Term 1 Week 5 Thursday 27 February 2014

PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

2014 Reporting to Parents

The timeline for reporting to parents for this year is listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Reporting Dates</th>
<th>Information Sent</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>2 April (Wk10)</td>
<td>P-3</td>
<td>5-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Folios and Parent Teacher Interviews <em>Yr4 Wk9</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>24 June</td>
<td>P-7</td>
<td>Report Cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>17 Sept</td>
<td>P-7</td>
<td>Folios and Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>9 Dec</td>
<td>P-7</td>
<td>Report Cards</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Written Report Cards will continue to be sent home at the end of Terms 2 and 4. In addition, parent/teacher interviews will be held at the end of Terms 1 and 3. These interviews will be complimented with student folios. It is hoped that all parents will take the opportunity of attending the planned parent/teacher interviews. More information will be provided later in the term.

E Newsletters

In Term 2 we are planning to reduce the number of paper school newsletters that we copy each week. We are hoping to email parents each week with the link to our school newsletter on the Merrimac website. It is pleasing to hear of a number of parents who are using the QSchools App to access the school's newsletter and also other important school information. We are currently trying to get from all parents a current email address. A smaller number of paper newsletters will still be copied and available from the office for those families who cannot access the newsletter online.

Students Personal Details

We have now hopefully received all changes and our computer database should be up to date with everyone's current details. Please ensure you contact the school whenever changes occur as we may need to contact you urgently.

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 Leaders Badge Ceremony:

Congratulations to our Year 6 and Year 7 School Captains, Sports Captains and Music Captains who were presented with their badges on Tuesday’s special assembly. Our special guests included Mrs Ros Bates, the State Member for Mudgeeraba and Mr Paul Burt, who is one of our dads and a TV personality. We appreciated both Mrs Bates and Mr Burt for taking the time and being part of our Leaders Ceremony.

Mrs Powell and our choir did a great job with their performance. Thanks to Miss Murray for her organisation of this special event.

Thank you to all the parents and family members who attended the ceremony and to the tuckshop for supplying the Leadership Cake.

Visitors to School

All visitors to the school, other than parents at the normal starting and finishing times, are required to report to the school office. They need to sign the visitors’ book and get a visitors' badge to wear as they walk around the school. Staff have been asked to be watchful of this and speak to any visitors not wearing a name badge and request them to report to the school’s office. Parents are asked to follow our visitor guidelines when visiting the school outside of the normal beginning and finishing times.

Boowaggan Park

At the end of the school day children are supervised until 3.15pm in the car park and until the last bus leaves the bus bay. Any children left at school after 3.15pm are required to wait at the front of the school near the Administration Building. Children are not to play on the Boowaggan Park fort unless they have been picked up by their parents and then supervised at the park by their parents. Please do not ask your child to meet you at the park.

School Disco

Next Wednesday 5 March is our first disco for 2014. The theme is "Surf’s Up". Come wearing your colourful beach attire (no swimming togs thanks). Dress needs to be sensible and respectable. Students in P-3 are invited to the Junior Disco which commences at 6pm and finishes promptly at 7pm. Cost is $2. Years 4-7 are eligible for the Senior Disco starting at 7pm and finishing promptly at 8.30pm for just $3. Parent entry is free! Please collect your children promptly as staff have families to get home to also.

Clean Up Australia Day

Schools’ Clean Up Day is on this Friday 28 February. The day is an important part of the Clean Up Australia Day campaign and will help to protect the environment by removing rubbish from our school grounds and learn about environmental issues. We encourage all students and parents to get involved. Classes will make sure that their eating areas and the surrounds to their classrooms are litter free on this day.

Life Membership

Congratulations to Michael Singh who was recently made a Life Member of the Gold Coast Primary Schools Rugby League Association. This is a fantastic achievement and recognises the huge amount of work that Michael has put into this association and his support of school Rugby League. Well done Michael.

Large Sums of Money at School

Parents are reminded that students should not be bringing large amounts of money to school. The tuckshop has reported some students with $20 and $50 notes. It is far too easy for children to lose such large sums of money. When a child presents at the tuckshop with a large sum of money, it will be reported to Admin to follow up with the individual child. In the past there have been situations where children have brought large sums of money to school without parents being aware.

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Mobile Phones
Parents are reminded that children are not permitted to have mobile phones at school during school hours. If a child must have a phone for after school contact, the phone must be handed in at the front office for safe-keeping before school commences and collected after school concludes. Any phones found in children’s possession during school hours will be confiscated and returned to parents. Please assist us in this area by ensuring that your children are aware of this procedure.

