Term 2 Week 10 Thursday 26 June 2014

PRINCIPAL'S PAGE

Term Two Reporting To Parents
Report Cards went home on Tuesday 24 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 for early Term Three.

Attendance Matters
When you are reviewing your child’s report card, take a moment to consider your child’s attendance rate. Research shows that students who have good attendance are more likely to achieve high results at school. If students aren’t at school or don’t stay the whole day, they are missing valuable lessons which will help them to achieve to their full potential.


Cyber Safety
Merrimac State School’s responsible behaviour plan for students covers information on how students can remain safe while working online. You have no doubt heard many of the media debates relating to the internet and cyber bullying. It is important to note that cyber bullying can occur through a number of mediums including:

- Mobile phones
- MSN messaging
- Chat rooms
- Social networking sites - My Space, Facebook, Beebo
- Email

Cyber bullying is different from traditional bullying in that it includes:

- Being able to act anonymously
- Wide and rapid distribution
- No separation from home and school life
- Lack of face to face contact

In the event that your child experiences cyber bullying students have been advised to:

- Not give out their mobile number or password to anyone
- Not to reply to nasty emails
- Block the sender
- Delete the person in their contact list
- Tell someone they trust
- Save all messages - these can be used for further investigation
- Contact the Cyber Safety Contact Centre - 1800 880 0176
- Report the sender to the messaging or email provider

The development of a trusting relationship between parent and child is critical to ensure children feel comfortable to discuss their concerns. It is important that parents do not over react if their child reports a concern by taking away their mobile phone, cancelling internet accounts and banning online activities. Such action can lead to children being afraid to inform their parents fearing they will lose access to their phone, internet or social networking.

I encourage you to engage in serious dialogue and discussion with your child and take a keen interest in what they are doing online. Such engagement and communication can lead to a relationship of mutual trust and ensure your child is safe online. Having the computer in a shared family area can help with these issues.

Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the administration team, your child’s classroom teacher or access further information at the Cyber Safety website - www.cybersmart.gov.au.

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

Junior Athletics Day
The day started a little chilly but brightened up so the students were able to enjoy a range of fun rotation activities. Events included individual sprints, relays, vortex throw, kanga jump, soccer dribble, long jump, ball games and tug-a-war. Many parents attended adding a community feel to the day. Team events contributed to the house scores. Congratulations to Davidson House for winning the Junior House Shield for 2014.

Mr Singh, the teachers, teacher aides and House Captains worked tirelessly to provide a fun packed time for the children. Thank you to Mr Jeffries for preparing the grounds and setting up for the day and the cleaners for helping to pack up. Thank you to the tuckshop and P&C for providing snacks for all our sports carnivals.

We appreciate your hard work.

Senior Athletics Days
The senior students should be commended for their positive participation in the two day sports carnival. Students put in their best efforts, were respectful in their interactions with their competitors and encouraging to those who were willing to ‘have a go’. Thank you to Mr Singh and the hard working teachers and teacher aides who helped make these days possible.

Results:
1st Birmingham
2nd Hamilton
3rd Gooding
4th Davidson

Age Champions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 yrs</td>
<td>Eva Parish</td>
<td>Kyan Baz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 yrs</td>
<td>Lily Marshall</td>
<td>Lachlan Guy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 yrs</td>
<td>Katie Deebel</td>
<td>Nicholas Perry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 yrs</td>
<td>Teliah Risati</td>
<td>Oryaan Kalolo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 yrs</td>
<td>Nikiah Campbell</td>
<td>Jayden Barnes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Interschool Sport Finalists
This term proved very successful for our interschool sport teams with many teams making it to their division finals. Thank you to the students for their dedication to training, their commitment to games and their conduct during the season. Thank you also to the wonder teachers coaches who invested so much time and expertise in making sure our students were well prepared for their competitions. Thank you to the families who have supported their children at the games.

Finals Results
7C2 Netball- Premiers
7C1 Netball- final runners up
5A Netball- Premiers
7A soccer boys- Premiers
6B soccer girls- final runners up
Mixed AFL - final runners up
U/10’s Rugby League Gold Coast South Premiers 2014

No Pupil Free Day - Term Three
Parents are reminded that the last day of the school term is tomorrow, Friday 27 June. Children will return to school on Monday 8 July. Parents need to be aware that there is not a designated Pupil Free Day at the start of Term Three. All children are expected to return to school on Monday 14 July.

Keep a watch on our school these holidays
Parents and students can help take care of our school by reporting any suspicious after-hours activity to School Watch on 13 17 88. By keeping an eye out we can work together to create a safer school community and help to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in our school.
If you see something suspicious, please don't intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter.

