supervised activity based program is undertaken and breakfast is provided. Fee relief is available for eligible families.

Parents may wish to consider using the Before School Care Service when children have to be dropped off early to school on a regular basis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Payment Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yrs 4-5</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>$70</td>
<td>7 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yrs 6-7</td>
<td>Safe Surfing</td>
<td>$65</td>
<td>7 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strings/Band</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>28 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strings/Band</td>
<td>Instrument Hire</td>
<td>$120</td>
<td>28 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Camp</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>10 Mar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
P&C NEWS
The first P&C meeting for the year will be held on Monday 10 February at 6.30pm in the Staffroom. This is the second Monday of the month. All parents are invited to attend. P&C Meetings are a good way to find out what is happening in your child’s school. The Staffroom is situated at the end of the Administration Building.

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE NEWS
The first OSHC meeting for the year will be held on Monday 10 February commencing at 5.45pm in the MPC. All interested parents are welcome to attend.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PARENT COMMITTEE NEWS
Merrimac State School and Katsuragi Elementary School in Japan have had a formal Sister School Agreement since 2001. Every second year, Merrimac visits Katsuragi and on alternate years Katsuragi visits our school. In July/August this year we will receive a visit from Katsuragi Elementary School. It is important that we have parent support and involvement in this year’s exchange. If you are interested in being involved, the next Parent IEC Meeting will be held on Monday 10 February at 5.30pm in the staffroom. New members warmly welcomed. In 2015, Merrimac will again visit Japan. Parents who may be considering accompanying our school to Japan next year need to be actively involved in our exchange program in 2014.

SURFSIDE BUSLINES NEWS
Some bus passes have already been issued to students. As more arrive we will distribute them to the students. For bus and bus pass information and application forms phone Surfside directly on 5571 6555 or visit their website at: www.surfside.com.au

PE NEWS
Swimming Lessons for Years 4 and 5
Swimming for Years 4-5 begin on Monday 10 February and will continue for six weeks. Permission notes have been sent home this week. Please return the notes with the correct money. Swimming is part of the P.E. Curriculum. All children are reminded to bring their togs, towels, and goggles each Wednesday. The Swimming Carnival is at the Merrimac High School pool on Thursday 28th March for Years 5-7.

Surf Awareness Program for Years 6 and 7
Commencing on Wednesday 12 February, some of our Year 6 and 7 students will take part in a Surf Awareness Program. Students will gain knowledge in safe surf conditions, tides and current and basic surfing skills. This program, will take the place of traditional swimming lessons and it is hoped that students will gain more benefits and enjoyment from this program. Students will have 3 lessons which will each run for 90 minutes and the cost will be $70.00. Soft surfboards, wetshirts and sunscreen will be provided. Permission forms containing more details will be sent home this week. See note for which three weeks your child will be attending.

MUSIC NEWS
Happy New Year everyone. Welcome to Merrimac Music 2014. Another exciting year ahead for our instrumental and choir students.
Miss Deb will be at Merrimac all day MONDAY and from 11.30am WEDNESDAY
Ms Hurst will be at Merrimac TUESDAY until 11.30am and all day WEDNESDAY. On Wednesday Strings students will have their lessons in the PAC Conference room and rehearsals on the PAC Stage.
Mrs Powell is at Merrimac every day.
Rehearsals are necessary and compulsory for all students. Below is a list of the Instrumental and Choir Groups’ Rehearsal times. Please note commencement dates as each group varies.
New students to the school interested in participating in the Music Program, either Instrumental or Choral, please contact Mrs Powell in the music room. Please note the following times:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Commencement Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>8.00-8.45am</td>
<td>Snr Band</td>
<td>10 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8.00-8.45am</td>
<td>Sr Strings PAC</td>
<td>11 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>8.00-8.45am</td>
<td>Beg Strings PAC</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.50-1.40pm</td>
<td>Int Strings PAC</td>
<td>12 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.55-4.00pm</td>
<td>Jnr Band</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8.00-8.45am</td>
<td>Snr Choir</td>
<td>30 January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8.00-9.00am</td>
<td>Jnr Choir</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Best wishes for a fabulous year of Merrimac Music!

STUDENT BANKING
Student banking will commence next Monday 3 February. Applications will be sent home with Preps when we receive them from the Commonwealth Bank. Banking day is Monday and students can make deposits at the finance window. Please ensure you have your child’s name and current class written on the yellow pouch which contains the deposit book.

