Term 2 Week 5 Thursday 22 May 2014

PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

E Newsletters
We will continue to distribute our newsletter via an email link to those families who have provided us with their email address. Remember to keep the school updated with any change to your email address so we can continue to keep you informed.

We still have a few printed copies in the office for those parents who do not have internet access. Parents can also access the school newsletter via the QSchools App.

Principal Absence
I will be on Long Service Leave from 23 May through till the end of the school term and heading off overseas to Canada, Alaska and North America. I’m sure things will run very smoothly in my absence and I look forward to catching up with everyone when I return for the start of Term Three.

During this time, Mrs Hall will be acting Principal and Mrs McNeillage will be acting Deputy Principal. Mr Boff will be acting Head of Curriculum for this time. Ms Amber Butler-Davis will be replacing Mr Boff and teaching Prep 3 for the last five weeks of this term.

P&C Day in Schools
This Friday 23 May has been designated ‘P&C Day’ in schools. This day, held each year during State Education week, is a chance for us all to recognize the contribution made by the hardworking volunteers on our P&C.

Our school has a very hard working P&C who have contributed significantly to the success of our school. Merrimac State School is a very well-resourced school within many excellent facilities. The funds raised by our P&C over the years have been a major factor in our school’s resourcing.

I would like to take this opportunity of publicly thanking and congratulating all the parents and carers who give up their time to make a difference for the students at our school. It is important that our school continues to maintain its high standards. For this to happen, a combined effort from school staff and parents is always needed.

Pacific Fair Promotion
Merrimac State School will be participating in the Pacific Fair ‘Points 4 Pac Fair’ promotion which will run from Monday 26 May through to Sunday 22 June. Our school will have a chance to share in $45000 worth of prizes. Every time a customer makes a purchase of $75 or more at any Pacific Fair store, they can gain points for our school. Customers simply have to take their shopping receipts to the Customer Service Centre (Level 1 Arcade and outside near the Play Park). The Primary School with the most points per student will win $20000 cash, second $15000 and third $10000. There will also be other prizes for schools during the time.

A box is set up in the school’s office for the collection of receipts in case parents don’t have the time to take them to the Customer Service Centre.

Parents who shop at Pacific Fair are encouraged to support our school in this promotion. Your support of our involvement in this promotion would be much appreciated. Please encourage relatives and friends to collect their Pacific Fair receipts ($75 or more) also and put them towards Merrimac State School.

Under 8’s Day
Our Under 8’s Day activities were held today. More details of this special day will be included in next week’s newsletter.

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 mindful 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. This includes parents who volunteer in the classrooms during the school day.

Walk Safely to School Day tomorrow – Active Kids are Healthy Kids (a message from Education Qld)
Tomorrow, Friday 23 May, is designated ‘Walk Safely to School Day’. All children throughout Australia are being asked to walk all or part of the way to school with their parents/carers. Walking is one of the best ways to get exercise. It’s free, easy and good for the environment, so try to include a 30 minute walk each day. For big journeys you can walk to and from public transport, or try leaving the car at least half a kilometre from school and walking the rest of the way. WSTSD is now an annual event promoting the significant physical, mental and social health benefits to be achieved through regular walking. Remember, active kids are healthy kids, so let’s get moving Merrimac families! For more information visit www.walk.com.au.

Staying safe around bats (a message from Education Qld)
Children need to be aware that bats, including flying foxes, are protected species and pose minimal risk to humans provided they are left alone and not touched. However, children should not try to hurt or help sick or injured bats as they are putting themselves and the animal at risk. If you see a bat or flying fox that is hurt call:
• RSPCA—1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)
• Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (1300 130 372)
• your local wildlife care group/rescuer/carer for assistance.

