P&C Meeting
Our final P&C meeting for the year is scheduled for next Monday 1st December at 6.30pm in the Administration Building. As it is our final meeting, members are asked to bring along a plate to share on the night. All interested parents are invited to attend. Also the next Outside School Hours Care meeting will be held on the same evening commencing at 5.45pm.

Prep Open Mornings
Merrimac sends a big welcome to all our new 2015 Prep students and their families. We ran two mornings where our new students had the opportunity to experience what it is like to be at school. New Prep students will start on Tuesday 27 January at 8.45am like all other classes and complete a full day. Class placements will be posted on bulletin boards and outside classrooms on the first morning.

Religious Education Program
Thursday 4 December will be the last day of Religious Education for the year. A Religious Education Christmas Presentation will be held on this day in the Performing Arts Centre for all Cooperative and Catholic RE children. The performance will be from 1.45pm to 2.45pm for Years 1 to 7 students.

A special thank you goes to all the Religious Education teachers who visit the school each week. A special mention needs to go to Mrs Rita Foxley who has been the Catholic RE coordinator for many years. Rita has decided to step down from this role after more than fifteen years. We certainly thank Rita for all her hard work and dedication to the role and her support of our school over this time. We wish Rita all the very best.

2014 School Opinion Data
Our school has received some very positive feedback from this year's School Opinion Surveys. I have listed the top responses from each of the Student and Parent Surveys.

Student Feedback:
- Teachers expect me to do my best (100%)
- Teachers motivate me to learn (100%)
- Teachers provide good feedback (100%)
- Teachers encourage me to do my best (100%)
- Good access to technology for my learning (100%)
- Good school (96%)
- I like being at this school (96%)

Parent Feedback:
- Good school (99%)
- Recommend school to others (97%)
- Well maintained (97%)
- Children are safe (96%)
- Children encouraged to be in activities (96%)
- Students do interesting things (96%)
- Good education (94%)
- Children like school (93%)
- The school keeps me well informed (96%)
- My child's English skills are being developed (96%)
- School celebrates student achievements (94%)
- Well organised (94%)
- Encourages me to take an active role in my child's education (94%)
- Teachers expect my child to do their best (94%)

In addition, both our students and parents gave us some good feedback for us to work towards in 2015. Thanks to those 68 parents who responded to the Parent Opinion Survey. Parents overall were very happy with our school. Parents did state that they wanted to be more informed about curriculum and student assessment. Also parents said that they would like more opportunities to come into the school and be involved in school activities and also more opportunities for parents to have input and express opinions on school matters.

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 Casta, 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.

Appropriate Internet Use and Face Book
As you would be aware the internet is an amazing tool and one that schools can use as a great resource for wonderful research and interest. Of course like any tool it has the potential to be misused and abused. Parents are reminded to set up guidelines in the home and to talk to children about appropriate and inappropriate use of the internet and of possible consequences. Parents need to be informed of websites that children are accessing on the internet, for example, through sites such as YouTube. Did you know that children need to be thirteen years of age to hold a Face Book account? Many children using Face Book give out too much personal information including full name, photo, address and phone number. This is not a safe practice for internet use.

We encourage parents to act responsibly: be involved in children's computer time, place the computer in a busy, public part of the home and check the history of their activity and then find ways to check the deleted history! Kids are smart and quick. We need to keep up with them to keep them safe.

Merrimac - Katsuragi Sister School Exchange
We are currently awaiting Departmental approval for our planned trip next year. After receiving an overwhelming response to our Expressions of Interest we are currently working through a selection process to identify which students will be participating in the trip. We are hoping for approval soon so we can send out offers during week 10. Students who miss out on the first round of offers will be kept on a waiting list pending first round offers being declined and changes of family circumstances which may occur during the early part of next year.

Sporting Achievement
Congratulations to Mr Singh our PE Teacher who has been appointed as the Assistant Manager of the Queensland 12 Years and Under Boys State Rugby League Team for 2015. This is a great achievement. Mr Singh is also the South Coast Regional 12
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 MPT. 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 by Candlelight Information
The Merrimac Carols by Candlelight are fast approaching and Santa has once again confirmed that he will be there! The Carols will be taking place on Monday the 8th of December and will commence with the official welcome at 6:30 pm. Entry will be $2 per person or $5 per family. We will once again be selling raffle tickets to place you in the draw for some excellent prizes. So far the major prizes we have on offer are: a 6-speed cruiser bike, 12ft trampoline, double pass to Seaworld, double pass to Movie World, Christmas hampers and many other goodies. If you are in a position to contribute any other amazing prizes for our raffle draw we will proudly display your business logo on our event program to acknowledge your support.