Next P&C Meeting
The next P & C meeting will be held on Monday 14 July at 6.30pm in the Staffroom. This is the first Monday of Term Three. Please note this on your calendar. There will also be a Merrimac Outside School Hours Care meeting on the same evening commencing at 5.45pm. The next Parent Katsuragi IEC Meeting will also be held on this evening at 5.30 p.m. in the staff room.

School Annual Report
Each year, every school in Queensland must present collated data and specific school information in their "Annual School Report". For interested parents, a copy of Merrimac's 2013 Annual School Report is available on the school website at www.merrimaccs.eq.edu.au. Hard copies of this document are also available from the foyer of the administration office.

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. Nominations can be submitted 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

Foot Steps Dance Workshops
The Foot Steps Dance Company will run a series of dance workshops for all year levels 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.

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 s 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.
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.

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 5, 6 &amp; 7 Yrs</td>
<td>Canberra Final Instalment</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>4 August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep-Yr7</td>
<td>Footsteps</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>25 June</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MUSIC NEWS

As Mrs Powell is on long service there will be NO Junior and Senior Choir Rehearsals for the first week of Term 2. Rehearsals will resume in the second week of next term.

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>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jnr Choir</td>
<td>C3/A Infant Choir P-4</td>
<td>Mon 11/8 12.30pm Depart School 11.30am</td>
<td>3/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Depart Arts Centre 2.15pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snr Choir</td>
<td>C5 /B B Grade</td>
<td>Mon 11/8 6.00pm Arrive 5.45pm</td>
<td>9/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jnr Inst Ensemble Band</td>
<td>B1</td>
<td>Mon 18/8 9.00am Depart School 8.30am</td>
<td>11/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Depart Arts Centre 11.00am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snr Band</td>
<td>B12/A C Grade</td>
<td>Mon 18/8 6.00pm Arrive 5.30pm</td>
<td>5/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jnr Band</td>
<td>B13/B Novice Band/ Orchestra</td>
<td>Tue 19/8 6.30pm Arrive 6.00pm</td>
<td>7/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snr Strings</td>
<td>B7/B B Grade</td>
<td>Tue 26/8 9.00am Depart School 8.30am</td>
<td>7/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Depart Arts Centre 11.00am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Int Strings</td>
<td>B8/A C Grade</td>
<td>Tue 26/8 12.30pm Depart School 11.30am</td>
<td>4/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Depart Arts Centre 2.00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beg Strings</td>
<td>B9/B Novice String Orchestra</td>
<td>Tue 26/8 5.30pm Arrive 5.00pm</td>
<td>4/11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK


UPCOMING EVENTS

Fri 27 June  Blue Day for Asthma
Fri 27 June  Last school day for Term 2
Mon 14 July  First School Day of Term Three
Mon 14 July  P&C Meeting
Mon 14 July  MOSHC Meeting
Mon 14 July  IEC Meeting
Wed 16 July  Brekkie Fitness Program commences
Wed 16 July  Foot Steps Dance to commence
Mon 21 July  Kidsmatter friendship group commences
Fri 25 July  National Tree Day
Sun 27 July  Katsuragi visitors arrive: Beach Combo
Tues 29 July  Katsuragi Welcome Ceremony
Wed 30 July  Footsteps Disco
Thurs 31 July  A Schools District Athletics
Fri 01 August  Katsuragi Farewell Ceremony
Mon 04 August  Championship Athletics Day
Tues 05 August  Student Leadership Day at Tallebudgera
Wed 06 August  Student Leaders Parliament House visit
Mon 11 August  Junior Choir Eisteddfod
Mon 11 August  Senior Choir Eisteddfod
Tues 12 August  Australian Mathematics Competition
Mon 18 August  Junior Inst/Ensemble Band Eisteddfod
Mon 18 August  Senior Band Eisteddfod
Tue 19 August  Junior Band Eisteddfod
Tues 26 August  Senior Strings Eisteddfod
Tues 26 August  Intermediate Strings Eisteddfod
Tues 26 August  Junior Strings Eisteddfod
Fri 29 August  Gold Coast Show Holiday
Wed Sept 03  Life Education Van visit commences
Fri 05 Sept  Interschool Sport commences
Sun 07 Sept  Canberra Trip 7-12 Sept
Tues 09 Sept  Year 4 Bike Education commences
Thurs 11 Sept  R U OK Day
Wed 17 Sept  Parent/Teacher Interviews
Friday 19 Sept  Last Day for Term Three

COMMUNITY NEWS

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 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.

Before and After School Care
Bambini Early Childhood Development is commencing before and after school care in Term 3. Located at 91 Quamibone St Worongary they will drop your children to Merrimac SS and/or pick them up and you will drop off or collect from their centre. Phone 5530 2633 for enquiries and bookings.