Term 4 Week 4 Thursday 30 October 2014

P&C Meeting
Our next P&C meeting is scheduled for Monday 10th November at 6.30pm in the Admin Building. All interested parents are invited to attend. Also the Merrimac Outside School Hours Care meeting will be held on the same evening commencing at 5.45pm in the MPC.

Prep Orientation
Yesterday we had a very good roll up to both our morning and evening orientation sessions. Special thanks to Mrs Hall, Mrs McNeilage, Mrs Lamburd, Mrs Spencer, Mrs Barrett, Mr Boff, Mrs McCann, Mrs Augustin and Mr Anderson for their presentations. Thanks also to Denise and the Tuckshop for providing the refreshments. Thanks to Veronica McCann also who opened up the Bookshop for both the morning and evening sessions and to Chris Fort our P&C President and Thomas Peisley from MOSHC who also attended. We also appreciated the efforts of Teacher Aides Melissa Strudwick and Taylah Farrar who helped to look after the children during both orientation sessions. Thanks to Mr Jeffrey for setting up the MPC for both our Orientation sessions. We currently have 97 confirmed enrolments for Prep next year. We are hoping that this number will grow to about 110 students by the end of the school year. As we have an official enrolment management plan in place we are not allowed to go over our capacity of 118 Prep enrolments. Any new enrolments from outside our catchment from now on may have to go on a waiting list for 2015. At this stage we believe our predicted enrolments will allow us to have four prep classes and a Prep/Year One class for 2015. However, if we reach capacity in Prep we may start the school year with five straight Prep classes.

Parents of children starting Prep in 2015 are reminded to return their enrolment forms as soon as possible to the school office. This will help greatly in finalising class groups for next year. Proof of birth and residency must be provided with the enrolment forms.

Prep Experience Days
Term Four is an exciting time for our Preparatory Program. Merrimac State School invites new Prep students for 2015 to attend a two hour Prep Experience morning. The children will be engaged in Early Learning activities relating to Prep. This is to reassure them that school can be an enjoyable place where they can learn safely. They will also get to know some of the areas such as the classroom, playground and toilets. Parents can either drop off or stay for the morning.

Ms Hall will be holding a parent information session in the Performing Arts Centre for interested parents from 9.30am-10.45am. This will allow you to settle your child into the room and be back before the end of the session. Enrolled students were provided with a letter indicating their date for experience morning at the orientation session attended by their parents. If you did not attend please see the office for your enrolment pack.

Carols
It’s that time of year again, the season of giving and Christmas celebrations. The annual Merrimac Christmas Carols event is fast approaching and scheduled for the evening of Monday 8th December. Recently a letter about Kmart Wishing Tree donations was sent home and next week another letter will be sent home appealing to your generosity for Hamper donations. We ask that families begin to consider donating a small gift for a child, adult or grandparent to assist with making Christmas a little brighter. All labelled and unwrapped gift donations, which will be given to the Salvation Army, can be delivered to 4C or 4D along with hamper items which will be raffled on the night. We thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity in making Christmas a little brighter for someone less fortunate.

Staffing News
Last week, our school received some very good news. Mr Elliott was successful with his transfer appeal, for personal and family reasons, and his transfer to Gaven State School has been reversed. Mr Elliott will stay at Merrimac State School for the start of the 2015 school year. This is very good news for both Mr Elliott and our school.

I am on Long Service Leave from tomorrow 31 October to Friday 7 November. Mrs Hall will be acting Principal, Mrs McNeilage will be acting lower school Deputy Principal and Mr Boff will be acting Head of Curriculum for this time.

Quadrennial School Review (QSR)
Every four years, schools are required to undertake a Quadrennial School Review. The review is to determine how well the school has done over the last four years and to make recommendations for the next Four Year Plan from 2015 to 2018. Results from our QSR will be shared with the school community as will our next Four Year Plan. As part of our school’s QSR we would like to have input from our parents in a range of areas. A QSR Parent Survey has been developed and is available online. The link is included in our email today. Parents are asked to complete the online survey before Friday 14 November. Your input and suggestions are strongly encouraged and we are hoping for a very good response to this survey.