If a child is bitten or scratched by any bat, they should tell their parents, teacher or responsible adult straight away, wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and visit their local doctor immediately.
Premiers Reading Challenge - Start reading!
The reading period for the 2014 Premier’s Reading Challenge students started this week and ends on Friday 5 September. Our school has registered to participate in the challenge.
The Premier’s Reading Challenge is a great way to encourage reading in your child’s life. The Premier is challenging all students from Prep to Year 7 to read/experience an allocated number of books at their level between 20th May and 5th September. Prep to Year 2 is to read and/or engage with 20 books, Years 3/4 are asked to read 20 books and Years 5-7 must read 15 books. Most children probably fulfill these requirements at school alone, perhaps with the exception of upper school. Please let teachers know if your children would like to participate. Children receive a certificate at the end of the program. Enquiries to Mrs McClavey in IC.

Request for References
From time to time a number of requests are made by parents and children for references to various Private Schools. The Gold Coast Primary Principals’ Association has determined that such references should not be supplied. This decision has also been ratified by our School Council. It is felt that the making available of the School Report Card and any National Testing is sufficient documentation for all Private Schools. This means that the school will not be able to assist with requests for written references. This also applies to individual teachers in an official capacity. A copy of the child’s Report Card and National Testing will be made available if requested by parents.

Language Perfect World Championships 2014- Japanese
The 10 day championship is running until the 29th of May at 6:00pm. Our goal is to earn more than 44 certificates and beat our score from last year which was 92,011 points and 298,397 6.00pm. Our goal is to earn more than 44 certificates and beat our score from last year which was 92,011 points and 298,397. The 10 days will receive a Language Perfect Certificate which will be presented at parade. Special prizes will be awarded to the top 10 students at Merrimac.

ELITE AWARD (10,000+ Points) BRONZE AWARD (1000+ Points)
SILVER AWARD (2000+ Points) CREDIT AWARD (500+ Points)

School Photographs
On Tuesday this week Silver Rose photographed Class Groups and Individual Photos. If you would still like to order photos complete the photo envelope and enclose cash payment or credit card details and return to the finance window by 30 May. There is no late fee provided the envelope is to the finance window by Monday 26 May. Silver Rose will return to school on Tuesday 27 May to photograph Brother/Sister requests, Sports Groups and any catch up individual photos. If your child was absent but you would still like to order photos you can certainly do this but your child will miss out on an event if they have not paid by the due date. Please early and avoid disappointment. We are currently accepting payments for:

- Selected Yr 1-7 in 10 instalments:
  - $250 due 9 May
  - $250 due 13 June
  - $250 due 4 August
- Students in 10 instalments:
  - $250 due 9 May
  - $250 due 13 June
  - $250 due 4 August

Scholastic Book Club
Brochures were sent home with students this week. Orders close 9am Friday 30 May. Ordering instructions:

- Complete order form on back page of brochure and be sure to include Child's name, class and phone number.
- Order to be enclosed in an envelope clearly marked BOOK CLUB on the front and is to include the order form and correct money (no change given), cheque made payable to Scholastic Australia, or if you have used the credit card system put the reference number of your payment into the reference box.
- Orders to the finance window Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 8.00am – 9.30am and no later than 30 May.
**MUSIC NEWS**

**Concert Wednesday 28 May - Entry Fee: Gold Coin Donation**

This year’s concert will commence at 6.00pm and conclude at 7.40pm. It is only fair to all Music students that Attendance is compulsory. If unexpected circumstances arise which prevent your child attending please contact the respective music teacher. Notes have been sent home with participating students. Please read these notes to ensure you are familiar with the arrangements for the night.

*Fanfare - School Band*

Congratulations to our Senior Band who took part in Fanfare yesterday and were awarded a Gold medal. This is a fantastic effort by all the students. Well done also to Miss Deb.

**SPECIAL NOTE FOR BAND STUDENTS**

There will be no band practice after school next Wednesday 28 May.

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**PE NEWS**

**District Cross Country**

On Wednesday, we had 27 students attend the District Cross Country at Pizzey Park. All the students tried their hardest against tough opposition from all our District Schools. With approximately 150 to 180 students in each race it was very pleasing to see most of our students finishing high up the order, with a number finishing in the top 30. The following three students did extremely well and were presented with medal placings on the day:

- Nikiah Campbell 1st place
- Yusuke Zamma 2nd place
- Shunsuke Zamma 3rd place

Well done to all our students for participating, you were a credit to the school. Many thanks to Mrs Lees, Mr Singh and the parents for assisting and cheering our runners on throughout the day.

