Term 2 Week 9 Thursday 19 June 2014

PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

Geography in the Australian Curriculum

Over the past three years, Queensland State Schools have been introducing key learning areas in the Australian Curriculum. This is so education in all states from the Foundation Year (Prep) to Year 9 covers the same scope of conceptual understandings, skills and processes in each subject. This alignment will allow families to move from State to State in Australia and know their child will not be disadvantaged. The subjects introduced so far are English, Mathematics, Science and History.

Next semester, Merrimac State School will be introducing the subject of Geography in the Australian Curriculum. Curriculum leaders in Education Qld have developed geography units of work as a resource to support the implementation of the Australian Curriculum for schools in Queensland. The topics to be studied in Term Three at our school are:

- Prep: What is my place like?
- Year 1: How do I use places?
- Year 2: What is the story of my place?
- Year 3: Exploring similarities and differences in places near and far
- Year 4: Exploring environments and places
- Year 5: Exploring how people and places affect one another
- Year 6: Exploring a diverse world
- Year 7: Water in the World

Information on the Australian Curriculum can be found at www.australiancurriculum.edu.au

Student Council Free Dress Day

The Student Council is running a ‘Blue Dress Day’ for the Asthma Foundation next Friday 27 June as a last day of term activity. Children are asked to wear something blue to support research into childhood asthma and to bring a gold coin donation. Students are reminded that sun safe clothes are still required with covered shoes to allow access to all curriculum areas.

Senior Athletics Days

Senior Athletics is to be held this Friday 20 June and next Monday 23 June. Thanks go to Mr Singh for organising the carnivals. We wish everyone an active and successful day. Sports Captains are excited and will take a major part in encouraging the students in their house to participate and cheer their team on. All students are encouraged to wear their house colours on the day, remembering to wear sun safe clothes, bring a water bottle and sunscreen. The events will be held as follows:

**Friday**
- 9.00-10.15am: 800m
- 10.00-2.55pm: Field Events

**Monday**
- 9.00am-2.40pm: 100m, 200m, relays, ball games and tug-o-war

Junior Sports Fun Day

Junior Athletics will be held next Tuesday 24 June. This is not meant to be a highly competitive day. The oval will be set up with a variety of fun, physical activities for children to enjoy. The day starts with an informal March Past so parents and community members can see all their children in their house colours. The Senior Sports Captains will lead the way. The various activities will be supported by student leaders who will be able to demonstrate the activity and help the children at each station. Rotations include relays, races, long jump, unders/overs, tunnel ball, soccer dribble, vortex throw, tug-o-war, rest and kanga relays.

Children will travel in their classes with their class teachers so they do not get lost. Teachers will have lists of which house each child is assigned. All students are encouraged to wear their house colours on the day, remembering to wear sun safe clothes, bring a water bottle and sunscreen.

‘Ralph and Rosie’ School Rules Signs

If you visit for one of the sports carnivals or a school parade, you may want to look on the end of the senior amenities block, near the oval. Mr Ian Jeffery, our Facilities Officer has put up our first ‘Ralph and Rosie’ school rules sign. It is circular with a diameter of one metre and has our school rules, Safe, Respectful, Learner around the outside of a large graphic of Ralph and Rosie. They are our water dragon mascots for our School-wide Positive Behaviour Program. Suzette Macgregor, one of our parents, designed the fantastic graphic as part of our behaviour team. The signs are to promote our three easy to remember rules and Mr Jeffery will be putting up the remainder of the signs in the school holidays. Thanks so much to the P&C who donated $3000 towards purchasing the signs.

Katsuragi Elementary School Visit 2014

A key part of Merrimac State School’s culture is its sister school agreement with Katsuragi Elementary School which was originally signed in 2001. Our senior students visit Japan every two years with students from Katsuragi visiting Merrimac in the alternate years. The home stay program is an excellent way for children to experience cultural diversity in a safe environment. This year the Katsuragi students will be with us from Sunday 27 July to Sunday 3 August. During the visit by Katsuragi students and teachers, a whole week of cultural exchange activities is organised. Mrs Marshall and her International Exchange Committee (IEC), which include both teachers and parents, spearhead a non-stop itinerary of experiences both within the school and local Gold Coast community.

The Katsuragi teachers share their expertise by teaching lessons in our classes and the students attend classes to experience what it is like to go to school in Australia. The whole school joins in the celebration by being involved in the Welcome Ceremony on the Tuesday and the Sayounara Ceremony on the Friday. The school community is welcome to attend these ceremonies. Children will also have the opportunity to interact with the Japanese students on Wednesday night, 30 July, at the Senior Footsteps Disco. We are looking forward to another valuable cultural exchange with our Japanese friends.

