Term 3 Week 7 Thursday 28 August 2014

Term Three Reporting to Parents - Parent Teacher Online

Parent/teacher interviews for Prep to Year 7 have been scheduled for the end of this term. The majority of interviews will be held on Wednesday, 17 September from 3.30pm to 7.30pm in the classrooms. A selection of other times will also be offered by class teachers. Mrs Cavalier has Long Service Leave from 8 to 16 September and therefore will have her Parent/Teacher interviews a little earlier than other classes.

Student folios will be issued at the interviews. These should be returned to school before the end of term. It is hoped that the majority of parents will take the opportunity of attending the planned parent/teacher interviews.

We continue to use the online booking system for all parents/teacher interviews. Parents will be able to book interviews through the PTO website. This is an online booking system that makes it very easy for parents to book in their preferred interview times. Parents will receive immediate confirmation of their interview times.

A letter will be sent home with each student on Monday outlining the procedures to follow for making online parent/teacher interviews. Please check your child’s bag on Monday afternoon. The online system will be open for bookings from 9am Thursday 4 September through till 3pm Friday 12 September. Teachers will select the times that they are available during Weeks Nine and Ten for their parent/teacher interviews. This will be done before parents start to book their interview times online.

Parents who are unable to access the internet for online bookings can complete the Request for an Interview section of the letter and return it to the school office ASAP so the booking can be made for you.

All interviews will be scheduled at 10 minute intervals. Parents are reminded to be on time and to notify the school if they cannot make their scheduled interview time for some reason. It is important to allow at least a 10 minute gap between interview times if you have more than one student.

Specialist teachers will not be included in the electronic booking system but parents will be able to request an appointment with a specialist teacher when the letters are distributed. Any interview requests will be passed onto the respective specialist teacher so that a mutual interview time can be arranged.

Eisteddfod Performances

Congratulations to our Junior Band who performed on Tuesday evening at the Gold Coast Eisteddfod. The band played beautifully and were awarded a Very Highly Commended from the Adjudicators. Thanks to Miss Deb for her excellent work with the band children.

Congratulations to our Instrumental Strings Ensembles for their awesome performances on Tuesday also. The Senior Strings received a Very Highly Commended. The Intermediate Strings were placed Second and our Beginner Strings received a Highly Commended. Well done to all students involved. Miss Hurst has done a fantastic job with our Strings students.

LOTE Announcement

At the beginning of this week, there was an official announcement that LOTE for 2015 will be offered in state schools across Years 5, 6, 7 and 8. This will mean that our school will be staffed to provide Japanese in Years 5 and 6. Our school will also plan to offer Japanese in the two years prior (Years 3 and 4). We hope to be able to do this through our flexible staffing arrangements. This is a very positive announcement for Primary schools with the State Government also planning for LOTE to be offered from Prep by 2025.

Staffing News

Mrs Marshall has Long Service Leave from 1 to 19 September. She will be replaced by Mrs Cassandra Dau for these three weeks.

Last week I met with Mr Harrison a couple of times at school. Although he is starting to feel better, he has been advised by his doctor not to return to school this term and to give himself plenty of time to fully recuperate. I am hoping that Mr Harrison will pop into school over the next three weeks to visit staff and his class. Mr Zirkler will remain teaching 7C till the end of term.

School Support Staff Recognition Week

Next week all state schools are celebrating School Support Staff Recognition Week (1-5 September). At Merrimac, this includes our Business Services Manager, Administration Office Staff, Facility Officer and our IT technicians. They all play important roles in the smooth running and safe operation of our school. On Friday 5 September, a special morning tea will be held for our school support staff to acknowledge their contributions to our school. Please take the time next week to thank our hard working support staff at Merrimac.

