Term 2 Week 2 Thursday 1 May 2014
PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

Next P&C Meeting
The next P&C meeting will be held on Monday 5 May at 6.30pm in the Staffroom. All interested parents are invited to attend. Parents are reminded that P&C Membership Forms need to be completed every year. Only registered P&C members can vote at our P&C meetings.

Merrimac Outside School Hours Care Meeting
The next Merrimac Outside School Hours Care meeting will be held on the same evening, Monday 5 May, commencing at 5.45pm in the MPC.

International Exchange Parent Committee Meeting
The next Parent IEC Meeting will be held on Monday 5 May at 5.30 p.m. in the staff room. The agenda will focus on the upcoming visit by Katsuragi Elementary School in July/August this year. New members are most welcome.

ANZAC Day March at Robina
Thank you to all the Merrimac students who attended the Robina Town Centre ANZAC Day March last Friday. We had almost 50 Merrimac students take part in the march. The students carried the school flag and laid the Merrimac wreaths at the Anzac Day Service. Your attendance was much appreciated. Thanks to Mrs Hall and to all the other staff and parents who attended on the day as well.

NAPLAN testing time again
Students in Years 3, 5, and 7 will soon participate in the annual National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) to assess their skills and understanding in the areas of reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The tests will be conducted in all state and non-state schools across the country from 13-15 May. An individual NAPLAN report for each child will be sent home later this year. Results provide additional feedback for parents, carers and teachers on how students are progressing in key curriculum areas. More information will be provided in the school newsletter over the next few weeks. Please contact the school if you have any questions about your child participating in NAPLAN testing. Further information is available on the ACARA website (http://www.nap.edu.au/)

Class Newsletters
Class Newsletters will be sent home this Friday, 2nd May by all class teachers. Class Newsletters are an important form of communication between school and home. They outline curriculum content for the term, reminders about class rules, behaviour management, teacher expectations and homework expectations. Any special events and activities are also be highlighted in the Class Newsletters.

Special Education Program (SEP) Building and Sandpits
Our new SEP Building is now officially up and running. The new furniture arrived this week, phones and security have been connected and the turf has been laid around the building surrounds. It is a very impressive facility compared to our old SEP modular building which has now been removed from the school site. Work on the two new sandpits has not commenced at this stage. I will keep you updated on the progress of this work. SEP parents had the opportunity today to go through the new SEP Facility and were all very impressed with both the facility and the resources within the building.

New Enrolment Surveys
Towards the end of Term One, all new families from Prep to Yr 7 were encouraged to complete an online survey. The surveys provided some valuable information about the services offered by our school and also how well children have settled into Merrimac. Thank you to all parents who completed the online surveys and provided constructive feedback and suggestions.

Some interesting points from the surveys were:
• A large percentage of families send their children to Merrimac through personal recommendations and from visiting the school
• Those who attended the Prep Orientation Sessions and the Parent Information meetings were extremely pleased with the presentations.
• Overall parents were happy with the service provided by the office and administration staff, the Parent Information Booklet and the Bookshop and Tuckshop Services
• Almost all children have settled into Merrimac school life very well
• A large majority of parents are very happy with the classroom teachers
• An extremely favourable response to the school newsletter and website
• 95% of respondents said that they would recommend Merrimac School to a friend.

Many positive comments were made about our school. They included:
• A very disciplined school
• A rewards system that encourages children to strive to do their best
• Excellent teachers
• Impressed with the positive behaviour rewards and discipline procedures
• Grounds are beautiful with lovely green spaces
• Great facilities
• Friendly staff

It is very pleasing to receive such positive feedback, in particular the recognition of the great work done by our classroom teachers and school staff. It is interesting to note that a number of our new enrolments have come from interstate, overseas and various private schools and are extremely happy with the education provided at Merrimac.

It is important that our school strives to maintain its high standards. For this to happen, a combined effort from school staff, parents and children is always needed. We should all be looking at ways to continually improve our school. Again thank you to those parents who made suggestions and comments on the survey forms. Many of the recommendations will be reviewed and considered for the future.
Lightning Sports Carnivals
The Year 5 Lightning Sports Carnival will be held on Thursday 22 May. The Year 6 Lightning Carnival will be held on Thursday 8 May. These carnivals provide the opportunity for our children to visit our local high schools for a fun day of sports. This is a traditional event for our Mid Coast Community of Schools giving our girls and boys a chance to mix with other neighbouring primary schools and to experience the high school culture. Permission notes and further information have been sent home to the children in these two year levels.

Prep Enrolments for 2015
Prep is an extremely important part of our school. In October each year our school holds a morning and evening orientation session for our new families. In November we also hold Prep experience days for our future Prep students. Enrolments for Prep for next year can be made at the school’s office. Parents of Prep students for next year are encouraged to start enrolling their children. Early enrolment allows the school to be better prepared for the 2015 school year.

