Magic of Music Concert

Last night our school hosted the Magic of Music Concert in our Performing Arts Centre. The hall was packed with parents and family members who were well and truly entertained during the evening. Thanks go to our fantastic music teachers Mrs Joy Powell, Ms Helen Hurst, Miss Deb Body and also our wonderful choir and instrumental students who showcased their musical achievements for this year. Our school music program continues to grow each year and we now have over two hundred active students in our various musical sections. Senior medals were given to our leaving Year 6 and 7 students who will be sorely missed from our program. Thank you to Mrs Lush who provided expert accompaniment to our performances. Mr Greg McBlane worked tirelessly on the sound so the audience could have the full benefit of the students' music making skills.

Music teachers thanked the parents for their support in getting the young musicians to their practice and performance commitments, encouraging children to practise at home and supporting the teachers during the year. Thank you to all the school staff and parents who assisted on the night. It was very much appreciated. Ms Hall did a fabulous job as the MC on the night and we thank her for her ongoing support of our school's music program.

Staffing News

From this week through till the end of term we have a number of staff who have different periods of leave.

Mrs McNeilage is on Long Service Leave from now till 12 December. Mr Boff will be replacing her as our acting HoC and Miss Butler-Davis will continue teaching P3 for these four weeks.

Mrs Prentis has Long Service Leave from this week through till 27 November. Miss Alicia Holden will be replacing her and undertaking teacher release during these two weeks.

Mrs Powell will be on sick leave from 24 November to 12 December. Mrs Allison Forner will be replacing her for these three weeks and conducting class music lessons.

Miss Murray has Long Service Leave from 1 December through till the end of term. Mr Elliott will be the acting Deputy Principal for these two weeks. I'm sure that Mr Elliott will enjoy the experience of acting Deputy Principal and do a great job. Miss Alicia Holden will be replacing him and teaching Year 5A.

Mrs Ferguson has Long Service Leave from 1 to 12 December. Mrs Susan Pieroz will be replacing her for these two weeks.

Mrs Williams has special leave for the last week of term from 8 to 12 December. Miss Alycia Serediuk will be replacing her for this week. Mrs Seward has Long Service Leave from 5 to 12 December and Mrs Denise Boyd will be replacing her. Mrs Beggs has sick leave for the last week of the term and she will be replaced by Mr Greg Chin.

Teaching and Learning Audit and Discipline Audit

Last week our school undertook its Teaching and Learning Audit and Discipline Audit. This was part of our four year school review. Three Education Queensland Principals audited all our teaching and learning practices and our discipline processes.

Overall, our school achieved ‘high’ in all categories, with some elements in the ‘Outstanding’ area and some within the ‘Medium’ area. We will receive Executive Summaries in the next two weeks, which will provide an overview of the Commendations and Recommendations for future actions. The audit recommendations will be included in our school's next four year strategic plan (2015 - 2018).

Quadrennial School Review (QSR) - Have you completed your parent survey?

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. Parents are asked to complete the online survey before Friday 28 November (extension date). Your input and suggestions are strongly encouraged and we are hoping for a very good response to this survey. The link is attached to your accompanying email.

Special Presentation

On Tuesday's upper school parade we had two special visitors from the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Corporation. Veronica Llewellyn and Brenton Rickard a former Olympic and Commonwealth Games swimmer presented one of our students, Cullen Paikea with a special framed piece of art work that Cullen had done for the Commonwealth Games Flag Handover Ceremony this year in Glasgow. This is a fantastic achievement and Cullen should feel very proud of his achievement. The Commonwealth Games will be held on the Gold Coast in 2018.

Cullen Paikea being presented with his award by Brenton Rickard
**Student Captains For 2015**
The election process for our four school captains for 2015 is now complete. Congratulations to the following students:

**Year 6 & 7 School Captains:**
- **Boy Captains:** Jack Kelly and Cullen Paikoa
- **Girl Captains:** Ella Moore and Charlotte Oseman

The process for the election of Sports Captains and Music Captains will now commence.