Year Four Bicycle Education Program

Year 4 students have will attend a Bicycle Safety session at the Ashmore Bicycle Safety Centre. This year each class will attend for a whole day program. For just $5.00 the centre provides helmets and bicycles (including bicycles with balance wheels for beginners). Each class attends separately and the schedule is below. It was necessary to split 4M students over the various sessions. Permission notes have been sent home with each Year 4 student, and should be returned with the $5 cost by Friday 5th September at 9.30am.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>To bring:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4D+4Mboys</td>
<td>8 Sept</td>
<td>9.00am-2.45pm</td>
<td>MT/Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4B+4Mgirls</td>
<td>10 Sept</td>
<td>9.00am-2.45pm</td>
<td>MT/Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A</td>
<td>11 Sept</td>
<td>9.00am-2.45pm</td>
<td>MT/Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4C+4Mboys</td>
<td>12 Sept</td>
<td>9.00am-2.45pm</td>
<td>MT/Lunch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8 Hour Famine

Children participating in the 8 Hour Famine are reminded to return the sponsorships and donations by Wednesday 17 September.

KidsMatter - Wellness Day

On Thursday 18 September, the teachers and students will be engaged in focus activities that promote positive mental health and wellbeing. Year 2-7 classes will be timetabled for activities between 9:30 and 2:55. Prep-Year 1 students will be involved in their activities from 11:30-2:55. Activities have been planned to foster the use of music, art, dance and movement to maintain individual wellness. We will also explore nutrition, team building and maintaining positive relationships with our peers. Parents are
invited to visit during the day to engage in activities with their children.

**Life Education Program**
The Life Education Van will be visiting our school 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 and well being. 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 have been sent home last week with all students.

**National Capital Tour**
Final preparations are underway for our Year 5/6/7 Canberra trip leaving on Sunday 7 September for 5 nights. Children attending will enjoy a busy schedule visiting places in Canberra, including Parliament House and spending a day in the snow. Accompanying staff are Miss Murray, Mrs Prentis, Mrs Blom, Ms Riis, Mr Webster and Mr Epipa. During this week students in these classes will be taught by remaining teachers.

**National Excellence in Teaching (NEITA) Awards**
The NEITA Foundation has congratulated our school on having another of our teaching staff nominated for an ASG Inspirational Teaching Award. Mrs Trudy Taylor has also been nominated by members of our school community in recognition of the great work that she does at Merrimac State School. Congratulations to Mrs Taylor. She joins Mrs Hall, Miss Jacobs, Mrs Spencer, Mrs Wakelin and Mr Elliott as award recipients from our school.

**Gold Coast Show Holiday**
A reminder to all students and parents that tomorrow Friday 29th August is a Public Holiday for the Gold Coast Show Day. Please note the Merrimac Outside School Hours Care will not operate on this day.

**Premier’s Reading Challenge**
The Premier’s Reading Challenge continues until Friday 12 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 are limited. All enrolments must include the student’s Birth Certificate. To date, we have 73 Prep students enrolled for next year.

**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.

**Scholastic Book Fair 1st to 5th September**
Scholastic Book Fair comes to our school from 1st to 5th September to share the newest books from more than 150 publishers with our young readers. Parents and teachers will find plenty of items to interest them too. The collection will arrive on Monday and be open for sales from 8.15am to 4pm Tuesday - Friday in the School’s library. Children will have the opportunity to view the book selection during their class time and parents are welcome to visit the library at any time during the week. The school receives a commission in books on all sales at the Book Fair. Don’t miss out on the fun and excitement of Book Fair.

**Jump Rope for Heart**
Thanks to Mrs Haywood for coordinating the Jump Rope for Heart event again this year. She did a great job coordinating the visits and inspiring our students. Our Years 4 and 5 students raised in excess of $1000 which is a wonderful effort. Well done to all the students involved.

**Speech Pathology Week**
This week, 24 to 30 August is Speech Pathology Week. Speech Pathology Week aims to raise awareness about the 1.1 million Australians who have difficulty communicating, as well as the work of speech pathologists. During this week, please take a moment to thank Brooke Holloway, our SLP, for the great job that she does at our school. All her hard work is very much appreciated.

![](image)

**2014 LANGUAGE PERFECT QLD STATE COMPETITION**
**MONDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER - MONDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER**

Attention all Merrimac year 4–7 students! Here’s our chance to show Queensland how much Merrimac students love learning Japanese and also have fun competing against each other as well as schools around our area and in Queensland. The Language Perfect QLD State Competition begins in 4 days! All individual student points go toward the school total score, just don’t forget to click on this competition once you have logged in and then “compete”. Lots of great prizes to win!!! Ganbatte!! Go Merrimac!  

