Term 2 Week 7 Thursday 05 June 2014

PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

Queen's Birthday Holiday
Parents are reminded that on next Monday 9 June, the school will be closed for the Queen's Birthday Holiday.

P&C Initiatives
At Monday night’s P&C meeting, there were a number of extremely important initiatives approved and funded by the P&C. To support the School Wide Positive Behaviour Program at Merrimac State School, the P&C have contributed $3000 towards 22 large ‘Ralph and Rosie’ signs around the school to reinforce our school rules, ‘Safe, Respectful Learner’. All fundraising from the entertainment books were dedicated to this project. The school has recently upgraded the seated area around the top Prep buildings. The P&C are going to provide shade covering for this area to the value of $4000. This will make the area sun safe and add to the visual aspect of the area.

A major initiative for Merrimac State School this year is to provide wireless access for our students so they are well placed as 21st Century learners. The P&C have committed to supporting the school with this project as all members recognise the importance of preparing our children for a changing world. Our P&C President Chris Fort has written a grant submission for the re-surfacing of the tennis court. The members are also looking at providing a wall court behind the Year One and Two sand pits if it is viable in the area.

All staff and students thank our hard working P&C as our school community benefits from all their tireless efforts.

National Collection of Data on Students with Disability
All Australian Governments have agreed to work together on the annual collection of data on school students with disability. Collecting data helps teachers, principals and education authorities support the participation of students with disability in schooling on the same basis as students without disability.

In 2014, two thirds of Queensland schools will participate and all schools will collect data from 2015. Our school will be involved in the national collection of data from this year. The collection will conclude on the 1st August.

Please be reassured that the Department will not provide on to another organisation any data that can identify an individual student. The only data being collected at the school level to be reported nationally is:

• the broad category of disability;
• the number of students in the school who are provided with an adjustment to address a disability and
• the level of adjustments we provide for those students.

Consultation with parents is important not only for the data collection but also to ensure that you are aware of the adjustments being provided to support your child. While only data that cannot identify your child will be submitted outside of the Department, if you do not wish for your child’s details to be included in the collection count, please contact the school office.

Information and fact sheets are available to help you make a decision from the Department’s website: http://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/disability-data-collection.html

Term Two Reporting To Parents
This term Report Cards will go home on Tuesday 17 June for all year levels. As parent/teacher interviews for Prep to Year 7 were held at the end of Term One, it is expected that there will be few parent requests for interviews. If needed, interviews can be arranged during the last week of the term or in early Term Three.

Fanfare
Ms Hurst and our Senior Strings ensemble competed at the State Fanfare at Robina State School last week. They had to compete against a set standard and had the possibility of being awarded a bronze, silver or gold certificate for their performance. Our Senior Strings ensemble was awarded ‘Gold’. Thank you to Ms Hurst, our talented strings teacher, our dedicated instrumental students and the parents who support the children's home practice and early morning rehearsals.

Years 4 to 7 Athletics Days
Our annual Year 4 to 7 athletics carnivals are only a fortnight away and will be held over two days: Friday 20 June (Field events) and Monday 23 June (Track events). Students are asked to wear their coloured house shirt, a hat, running shoes and apply plenty of sunscreen. Parents are most welcome to come along and cheer on the students.

Children have been trying out for the various field events over the last two weeks. Please note that our lower school athletics day (Prep to Year 3) will be held on Tuesday 24 June.

Foot Steps Dance Workshops
Merrimac has once again invited The Foot Steps Dance Company to run a series of dance workshops with all year levels (Prep - Year 7) beginning in Term 3. Students will learn a variety of dance techniques during the sessions with a focus on fun and fitness. The P&C Association have again subsidised this program bringing the cost down to just $5 per child for the entire course. Information has been sent home with each student.

Language Perfect World Championships 2014 - Japanese
Congratulations to all the students in years 4 to 7 who participated in the Language Perfect Championships. Our goal was to earn more than 44 certificates and beat our score from last year which was 92,011 points and 298,397 questions. This year Merrimac State School has received amazing results!!! In total, we earned 90
and as a school spent 10 day period. This is by far the best achievement, congratulations! Omedetou gozaimasu.

