Term 1 Week 7 Thursday 13 March 2014

PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

Staffing News
Mrs Trish Boccaccini, our Teacher in Charge of our Special Education Program (SEP) has been appointed as the acting Head of Special Education at Labrador State School SEP. This position starts today, Thursday 13 March and goes through till the end of Term Two. We wish Mrs Boccaccini all the very best and I’m sure that she will do an excellent job in this new position. Ms Amy McDonald (three days a week) and Ms Amber Butler-Davis (two days a week) will replace Mrs Boccaccini in our SEP. Ms McDonald will still be teaching 3D on Mondays 3C on Fridays and will work in SEP from Tuesday to Thursday. Ms Butler-Davis will work in SEP on Thursdays and Fridays. She currently works in the SEP at Caningeraba SS from Monday to Wednesday. These arrangements will be reviewed at the end of this term.

Congratulations to Mrs Marion Prentis who is now eligible to be a Senior Teacher at our school. At Merrimac we have a total of 29 Senior Teachers who undertake a range of additional leadership and coordination roles within our school in addition to their normal teaching duties.

Our school has a new permanent Teacher Aide who commenced who this week. Mr David Smith is on relocation from Elanora State High School and will be working at Merrimac 24 hours a week over a Tuesday to Friday period. Our school had 24 temporary TA hours that had to be filled and we were required to take a Teacher Aide relocation. David will continue to work one day a week at Elanora High of a Monday. We welcome David to Merrimac school.

Intervention Teacher Aides
Our four new casual Intervention Teacher Aides, funded under the Great Results Guarantee, commenced work at Merrimac at the beginning of last week. We welcome Mrs Lorelei Bache (Year Three Reading), Mrs Gail Church (Year Three Numeracy), Mrs Lynelle Groomebridge (Year Five Reading) and Mrs Kate McPherson (Year Five Numeracy). Next Monday Mrs Lesa Lambert will commence on Year Seven Reading intervention. It is planned that these intensive intervention programs will run for a total of 10 to 15 weeks. After that time, different year levels will then be targeted for the remainder of the school year.

P&C News
On Monday night we held our Annual General Meeting. A big thank you to all of our executive and members for the terrific job they have done throughout the past year. We achieved a great deal in 2013 with the support of this dedicated team of people. A special thanks goes to Maxine Goodman, our outgoing President and to Cathy Sheppard, our outgoing Treasurer/Vice President. Both Maxine and Cathy have contributed significantly to our P&C and various sub committees over the past twelve months. Their efforts and hard work have been very much appreciated. Maxine is continuing her involvement in the P&C as our new Minutes Secretary.

Congratulations to the following Executive Members for 2014.

President: Chris Fort
Vice President: Jon Galligan
Treasurer: Kristy Augustin
Secretary: Laura Santiago
Minutes Secretary: Maxine Goodman

A big thank you to all the parents who have nominated to be on the various sub committees during 2014. Our next meeting is Monday 5 May in the staffroom. There will be no April meeting due to the school holidays. Please note that our next meeting is the first Monday in May and not the usual second Monday as this clashes with NAPLAN testing at school. Please note the next meeting date on your calendar.

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 requested current email addresses on the Student Personal details form that went out in February. If you have not provided the school with an email address please do so in writing or by emailing admin@merrimaccss.eq.edu. A smaller number of paper newsletters will still be copied and available from the office for those families who cannot access the newsletter online.

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.

Parent Teacher Interviews
Forms have been sent home with each child containing their unique Education Qld (EQ ID) number which is required for booking an interview time. Parents can book interviews through the PTO website. The online system will be open for bookings from today through till Friday 28 March. After this time bookings can only be made and changed through the office.

Parents who are unable to access the internet for online bookings will have the option of advising the office of a contact number and we will do the booking for you. If you take up this option be sure to send all your children’s forms back together so that we can make non conflicting booking times for you.

As interviews will be scheduled at 10 minute intervals, your promptness in attending at your scheduled time is appreciated to alleviate unnecessary delays as the evening progresses.

The QSchools app is now available on Google Play.

A big thank you to all the parents who have nominated to be on the various sub committees during 2014. Our next meeting is Monday 5 May in the staffroom. There will be no April meeting due to the school holidays. Please note that our next meeting is the first Monday in May and not the usual second Monday as this clashes with NAPLAN testing at school. Please note the next meeting date on your calendar.

P&C News
On Monday night we held our Annual General Meeting. A big thank you to all of our executive and members for the terrific job they have done throughout the past year. We achieved a great deal in 2013 with the support of this dedicated team of people. A special thanks goes to Maxine Goodman, our outgoing President and to Cathy Sheppard, our outgoing Treasurer/Vice President. Both Maxine and Cathy have contributed significantly to our P&C and various sub committees over the past twelve months. Their efforts and hard work have been very much appreciated. Maxine is continuing her involvement in the P&C as our new Minutes Secretary.