**Volunteers’ Afternoon Tea**
An afternoon tea will be held for all our wonderful volunteers at 1.45pm on Wednesday 3 December in our Science Room to say thank you to our many parents and friends who assist in our classrooms, tuckshop, bookshop, discos, P&C and on various committees. Please come along and enjoy the afternoon tea. Mr Bob La Castra, our Gold Coast City Councillor, has been invited along to help celebrate this occasion and to help present certificates to the many volunteers at Merrimac.

**Merrimac- Katsuragi Sister School Exchange**
Merrimac State School has been involved in a sister school arrangement with Katsuragi Elementary School in Japan since 2001. We have successfully hosted students from Katsuragi six times since 2004. Katsuragi has hosted us on alternate years and 2015 marks our seventh visit. Katsuragi Elementary School is located a short drive through the mountain from the City of Kobe. The 2015 Japan visit is proposed for 17-26 September, pending Education Queensland approval. For parents of students who are interested in going on the exchange, Merrimac State School will be holding an information meeting at 3.15-4.00pm on Tuesday 18 November in the Japanese teaching room. Students brought home a pamphlet last week, explaining some of the details that will be discussed at the meeting. Expressions of interest will close on **Friday 21 November**. The “Nihon Keiken” program will be open to all students who will be enrolled at Merrimac State School in 2015 in Years 5 and 6. Expressions of interest will be reviewed in relation to a selection criteria (language studies, leadership, initiative, social and emotional readiness, independence, behaviour and effort in school).

**Robina State High School Awards Night**
On Monday night Ms Hall attended the Robina 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 Robina High should be congratulated for their efforts and for the high standard of the presentation evening.

**Year 6 and 7 Graduation**
The Year 6 Graduation Ceremony will be held on Thursday 11 December in our Performing Arts Centre (PAC) from 10.00am to 1.30pm.
The Year 7 Graduation Ceremony will be held on Wednesday 10 December in our Performing Arts Centre (PAC) from 10.00am to 1.30pm.
A Year 6 and 7 only student disco will be held on Thursday 11 December at 6.30pm – 8.00pm in the MPC. On the last day of term our Year 6 and 7 students will enjoy a special day at Wet n Wild (subject to a behaviour review).

**End of Year Reporting**
Report Cards for Prep to 7 will go home on Tuesday 9 December. If parents have any concerns regarding their child’s report, they are encouraged to arrange a meeting with their child’s teacher. Parent/Teacher interviews, if needed, can be arranged in the last week of the term.

**School Uniform Donation**
Parents whose children finish at Merrimac at the end of the school year may like to donate their children’s old uniforms to our school reserve supply. This would greatly help our spare clothing pool for when children have accidents at school or are in need of borrowing a spare uniform. Parents, please check your uniforms at home as we are missing a few uniforms from our supply. They are numbered on the tag. Also, the Music Committee would be very appreciative of black shoes donations.

**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.

**QSchools Smartphone App**
The QSchools app is available to the school community as a free download via the Apple iTunes store and Google Play. Update regularly to access the latest features.

**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.

**Final Scholastic Book Club for the Year**
**ORDERS CLOSE 9.00AM FRIDAY 21st NOVEMBER**

**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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Payment Due Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Years 6/7</td>
<td>Graduation Activities</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>21 Nov</td>
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Please note all Graduation Activities must be paid for tomorrow.
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 21 Nov</td>
<td>Last day of Interschool Sport</td>
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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>Wed 10 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 Graduation Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<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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**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
- repeating a grade
- changing their home address or school

**ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION FORMS**


**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 gocard.

**REMEMBER**

A valid bus pass must be produced TO THE DRIVER or the relevant fare paid via cash or gocard. Information on fares, go cards, zones and bus timetables is available from TransLink [http://translink.com.au/](http://translink.com.au/) or phone 13 12 30.