The Inter-class competition was a huge success! Congratulations to 7A and Epiba Sensei for their achievements (32,300 points) and for winning the class pizza party! Also congratulations to 6B and Parker Sensei for their efforts in chasing 7A! It was a close race!

Once again well done to all our students and thank you to all staff and parents for your encouragement and support during the championships.

School Achievements:
- 138th overall globally (out of 1151 schools)
- 2nd in QLD for the 251-500 students category
- 6th for Japanese in the 251-500 students category

Special congratulations to Jazz Jensen, Jamen Briggs and Nathan Richards for achieving the highest 3 scores at Merrimac! We look forward to presenting certificates to all students listed below and some special prizes at senior parade next term.

Congratulations! Omedetou Gozaimasu! ~ Marshall Sensei ~

GOLD AWARD (3000+ Points)
Mr Epiba, Jazz Jensen, Jamen Briggs, Nathan Richards, Hayley Bond, Nikiah Campbell

SILVER AWARD (2000+ Points)
Ms Parker, Jazmon Elcoate

BRONZE AWARD (1000+ Points)
Natay Black, Agrin Agish, Errin Emery, Holly Fretwell, Liam Anderson, Lilly Boff, Joey Barreto, Kate Deebble, Zakhira Prior, Kathrina Clarke, Krystal Law, Brooke Nicolison, Nicolas Perry, Charlotte Oseman, Ami Martin, Isabella Gallucci, Flynn Schmitzer, Troy Turman, Jamieson Schmitzer, Abi Stringer, Creed Pace, Brian Kim, Brodie Brown, Tielah Risati, Lauren Venz, Emily Howard, Madeline Zieger, Keyara Reid

CREDIT AWARD (500+ POINTS)

This is a reminder that parents and carers are not to approach other children in the playground to ask them about an incident or to reprimand them. All issues should be referred to the teachers or administration for follow up. A child can become quite intimidated when approached by an adult and become upset by the encounter. It is school staff responsibility to enforce school rules, discuss concerns with parents and make decisions about consequences.

Pacific Fair Promotion
The Pacific Fair ‘Points 4 Pac Fair’ promotion continues until Sunday 22 June. 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 take their shopping receipts to the Customer Service Centre (Level 1 Arcade, outside near the Play Park). 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 and to encourage relatives and friends to participate also and log their points to Merrimac State School.

Premiers Reading Challenge - Start reading!
The Premier’s Reading Challenge continues until Friday 5 September. 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. Children are encouraged to participate and will receive a certificate at the end of the program. Enquiries to Mrs McClavey in IC.

QCT Excellence in Teaching Awards 2014
Nominate now. Are you inspired by an excellent Queensland school teacher? Download a nomination form at: www.qct.edu.au/awards

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 office. Parents are encouraged to start enrolling their children now. 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 as vacancies may be limited. All enrolments must include the student’s Birth Certificate.

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 with the latest news and alerts. Parents are encouraged to access this free App on their iPhone or Android phone and to update regularly to access the latest features.

FINANCE NEWS
The Finance window operates Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8.00am - 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:

Children Leaving School at the end of Term Two
If your child/children will not be returning to Merrimac for Term Three 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 new students.

Parents approaching children in the school grounds
**P&C NEWS**

**Entertainment Books Fundraiser**
There are still unpurchased books outstanding. Please return as a matter of urgency so that we may finalise this important fundraiser. All payments for the books need to be done online at: www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/144d320

**MUSIC NEWS**
Congratulations to all our Instrumental and Choir students for a fantastic concert last week. Parents and teachers were very proud of not only the student performances, but the wonderful audience manners.
A big thank you to all the parent and teacher helpers; Mr Boff, Mrs Zarew, Mrs Collinge, Mrs Taffs, Mr McBlane and Mrs Fry who happily contributed to the success of the night. And of course a big thank you to the Compere Extraordinaire - Mrs Hall.

**Fanfare Success**
Congratulations to the fabulous Senior Band and Senior Strings on their GOLD AWARDS. This is an absolutely fabulous achievement.