Congratulations to the following Executive Members for 2014.

President: Chris Fort
Vice President: Jon Galligan
Treasurer: Kristy Augustin
Secretary: Laura Santiago
Minutes Secretary: Maxine Goodman

A big thank you to all the parents who have nominated to be on the various sub committees during 2014. Our next meeting is Monday 5 May in the staffroom. There will be no April meeting due to the school holidays. Please note that our next meeting is the first Monday in May and not the usual second Monday as this clashes with NAPLAN testing at school. Please note the next meeting date on your calendar.

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 requested current email addresses on the Student Personal details form that went out in February. If you have not provided the school with an email address please do so in writing or by emailing admin@merrimaccss.eq.edu. A smaller number of paper newsletters will still be copied and available from the office for those families who cannot access the newsletter online.

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.

Parent Teacher Interviews
Forms have been sent home with each child containing their unique Education Qld (EQ ID) number which is required for booking an interview time. Parents can book interviews through the PTO website. The online system will be open for bookings from today through till Friday 28 March. After this time bookings can only be made and changed through the office.

Parents who are unable to access the internet for online bookings will have the option of advising the office of a contact number and we will do the booking for you. If you take up this option be sure to send all your children’s forms back together so that we can make non conflicting booking times for you.

As interviews will be scheduled at 10 minute intervals, your promptness in attending at your scheduled time is appreciated to alleviate unnecessary delays as the evening progresses.

The QSchools app is now available on Google Play.
If on the day of your interview you find you are unable to attend, please contact the school office on telephone 55 691 555 so the class teacher can be notified as soon as possible. Please leave a message if phoning outside of school office hours.

Term One Reporting to Parents
Parent/teacher interviews for Prep to Year 7 have been scheduled for the end of this term. The majority of interviews will be held on Wednesday, 2 April (Week 10) from 3.30pm to 7.30pm in the classrooms. A selection of other times will also be offered by the various class teachers. Year 4 interviews will be held in Week 9 as Year 4 will be on camp in Week 10.
Student folios will be issued at the parent/teacher interviews. These should be returned to school before the end of term. It is hoped that all parents will take the opportunity of attending the planned parent/teacher interviews.

Student Attendance
"Did you know?"
If a child misses even 10 min of school per day, then they have missed a total of 6.5 days per year, (1 3/4 Terms) 84.5 days in 13 years of schooling.
If a child misses 5 days of school per year, then they have missed a total of 65 days (1 1/2 terms) in 13 years of schooling.
If a child misses 10 days of school per year, then they have missed a total of 130 days (1 semester and 1/2 term) in 13 years of schooling.
If a child misses 15 days of school per year, then they have missed a total of 195 days (nearly 1 whole year) in 13 years of schooling.
Fifteen days is not even 4 days per term, however, this means missing 1 year of school over 13 years from Prep to Year 12.
I encourage you to ensure "Every Day Counts" and have children here every day on time. The student should present a note from a parent/caregiver explaining the lateness or parents can ring the school and leave a message to explain the absence. All student absences need to be explained and are reported on the student’s end of semester report card. Persistent lateness and absence will lead to contact with home.” A note saying my child was away is considered unexplained so please include a brief reason.
Our whole school current attendance is 94.1%. This is up on last year but is just short of our target for this year of 95%.

New Enrolment Surveys
All Prep and new families to Merrimac School (Years 1 to 7) have been sent a letter outlining the details of an online school survey. This will assist greatly in the collation of the survey responses which is done electronically. It will also tell us how well your children have settled into Merrimac. Parents are asked to complete the online survey by next Friday 21 March. It is hoped that we get a good response to the online surveys. Parents, who do not have access to a computer and the internet, can still collect a paper version of the survey from the school office.

Student Leadership Day
Last Thursday all of our student leaders, including year six and seven student council representatives, went to a leadership and team building day at Taillebudgera Beach School. The focus of the program is to enhance students’ ability to communicate effectively in a small group, share ideas, develop plans and perform problem solving scenarios. The students had a fantastic time and learnt many leadership and team building skills. Many thanks to both Miss Parkes and Mrs Lees who accompanied the students on their Leadership Day.

Harmony Day - Everyone Belongs
Friday 21 March is Harmony Day. It is a day to celebrate Australia’s diversity. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home - from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world.
Our students have been busy creating their own individual cultural representations in the form of a Totem. Next Friday, Parents are invited to visit the classrooms between 9 and 9:30 to see the visual display created by the classes. There will also be a community display in the undercover area for the day.

Kidsmatter Parent Information Session
Thursday 20th March 1:30pm MPC Conference Room
With Lana Jankowiak (Regional Kidsmatter facilitator)
Find out about “Kidsmatter” What it is, How it works, How the program can help your child.