**Marshall Sensei**

**P&C NEWS**

**Fathers’ Day Stall**
The P&C would like to remind all parents and carers we will be holding a Father’s Day stall Wed 3rd, Thurs 4th & Fri 5th September with some good quality inexpensive gifts available for purchase ranging from $1-$5 each. The stall will be held in the science room but in the meantime, a selection of the items are on display in the bookshop and are available to buy now! What a great way to take the hassle out of heading to the shops for your last minute DAD gifts! Not to mention the kids will get a great kick out of being responsible for choosing a present of their choice! All classes have been allocated a 15 minute time slot for students to purchase their personal choice of gift for their dad or special male figure in their life. Please check with your child which day they are timetabled for so they can be ready with their money on the day. Happy shopping everyone!
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 children 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>Years 6 &amp; 7</td>
<td>Graduation Shirts</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>3 Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Bike</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>5 Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole School</td>
<td>Life Education</td>
<td>$7</td>
<td>1 Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 5-7</td>
<td>Interschool Sports</td>
<td>$65</td>
<td>1 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selected 6/7</td>
<td>QPS Touch at Redlands Bay</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>19 Sept</td>
</tr>
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PE NEWS

Interschool Sports

Interschool Sport starts next Friday 5 September. If your child has nominated and been selected to play in an interschool sports team please send the completed permission form and $65 to the finance window on Monday 1 September before 9.30am. Available sports are:

- Boys Touch
- Girls Touch
- Girls/Boys Basketball
- Boys/Girls Softball

Please note that if we do not receive sufficient numbers some sports may be withdrawn and students offered an alternative or receive a full refund.

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Tuckshop Roster for Week commencing 1 September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mayumi</th>
<th>Meal Deal - 4 September $5.00*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Yoko M</td>
<td>• Chicken Chippie wrap w lettuce &amp; mayo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Naoko, Yoko H</td>
<td>• Large Muffin - Choc, Banana or Blueberry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Maria S, Mayumi</td>
<td>• Frozen Juice cup - Mango or Pineapple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Mayumi, Help Pls</td>
<td>• Bottled Water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Add 50c extra to upgrade to Flavoured Milk or Sparkling Springwater

Many thanks to all my volunteers in the tuckshop and also to those who help in the classrooms and around the school. Your help is very much appreciated. Kids Go Fresh & Healthy in conjunction with Brisbane Produce Market and Bronco bigman Ben Hannant are pushing a healthy choice advertisement. Kids can collect “Ben’s friends” collectable cards when they make a healthy choice. There are 10 cards to collect and kids get 1 card when purchasing either an apple, banana, orange piece or carrot sticks from the tuckshop. Please also remember to support your local fruit & veg store.

Have a good week all!

~ Denise ~

MUSIC NEWS

Eisteddfod Performances

Congratulations to ALL Instrumental and Choir students. Your hard work and commitment has shone through again at the Gold Coast Eisteddfod. Results as follows:

- Junior Choir: 3rd Place
- Senior Choir: 3rd Place
- Junior Band: Very Highly Commended
- Senior Band: Honours
- Beginner Strings: Very Highly Commended

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK.


UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 29 Aug</td>
<td>Gold Coast Show Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 - 5 Sept</td>
<td>Scholastic Book Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 3 Sept</td>
<td>Life Education Van visit commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 5 Sept</td>
<td>Interschool Sport commences</td>
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<td>Sun 7 Sept</td>
<td>Canberra Trip 7-12 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 8 Sept</td>
<td>MOSHC Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 8 Sept</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 8 Sept</td>
<td>Year 4 Bike Education commences</td>
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<td>Thurs 11 Sept</td>
<td>R U OK Day</td>
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<td>Wed 17 Sept</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 18 Sept</td>
<td>Wellness Day at Merrimac State School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 19 Sept</td>
<td>Last Day for Term Three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 7 Oct</td>
<td>First Day for Term Four</td>
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