Proposed Class Groupings For 2015
The school’s administration is at present working on class groupings for 2015. Planning is currently being based on 31 class groups. This year we currently have 34 class groups but there will be a significant reduction as we lose our Year 7 classes to high school from the start of 2015. If our projected numbers for next year increase, we may possibly grow to 32 class groups. This will be monitored and a decision made towards the end of this school year. At this stage we are planning for the following number of classes in each year level:

- Prep Year: four classes
- Prep/Year One: one class
- Year One: four classes
- Year Two: four classes
- Year Three: five classes
- Year Four: four classes
- Year Five: four classes
- Year Six: four classes

(Year Five/Six: one class - if 32nd Year Six: four classes class is formed)

These year level compositions, however, could still change depending on the changing enrolment numbers. Final arrangements for class groups will not be confirmed till the start of the 2015 school year. All Class groups will be published on the first day back next year on the block wall next to the bookshop and outside all classrooms.
Parental Educational Requests – 2015

The process for allocating children to classes is a complex process where class teachers, support teachers and administration use their professional judgement to consider the academic, social and emotional needs of all students and how these needs can be best met the following year. Determining the best possible educational environment for all children is a high priority. If you are aware of specific educational needs for your child, please list these concerns on the form available from the school office. This form is not intended for specific teacher requests but for genuine educational issues.

Teacher class allocations have not been finalised at this stage and will not be finalised till the end of term. Parent requests will be considered in light of providing the best possible educational placement for all students. Because of a number of factors, it is not always possible to meet all parent requests. Multiple requests concerning the same child should not be made and cannot be catered for.

Forms are available from the school office and must be submitted to the office by 3pm Friday 14 November. After this date, class requests will only be considered if operationally convenient to the school.

Interschool Debating

Last Thursday, Merrimac State School hosted the Interschool Debating Competition. Congratulations to the Merrimac Teams who both won all of their debates on the day. However, our school was narrowly beaten on a count back by Coomera Springs SS on ‘for and against’ points. This is still a fantastic effort by our Year 7 students who took part in the debating. Thank you to those students who assisted on the day. A big thank you to Mrs Messinbird and Mrs Fields, the Year 7 teachers and Merrimac staff who contributed to the success of the competition. In total there were 8 schools that participated on the day. Final results on the day were: 1st Place Coomera Springs SS, 2nd Place Merrimac SS. Well done again to all the members of the Merrimac Debating teams.

Merrimac High Awards Night

Last night Miss Murray attended the Merrimac State High School Awards night. She was very pleased to see so many former Merrimac Primary students receiving leadership, academic, cultural and sporting awards. Well done to all those students involved. The staff of Merrimac High should be congratulated for their efforts and for the high standard of the presentation evening.

School Disco Information

We will be holding a really great disco on Wednesday 5 November. The junior disco starts at 6pm and goes for one hour. Admission is just $2. The senior disco starts at 7pm and finishes at 8:30pm. Admission is just $3. The theme is ‘I See Red’ so you can come wearing things that are red! Our theme is inspired by the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, which works in the community on projects to improve child safety. A percentage of the money raised from the disco will be donated to the foundation to help them with their valuable work. You will also be able to donate additional money on the night. Food and drinks will be sold. It would be great to see a lot of kids supporting our disco, so please come along on Wednesday night.

World Teachers’ Day 31 October

This Friday we celebrate the great work of our teachers on World Teachers’ Day. The quality teaching evident in our classrooms every day has a powerful effect on students’ performance.

For more information visit:

We wish all our teachers a great day and thank them for their hard work and dedication to our school.

Booklists

Booklists for all students in Years P-5 will be sent home early next week. Orders can be placed with the Bookshop any Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 8.00am - 9.00am.

Parent Information Booklets

New Parent Information Booklets for 2015 have been prepared. These are provided to all new enrolments and beginning Prep families. Additional copies are available from the school office for anyone who may be interested in obtaining a copy. The Parent Information Book is also available on the school’s website.