**INTERSCHOOL SPORT FOR 23 MAY**

**Soccer at St Vincents, Clear Island Waters**

- 5A Boys vs Caningeraba on Field 4 @ 1.40pm
- 6A Boys vs Worongary on Field 2 @ 12.45pm
- 7A Boys vs Worongary on Field 1 @ 1.40pm

**Soccer at Robina Common, Ron Penhaligon Way**

- 6A Girls vs Worongary on Field 4 @ 12.45pm
- 6B Girls vs Worongary on Field 4 @ 1.40pm

**Mixed AFL at Salt Oval, Palm Beach**

- Jnr vs Worongary on Field 2 @ 12.45pm
- Snr vs St Andrews on Field 2 @ 1.35pm

**Rugby League at Pizzey Park, Miami**

- Open R vs Burleigh on Field 3 @ 12.40pm
- 11R vs Canigeraba on Field 4 @ 12.40pm
- 10 vs Marymount on Field 4 @ 1.30pm

**Netball at Firth Park, Mudgeeraba**

- 7A vs Varsity on Court 1 @ 12.45pm
- 7C1 vs 7C2 on Court 1 @ 1.30pm
- 6A vs Varsity on Court 3 @ 1.30pm
- 5A vs Varsity on Court 11 @ 12.45pm
- 5B vs Worongary on Court 7 @ 1.30pm

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**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

Tuckshop Roster for Week beginning: Mon 26 May 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 26/5</th>
<th>Mayumi</th>
<th>Meal Deal - 29 May $5.00 State of Origin Post Match Pack</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 27/5</td>
<td>Yoko M, Kelli F</td>
<td>Pluto Pup w sauce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 28/5</td>
<td>Naoko, Yoko H</td>
<td>State of Origin Jelly Cup</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 29/5</td>
<td>Maria S, Mayumi</td>
<td>Mini Fairy Floss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 30/5</td>
<td>Naoko, Mayumi</td>
<td>Red or Blue Aroona</td>
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<td>Springerwater</td>
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**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**


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**KS4KIDS2014**

Chappy Steve’s 30k Walkathon is on this Saturday, 24 May. If you can’t walk you can donate or sponsor one of our walkers. You can register to walk or donate on the KS4Kids website @ www.ks4kids.org.au and search for Merrimac State School.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26 - 30 May</td>
<td>Wipe Out Waste Van at Merrimac</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 27 May</td>
<td>Photos - sports, catch up and sibling photos</td>
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<td>Wed 28 May</td>
<td>Magic of Music Concert 6.00pm - 7.40pm</td>
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<td>Mon 2 June</td>
<td>5.30pm Merrimac Outside School Hours Care meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 2 June</td>
<td>5.45pm Merrimac IEC Meeting (Japan Trip)</td>
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<td>Mon 9 June</td>
<td>6.30pm P&amp;C Meeting</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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<tr>
<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>6.00pm Katsuragi Homestay Parent Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 25 June</td>
<td>Last day of AusKick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 27 June</td>
<td>Last school day for term</td>
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**ROBINA STATE HIGH SCHOOL ENROLMENT INFORMATION**

Tuesday, 27 May 2.30 - 3.30 pm - Merrimac State School

Is your child enrolling at Robina SHS in 2015? The Head of Junior Secondary and the Deputy Principal from Robina SHS will be available on-site at Merrimac State School in order to distribute and collect enrolment packs as well as answer any questions that parents may have regarding enrolment at the school in 2015. The Robina SHS team will be based in the staffroom in the Administration Block between 2.30 and 3.30 pm.

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**ROBINA State High School**

Junior Secondary Showcase Evening

5.30 pm Thursday, 29 May 2014 in the Performing Arts Complex

We invite our school community to celebrate the work of our Year 8 & 9 students. The evening will feature energetic performances from our Creative Arts students, as well as exemplary static displays of our students’ work.

A BBQ dinner will also be provided by our League for Life students.