Student Illnesses
Some medical conditions require that children be excluded from school to prevent the spread of infectious diseases amongst other children and staff. Please consult with your doctor regarding any such health concerns. Doctors should notify the local Health Unit if children are diagnosed with any serious illness requiring exclusion. In such cases parents at school will be informed of any reported cases of infectious diseases.

Special Education Program (SEP) Building
The area for our new SEP building has now been cleared. In the near future the new modular building will be brought onto the site. The project is expected to be completed by mid-April. Please take extra care around this area.

Arts Council Performance
‘No Way’ is an interactive dance theatre production that tackles the serious issue of bullying in a creative and vibrant way. It is set to a dynamic soundtrack of music. Cost is $6 per child. Please fill in the permission form and send to the finance window with $6 enclosed before Friday 21 March. NO LATE PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED so pay now and avoid disappointment if your child is away on the final payment day. Direct deposit is not available for this event. Session Times: 9.00am Yrs 4-7 11.30am Prep-Yr3 (some classes who have specialist lessons at their designated time will attend the other performance)

Breakfast and Fitness Program
The Breakfast/Fitness Program each Wednesday morning before school is going very smoothly. Thank you to all those Years 5, 6 and 7 students who are regularly turning up. We have now decided to open up the Breakfast/Fitness program to interested Year 4 students. 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 been helping with the program. It is very much appreciated. We also thank Carrara Woolworths and Merrimac McDonald’s for their ongoing support of this program.

Gooding Drive Parking
A number of our parents are parking along Gooding Drive in the afternoon and crossing this very busy road. There is a lot of traffic along Gooding Drive and it is a 70 kph zone. Parents should only be crossing at the designated traffic lights. It only takes a couple of minutes longer to do the right thing and ensure that our children are safe. Parents are also encouraged to hold onto small children as they move through our carpark, we would not like to see an accident occur within our community. Help to keep all our children safe.

Scholastic Book Club
Book Club brochures were given to students in class this week. If you wish to make a purchase, please follow these instructions:-
- Complete the order form on the back of the brochure including the child’s name, class and phone number at the top;
- Clearly label an envelope with “Book Club Order”;
- Into this envelope, place the order form together with correct money or cheque payable to Scholastic Australia (or utilise the credit card option on the order form);
- Put the envelope in the box at the finance window at school Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 8-9.30am.
ORDERS CLOSE 9.00AM WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH

P&C NEWS

P&C AGM Meeting
Our next P&C meeting on Monday 10 March is our Annual General Meeting. All committee positions will become vacant and a new committee will be elected for the following positions: President, Vice President, Minutes Secretary, Correspondence Secretary and Treasurer. There will be a number of vacancies within the P&C executive. Also we need to elect a Fundraising Coordinator and fill positions on several P&C sub committees. Interested parents are invited to come along and be part of our P&C.

Becoming involved in the Parents and Citizens Association enables you to ‘have a say’ about your child’s education. You learn a great deal about the environment that your child spends so much time in. You learn about Education Queensland and how it operates. You meet new friends, learn to work as a team and most importantly you become a community member and feel a part of our school. Our P&C do a great job for our school. Please come along and support your child’s school.

The meeting will commence at 6.30pm in the staffroom and all interested parents are invited to attend. Mrs Ros Bates, our State Member for Mudgeeraba will be in attendance at the General Meeting which will follow the AGM.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

FINANCE NEWS (MON-WED-FRI 8-9.30AM)
Parents should 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. Pay early and avoid disappointment. 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>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>Final Payment 10 Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selected</td>
<td>Canberra</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>14 Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-7</td>
<td>Arts Council</td>
<td>$6</td>
<td>21 Mar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PE NEWS

Interschool Sport for Years 5-7
Students wishing to play Interschool Sport need to be aware of the following: Interschool Sport starts in Week 8 Term One and the cost will be approximately $70. Girls can choose from Soccer, AFL (mixed) and Netball. Boys can choose from Soccer, AFL (mixed) and Rugby League. Teams are entered based on interest. In the event that numbers are low, sports may not be available. We will be having training/trials next week. Any parents who
would like to help coach or manage a team, please see Mr. Singh. We are looking forward to a great Interschool Sport Season.

Hot Shots Tennis
Students in Years 1-7 have been enjoying the fantastic Hot Shots Tennis Program during their PE classes. MLC Tennis Hot Shots are offering a free T-Shirt and other cool stuff, because of your child’s participation. Simply go to hotshots.tennis.com.au/claim to claim your free stuff. The more students who claim, the more resources our school gets.