Sports/Musical Photos

Ordering is available online at www.silverrose.com.au/schools

Username: Groups Password: 285023

Silver Rose can be contacted on 3262 5788 for any questions regarding photos.

2015 Year 4 Camp Information

Advanced information: The 2015 Year 4 Camp will be held in Week 9 of Term 1 at Currumbin Farm School. Cost will be approximately $165.00. PAYMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED THIS YEAR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUP ONE</th>
<th>GROUP TWO</th>
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<td>23–25 March</td>
<td>25–27 March</td>
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Groups will be determined after classes are established next year. A deposit will be required by Friday 13th February 2015 with the balance required by Friday 6th March 2015.

To view where the camp is and find out more go to www.thebeachschool.eq.edu.au. This camp is managed by Tallebudgera Beach School.

Human Relationships Education (HRE)

Last year our school used Family Planning Queensland to run our school’s HRE Sexuality Program. A decision has been made to use them again this year. The HRE program involves Years 5, 6 and 7 only. The P&C and school will be jointly funding the program so there will be no cost to the students. The content of the program will be very similar to previous years. A number of schools are using Family Planning Queensland to present their school’s HRE. The Family Planning HRE student sessions will be held in the week beginning Monday 17 November. A timetable for each of the classes will be developed and published in a future newsletter.

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.

Student Banking

Student banking continues each Monday. Please note that the penguin keychain and whole shark pencil case are out of stock and no longer available. The projector cup and sea streamers are now available.

Student Placements 2015

If your child will not be returning to Merrimac in 2015 please fill out the slip at the end of this newsletter and return it to the school office by Friday 14 November. This will assist in the placements for next year. Please note this does not apply to Year 6 and 7 students in 2014.
PE NEWS
Mixed Touch Competition
This weekend we have two girls touch teams taking part in the South East Queensland Primary Touch Competition at Redlands. Mr Epipa has been coaching the teams in preparation for this tournament. We wish them all the very best.

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 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:

Participants | Event                          | Cost  | Payment Due Date
---           |--------------------------------|-------|------------------
P-3          | Swimming                      | $20   | OVERDUE
Year 1       | SeaWorld Entry SeaWorld Bus    | $23   | 14 Nov
Years 6/7    | Graduation Activities         | Variable| 21 Nov

P&C NEWS
Portrait Fundraiser
Thank you to all the families who supported our recent Portrait Fundraiser. It was a fantastic success and we ended up with a total of 26 families attending on the day. As a result, we have raised $520 and also received a bonus of a free Portrait Pack & Hi Res Disc, $50 Bonus Cheque and a Double Movie Pass. The names of the participating families were put into a hat and drawn by Dr Pointing on Tuesday. The winners are:
- Portrait Pack & Hi Res Disc - Veronica McCann
- Double Movie Pass - Kellie Fort
- Many thanks to Lakelands Golf Course for allowing us to use their lovely location for the photographs and to Veronica McCann for coordinating this P&C fundraising event.

TUCKSHOP NEWS
Roster for week commencing 3 November:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 3/11</th>
<th>Mayumi</th>
<th>Meal Deal 6 Nov $5.00*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 4/11</td>
<td>Yoko M</td>
<td>* Chicken &amp; Cheese Toastie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 5/11</td>
<td>Naoko</td>
<td>Gingerbread Biscuit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 6/11</td>
<td>Maria S, Mayumi</td>
<td>Paddlepop Calippo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 37/11</td>
<td>Yoko H, Mayumi</td>
<td>Bottled Water</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Add 50c extra to upgrade to Springwater or flavoured milk

Thank you to our volunteers in the tuckshop as well as around the school. Your time given is invaluable! We are trialling a new cool refreshment "Island Way Sorbet". These are delicious creamy sorbets in a real fruit shell. Flavours include Mango/Orange, Lemin, Pomegranate & Red Apple and are just $2.50 each.

