Term 2 Week 8 Thursday 12 June 2014

PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

Teacher Planning Sessions
Over the next three weeks, teachers will be working with their grade level colleagues to plan for the learning of their students for Term 3. Teachers will be analysing assessment tasks against the standards of the Australian Curriculum in English, Mathematics, Science, History and Geography. Pre-assessment tasks are designed to gauge each child’s level of understanding of concepts in English and Mathematics. Teachers use the information gathered from these tasks and other school based assessments to set goals for each individual student in these subject areas. Students work on their goals with feedback from teachers so they have ownership of their learning journey. When reading your child’s report, please look for the English and Mathematics learning goals your child’s teacher recommends. If you are unclear about how to support your child in these areas, do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher for advice.

National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEITA)
Nominations are now open for the National Excellence in Teaching Awards. The NEITA Foundation seeks your support in recognising the efforts of the teachers in our schools. The teachers at Merrimac do a fantastic job and parents may like to nominate them for an award. The closing date for nominations is 31 July 2014. Nominate online at: www.asg.com.au/nominate

Katsuragi Parent Meeting
There will be a parent information night on Wednesday 25 June at 6pm in the PAC. All parents who are hosting Katsuragi students are encouraged to attend as information booklets will be distributed, emergency procedures explained and other important information will be discussed. Merrimac students are not required to attend.

Interschool Sports Finals
Congratulations to all of our interschool sports teams for a very successful competition. Children attending were great sports and represented Merrimac with pride. Good luck to the teams in Finals this week and to all students for an enjoyable last game of the season. Please note that the Rugby League teams are playing a regular round with their finals to be held later in the term.

Vision Checks
Good vision is important for a child’s educational, physical and social development. With approximately 1 in 4 Australian children suffering from an undetected vision problem, vision screening is vital for your child’s learning to give him/her the best chance of reaching their full learning potential. Many children try to adapt to their vision problem without knowing they could see better. Children’s vision should be checked every two years if they have no history of a previously diagnosed problem. A child’s medicare card entitles them to a free eye test at any optometrist every twelve months. Has your child had a recent vision check?

Head lice
There have been a number of reported cases of head lice. Families are encouraged to check their child’s hair. The school does inform classes through a letter when an outbreak is reported. It is recommended that both live lice and eggs are removed to help prevent reinfestation. The department of Health recommend combing a non-expensive conditioner through the hair with a fine toothed comb. To kill lice and use as a preventative, tea-tree oil can be added to the conditioner in small amounts. Keep treatment away from your child’s eyes and stop using if you notice a reaction to any treatment. To prevent reinfestation, hats, clothing and bedding should also be washed and dried in the sun. As not all parents check their child on the same day, it can be difficult to stop the cycle. You may wish to keep the tea-tree oil and conditioner in the bathroom and use it and the fine toothed comb as the conditioner treatment for when the children’s hair is washed. Shorter haircuts and keeping long hair secured can also help.

Children at School after 3.15pm
Children are supervised in the parent car park till 3.15pm. Any children who have not been collected by this time are asked to wait in front of the school near the Administration Building (between the large car park gum tree and the main small gate entrance to the school). This allows Admin to monitor that students are all eventually collected by their parents. Please do not ask your child to meet you anywhere else if you will be collecting them after 3.15pm as this practice could prove unsafe.

Lost Property
Over the term a number of items have accumulated in our lost property, located outside the tuckshop. Please get your child to check there if they have lost anything. Classes will also do a check during the last week of term. During the holidays unnamed clothing will be given to charities. We encourage you to label all clothing so we can return lost items. If it’s not labelled, it can’t be returned.

Absence Notes
Parents are asked to ensure the following information is always included on absence notes:

- Child’s First and Last Name (especially when this differs from the informing parent/caregiver)
- Child’s Class
- Reason for Absence (absence remains as unexplained unless a reason is given for the absence)
- Date of Absence

If a notification of a student’s absence is not received at school, the absence is recorded as ‘unexplained’ on our school records. Our goal is to have no unexplained absences for any students.

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
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.

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.

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. Dance is part of the school wide Arts program for Semester 2. 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.

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.

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.

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:

<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>Yr7 Footsteps</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>25 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep-Yr7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canberra</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>13 June</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Instalments</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>4 August</td>
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P&C NEWS

Entertainment Books Fundraiser

There are still a couple of unpurchased books outstanding. Please return as a matter of urgency so that we may finalise this important fundraiser.