MUSIC NEWS
Please note the following times for Instrumental & Choral Groups:

Day          Time        Group
---          ---          ----
Monday 8:00-8.45am  Snr Band
Tuesday 8:00-8.45am  Snr Strings
Wednesday 12.50-1.40pm Int Strings in Music Room
                2.55-4.00pm  Jnr Band commencing Week 8
Thursday 8:00-8.45am  Snr Choir
Friday 8:15-9.00am  Jnr Choir commencing 28 Feb

Merrimac Talent Quest
2014 Talent Quest Finals will be held on Friday 28 March:
Seniors (Yrs 4-7) 9-11am  Juniors (Yrs 1-3) 11.30am-1pm

SINGING  INSTRUMENTAL  DANCE  DRAMA

Guidelines:
- Items must be within a 3 minute time frame
- Songs must have appropriate lyrics for Primary School age
- Max 6 students per group
- Singing section must have instrumental backing, vocal backings will not be accepted. Acapella is also acceptable
- Places/Certificates/prizes will be awarded at three levels: 1-3, 4-5, 6-7
- Students must prepare their item independently and in their own time
- Auditions for the Finals will be conducted by Year Level Teachers in the PAC Hall in Week 8
- Please note Preps will not be competing in the Talent Quest but I’m sure they will be an enthusiastic audience
- Class teachers nominate student performances eligible for the heats. Only one item per class per section will be nominated, or no more than 5 items per year level for each section
- Teachers will judge no more than two groups per section to go through to the Finals

TUCKSHOP NEWS
Tuckshop Roster for Week beginning Monday 3 Mar:

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<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 3/3</td>
<td>Mayumi</td>
<td>Meal Deal - Thurs 6 Mar $5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 4/3</td>
<td>Yoko H</td>
<td>Chicken Snack Wrap (Roast chicken, mayo, lettuce)</td>
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<td>Fri 7/3</td>
<td>Naoko, Mayumi</td>
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*Please add 50c to upgrade to flavoured milk or Aroona springwater

Many thanks to all our volunteers this week. We no longer stock the small 350ml Playwater, Aroona Springwater is more cost effective and is just $2.00/bottle. Keep the students hydrated with our large range of cold drinks and ices. Have a good week everyone.

~ Denise ~

COMMUNITY NEWS

Robina State High School Enrolment Information Nights 2015
Robina SHS warmly invites interested parents to join them for an enrolment information session on the following dates:

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>When</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 7</td>
<td>6 Mar 2015</td>
<td>5.30pm-7.00pm</td>
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<td>Yr 8</td>
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The session will provide an overview of our school, its curriculum, specialised programs and its approach to Junior Secondary Education. Phone 55623444 for more information.

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Cybersafety help button
Online safety is just a click away with the Cybersafety help button now installed on all school computers throughout the state. The floating icon will be visible on computer desktops and is also available for parents to download to their home computer. It provides students with an easy means of reporting cyberbullying and online concerns. The button is a federal government initiative providing an online hub with 24 hour access to cybersafety help, reporting options, resources and information. http://education.qld.gov.au/studentservices/behaviour/gsaav/cybersafety-button.html

Make every day count in 2014
Make 2014 the year when your child doesn’t miss a day of school. Research shows that students who have good patterns of attendance are more likely to achieve at school. If students aren’t at school or don’t stay the whole day, they are missing valuable lessons. Check out the new Every Day Counts videos live on DETE TV. http://www.youtube.com/DETQueensland

Remember when you believed in anything and everything?
Researchers from the University of Western Australia are investigating children’s ability to detect and avoid potentially harmful social interactions, such as being easily fooled or tricked into doing something. We are looking to see how this develops in children, and when children outgrow this vulnerability.

We are looking for parents of Kindergarten - Year 6 children across Australia to complete an online survey (15 - 20 minutes). Participants will go into a draw to win one of 10 $50 gift certificates to Coles/Myers. To participate go to: http://tinyurl.com/childsvq or for more information please contact Rebecca Seward at (08) 6488 4652

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 3 Mar</td>
<td>National Young Leaders’ Day in Brisbane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 5 Mar</td>
<td>School disco (Week 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 10 Mar</td>
<td>5.45pm MOSHC meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10 Mar</td>
<td>6.30pm P&amp;C meeting - AGM</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-21 Mar</td>
<td>Harmony Week</td>
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<td>19-21 Mar</td>
<td>Somerset Celebration of Literature</td>
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<td>Mon 24 Mar</td>
<td>Arts Council Performances in PAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 27 Mar</td>
<td>RE Easter Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 28 Mar</td>
<td>Talent Quests</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Mar - 2 April</td>
<td>Year Four Camp (4A, 4B and 4M girls)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 April - 4 April</td>
<td>Year Four Camp (4C, 4D and 4M boys)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 2 April</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews Yrs P-3, 5-7 (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>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 4 April</td>
<td>11.30am to 1.00pm P-2 Easter hat Parade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 4 April</td>
<td>Last day of Term One</td>
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<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>
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