Easter Hat Parade
Friday 4th April PAC 11:30am - 1:00pm Everyone welcome. Come along and join in the fun of our annual Easter Hat Parade followed by a picnic with your child on the "Common".

Special RE Easter Presentation
On Thursday, 27 March our Religion teachers will be presenting a special Easter Performance in the Performing Arts Centre. There will be one performance for Years 1 to 7 from 1.45pm to 2.45pm. There will be no RE in the last week of Term One.

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 (this includes younger siblings) are not allowed on the play forts or the school’s oval of a morning. Before school is not a play time for students.
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 of a morning for a long time. Our school has Before School Care, which is held in the Multi Purpose Building and currently has vacancies. The operating times are from 6.30am to 8.50am. Enquiries and bookings can be made through the coordinator (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 where children have to be dropped off early to school on a regular basis.

Year 4 Camps
I’m sure that our Year 4 students are eagerly awaiting their upcoming camps at the Currumbin Farm School. At the camps the students will participate in some of the following activities: Orienteering, rock climbing, interaction with farm animals, creek life investigations, archery, camp fires, sleeping in tents, team building activities and more.
The dates for the Year 4 Camps at Currumbin Farm School are: - 31 Mar to 2 April (4A, 4B and 4M girls) and 2 to 4 April (4C, 4D and 4M boys)

Resources Contribution
The school list contained a voluntary student contribution component to assist the school to enhance resources available for student learning. At Merrimac, a large percentage of parents pay this voluntary contribution. Thank you to those who have already paid this contribution. The contribution covers the use of class text books, computer consumables, art and craft materials, photocopying of workbooks, homework sheets, etc. The cost is $60.00 per student. Because the shared curriculum materials are allocated on a class basis, non payment of the contribution
reduces the amount of additional resources to all the children within the class.
Some parents may have overlooked or forgotten this contribution. Reminder letters will be sent home next week to parents. Payment of the shared curriculum materials contribution can be made through our school Bookshop.

Mathletics, Reading Eggs, Reading Eggspress and Language Perfect

The P&C have subsidised the cost of these programs by $5.00 each for 2014. This means that there is a cost of $5.00 for Mathletics, $5.00 (Prep to Year 7) for Reading Eggs/Eggspress (Prep to Year 7) and $5.00 for Language Perfect (Years 4 to 7 only) included in the school booklist. Some parents may have overlooked this payment when they purchased books for the year.
To access these programs the $5.00 per program per child cost must be paid. These are not voluntary payments like the Resources Contribution.
Reminder letters will be sent home next week to those families who have not paid these amounts. If payments are not received by the end of term, student Mathletics, Reading Eggs/Eggspress and Language Perfect accounts will be disabled. Payments can be made to our School Bookshop. If you have a query re these payments, please contact the Bookshop on 55227846 (open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8.00am to 9.00am).

Student Banking

Account Opening Day on Monday 17 March 9am near the prep playground. If you would like help with opening a student banking account for your child come along and see the Commonwealth Bank representative.

MOSHC News

Congratulations to Thomas and Hayley on the birth of their baby girl, Ariella Ivy Brooklyn Peisley. Both mum and baby are doing well.

FINANCE NEWS

The finance window operates Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8am - 9.30am. These are the only times money is accepted. 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>NOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strings/Band</td>
<td>Instrument Hire</td>
<td>$120</td>
<td>NOW</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>Yrs5-7</td>
<td>Interschool Sport (optional)</td>
<td>$70</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

District Swimming

Connor Brown took part recently at the Regional Swimming trials and performed very well. Connor missed out by only a fraction of a second from qualifying for the regional team in his backstroke event. Congratulations Connor on a super effort.

Interschool Sport for Years 5-7

Interschool Sport starts on Friday 21 March and the cost is $70. Students should have nominated if they are interested by now and would have been given a permission form to bring home. 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. 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. Interschool Sports notes need to be returned with payment by this Friday 14 March so we can determine which teams to go ahead with.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>8.00-8.45am</td>
<td>Snr Band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8.00-8.45am</td>
<td>Snr Strings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>8.00-8.45am</td>
<td>Beg Strings in Music Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.50-14.00pm</td>
<td>Int Strings in Music Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.55-4.00pm</td>
<td>Jnr Band commencing Week 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8.00-8.45am</td>
<td>Snr Choir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8.15-9.00am</td>
<td>Jnr Choir commencing 28 Feb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Merrimac Talent Quest

Just a reminder that the Talent Quests heats are on next week. Please note this is not the Finals. Talent Quest Finals are on Friday 28 March: Years 4-7 9.00-11am. Years 1-3 11.30am-1pm. Heats will be held next week at the following times in the PAC:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>11.30am Yr5</td>
<td>Thursday 9.00am Yr7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9.00am Yr4</td>
<td>Thursday 11.30am Yr3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>11.30am Yr6</td>
<td>Friday 11.30am Yr2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note: Year 1 will not have heats just finals

Tuckshop News

With limited spaces left, pay now to avoid disappointment. No payments will be accepted after 9.30am on Friday 21 March, so don’t miss out.