**Rehearsal Reminder**
Rehearsals are in full swing for the next big event ···· EISTEDDFOD. Please be punctual.

**INTERSCHOOL SPORTS FOR 6 JUNE**

**Soccer at St Vincents, Clear Island Waters**
- 5A Boys vs Robina on SV3 at 12.40pm
- 6A Girls vs Caningera on SV4 @ 1.35pm
- 6B Girls vs William Duncan on SV2 @ 12.40pm

**Soccer at Broadbeach State School, Broadbeach**
- 6A Boys vs Broadbeach on Field 2 @ 12.40pm
- 7A Boys vs Robina on Field 1 @ 12.40pm

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

**Rugby League at Pizzey Park, Miami**
- Open R vs Hillcrest on PP2 @ 1.30pm
- 1R vs Elanora on PP2 @ 12.40pm
- 10 vs Varsity on PP4 @ 12.40pm

**Netball at Firth Park, Mudgeeraba**
- 7A vs Mudgeeraba on Court 2 @ 12.40pm
- 7C1 vs William Duncan on Court 1 @ 1.25pm
- 7C2 vs St Brigid on Court 2 @ 1.25pm
- 6A vs Mudgeeraba on Court 4 @ 1.25pm
- 5A vs Mudgeeraba on Court 8 @ 12.40pm
- 5B vs Worongary on Court 7 @ 1.25pm

**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Payment Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selected Yr 5, 6 &amp; 7 Students</td>
<td>Canberra Instalments</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>13 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep-Yr7</td>
<td>Footsteps</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>25 June</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**


**UPCOMING EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 9 June</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 13 June</td>
<td>Last day of Interschool Sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 20 June</td>
<td>Senior Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 23 June</td>
<td>Senior Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 24 June</td>
<td>Junior Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 24 June</td>
<td>Report Cards to be sent home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 25 June</td>
<td>6.00pm Katsuragi Homestay Parent Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 25 June</td>
<td>Last day of AusKick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 27 June</td>
<td>Last school day for term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Brave Self-Help**
An exciting new program is now available for Australian children and young people aged between 8 and 17 years, and their parents. BRAVE Self-Help is an online program for the prevention, early intervention and treatment of anxiety. The program is free, can be accessed anywhere, at any time and includes up to 10 sessions for children or young people. Parents can also take part in a separate parent program to learn ways of helping their child or young person manage anxiety. For more information, or to access the program, please visit www.braye4you.psy.uq.edu.au or www.beyondblue.org.au/types-of-treatment-for-young-people.

**Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers this week. Your help is greatly appreciated! Don’t forget we are not open next Monday being a public holiday. Please remind students to place lunch orders in their class baskets when they go into class in the morning. Thanks and have a great week everyone. ~ Denise ~**
Merrimac State School is a KIDSMATTER school. We are focused on growing happy, healthy, confident children together with the local community.

Check out what’s happening within our school, in the KIDSMATTER section of our school newsletter to help us all raise happy, balanced children.

AT SCHOOL

**Come along and find out more about Kidsmatter and our role in the school community and have the opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas at our next Kidsmatter meeting**

Where: P2 classroom  
When: Thursday 12th June, 3pm - 4pm

Next term Merrimac State School is hosting **A First Aid in Mental Health Workshop**

This course is available at no cost to any parents/caregivers with students enrolled in a Queensland government state school

Where: Merrimac State School  
MPC conference room

The 14-hour Youth MHFA Course  
A 14-hour course has been developed for adults working or living with adolescents.  
This specialist course was developed in response to the following:  
• Mental illnesses frequently first arise in adolescence and young adulthood.  
• Young people have poorer knowledge about mental illness and how to get professional help.  
• They are particularly likely to initially need support from adults to get appropriate help.  
Course content  
The course covers the MHFA Action Plan and the following crisis situations and mental illnesses.  
Crisis situations covered are:  
• Suicidal behaviours  
• Self-harm  
• Acute stress reaction  
• Panic attacks  
• Acute psychotic behaviour

Expressions of interest and more detailed information to follow