The New School Website and QSchools Smartphone App

undertaken at the end of last year. The implementation of our school’s Enrolment Management Plan has slowed our school’s enrolment growth. Only a few minor adjustments will need to be made. Our school enrolment is currently 845 students from Prep to Year 7 which is about the same number as we finished with at the end of last year. The implementation of our school’s Enrolment Management Plan has slowed our school’s enrolment growth. Only a few minor adjustments will need to be made to ensure that the classes for the start of the year are relatively equal in size. This will occur on Friday and parents will be notified.

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.

The badge presentation ceremony will be scheduled for Week Four. The date will be advised in next week’s newsletter.

Student Leaders

The election process for our 2014 student leaders was undertaken at the end of last year. Our student leaders are:

Year 7 School Leaders

School Captains:
Nikiah Campbell, Selma Zlitic, Bailey McDonald, Kyle Relph

Sports Captains:
Gooding - Krystal Law, Jayden Barnes
Hamilton - Tori Haywood, Jordan Tairkens
Davidson - Teliah Risati, Tim Marshall
Birmingham - Abi Stringer, Aaron Hollis

Music Leaders
Band - Chelsey Grabham, Joey Barreto
Strings - Sophie Geoghegan, Liam Anderson
Choir - Brooke Stoelhorst

Year 6 School Leaders:

School Captains:
Caitlin Haines, Janieson Schmitzer, Byron Hamilton, Shannon Hattin

Sports Captains:
Gooding - Alexandra Berghuis, Harry Fredrickson
Davidson - Summer Darke, Ryan Armitage
Birmingham - Chloe Flack, Lachlan Osbourne
Hamilton - Claire Cottle, Kane McKewin

Music Leaders
Band - Avah Kowaltzke, Conner Douglas
Strings - Lilly Boff, Ami Martin
Choir - Conor Brown, Jayden Doughty

Valuables at School

Children are discouraged from bringing valuables to school. This includes jewellery, game boys, MP3 players, toys and any large sums of money. When these things go missing it is very difficult to recover them. If something special is brought to school for ‘Show and Tell’, it is wise to allow the teacher to mind it. The same applies to large amounts of money. Parents should also not leave valuables in unlocked cars in the carpark.

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.

Please allow plenty of time to collect your children and be prepared to wait for up to 15 minutes to clear the car park. This is typical of most school car parks of an afternoon especially at the beginning of a school year. Please be polite and courteous to other drivers.

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 were sent home last 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.

2014 Parent/Teacher Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Mon 10 Feb</th>
<th>Tues 11 Feb</th>
<th>Wed 12 Feb</th>
<th>Thurs 13 Feb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>Admin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs McNeilage</td>
<td>Mrs Hall</td>
<td>Miss Murray</td>
<td>Dr Pointing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.15pm to</td>
<td>Prep and</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.15pm</td>
<td>P/1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.15pm to</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.15pm</td>
<td>and 3/4M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.15pm to 4.15pm Wednesday 12 February - Specialist teachers will be available for individual parent meetings in their base rooms.
Staffing News
Mrs McClavey has extended her sick leave to next Friday 14 February. Mrs Werder will continue to teach Year 1C for this time.

Breakfast and Fitness Program
The before school Breakfast/Fitness Program commenced this Wednesday morning. There was a very good roll up of students. Children in Years 5, 6 and 7 have the opportunity to be involved in this fitness program. There will be up to 100 places available. Students will need to commit to attending each week from 7.50am to 8.45am to be part of the program. Thanks to the parents who have volunteered to help with the breakfast program. The support from Carrara Woolworths and Merrimac McDonalds is very much appreciated.

School Dress Code and Jewellery Policies
Parents and students are reminded that our school has an approved School Dress Code and Jewellery Policy. These have been approved by our school’s P & C Association. Along with the school’s responsible Behaviour Plan, parents are made aware of these policies when enrolling students at our school. Copies are available from school or can be found on the school’s website. Parents are asked to reinforce our school’s expectations with their children.

Children are reminded that shoes (joggers or runners) are supposed to be predominantly black or white. They should not be bright multi-coloured shoes. Children should not be wearing fluro coloured shoes to school.

Late Arrivals and Early Departures
Parents are reminded that schooling is compulsory for the full day. Students should only come late or leave early if they have a genuine medical appointment. Students moving in and out of classes is very disruptive to the learning of all class members. Frequent partial absences can have a detrimental affect on students’ work and their ability to engage with classroom instruction.
If students do need to be picked up early, parents must come through the office to sign them out. At that time, the parent will be asked to provide an explanation which will be recorded on the roll. Parents are urged to make appointments out of school hours when possible so as not to disrupt the teaching and learning in our classrooms.

Dates for Year 4 and 6 Camps
Parents are being given advance notice of camp dates that have been booked for this year.
Year 4 Camp at Currumbin Farm School: - 31 Mar to 2 April (4A, 4B and 4M girls) and 2 to 4 April (4C, 4D and 4M boys)
Year 6 Camp at Runaway Bay Outdoor Education Centre – 12 to 14 May

Bringing Dogs to School
Parents are asked not to bring dogs into the school grounds even if on a lead. Some children can be afraid of dogs and we would not like to see anyone hurt or upset. Please abide by this school requirement.

