Happy with their school

Clarey starts her Long Service Leave from 11 August. There will be a
data. Public Schools will continue to remain

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of

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Life Education Program

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link and cod

online survey this year and an information letter with the survey

Parent/Caregiver Survey. All parents were invited to complete an

Thanks to those families who have already completed their online

Parent/Caregiver Survey. All parents were invited to complete an

online survey this year and an information letter with the survey

link and code was sent home at the beginning of Week Two. If you

have lost your information letter, another can be obtained

through the office. The final date for the completion of surveys

has been extended to this Friday 8 August. It really will only take

5 minutes of your time and we would appreciate the feedback.

Life Education Program

The Life Education Van will be visiting our school towards the end

of this term from 3 to 18 September. All students are invited to

participate in the Life Education Program at Merrimac State

School. Life Education is an important program that effectively

educates children about health issues. The program puts students in situations where they need to make decisions, solve problems and interact with other students by discussing possible alternatives to problem situations relating to their own health. The Life Education visit is $7.00 per student. There will be a parent session on Wednesday 3 September commencing at 2.00pm in the Life Education Van. The van will be located at the end of the PAC building. Notes for payment will be sent home this week with all students.

Merrimac State High School Scholarships

Congratulations to the following Year 6 students who have received Year 7 scholarships for 2015 from Merrimac State High School:

- Liam Coghlan: Sport Scholarship
- Jessica White: Sport Scholarship
- Conor Brown: Sport Scholarship
- Freesia Huang: Performing Arts Scholarship
- Jamieson Schmitzer: Performing Arts Scholarship
- Maggie Bird: Performing Arts Scholarship
- Rui Abe: Instrumental Music Scholarship
- Ami Martin: Instrumental Music Scholarship

Congratulations to the following Year 7 students who have received Year 8 scholarships for 2015 from Merrimac State High School:

- Joey Barreto: Academic Scholarship
- Troy McKay: Sport Scholarship
- Krystal Law: Sport Scholarship
- Yusuke Zamma: Sport Scholarship
- Shunsuke Zamma: Sport Scholarship
- Kai Angel: Sport Scholarship

This is a fantastic effort. Well done to all these students.

Robina State High School Scholarship

Congratulations to Samara Green who has been awarded a Year 7 Kingfisher Scholarship to Robina State High School for 2015. Well done Samara.

Independent Public Schools (IPS)

The Queensland Government is committed to giving state schools greater autonomy in decision making, cutting red tape and removing layers of management to improve outcomes for students. There is an opportunity for 120 schools to become Independent Public Schools over a four year period from 2013 to 2016. This includes the selection of 30 schools for the program in 2014.

What does it mean to be an Independent Public School?

Independent Public Schools have a business model that brings about improved performance. Queensland principals, teachers, parents and local communities have greater control and ownership of their schools. Independent Public Schools will benefit from:

- enhanced local governance
- opportunities for innovation
- locally tailored workforce
- increased financial flexibility

How will Queensland Independent Public School be supported?

Queensland Independent Public Schools will continue to remain part of the state’s strong public schooling system. They will have access to the same support as other Queensland state schools and maintain the same core values.
The Government will provide a one-off $50 000 grant to assist schools transition to becoming an Independent Public School and the establishment of their school council. Ongoing funding will also be available each year to cover administration costs.

What will it mean for students?
Independent Public Schools will have greater freedom to shape their own strategic direction and make decisions which directly benefit their students. They will have the ability to work directly with local businesses, industry and community organisations. This new way of working could lead to unique and innovative partnerships and sponsorships, providing extra support for students, schools and the local community. Schools also have greater flexibility to tailor the curriculum to directly suit the needs of their students. This tailor-made approach will mean students may benefit from opportunities such as International Baccalaureate, extra curricular and gateway programs or access to centres of excellence.

Expressions of Interest for Independent Public Schools close on 5 September. Our school community is considering applying to be an Independent Public School. This will be discussed at next Monday’s P&C meeting where all interested parents are invited to attend.

School Uniforms
It is pleasing to see the large majority of our children always dressed smartly in their school uniforms. However, with the cooler weather it has been noted that some students are starting to wear multi coloured jumpers. Students have been reminded at school that all jumpers should be in school colours. It is not necessary to have school jumpers with the school logo although this is encouraged.

Also all children know that they need a hat at school for outdoor play. Our children should also be wearing hats in school colours. Parents are asked to support this school rule as it is part of our school’s approved dress code.

Student Illnesses
Some medical conditions require that children be excluded from school to prevent the spread of infectious diseases amongst other children and staff. Please consult with your doctor regarding any such health concerns. Doctors should notify the local Health Unit if children are diagnosed with any serious illness requiring exclusion. In such cases parents at school will be informed of any reported cases of infectious diseases.