P&C NEWS

Mrs Ros Bates, the State Member for Mudgeeraba was a special guest at our last P&C meeting. Mrs Bates outlined a number of projects within our electorate and how these may benefit the school. She is advocating on behalf of the school for a number of issues raised in relation to traffic around the school. Mrs Bates made a donation to our school of $1000 which the P&C decided would go to new sporting uniforms for our interschool Netball Teams. We appreciate Mrs Bates ongoing support of our school.

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Tuckshop Roster for Week beginning Monday 17 Mar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 17/3</th>
<th>Mayumi</th>
<th>Meal Deal - Thurs 20 Mar $5*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nachos w Lite Cheese &amp; Mild Salsa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gingerbread Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Frozen Juice Cup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bottled Water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please add 50c to upgrade to flavoured milk or Aronara springwater

Many thanks to my wonderful volunteers this week. Your time given to our school tuckshop is greatly appreciated. Our new Gelato cups are proving quite popular. We will have more in stock shortly. Flexischools online ordering system is doing extremely well. Please consider this as an alternative for school ordering if you only have large notes. You can order up to a month in advance and right up to 9am on the actual day. The website is
2014 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS)

Each year Merrimac SS offers students in Years 3-7 the opportunity to participate in the ICAS competitions. ICAS provides an opportunity for all Years 3-7 students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external testing situation. It provides teachers, parents and students with comprehensive reporting of results in the areas of Computer Skills, English and Mathematics. If you would like your child/ren to participate please complete the form below and return to the finance window with payment no later than Friday 28 March. The Cost for each competition is $8.00. No late payments will be accepted.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

COMMUNITY NEWS

Merrimac State High School Scholarships
Merrimac SHS is offering scholarships for students in Year 7 and 8 2015. Scholarships may be awarded for high achievement in: academic performance, sports, instrumental music, dance, drama and singing. Applications are available from Merrimac SHS Admin or online at www.merrimacsh.eq.edu.au. Applications close 30 April 2014.

Robina State High School Year 82015 Enrolment Info Night
Thursday 20 March 2014 5.30pm - 7.00pm RSHS Performing Arts Complex. We warmly invite interested Year 7 parents to join us for an enrolment information sessions on Thursday, 20 March. This session will provide an overview of our school, our curriculum, our specialised programs and our approach to Junior Secondary Education. Look forward to seeing you there!

Seeking Non Anxious Children and Adolescents

Griffith University
Griffith University are conducting an exciting study investigating anxiety disorders in Children and Adolescents. To help understand how anxiety develops in youth we need to learn from children and adolescents who are not fearful or anxious. They are seeking parents and their non-anxious children and adolescents (7 - 17 years) to participate in their study. To thank you for your time and involvement in the study they will give you gift vouchers to the value of $50. To find out more about this project, please contact Dr Ella Milliner and Dr Lara Farrell on (07) 567 88317 or email e.milliner@griffith.edu.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

17-21 Mar Harmony Week
19-21 Mar Somerset Celebration of Literature
Mon 24 Mar Arts Council Performances in PAC
Thurs 27 Mar RE Easter Performance
Fri 28 Mar Talent Quests
31 Mar – 2 April Year Four Camp (4A, 4B and 4M girls)
2 April – 4 April Year Four Camp (4C, 4D and 4M boys)
Wed 2 April Parent/Teacher Interviews Yrs P-3, 5-7 (3.30pm to 7.30pm)
Fri 4 April Yrs 5 to 7 swimming carnival at Merrimac High School
Fri 4 April 11.30am to 1.00pm P-2 Easter hat Parade
Fri 4 April Last day of Term One
Fri 18 April Good Friday holiday
Mon 21 April Easter Monday holiday
Tues 22 April First school day of Term Two

2014 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS

ALL STUDENTS IN YEARS 3 TO 7 ARE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Sitting Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>20 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>29 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>12 August</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Name: _________________________ Class: ________

Computer:  English:  Maths:

Student Name: _________________________ Class: ________

Computer:  English:  Maths:

Student Name: _________________________ Class: ________

Computer:  English:  Maths:

I give permission for my child/ren to participate in the above ICAS competition/s. I enclose $8.00 entry fee for each child for each competition. I have ticked the competitions they wish to participate in.

Parent/Caregiver Name: _______________ Signature: _______________

Please make payments to the finance window Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays between 8.00am-9.30am no later than Friday 28 March.

ATTENTION Yr 5, 6 and 7 Families

JAPANESE IMMERSION PROGRAM