Advertisements Disclaimer
Although we at times include advertisements in our school newsletter we do not necessarily endorse products or the information provided. It is important that parents thoroughly investigate products or services advertised and make their own informed decision.

School Visitors
It is requested that all visitors report to the office when they first arrive at school. Parents who visit the school, outside the normal arrival and departure times are also requested to first report to the office before going to the classrooms. A register of visitors is kept at the office as well as visitor’s badges being available. Such a procedure will help us to monitor all personnel within the school grounds.

National Capital Tour – Canberra
Students participating in the 2014 Canberra Trip have been sent home today a Canberra newsletter and invoice for the remaining amount. Please ask your child for this information.

International Exchange Committee Meeting
Parents are encouraged to join our parent committee. Parents who have interest in becoming a host family are encouraged to attend and for parents who are considering accompanying our school to Japan next year will need to be actively involved in our exchange program this year. Our first meeting of the year is next Monday 10 February at 5.30pm in the staffroom.

School Travel
For bus and bus pass information and application forms phone Surfside directly on 5571 6555 or visit their website at: www.surfside.com.au

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK
Hayley Hardes, Zaiden Toirkens, Aliya Demchenko, Liam Bristowe, Marli Lavender, Oliver Godlee, Scott Tennent, Curran Gibbes, Tyran Roughley, Ally Hounsell, Runo Abe, Jack Keong, Garmi Trindade, Will Kojetin, Ella Corcoran, James Galligan, Max Pain, Sariyah Daly, Jack Thorn, Jay O’Neill, Taleah Williams, Levi Kearney, Shiori Fujii, Harrison Leighton, Zander Engel-Bowe, Mikayla Hayes, Olivia Molloy, Dillon Difow, Erica Tal, Joseph Fels, Katia Whitford, Haagan Rogers, Charlotte Kershaw, Rens McQueen, Josh Yeh, Bojana Ristic, Alyssa Doonican, Jack Kelly, Harvey Floyd, Ava Gaspernon, Jess Eden, Maydeka Sugiono, Jackson Manley, Bridie Fletcher – Edwards, Natasha Van Essen, Lilika Fujii, Chase Laviollette, Kaelan Daly, Jessica White, Ryan Armitage, Conor Brown, Alexandra Berghuis, Nikiah Campbell, Nathan Richards, Joey Barreto, Domonic Warltier, Liam Anderson, Cailyn Johnson, Lilly Malcolm, Emilie Miller, Kate Kojetin, Cooper Kowaltzte, Kate Ward, Milla Lehrmann, Tristan Paikke, Maya Wells, Misha Thiedeke, Beau Lansdown.

FINANCE NEWS
The finance window operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday from 8am – 9.30am in the administration building. 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 attached to 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 the due date as final numbers are often required and your child will miss out on an event if they have not paid by the due date. We are currently accepting payments for:

<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>
<tr>
<td>P-7</td>
<td>Arts Council</td>
<td>$6</td>
<td>21 Mar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UPCOMING MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IEC</td>
<td>10 Feb</td>
<td>5:30</td>
<td>Staffroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSHC</td>
<td>10 Feb</td>
<td>5:45</td>
<td>MPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
<td>10 Feb</td>
<td>6:30</td>
<td>Staffroom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PE NEWS

Swimming Lessons
Swimming for Years 4-5 begins on Monday 10 February and will continue for six weeks. Permission notes have been sent home. All children are reminded to bring their togs, towels, and goggles each Wednesday. The cost is $70.00 The Swimming Carnival is at the Merrimac High School pool on Friday 4th April for Years 5-7.

Surf Awareness Program for Years 6 and 7
Commencing in week three, 12 February, Year 6 and 7 students will take part in a Surf Awareness Program. Students will have 3 lessons which will each run for 90 minutes and the cost is $65.00. Soft surfboards, wetshirts and sunscreen will be provided. Permission forms have been sent home.

MUSIC NEWS

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>Snr Strings</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>8:15-9:00am</td>
<td>Jnr Choir</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Tuckshop Roster for Week beginning Monday 10 Feb:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Meal Deal for Thurs 13 Feb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 3/2</td>
<td>8:00-8:45am</td>
<td>Mayumi</td>
<td>Pluto Pup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 4/2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yoko H</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 5/2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Naoko, Yoko M</td>
<td>Large Blueberry Muffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 6/2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Maria, Mayumi</td>
<td>Frozen Juice Cup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 7/2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mayumi, Naoko</td>
<td>Bottled Water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMMUNITY NEWS

SPEECH AND DRAMA CLASS
Tuesdays, 7:30 – 8:45am 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.

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 enrol phone Karen on 55732009 / 0438732009.

EMPOWER YOUR CHILD FOR LIFE.

Mighty Multi Sports is run by Kelly Sports and will be at Merrimac SS this term commencing Friday 21 February and concluding Friday 4 April. The program runs from 3:10 – 4:10pm each week and is for P-4 students. The programme includes: cricket, soccer, crazy ball games and basketball. Cost is $63 – enrol online at www.kellysports.com.au/zone/goldcoastnorth and search for Merrimac) Meeting point is outside Administration and the coach with collect Preps from their classroom.