Dental Health News
August is Dental Health Awareness Month. Dental Health Month aims to raise public awareness as around ¼ of Australians have untreated dental decay and only 39% of Australian adults visit the dentist for a yearly check up. As most dental diseases are completely preventable, we need to focus on early intervention and prevention to keep enjoying good oral health.

Let’s keep our teeth for life, and help our children do the same!

Read more at www.dentalhealthweek.com.au
Gold Coast Child and Adolescent Oral Health Service
In the case of a dental emergency, telephone the Oral Health Client Service Centre 1300 300 850
Monday to Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm excluding public holidays.
Thank you, your assistance is greatly appreciated.
Regards,
Child and Adolescent Oral Health Staff

Breakfast and Fitness Program
The before school breakfast fitness program runs each of a Wednesday morning during Term 3. Children in Years 6 and 7 may participate in this fitness program. It has been decided to open up the program to interested Year 4 students as well. Students will need to commit to attending each week from 8.00am to 8.45am to be part of the program. Thanks to Mr Epiha, Mr Webster, Chappy Steve and their many helpers who assist with the program each week. We thank the P&C, Carrara Woolworths and Merrimac McDonalds for their ongoing support of this program.

Jump Rope for Heart
For fifty years the Heart Foundation has been dedicated to saving lives by making a difference to the heart health of all Australians. Donations from the community help to fund vital research and now we have the chance to play our part. Over the next few weeks the children in years four and five will have the chance to gain sponsorship with donations going directly to the Heart Foundation to aid this life saving research.

However it’s not all about the money, it’s also about teaching our children community spirit and good health through fun activities such as skipping. Most children love to skip and many children in years four and five have been undertaking a skipping club on Tuesday lunchtimes where they have been learning new skills and having lots of fun with their friends. Paul Deeverall from the Jump Rope for Heart foundation even conducted a free skills workshop last Monday to help us hone our skills and learn new tricks.

On the 15th of August Years 4 and 5 students will be having a “Skip Off” where children will skip for up to an hour improving their own heart health and practicing these new skills. But that’s not all! Fundraising has been made much simpler with online donations an easy way to collect sponsorships with the children having their own donation page where they can write messages and thoughts about personal experiences. Finally the best part for the children is the great prizes they can earn by collecting as little as fifteen dollars. However this year as a special incentive the first 25 children to collect $30 or more online will receive an additional mystery prize. We hope you will encourage your child to have a heart and get behind this worthy cause. A big thankyou to Mrs Haywood who has been coordinating our school’s skipping program and our involvement in the Jump Rope for Heart.

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

Recycling Crayons
A few staff at Merrimac would like to collect all of the student’s broken or unused crayons and zooms (wind-ups). We are going to recycle the broken parts and make new crayons to send to the children in Tanzania and hopefully to other countries around the world. We thought this might be a nice way to recycle the student’s crayons and also teach them to appreciate their belongings. Please bring the crayons and zooms to P1M anytime. A box will be placed outside P1M each day. Thank you very much for your support.

~ Miss Coleman~

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.

**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>Jnr Choir</td>
<td>Eisteddfod</td>
<td>$7.50</td>
<td>8 August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr2</td>
<td>Currimbin Wildlife Sanctuary</td>
<td>$27</td>
<td>13 August</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PE NEWS**

**District Athletics**

Last Thursday we had over 40 students who competed at the A schools Athletics. They all did their best against the largest schools in Gold Coast South. They were a credit to Merrimac with their Sportsmanship and overall attitude. Placegetters were, Adrian Spiridon, Tyrell Risati, Oho Wilson, Nick Perry, Katie Deeble, Taylor Linquist, Oryaan Kalolo, Teliah Risati, Brooke Stoelhorst, Jayden Barnes, Shunsuke Zamma, Nikiah Campbell and Daysha McDougall. Nikiah was also Age Champion. After Championship Day we also have 6 students who have qualified for Regional Athletics - Tyrell Risati, Oho Wilson, Nick Perry, Taylor Linquist, Teliah Risati and Brooke Stoelhorst. Well done to all our students and good luck to our Regional Representatives.

**SEQ Soccer Finals**

Ms Parker’s Year 7 Boys Soccer Team has qualified for the South East Queensland Soccer finals to be held this Friday 8 August in Brisbane. We wish them all the very best.

**Merrimac SHS Girls Rugby League Gala Day**

We have been advised that because Merrimac High’s oval is so dry they have decided to postpone the Girls’ Rugby League Gala Day (scheduled for 14 August) and will reschedule it next term.