Now that our school has an official enrolment boundary, all families, especially those residing outside our catchment area, are encouraged to get their Prep enrolments in as early as possible. All enrolments must include the student’s Birth Certificate.

E Newsletters
Next week we plan to commence sending our school newsletter link by email. The link takes you to the school website. If you do not receive a newsletter, limited hard copies will still be available through the school’s office. There are still about 100 families who have not provided the school with an email address. It is essential that we have a current email address for families to be included in the weekly email. Remember that parents can also access the school newsletter through the QSchools App.

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. QSchools is regularly updated to include 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 and to update regularly to access the latest features.

School Photographs
Silver Rose will be here to take class and graduation photos on Tuesday 20 May and Sports, Family (Brother/Sister) and Catch Up Individual photos on Tuesday 27 May. Envelopes have been sent home. Please read the instructions carefully on the envelope to avoid disappointment with orders. Ensure payment is included as per instructions. The envelope is to be returned on photo day. Do not send in before this date.

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>Year 6</td>
<td>Camp</td>
<td>$185</td>
<td>2 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Lightning Carnival</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>5 May</td>
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P&C NEWS
Entertainment Books Fundraiser
Books will be sent home today with the youngest member in the family (except for those families who declined to participate). Parents are responsible for these books and the subsequent payment or return of the books to school. Books are to be returned through the Bookshop. All payments for the books need to be done online.

Please support this fundraising initiative. Money raised will go towards the upgrading of our interschool sports uniforms and the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Program through Ralph and Rosie signs and banners around the school. Please email any queries to Chris Fort (P&C President) at msspc40@gmail.com or Kristy Augustin (Fundraising Organiser) at kristyamsspc@gmail.com.

MUSIC NEWS
Welcome to term Two and congratulations to all those children who attended morning rehearsals last week. There are three important events this term for the Music students and if we are to do well it is imperative for all students to attend rehearsals:

- Mondays 8am Senior Band
- Wednesdays 8am Beg Strings, 1pm Int Strings, 3pm Beg Band
- Thursdays 8am Snr Choir
- Fridays 8am Jnr Choir

Concert Wednesday 28 May
Please save the date! This year we are trialling a different format. Instead of having separate Junior and Senior Concerts there will be one combined concert. The concert will commence at 6.00pm and conclude at 7.40pm. Information notes will be sent home soon to all participating students.

Fanfare for Band and Strings Students 21st and 29th May
Our Senior Strings and Senior Band groups are currently rehearsing for the upcoming Fanfare competition. This is a great performance opportunity for all our young musicians. Could you please make note of the following information regarding the Fanfare performances. You are most welcome to attend:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Session Time</th>
<th>Performance Number</th>
<th>Approximate Performance Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 May</td>
<td>Concert</td>
<td>Upper Coomera College</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 May</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Robina SS PAC</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9.10am</td>
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Reminder: a Project Consent Form must be returned prior to this performance. Copies have been issued to all students. Could you please ensure your child has returned their completed copy to either the office, Mrs Powell, Ms Deb or Ms Hurst.

Rehearsals: the next few weeks rehearsal are most important in ensuring good preparation for Fanfare. Thank you in advance for doing your best to assist with getting your child to rehearsals bright and early.

PE NEWS
Sporting Success
Merrimac SS NAB AFL Auskick Centre
Sign on 1st Session: Wednesday 7 May at 3.10pm-4.10pm on the school oval. Participants receive benefits which include, hat, football, backpack and much more. To register online go to www aflauskick.com.au or phone Tim Searle on 5594 5722 for more info.
Kelly Sports Program
A Mighty Multi Sports program that includes two weeks of Cricket, Netball, AFL and Rugby League will commence tomorrow 2 May for students in Prep – Yr 4. Cost is $90. Time is 3:30pm - 4:10pm on the oval. Enquiries to Janat Paewai on 0400609624. Participating students are to meet in the under covered area in front of the Tuckshop at 3pm.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT FOR 2 MAY

Soccer at Marymount College, Burleigh Waters
5A Boys vs Marymount on Field 3 @ 1:40pm
5A Boys vs Marymount on Field 2 @ 1:40pm
7A Boys vs Robina on Field 1 @ 1:40pm

Soccer at St Vincents/IAC, Clear Island Wtr
6A Girls vs Caningeraba on Field 5V2 @ 1:40pm
6B Girls vs St Vincents on Field IAC1 @ 12.45pm

Mixed AFL at Salk Oval, Palm Beach
Jnr vs Marymount on Field 3 @ 12.45pm
Snr vs Caningeraba on Field 3 @ 1.35pm

