Term 1 Week 8 Thursday 20 March 2014

PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

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. Tomorrow, parents are invited to visit the classrooms between 9 and 9:30 to see the visual displays created by the classes. There will also be a community display in the undercover area for the day.

Children Leaving School at the end of Term One

If your child/children will not be returning to Merrimac for Term Two, please notify the school office as soon as possible. We have a number of new enrolments for the start of next term and early notification of students leaving our school will assist with class placement of the new students.

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@merrimacss.eq.edu.au. 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.

Term 1 Parent Teacher Interviews

Forms have been sent home with each child containing their unique Education QID (EQ ID) number which is required for booking an interview time. Parents can book interviews through the PTO website. The easiest way to access the website is to log onto our school website at www.merrimacss.eq.edu.au and click on the PTO link. The online system is open for bookings 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 can send all your children’s forms back together so that we can make non conflicting times for you. Make sure you include a daytime contact number and your name so we can contact 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.

If on the day of your interview you find you are unable to attend, please contact the school office on telephone 5569 1555 so the class teacher can be notified as soon as possible. Please leave a message if phoning outside of school office hours. Year 4 Parent/Teacher interviews are being held in Week Nine. All other Parent/Teacher interviews are being held in the last week of term. 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.

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 tomorrow, 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.

School Dentist News

Students in years 7,6,5,4,3,1 and PREP have been provided with an offer of oral health care examination card to take home.

If your child is enrolled in one of the years listed above or are new to the school and did not receive an examination card and 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 8.00 am – 4.30 pm Excluding Public Holidays.

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

Easter Hat Parade

Friday 4th April in the PAC from 11:30am to 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.

Year 4 Camp at Currumbin Farm School dates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31 Mar –2 April</td>
<td>4A, 4B, 4M girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-4 April</td>
<td>4C, 4D, 4M boys</td>
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Resources Contribution
If you received a letter advising you have not paid this voluntary contribution please consider the advantages of the levy. 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 have been 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
Notes have been sent home with students who have not yet paid for one or more of these programs. Non-payment by the end of term may result in cancellation of subscription for your child. 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).

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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selected</td>
<td>Canberra</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>NOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-7</td>
<td>Arts Council</td>
<td>$6</td>
<td>21 Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-7</td>
<td>African Beat</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
<td>23 April</td>
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</tbody>
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PE NEWS
Merrimac SS Swimming Carnival
Our annual swimming carnival will be held at Merrimac State High School swimming pool on Friday 4 April for all year 5-7 students. The carnival will commence at 9.30am and conclude around 2.00pm. Buses have been booked to transport the children to and from the pool. Buses will start leaving from the school at 8.45am. Presentations will be held at the swimming pool at the end of the carnival if time permits. Spectators are invited to come along to the pool and cheer on the children. We suggest you bring a fold up chair for your comfort. No two piece swimmers allowed unless a T shirt or sun shirt is worn over the top. Children will be competing for their various sports houses and are asked to wear their house colours.

Hats and sunscreen are compulsory. Shade will be provided for the children. Children are asked to take their morning tea, lunch and water bottle with them in their school bag. The tuckshop is hoping to sell a limited amount of food (chips and drinks) but this will be dependent on sufficient volunteer helpers. If you can assist on the day, please see Denise in the tuckshop.

If the weather forces the postponement of our swimming carnival, it will be rescheduled for later in the school year.

MUSIC NEWS
Merrimac Talent Quest
Talent Quest Finals are on Friday 28 March: Years 4-7 9.00-11am. Years 1-3 11.30am-1pm.

Arts Council Show 'NO WAY' Last Chance to pay
With limited spaces left. No payments will be accepted after 9.30am tomorrow, Friday 21 March, so don't miss out.

African Beat
African Beat presents SALAKA: Sharing the spirit of Africa. A professional African Drumming and Cultural Performance for schools where every student has a turn on the drums. There are 100+ drums transforming students into a percussion ensemble. Numbers are limited so please fill in the permission form sent home with each student and send to the school office with payment enclosed ASAP so you don't miss out. Closing date for payment is Wednesday 23 April. Cost is $3.50 per child.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK
April 2014.

A huge thank you to my volunteers this week who have worked tirelessly through the current heat! A reminder students travelling away for Interschool sports are NOT able to order Big Tupperware. 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.merrimacs.shs.eq.edu.au. Applications close 30 April 2014.

Robina State High School Year 8 December 2013 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!

ATTENTION Yr 5, 6 and 7 Families

JAPANESE IMMERSION PROGRAM

Parent Information Evening at Robina High School

Tuesday 25 March 5pm – 6:15pm 65410

If you are interested in working hard with a class of likeminded and well behaved students, and you are interested in getting excellent results at school - you are invited to come and hear about our exciting Japanese Immersion Program.

An excellent program for excellent students

We hope to meet interested students & parents 25 March at Robina High. RSVP & enquiries to smcc113@eq.edu.au

Kids Matter - Keeping a balance: managing feelings and behaviours

Children experience ups and downs when they are trying to manage their feelings and behaviours. Helping them to find ways to balance this is called self-regulation.

As a child learns to self-regulate, skills such as concentrating, sharing and turn taking develop. Parents play an important role in helping children learn to self-regulate. Some of the ways that parents can support their child’s development of self-regulation skills include:

- Providing support at times when the child is tired or angry
- Breaking down complicated tasks into manageable parts. For eg. learning to get dressed, turn taking, listening to others
- Demonstrating effective self-regulation of your own feelings and behaviours. Children learn how other people behave by watching those around them
- Using words, gestures and cues. Naming feelings for young children “You sound angry” can help children recognise emotions. When gentle touch and words are used together this can act as a cue for children to start calming themselves.

In the following week we will be including ideas to help introduce relaxation into your home to help with self-regulation strategies.

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

Computer Skills: Sitting Date 20 May
English: Sitting Date 29 July
Maths: Sitting Date 12 August

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.