**TUCSHOP NEWS**

### Tuckshop Roster for Week commencing 11 August

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mayumi Ake</th>
<th>Meal Deal - 14 August $5.00*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Yoko M, Kellie F</td>
<td>Fried Rice Bowl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Naoko, Yoko H</td>
<td>Sumo Cookies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Maria S, Mayumi</td>
<td>Gelato Cup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Naoko, Yoko H</td>
<td>Bottled Water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Add $0.50 extra to upgrade to Flavoured Milk or Sparkling Springwater

Many thanks to our volunteers this week. Your assistance is always greatly appreciated. After a short time out of stock we are finally refilling our freezer with Frozen Gelato mini cups next week. Slushy cups should return for the start of Term 4.

~ Denise ~

**MUSIC NEWS**

**Eisteddfod Program**

Good luck to all participants in the upcoming Eisteddfod events. Please ensure you aware of times and uniform requirements for your individual events.

All Instrumental and Choir students have been given notes with the details of their Eisteddfod Performances. Parents please make sure you did get the note and if not Mrs Powell has spares. Our Choirs are performing on Monday 11th August so rehearsals are very important. Please ensure children attend.

**Senior Choir**... Thursdays 8.00am  
**Junior Choir**... Fridays 8.00am

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Comp No.:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior Choir</td>
<td>C3/A Infant Choir</td>
<td>Mon 11 Aug 12.30pm</td>
<td>3 of 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Choir</td>
<td>CS/B B Grade</td>
<td>Mon 11 Aug 6.00pm</td>
<td>9 of 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Instrumental</td>
<td>Ensemble Strings</td>
<td>B1</td>
<td>Mon 18 Aug 9.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Band</td>
<td>B12/A C Grade</td>
<td>Mon 18 Aug 6.00pm</td>
<td>5 of 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Band</td>
<td>B13/B Novice Band/</td>
<td>Tue 19 Aug 6.30pm</td>
<td>7 of 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Strings</td>
<td>B7/B B Grade</td>
<td>Tue 26 Aug 9.00am</td>
<td>7 of 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Strings</td>
<td>B8/A C Grade</td>
<td>Tue 26 Aug 12.30pm</td>
<td>4 of 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginner Strings</td>
<td>B9/B Novice String</td>
<td>Tue 26 Aug 5.30pm</td>
<td>4 of 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Aug</td>
<td>Junior Choir Eisteddfod</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Aug</td>
<td>Senior Choir Eisteddfod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Aug</td>
<td>5.45pm MOSHC Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Aug</td>
<td>6.30pm P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Aug</td>
<td>5.30pm Katsuragi Parent IEC meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 12 Aug</td>
<td>Australian Mathematics Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 15 Aug</td>
<td>Year 2 Excursion to Currimbin Wildlife Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 18 Aug</td>
<td>Junior Inst &amp; Ensemble Band Eisteddfod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 18 Aug</td>
<td>Senior Band Eisteddfod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 18 Aug</td>
<td>Oz Tag competition for selected years 5, 6 and 7 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 19 Aug</td>
<td>Junior Band Eisteddfod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 26 Aug</td>
<td>Senior Strings Eisteddfod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 26 Aug</td>
<td>Intermediate Strings Eisteddfod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 26 Aug</td>
<td>Junior Strings Eisteddfod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 29 Aug</td>
<td>Gold Coast Show Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 - 5 Sept</td>
<td>Scholastic Book Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 3 Sept</td>
<td>Life Education Van visit commencenes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 5 Sept</td>
<td>Interschool Sport commencenes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 7 Sept</td>
<td>Canberra Trip 7-12 Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 8 Sept</td>
<td>MOSHC Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 8 Sept</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 9 Sept</td>
<td>Year 4 Bike Education commencenes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 11 Sept</td>
<td>R U OK Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 17 Sept</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 19 Sept</td>
<td>Last Day for Term Three</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH.

COMMUNITY NEWS
Robina State High School
2015 Enrolment Info Night
Thursday 21 August
5.30pm - 7.00pm
RSHS Performing Arts Complex
Interested Year 6 & 7 parents are invited to an enrolment information sessions. This session will provide an overview of their school, their curriculum, their specialised programs and their approach to Junior Secondary Education. For further details phone 5562 3444.

Merrimac State High School
Enrolment Information Evening
Tuesday 19 August 5.30pm - 6.30pm MSHS Library
Interested Year 6 & 7 parents are invited to attend

Who is spoiling your kids rotten? Dental Health Week 4 - 10 August
August is Dental Health Awareness Month
Dental Health Month aims to raise public awareness as around ¼ of Australians have untreated dental decay and only 39% of Australian adults visit the dentist for a yearly check up. As most dental diseases are completely preventable, we need to focus on early intervention and prevention to keep enjoying good oral health.
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