Rugby League at Firth Park, Mudgeeraba
Open R vs Hilkrest on Field 1 @ 1.30pm
1IR vs Elanora on Field 1 @ 12.40pm
10ys vs Varsity on Field 3 @ 12.40pm

Rugby League at Marymount College, Burleigh Waters
Open 8 vs St Vincents’ on Field 1 @ 1.30pm

Netball at Firth Park, Mudgeeraba
7A vs Varsity on Court 2 @ 12.45
7C1 vs 7C2 on Court 2 @ 1.30pm
6A vs Varsity on Court 4 @ 1.30pm
5A vs Varsity on Court 8 @ 12.45pm
5B vs Mudgeeraba on Court 8 @ 1.30pm

P&C NEWS

Celebrating Mother’s Day
All mums are invited to share afternoon tea on Wednesday 7 May at 1:45 pm at the PAC. Come along and meet other mums and celebrate together. Afternoon tea will be provided by the P&C.

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Tuckshop Roster for Week beginning: Mon 5 May 2014

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 5/5</th>
<th>Tues 6/5</th>
<th>Wed 7/5</th>
<th>Thurs 8/5</th>
<th>Fri 9/5</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mayumi</td>
<td>Yoko M, Kelli F</td>
<td>Naoko, Yoko H</td>
<td>Maria S, Mayumi</td>
<td>Naoko, Mayumi</td>
</tr>
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Meal Deal – 8 May $5.00

- Chicken & Vegetable Soup
- Garlic Bread
- Zooper Dooper
- Bottled Water

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

Many warm thanks to my volunteers this week. Your help has been greatly appreciated. The cooler weather is creeping in so don’t forget to browse through the “Hot Food” items on our menu. Interschool sports students are reminded they must bring a packed lunch each Friday as they are unable to purchase the Eagle Boys Pizza as it is delivered after you have left. Thank you to those using our Flexischools online ordering system. We appreciate your continued support. Have a great week. ~ Denise ~

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK


COMMUNITY NEWS

Merrimac State High School Enrolment Evening
Information Evening 2015 will be on Tuesday 20 May in the Merrimac SHS library at the following times:

Students entering Year 7 in 2015 at 5.30pm
Students entering Year 8 in 2015 at 6.30pm

All prospective students and parents are welcome to attend this information evening. Staff will be on hand to provide information on enrolment, curriculum and facilities. Enrolment packs will be available from Merrimac SHS Admin or @ www.merrimacshs.eq.edu.au or phone 5595 8666.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 5 May</td>
<td>5.30pm Merrimac IEC Meeting (Japan Trip)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 5 May</td>
<td>5.45pm Merrimac Outside School Hours Care meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 5 May</td>
<td>6.30pm P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 7 May</td>
<td>Aus Kick to commence</td>
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<td>Thurs 8 May</td>
<td>Year 6 Lightning Carnivals Merrimac and Miami High Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 12 to Wed 14 May</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp</td>
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<td>Tues 13 to Thurs 15 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN Testing</td>
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<td>Fri 16 May</td>
<td>Catch up NAPLAN Testing Day</td>
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<td>Mon 19 to Fri 23 May</td>
<td>Education Week</td>
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<td>Tues 20 May</td>
<td>Australian Computer Competition</td>
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<td>Tues 20 May</td>
<td>Main School Photo Day</td>
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<td>Wed 21 May</td>
<td>District Cross Country</td>
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<td>Wed 21 May</td>
<td>School Disco (Week 5)</td>
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<td>20 May to 5 June</td>
<td>Fanfare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 20 to Fri 24 May</td>
<td>Wipe Out Waste Van at Merrimac</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 22 May</td>
<td>Year 5 Lightning Carnivals Merrimac and Miami High Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 22 May</td>
<td>Under 8’s Day at Merrimac</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 – 30 May</td>
<td>Wipe Out Waste Van at Merrimac</td>
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<td>Tues 27 May</td>
<td>School Photos - current sports, catch up and sibling photos</td>
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<td>Wed 28 May</td>
<td>Magic of Music Concert 6.00pm Juniors 7.00pm Seniors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 2 June</td>
<td>5.30pm Merrimac IEC Meeting (Japan Trip)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 2 June</td>
<td>6.30pm P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<td>Mon 9 June</td>
<td>Queens Birthday Holiday</td>
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<td>Fri 13 June</td>
<td>Last day of Interschool Sport</td>
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<td>Fri 20 June</td>
<td>Senior Athletics</td>
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<td>Mon 23 June</td>
<td>Senior Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 24 June</td>
<td>Junior Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 24 June</td>
<td>Report Cards to be sent home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 25 June</td>
<td>Last day of Aus Kick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 27 June</td>
<td>Last school day for term</td>
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