State schools update - a chance to say thanks to our tuckshop workers and volunteers
Tuckshop Day is coming up on Friday 7 November. Let’s give a big thanks to our tuckshop convenor, Mrs Denise McKay and all her wonderful volunteers for their hard work in providing our hungry students with healthy, tasty food.

Our tuckshop is always looking for volunteers to help out so if you’ve got an hour or two free, please contact Denise through the Tuckshop. Additional information on Tuckshop Day is available from the Tuckshop Day website.


INTERSCHOOL SPORTS DRAW 31 OCTOBER
Boys Touch at Mallawa Drive, Palm Beach CHANGE OF VENUE
- 5A v Mudgeeraba on Field 1 @ 1.35pm
- 5B v Robina on Field 3 @ 12.50pm
- 6A v Palm Beach on Field 7 @ 1.35pm
- 6B v St Andrews on Field 6 @ 12.50pm
- 7B v Palm Beach on Field 11 @ 12.50pm
Basketball at St Andrews Lutheran College, Tallebudgera
- 6B v St Andrews on Court 1 @ 1.15pm
- 7B & 8B v St Andrews on Court 1 @ 12.45pm
Girls Touch at Alani Nielsen Park, Nielsen Rd, Carrara

CHANGE OF VENUE
- 5A v BYE
- 6A v Mudgeeraba on Field 9 @ 12.45pm
- 6B v Worongary on Field 12 @ 1.30pm
- 7A v Caningeraba on Field 10 @ 1.30pm
- 7B v Hillcrest on Field 3 @ 12.45pm
Softball at Coplicks Fields, Tallebudgera
- Team A v Hillcrest on Field 4 @ 12.50pm
- Team B v BYE

MUSIC NEWS
Magic of Music Concert
The Merrimac State School Magic of Music Concert will be held on Wednesday 19th November in the Merrimac State School PAC Hall. All friends and family welcome.

Entry Fee: Gold Coin Donation
Once again we are combining the Junior and Senior Groups into one Concert. The Concert Program will commence promptly at 6.00pm with the Senior Choir and conclude at 7.40pm with the Junior Choir leading a finale for All Music Students.

It is only fair to all students that Attendance is Compulsory. If unexpected circumstances arise which prevent your child attending please contact the respective music teacher.

Instrumental Students are to arrive at 5.15pm.
Choir students are to arrive at 5.30pm
* Junior and Senior Choir - Meet Mrs Powell in the Hall - side stage
* Beginner, Intermediate Strings and Senior Strings - Meet Miss Hurst in the Music Room
* Junior and Senior Band students meet Miss Deb in the Science Room

Tea and Coffee will be served for parents from 5.15pm - 5.55pm

Full School Music Uniform is to be worn.
Long Black Pants, Black Socks, Black Shoes and Blue School Music Polo Shirt.

PLEASE NOTE: Each student has been issued with a Music Polo Shirt. These will be collected after the concert. Please bring a spare shirt for students to change into.

We are looking forward to seeing you all for a night of fine music entertainment.
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

SURFSIDE BUSLINES BUS PASS INFORMATION
APPLICATIONS FOR 2015 BUS PASSES ARE DUE NOW
ALL NEW PASSENGERS FOR 2015
To ensure timely distribution of bus passes in the New Year, please submit your application before the end of November 2014.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR EXISTING BUS PASS HOLDERS
At the end of each school year, please ensure that the current pass is retained to be used in the new school year until the new pass is issued.
Students with an existing bus pass need only re-apply for a 2015 bus pass if your child
• is moving from Primary to Secondary School
• is repeating a grade
• is changing their home address or school
ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION FORMS
Information on the School Transport Assistance Scheme (STAS), eligibility and application forms is available from TransLink
PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO
Surfside Buslines
PO Box 3036
ROBINA
Q 4230
Email schools@tagroup.net.au or Fax 5571 6556
Applications will be processed over the Christmas school holidays. Once applications are approved, bus passes are sent to school for collection. Please allow 10-15 working days from the start of Term One 2015.
Prior to Government approval of bus travel assistance, all students can travel by bus to school using a TransLink go card.
REMINDER
A valid bus pass must be produced TO THE DRIVER or the relevant fare paid via cash or go card. Information on fares, go cards, zones and bus timetables is available from TransLink http://translink.com.au/ or phone 13 12 30.