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.

National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEITAt) 
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

Lost Property
A reminder to check the lost property, located near the tuckshop for missing items. 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.

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 24 June (Note change of date) 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.

Foot Steps Dance Workshops
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. 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
The Premier’s Reading Challenge continues until Friday 5 September. Keep up your reading.

Prep Enrolments for 2015
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.
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.

More Language Perfect Results
Unfortunately we omitted some Credit Award (500+ Points) winners from last week's newsletter. Students received their certificates on parade this week. Congratulations to Alannah Zieger, Charley Fredrickson, Yazzman Carter, Brooke Stoelhorst, Jess Eden, Kurt Johnson, Dean Power and Henry Johnson.

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>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>
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P&C NEWS
Entertainment Books Fundraiser
If you have not returned your book and have not purchased it online you will receive an invoice in the next couple of weeks. All books must be accounted for.
Many thanks to our volunteers this week. Your help is greatly appreciated. Just a reminder that we will be setting up our mobile tuckshop near the oval for the Athletics days. We will be selling hot chocolate drinks to help defrost icy fingers and toes, and a selection of hot foods and cool drinks. The coffee van will be visiting during the Junior Athletics day.

As the end of term draws near we are reducing our stock supplies. Some items may be exhausted so we will notify students if this happens and replace with an agreed alternative item if possible. Have a great week everyone! ~ Denise ~

**MUSIC NEWS**

As Mrs Powell will be on long service there will be NO Junior and Senior Choir Rehearsals next week nor the first week of Term 2. Rehearsals will resume in the second week of next term.

No Strings Lessons next Week

Please note, there will be no strings lessons or early morning ensemble practices next Tuesday 24 or Wednesday 25 June as Miss Hurst will be attending the Primary school music camp of excellence. Congratulations to Ami Martin and Alex Berghuis who have been selected to attend this camp.

**Date Saver**

Mark your calendar with the following Eisteddfod dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Date/Time/Transport</th>
<th>Competition No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jnr Choir</td>
<td>C3/A Infant</td>
<td>Mon 11/8 12.30pm</td>
<td>3/9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Choir P-4</td>
<td>Depart School 11.30am</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Depart Arts Centre  2.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snr Choir</td>
<td>C5 /B B Grade</td>
<td>Mon 11/8 6.00pm</td>
<td>9/10</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Arrive 5.45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jnr Ens Band</td>
<td>B1</td>
<td>Mon 18/8 9.00am</td>
<td>11/12</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Depart School 8.30am</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Depart Arts Centre  11.00am</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Snr Band</td>
<td>B12/A C Grade</td>
<td>Mon 18/8 6.00pm</td>
<td>5/9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Arrive 5.30pm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jnr Band</td>
<td>B13/B Novice</td>
<td>Tue 19/8 6.30pm</td>
<td>7/8</td>
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<td>Band/Orchestr a</td>
<td>Arrive 6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snr Strings</td>
<td>B7/B B Grade</td>
<td>Tue 26/8 9.00am</td>
<td>7/10</td>
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<td>Depart School 8.30am</td>
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<td>Depart Arts Centre  11.00am</td>
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<td>Int Strings</td>
<td>B8/A C Grade</td>
<td>Tue 26/8 12.30pm</td>
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<td>Depart School 11.30am</td>
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<td>Depart Arts Centre  2.00pm</td>
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<td>Beg Strings</td>
<td>B9/B Nov ice String Orchestra</td>
<td>Tue 26/8 5.30pm</td>
<td>4/11</td>
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<td>Arrive 5.00pm</td>
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**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**


**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Fri 20 June  Senior Athletics Field Events
- Mon 23 June  Senior Athletics Track Events
- Tues 24 June  Junior Athletics
- Tues 24 June  Report Cards to be sent home
- Wed 25 June  6.00pm Katsuragi Homestay Parent Meeting
- Wed 25 June  Last day of Auskick
- Fri 27 June  Blue Free Dress Day
- Fri 27 June  Last school day for term

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**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 it’s unique and exciting match day entertainment.

To take up this offer for our Geelong match, go to: http://www.ticketmaster.com.au/event/13004C26F250B98E7?arti stid=1436352&majorcatid=10004&minorcatid=711&tm_link=artist _msg-0_13004C26F250B98E7?did=goldbgq

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!**

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**86th Annual Mudgeeraba Agricultural Show**

**28th & 29th June 2014**

The 86th annual Mudgeeraba 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 sculpture, 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 Kyle Holzinger, 55502754 or 0418 182 533.