Term 4 Week 10 Thursday 11 December 2014

Staffing News

For next year we will have in place a new Deputy Principal Year 6. We wish her well.

The majority of our specialist teachers for next year will remain continuing at school on contract for Semester One which is very pleasing news.

This will allow all of the Deputy Principals to work more closely with all of the classes within their designated area of the school. In addition Mrs McNeilage will undertake the Head of Curriculum role for 3 days a week to complement her Deputy Principal role. From the start of next year we will also have the following new positions:

- **Position**: Staff
- **Master Teacher**: Mrs Lee White
- **Literacy Coach**: Mrs Prentis (3 days)
- **Behaviour/Differentiation**: Mr Boff

Each of these teachers will work closely with our teachers to help improve the teaching and learning in each of the classrooms. Mrs Trish Boccacini has been appointed to our school as our acting Head of Special Education for Semester One next year. We welcome Mrs Boccacini back to our school in this new school leadership role in charge of our Special Education Program.

Currently we are planning for 30 class groups for next year. This will very much depend on our school enrolments at the start of the school year. The teacher/class allocations for 2015 will be published at the beginning of the school year. Mr Epiha will be continuing at school on contract for Semester One which is very pleasing news.

The majority of our specialist teachers for next year will remain the same:

- **Specialist Area**: Staff
- **LOTE**: Mrs Marshall
- **PE**: Mr Singh (4 days), Mr Smith (1 day)
- **Library Literacy Lessons**: Mr Webster (3 days)
- **Non-Contact Time**: Mr Webster (2 days)
- **Music**: Mrs Powell
- **Instrumental Band**: Miss Deb (2 days)
- **Instrumental Strings**: Miss Hurst (1½ days)

Our school has been advised that we can start the school year with 40 Special Education Program (SEP) staffing. This includes Mrs Boccacini as our HOSE and Mr Niotakis as a SEP teacher. Ms Kirsty Chandler will be on contract in SEP for Semester 1. Mr Guy Fitter will be the SEP Day 8 contract which will depend on our SEP students numbers in 2015.

Mrs Pamela Challip will return to Merrimac next year as our school’s Guidance Officer for three days a week. We thank Mrs Kate O’Rourke who has been doing this role during the year. She has done a great job and will be based at Mudgeeraba school next year. We wish her well.

Mrs Amy Crozier will be on Maternity Leave for all of next year. We wish Amy all the very best and we are looking to hearing some exciting news early next year.

Mrs Messinbird has Long Service Leave for all of Term One next year. We wish Mrs Messinbird all the very best on her extended holiday.

Our school has had a number of other contract teachers at our school during the year. We would like to thank them for all the work that they have done here at Merrimac. A big thank you to Mrs Ingrid Werder, Miss Amber Butler-Davis, Mr Chris Haddock, Ms Amy McDonald, Miss Alicia Holden, Miss Alycia Serediuk, Miss Kathrina Tillston, Mrs Susan Pieroz, Mr Guy Fitter, Mrs Kirsty Chandler, Mrs Denise Boyd, Mrs Allison Forner, Mrs Justina Crawford, Mrs Jan Beggs, Mr Ben Shaw, Ms Miki Ellis, Mr Akito Nishioka and Mr Greg Chin. It is hoped that we will see many of our contract teachers back at Merrimac some time in 2015.

Also during the year, we have had a number of Teacher Aides who have completed various contract positions. A big thank you to all of them. Again we hope to see them back at our school some time in 2015.

**Carols Success**

Due to the wet weather on Monday afternoon, it was necessary to hold our Carols indoors in our Performing Arts Centre. Despite the wet conditions, we had an outstanding roll up of parents and family members. Although it was a little crowded in the hall, the night went extremely well.

Congratulations to all the children and their teachers for putting on such wonderful performances. The fireworks display at the end of the evening was spectacular and a highlight of the night. It certainly capped off a great event.

Thank you to Mrs Williams and Mrs Zaal for a wonderful job as our Carol’s coordinators. Mrs Greenway did a great job on the night as our MC. Brooke Holloway sang beautifully and did a fantastic job.

Thank you to all staff, teachers and P&C members who had input into the organisation of the Carols. There were many hard workers on the night and all your efforts contributed to a very successful event. A big thank you to our Santa as well. The giant raffles on the night proved very popular. Well done to all our winners. There were many P&C helpers on the night. Thank you to Jodie Fry who coordinated all the various raffle prizes. Also special mention of the efforts of Kristy Augustin and John Clark who did a lot of the organisation on behalf of the P&C and enlisted the help of lots of parents.

Staff and their families did a great job with the Student Council’s sausage sizzle. To all who helped on the night your efforts were greatly appreciated.

Many thanks to all those families who sent along a present for the Kmart Make a Wish program. Patrick and Kerryn from the Salvation Army attended our Carols and were very grateful for the large number of gifts donated by Merrimac families.