INTERSCHOOL SPORTS FOR 13 JUNE (FINALS)

Soccer at St Vincents/IAC, Clear Island Waters
5A Boys vs Broadbeach on IAC1 @ 12.40pm (FINAL)
6A Boys vs Worongary on SV3 @ 1.35pm
7A Boys vs St Vincent’s on SV1 @ 1.35pm (FINAL)
6B Girls vs St Brigids on SV3 @ 12.40pm

Soccer at Robina Common Fields, Ron Penhaligon Way
6A Girls vs Marymount on Field 2 @ 1.35pm

Mixed AFL at Salk Oval, Palm Beach
Jnr vs Marymount on Field 1 @ 12.45pm (FINAL)
Snr vs Varsity on Field 3 @ 1.35pm

Rugby League at Pizazz Park, Miami
Open R vs Burleigh on PP2 @ 1.30pm
1IR vs Coninghamra on PP1 @ 12.40pm

Rugby League at Marymount College, Burleigh Waters
10 vs William Duncan on Field 1 @ 1.30pm

Netball at Firth Park, Mudgeeraba
7A vs Varsity on Court 2 @ 12.40pm
7C1 vs 7C2 on Court 1 @ 1.25pm (FINAL)
6A vs Mudgeeraba on Court 4 @ 1.25pm
5A vs St Vincent’s on Court 8 @ 12.40pm (FINAL)
5B vs St Vincent’s on Court 7 @ 1.25pm

GOOD LUCK FINALISTS

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Tuckshop Roster for Week beginning: Mon 26 May 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mayumi</th>
<th>Meal Deal – 19 June $5.00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Yoko M, Keli F</td>
<td>• Hot Dog w sauce &amp; cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Naoko, Yoko H</td>
<td>• State of Origin Jelly Cup</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Maria S, Mayumi</td>
<td>• Fairy Floss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Naoko, Mayumi</td>
<td>• Sparkling Springwater</td>
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A huge thank you to our volunteers this week. Your help is always greatly appreciated. Stay warm everyone and have a good week.

~ Denise ~

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK


UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 13 June Last day of Interschool Sport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20 June Senior Athletics Field Events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 23 June Senior Athletics Track Events</td>
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<td>Tues 24 June Junior Athletics</td>
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<td>Tues 24 June Report Cards to be sent home</td>
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<td>Wed 25 June 6.00pm Katsuragi Homestay Parent Meeting</td>
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<td>Wed 25 June Last day ofAusKick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 27 June Last school day for term</td>
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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.braive4you psy. qe.edu.au or www.beyondblue.org.au/types-of-treatment-for-young-people.

Gold Coast Suns Thank You

As a thank you for our support through our AFL school programs the Gold Coast SUNS would like to offer Merrimac State School up to 50% off a Gold B reserved seat at their Round 14 match against Geelong on Saturday 21 June at Metricon Stadium. For just $25 (adult ticket) you can come and enjoy the thrill of LIVE AFL as well as experience why Metricon Stadium is renowned for its unique and exciting match day entertainment.

To take up this offer for our Geelong match, click here and enter the code GCFC in the ‘enter offer code/password’ field on the top left hand side of the Ticketmaster screen.

Please note All Gold Coast SUNS tickets include public transport to and from the event on scheduled Surfside buses and Queensland Rail Train services. For all Round 14 match day information.

We hope to see you and your family FIRED UP as we take on the Geelong Cats at Metricon Stadium!

86th Annual Mudgeeraba Agricultural Show
28th & 29th June 2014

The 86th Annual Mudgeeraba Agricultural Show is on just in time for the school holidays. Heaps of free entertainment, spectacular night programme & Grand Parade with a massive fireworks display. Over 150 trade, community and heritage sites. Thrilling rides and side show alley. Art, craft & Education pavilion, BMX & FMX Demos, and sculpturing, strongman, sheep shearing, cattle judging, show princess and much, much, more!!

So start the holidays with fun and excitement and come to the Mudgeeraba Show. Cost $30 family, $15 Adults, $10 Children and Aged Pensioners. Enquiries to Kylie Holzinger, 5530 2754 or 0418 182 533.