We are still appealing for donations to the Kmart Wishing Tree and are very proud to say that the extremely generous Merrimac community have already gifted 91 Christmas presents to the appeal. This is a worthy cause and a perfect opportunity to give back this Christmas. So please support the good work of the Salvation Army. We are also collecting items for the Christmas Hampers up until the end of Week 9. Please send any donations labelled with your name and class to 4C or 4D. A Pizza Party will be awarded to the class who donates the most items and 2A, 2D and 4D are currently leading the way.

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.

SPORTING NEWS
Interschool Sport
Last Friday was the final day of Interschool sport for the term. A number of our teams were in grand finals or were overall premiers for the season. Congratulations to the following teams who were Premiers for this season:

Year 7 Boys Basketball
5A Boys Touch Football
7A Girls Touch Football
7 B Girls Touch Football
Junior Mixed T-Ball Team

Congratulations also to the following team who were Runners Up for this season:

6B Boys Touch Football

Well done to all of our interschool sports participants. A big thank you goes to the tuckshop ladies, who organise the water and first aid kits for each of the sporting teams. Also we are very appreciative of the efforts of Mrs Farrar in the office who organises the buses and the newsletter sports draw each week. Also Mr Singh does a great job in coordinating our interschool sport participation.

Special thanks to staff and parents who volunteer their time to take teams on a Friday and for training them during their lunch times. Our interschool sporting participation continues to flourish and this is due to the supportive efforts of our class teachers. Thank you to all our teachers who have run the school based sports during the term.

IMPORTANT INTERSCHOOL SPORTS NEWS
Please return all sports shirts washed to your coach. First team to bring back all team shirts will win a prize from Mr Singh. Also, please check if you have any old interschool sports team shirts that you may have forgotten to return. No questions asked, just return to the office.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS
Congratulations to Ethan Benigno and Lachlan Guy who have both been selected in the under 10’s Gold Coast Futsal representative team. This is Ethan’s third year in a row for being selected. Good job boys.

Good luck to Taylor Butler who will compete at the Swimming State Championships in 100 metres freestyle and relays in Brisbane in December. All the best Taylor.

MUSIC NEWS
CONGRATULATIONS to all Instrumental and Choir students who performed at the Magic of Music Concert last Wednesday. What a great night!!!! There are some very hardworking and talented students in the Music program at Merrimac and the standard of performances increases every year.

Thank you to all who attended and all who helped out on the night. Mrs Collinge, Mrs Lush, Mr McBlane, Mr Boff, Mrs Wakelin, Mrs Zarew, Mrs Fry, Mrs Maric and Mr Jeffrey.

2015 Recruitment:
Miss Deb and Ms Hurst are currently recruiting students for the music program next year. They will be sending letters of acceptance home to the relevant students in the coming week. A meeting for parents will be advised to those involved. No payment is required until next year.

PLEASE RETURN MUSIC POLO SHIRTS NOW!!! SHIRTS NOT RETURNED WILL INCUR A REPLACEMENT CHARGE
A reminder to parents that musical groups before and after school practices have now ceased for the year.

**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

**Roster for week commencing 1 December:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Vendor(s)</th>
<th>Meal Deal 4 Dec $5.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 1/12</td>
<td>Mayumi</td>
<td>Hot Dog w sauce &amp; cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 2/12</td>
<td>Yoko M</td>
<td>Bagged Popcorn (plain)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 3/12</td>
<td>Naoko, Yoko H</td>
<td>Zooper Dooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 4/12</td>
<td>Maria S, Mayumi</td>
<td>Bottled Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 5/12</td>
<td>Yoko H, Mayumi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers this week. We are looking to involve some new volunteers in our Tuckshop roster for 2015. We look forward to welcoming our new crew shortly. The end of the school year is near and as we reduce our stocks we will still continue to provide daily over the counter foods and drinks.

Please note the following important dates:

- **Friday 5th December** - last day for Flexischools orders
- **Wednesday 10th December** - last day for over the counter lunch orders
- **Thursday 11th December** - NO ORDERS today on but we will sell any excess stock of chips and drinks over the counter
- **Friday 12th December** - TUCKSHOP CLOSED FOR SCHEDULED CLEANING Please ensure your child has morning tea and lunch

Have a great week.

~ Denise ~

**P&C NEWS**

Request for Volunteers on Carols Night

The P&C would like some volunteers to help out with ticket and raffle sales for Carols night. If you have an hour to spare either from 4.30pm-5.30pm or 5.30pm-6.30pm please phone Kristy on 0414264774.

**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**


**COMMUNITY NEWS**

Check out the community noticeboard outside the school office for some great holiday activities.