Mr McBlane did an excellent job with the sound and lighting especially as he had to set up twice because of the rain. Well done Greg.

Our students also did a great job with the Christmas decorations that lined the entrance ways to the PAC. It certainly added to the Christmas spirit.
Class Groupings For 2015
2015 class groups will be published on the first day back next year in the Tuckshop under cover area and outside all classes. Hopefully this will lessen the chance of forced changes to class groups which usually happens over the Christmas period. Parents are reminded not to take photos of the class lists as this is a breach of privacy.

School Chaplaincy Program
Our school received some very good news during the week. Our school Chaplaincy Program has been funded by the State Government to continue next year. Chappy Steve does a fantastic job at our school and it is great news that our Chaplaincy program is continuing into 2015.

Free Dress Day
On Tuesday we held a Free Dress Day to raise funds for the Gold Coast Homelessness Network. In total $680.00 was raised and donated to this worthwhile charity. Your support of the Free Dress day was much appreciated. Thanks to Miss Parkes and the Student Council for organising this activity.

Year 7 Graduation
Our Year 7 Graduation was held yesterday in the Performing Arts Centre. There were over 400 parents, family and staff in attendance to celebrate the Year 7 Graduation. It was an extremely successful event with many parents providing very positive feedback. A big thank you to everyone who helped make the Year 7 Graduation such a successful event. A special thanks to Mrs Mesinbird who coordinated this year’s Graduation Ceremony.

The Year 6 Graduation is being held today in the PAC and I’m sure will be just as successful as the Year 7 Graduation. The Years 6 and 7 disco is being held tonight and I’m sure it will be a great night for all the students. Tomorrow, our Years 6 and 7 students will enjoy a day at Wet’n’Wild and then attend a school farewell parade at 2.30pm.

We extend our best wishes to all our Year 6 and 7 students and wish them all the very best for their High School years. We also wish families who are leaving our school over the years.

Student Leaders For 2015
The election process for all our student leaders for 2015 is now complete. Congratulations to the following students:

School Captains:
Ella Moore, Charlotte Oseman, Jack Kelly and Cullen Paikea

Sports Captains:
Gooding – Maydeka Sugiono and Charley Fredrickson
Davidson – Taylor Butler and Tyrell Risoti
Birmingham – Caprice Lema and Lachlan Guy
Hamilton – Katie Beeble and Adrian Spiridon

Music Leaders:
Bond – Jayde Pallin and Aimee Howard
Strings – Mire Lee and Nicholas Lush
Choir – Madeline Zeiger and Tianna Whitten

The badge presentation ceremony will be scheduled for early next year. The date will be advised in next year’s Week One newsletter.

Merry Christmas
On behalf of the staff, I extend our warmest Christmas greetings to all our families. I thank you for your support throughout the year and look forward to your involvement in 2015. Have a very safe and Merry Christmas.

Lost Property
Any unclaimed property will be sent to charities over the holidays. Parents are also asked to check the lost property at After School Care.

School Watch
Should you observe any suspicious behaviour around the school during the holidays please contact School Watch on 131788. Other than the Vacation Care Program, Facility Hire and school staff there should be no persons on the school grounds over the holiday period. The school premises will be monitored by State Government Security along with increased police patrols in conjunction with our own security arrangements. Any person found trespassing will be referred to the police.

Sound Equipment Children and Flag Children
On last week’s upper school parade we recognised the students who have assisted with the school’s sound system throughout the year. A big thank you to: Amelia Norman, Collin Cronkright, Harry Mason and Joey Barreto

For next year, we will have a newly trained group of students who will take on these special roles.

On the same parade we thanked those boys who have looked after the school flags each day this year. Well done to Harley Martinelli, Brodie Brown and Bailey Cram.

Welcome to Country
On each upper school parade, Isabella Anderson from Year 4 presents the Welcome to Country. Isabella has also done this on various special parades throughout the year. Sadly, Isabella is leaving us at the end of this year, and I would like to acknowledge her efforts and thank her for the wonderful job that she has done at our school. We wish her all the very best at her new school.

Thanks also to Zander Engel-Bowe who has presented the Welcome to Country at Junior Parade. We thank him also for the wonderful job he has done.

School Uniform Donation
Parents whose children finish at Merrimac at the end of the school year may like to donate any 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.

Student Achievements
Mrs Fran James from the Robina Lions attended this week’s upper school parade to make a presentation of two awards. A number of our Years 5 to 7 children took part at the beginning of this term in the Lions Peace Poster Competition. Well done to all the students who entered. Mrs James presented Hayley Bond an Encouragement Certificate as Runner Up and also presented a winning certificate to Arisa Egami. Arisa’s entry will now progress to the next level of competition and we wish her well. Well done Arisa and Hayley.