COMMUNITY NEWS
Robina State High School
Orientation Days for 2015
9.30am – 1.00pm
Year 7 2015 – Friday 31 October 2014
Year 8 2015 – Friday 24 October 2014
Prior to these days all families regardless of their primary school must complete and submit Robina State High School enrolment forms. When enrolment forms are submitted we will book your individual enrolment interview. Enrolment packs are available on the Robina SHS website or from reception. For more information contact our Head of Junior Secondary – Mr Ben Weeks bweek12@eq.edu.au.

Merrimac State High Enrolment Evening
Wednesday 5 November 2014 in the MHS Library
Students entering Year 7 in 2015 5.30pm
Students entering Year 8 in 2015 6.30pm
All prospective students and parents are welcome to attend this information evening. Staff will be on hand to provide information on enrolment, curriculum and facilities. Enrolment packs will be available from Merrimac SHS Admin or @ www.merrimacshs.eq.edu.au. For more information phone 5595 8666

Sakura Gakuen
Open Fun Day
November 1, 2014
9 am - 1 pm
Language Block
Robina High School

- きのこおにぎり 9:00-9:45 Yasakoi Dance (Culture)
- ブレイグループ 10:00 Playgroup
- 学校説明会とツアー 10:30 School Information 6 tour
- 学校行事紹介セミナー 11:00 Speech Therapist Seminar free
- ちびっこきらきら 11:30-120 Yakitoba (Bilingual)
- 半面仮面フェスティバル 12:30-12:45 Face Painting free
- きのこと文化体験 12:30-1:00 Lunch together and free Origami, shiyo, yukata photo

日本語と文化学校

日本語学校

Sakura Gakuen

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STUDENT NON PLACEMENT FOR 2015

My child/children will not be attending Merrimac Primary next year. The new school is: ..........................................................

Signature: ...................................... Parent/Guardian

Student/s Name                      Class
________________________________   ________
________________________________   ________
________________________________   ________

UPCOMING EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 and 2 Nov</td>
<td>Redland Bay interschool Touch Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 5 Nov</td>
<td>School Disco (Week 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10 Nov</td>
<td>6.30pm P&amp;C meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10 Nov</td>
<td>5.45pm Outside School Hours Care meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 and 11 Nov</td>
<td>Teaching and Learning Audit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 11 Nov</td>
<td>Remembrance Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 13 Nov</td>
<td>Prep Experience Day (2 groups)</td>
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<td>15 and 16 Nov</td>
<td>620 Summit in Brisbane</td>
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<td>Mon 17 Nov</td>
<td>7.00pm Robina High Awards Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 17 Nov</td>
<td>Years 5, 6 and 7 Family Planning HRE lessons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 19 Nov</td>
<td>Magic of Music Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 20 Nov</td>
<td>Prep Experience Day (2 groups)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 21 Nov</td>
<td>Last day of Interschool Sport</td>
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<td>Mon 1 Dec</td>
<td>5.45pm Outside School Hours Care meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 1 Dec</td>
<td>6.30 pm P&amp;C meeting</td>
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<td>Thurs 4 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 Transition Day to Merrimac SHS</td>
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<td>Thurs 4 Dec</td>
<td>RE Christmas Presentations</td>
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<td>Mon 8 Dec</td>
<td>Carols By Candlelight</td>
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<td>Tues 9 Dec</td>
<td>Report Cards to go home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 9 Dec</td>
<td>Year 6 Transition Day to Merrimac SHS</td>
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<td>Wed 10 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 Graduation Ceremony</td>
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<td>Thurs 11 Dec</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 11 Dec</td>
<td>Years 6 and 7 Graduation Disco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 12 Dec</td>
<td>Last day of Term Four</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 12 Dec</td>
<td>Years 6 and 7 excursion Wet n Wild</td>
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