TUCKSHOP NEWS
Tuckshop Roster for Week beginning Monday 3 February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 3/2</th>
<th>Mayumi</th>
<th>Meal Deal for Thurs 6 Feb $5.00</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 4/2</td>
<td>Yoko H</td>
<td>* See Blackboard outside tuckshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 5/2</td>
<td>Yoko M, Naoko</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 6/2</td>
<td>Maria S, Mayumi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 7/2</td>
<td>Naoko, Mayumi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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COMMUNITY NEWS

SPEECH AND DRAMA CLASS
Tuesdays 7.30 - 8.45 am for Years 2-7 in the Science room.
These classes build and improve self confidence and self esteem while practicing and developing leadership techniques and playing at problem solving life skills. (A public speaking class for years 7-12 at 5pm Tuesdays at Mudgeeraba)
- Accelerate and Extend their reading and speaking abilities effectively
- Have fun learning through storytelling, role playing, improvisation, mime
- Voice care (projection, delivery, enunciation & speech exercises-phonetics/sounds
- Weekly speaking tasks (poems, readings-prose, informal speeches, plays-drama)
- Games for listening, observation, focus, & self control, self awareness of feelings
Small limited numbers- $20 per class. Class trials their first 4 lessons. Parents welcome to sit in on the class. Structured yearly programme. Local teacher of 33 years. To enroll: Phone Karen on 55732009 / 0438732009. **EMPOWER YOUR CHILD FOR LIFE.**
Tennis Coaching
Michael Mitchell will conduct tennis lessons before school for Merrimac students commencing Monday 3 February. Flyers are available at the office or you can call Michael on 0414464032 to reserve your place.

Cricket Australia are holding a free MILO T20 Blast Come & Try evening for girls and boys between ages 8-12 years old. This fun-fill afternoon will take place at Kerrydale Oval, Friddeys Road, Robina on Monday 10 February from 4.30pm-6.00pm. Come along and see what the hype is about! For more information contact Gareth Roberts on 0420766414.

Insurance cover for students
Some school activities and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury. Parents are advised the Department of Education and Training does not have student accident insurance cover for students.
If your child is injured at school as a result of an accident or incident, all costs associated with the injury, including medical costs are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver.
Some incidental medical costs may be covered by Medicare. If you have private health insurance, some costs may also be covered by your provider. Any other costs must be covered by parents.
Student accident insurance pays some benefits in certain circumstances should your child have an accident.
It is up to all parents to decide what types and what level of private insurance they wish to arrange to cover their child.
Please contact your insurer or an approved Australian insurance broker if you wish to take out student personal accident insurance cover for your child.

TransLink fare increases
TransLink public transport fares have increased by 7.5 per cent and off-peak times changed to provide more opportunities to take advantage of the 20 per cent off-peak discount.
Students should ensure they travel with a valid concession card and check its expiry date.
For more information visit www.translink.com.au or phone 13 12 30.

Daniel Morcombe child safety video
A new video has been developed which can help parents understand the lessons our school is planning to deliver from the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum. The Bruce and Denise Morcombe child safety presentation for parents is available from www.youtube.com/DETQueensland and in it the Morcombes discuss the curriculum and ways parents can talk about safety with their children at home.
Please take the time to watch this video and talk to your children about keeping safe.

UPCOMING EVENTS – Term One

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 31 Jan</td>
<td>Day 4 Enrolment Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 6 Jan</td>
<td>Day 8 Enrolment Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 10 Feb</td>
<td>5.30pm Katsuragi IEC Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 10 Feb</td>
<td>5.45pm MOSHC meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 10 Feb</td>
<td>6.30pm P&amp;C meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 10 Feb</td>
<td>Years 4 and 5 swim program commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14 Feb</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher meetings week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 12 Feb</td>
<td>Years 6 and 7 Surf Program commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 18 Feb</td>
<td>District Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 26 Feb</td>
<td>School Disco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 27 Feb</td>
<td>Student Leadership Day at Tallebudgera Beach School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 3 Mar</td>
<td>National Young Leaders’ Day in Brisbane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 10 Mar</td>
<td>5.45pm MOSHC meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 10 Mar</td>
<td>6.30pm P&amp;C meeting - AGM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-21 Mar</td>
<td>Harmony Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-21 Mar</td>
<td>Somerset Celebration of Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Mar - 2 Apr</td>
<td>Year Four Camp 4A, 4B, 4M Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 April - 4 April</td>
<td>Year Four Camp 4C, 4D, 4M Boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 2 April</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews (3.30pm to 7.30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 4 April</td>
<td>Years 5 to 7 swimming carnival at Merrimac High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 4 April</td>
<td>11.30am to 1.00pm Prep to Year 2 Easter hat Parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 4 April</td>
<td>Last day of Term One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 18 April</td>
<td>Good Friday holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 21 April</td>
<td>Easter Monday holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 22 April</td>
<td>First school day of Term Two</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>First School Day</th>
<th>Last School Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>28 January</td>
<td>4 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>22 April</td>
<td>27 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>14 July</td>
<td>19 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>7 October</td>
<td>12 December</td>
</tr>
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</table>