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.
DENTAL VAN NEWS

Students in 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 3E are invited to take up the offer for an oral health care examination. The appointments will be made on or around the 05.02.15 when the Dental Van arrives at your School.

If your child is enrolled in one of the classes listed above or are new to the school and did not receive an examination card and you would like to arrange for your child to receive oral health care please contact the Oral Health Call Centre on 1300 300 850, Monday to Friday 8.00 am - 4.30 pm Excluding Public Holidays.

If your child requires disability access please identify this requirement with the Call Centre Operator.

P&C NEWS

Carols Evening

Many thanks to all the wonderful P&C helpers who assisted with the Carols. Thanks to the past Merrimac students who also worked hard on the night. It was a fantastic night and we certainly appreciated the support and help from everyone involved.

Thank you to the following businesses who donated items to our giant raffle on the evening:

Well done to all our winners of the Carols raffles.

Robina Ray White School Sponsorship

Ashton Koehler, a past student at Merrimac State School, who now works at the Robina Ray White "Parent Fitness Program" will be running free training sessions for parents on a Thursday afternoon commencing early Term 1. More details will be provided in the first newsletter next year. This program is sponsored by Tina Nenadic of Ray White Robina.

2015 Meetings

The first P&C meeting for 2015 will be held on Monday 9 February commencing at 6.30pm. The P&C AGM will be held in March next year.

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Friday 12th December - TUCKSHOP CLOSED FOR SCHEDULED CLEANING

Please ensure your child has morning tea and lunch

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK


STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to Kiara Woodward who recently travelled to Sydney to compete in the Physical Culture Nationals after placing 5th in Queensland in October. Kiara progressed to the final 18, well done Kiara.

BOOKSHOP NEWS

- Special Opening Times - The bookshop will open from 9am - 1.00pm on the following days in January; Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd. The bookshop will also be open every school morning from 8am - 9am from Tuesday 27th January until Friday 6th February.
- Regular Opening times: Mon - Wed - Fri 8am to 9am

Orders can be placed at the bookshop or on flexischools.com.au

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM CHAPPY STEVE...

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas, and a fantastic New Year….I have been part of our school community here for over six years now, and I am delighted to say I have enjoyed every single working day….I have had a variety of careers in my life but compared to my job here there is no comparison…I really appreciate all of you who have supported me this year which has made my job so much easier…As I write our schools have now been given the new approval for their Chaplaincy Service to continue, which means I will be at Merrimac again next year…I would also like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to all our year 6 & 7 students who are heading off to high school…Don’t worry it’s not that scary, if in doubt go find the Chappy….

It has been a very fulfilling year for me as I’ve watched students that I have worked alongside grow, mature and succeed on programs like LEO, Drumbeat, and Radiance…. Chappy Hut lunchtime activities are busier than ever and I am eternally grateful for the support that I have been given from the School Student Council, Merrimac School Admin and the P&C, without their financial support I would not be able to deliver the lunchtime activities that I have on offer.

Our Term 1 and Term 3 fitness and breakfast program still continues to be successful and I would like to thank Mr Epiha and Mr Webster and Mr Fitter and all my volunteers who selflessly turned up week after week to make the program a success…. Also I would like to thank Woolworths Carrara and Merrimac MacDonald’s for their ongoing support.
Christmas is a happy time but it can also be a sad time for many. Please as you celebrate together with your family and friends keep in mind those who may have lost loved ones during the year and they are facing a Christmas with that empty chair. In our multicultural society the significance and meaning of Christmas may differ greatly but the underlying message is about Peace and Goodwill to all men and women across the globe. May the God of Peace bless you all this Christmas, and I will see you all next year.

Chappy Steve

UPCOMING EVENTS

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<th>Date</th>
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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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<td>Tue 27 Jan</td>
<td>1st Day of 2015 School Year for Prep-Year 6</td>
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COMMUNITY NEWS

PARENTING PROGRAMS

An exciting new initiative has recently been launched by Medicare Local. It is an online calendar of all the parenting programs that are available to all parents on the Gold Coast. The programs available include (but are not limited to): Triple P, 1,2,3 Magic, Pathways to Resilience, The Well, Griffith Uni Family Interaction Program, Bringing Up Great Kids, Engaging Adolescents, Empowering Families, Fun not Fuss with Food. The calendar lists all the dates, times, venues, costs and summaries of the programs so you are able to find the one that best suits your needs and the needs of your child all in one place. Each of the programs have undergone an evaluation process before being included on the calendar and are mostly evidence based courses. This amazing resource has been developed in partnership by Act for kids, Queensland Government, Medicare Local, Partnership Brokers, Collaborative Leaders in Community and Healthy General Practice, Healthy Gold Coast. It is available to access on the Medicare Local website at www.healthygc.com.au