Term 1 Week 5 Thursday 26 February 2015

PRINCIPAL’S PAGE

2015 Reporting to Parents
The timeline for reporting to parents for this year is listed below. Written Report Cards will be sent home at the end of Terms 2 and 4. In addition, parent/teacher interviews will be held at the end of Terms 1 and 3. These interviews will be complemented with student folios. It is hoped that all parents will take the opportunity of attending the planned parent/teacher interviews. More information will be provided later in the term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>1 April (Wk10)</td>
<td>P-6 Folios and Parent Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>23 June</td>
<td>P-6 Report Cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>9 Sept (Wk 9)</td>
<td>P-6 Folios and Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>8 Dec</td>
<td>P-6 Report Cards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Staffing News
Mrs Stringer has injured her leg and will be away from school until 6 March. We wish her a speedy recovery. Mrs Denise Boyd will be replacing Mrs Stringer for this time. Mrs Boff is on Long Service Leave from 26 February to 4 March. Mrs Justina Crawford will be replacing Mrs Boff.

Active School Travel Program
This year our school will be involved in the Active School Travel Program which is organised by the Gold Coast City Council. This program aims to decrease the congestion at schools of a morning and afternoon by encouraging more students to travel to and from school by others means rather than the family car. More information will be provided in future newsletters.

Mr Elliott is our school’s coordinator and his class will be involved in some data gathering activities throughout the year. We have established an Active School Travel Committee consisting of staff and P&C members. As an Active Travel School, our school will also be part of the Streets Ahead Program (16 - 20 March) and the Surfside ‘Bus It’ Program. The Surfside program will be delivered in May. More information will be provided leading up to the event. Both events will be free of charge.

Students’ Personal Details
We have now hopefully received all changed personal details forms and our computer database should be up to date with everyone’s current contact details. Please ensure you advise the school whenever changes occur as we may need to contact you urgently.

New School Website and QSchools Smartphone App
The QSchools app is available to the school community as a free download via the Apple iTunes store and Google Play.

The QSchools app includes information on our Tuckshop, Bookshop, enrolment forms and documents, as well as continuing to give information on newsletters, calendar of events, newsfeeds and alerts. All parents are encouraged to access this free App on their iPhone or Android phone. If you already have the QSchools app installed, please update the app to access the latest features.

Student Leaders’ Badge Ceremony:
Congratulations to our Year 6 School Captains, Sports Captains and Music Captains who were presented with their badges on Tuesday’s assembly. Our special guests included Mrs Ros Bates, the State Member for Mudgeeraba and Mr Peter (Spida) Everitt, from Gold FM 92.5. We appreciated both Mrs Bates and Spida Everitt for taking the time and being part of our School Leadership Ceremony.

Mrs Powell and our choir did a great job with their performance. Thanks to Miss Murray for her organisation of this special event. Thank you to all the parents and family members who attended the ceremony and to the tuckshop for supplying the Leadership Cake.
Unexplained Absences
Whenever a child is absent from school, parents are required to provide a reason for the absence. For the first part of this term, there have been a high number of unexplained absences.
A report will be generated at school this Friday for the first five weeks of schooling showing all students who have had two or more unexplained absences. From this report, letters will be generated and sent home on Monday 2 March to parents indicating the dates of the unexplained absences.
The letter will ask parents to provide reasons for the absences and return the note to school within 3 days. The letter should be returned to the child’s class teacher who will amend the class roll to show the reason/s for the absence/s. The class teacher will then change the absence from unexplained to explained. Ideally, we should be aiming to have no unexplained absences at school.
We thank you for your support of this importance school attendance process.

Visitors to School
All visitors to the school, other than parents at the normal starting and finishing times, are required to report to the school office. They need to sign the Visitors’ Book and get a visitor’s badge to wear as they walk around the school. Staff have been asked to be watchful of this and speak to any visitors not wearing a name badge and request them to report to the school’s office. Parents are asked to follow our visitor guidelines when visiting the school outside of the normal beginning and finishing times.

Boowaggan Park
At the end of the school day children are supervised until 3.15pm in the car park and until the last bus leaves the bus bay. Any children left at school after 3.15pm are required to wait at the front of the school near the Administration Building. Children are not to play on the Boowaggan Park fort unless they have been picked up by their parents and then supervised at the park by their parents. Please do not ask your child to meet you at the park.

Clean Up Australia Day
Schools’ Clean Up Day is on this Friday 27 February. The day is an important part of the Clean Up Australia Day campaign and will help to protect the environment by removing rubbish from our school grounds and helping students learn about environmental issues. We encourage all students and parents to get involved. Classes will make sure that their eating areas and the surrounds to their classrooms are litter free on this day.

Dental Van News
The Dental Van is now offering check-ups to Year 6 students. Please phone 1300 300850 to make an appointment.

Large Sums of Money at School
Parents are reminded that students should not be bringing large amounts of money to school. The tuckshop has reported some students with $20 and $50 notes. It is far too easy for children to lose such large sums of money. When a child presents at the tuckshop with a large sum of money, it will be reported to Admin to follow up with the individual child. In the past there have been situations where children have brought large sums of money to school without parents being aware.

Mobile Phones
Parents are reminded that children are not permitted to have mobile phones at school during school hours. If a child must have a phone for after school contact, the phone must be handed in at the front office for safe-keeping before school commences and collected after school concludes. Any phones found in children’s possession during school hours will be confiscated and returned to parents. Please assist us in this area by ensuring that your children are aware of this procedure.

Student Illnesses
Some medical conditions require that children be excluded from school to prevent the spread of infectious diseases amongst other children and staff. Please consult with your doctor regarding any such health concerns. Doctors should notify the local Health Unit if children are diagnosed with any serious illness requiring exclusion. In such cases parents at school will be informed of any reported cases of infectious diseases.

Breakfast and Fitness Program
The Breakfast/Fitness Program each Wednesday morning before school is going very smoothly. Thank you to all those Years 4, 5 and 6 students who are regularly turning up. Thanks to the staff and parents who have been helping with the program. It is very much appreciated. We also thank Carrara Woolworths and Merrimac McDonalds for their ongoing support of this program.

Parent Fitness (Boot Camp) Program
Thanks to Tina Nenadic from Ray White Robina Real Estate, we are offering a free fitness program each week for our parents. Flyers were sent home last week with all students providing further information. Be quick as there are only 12 places left available in the program.
Parents at last week’s program worked in the MPC and were having fun whilst getting fit. Ashton Koehler who works for Ray White Robina Real Estate is a trained fitness instructor and runs the sessions weekly in the MPC/Tennis Court area each Thursday from 1.45pm to 2.45pm. It commenced last Thursday and will run all term. It is completely free. Please register your interest at the office or by contacting Ashton through his office on 0402 984898.

Apple Slinkys at Merrimac
Apple Slinkys were very successful in Semester 2 of last year (over 2900 apples between prep and year 1 classes). The children loved them and it meant they were eating healthy fruit for morning tea. There will be a ‘base’ outside the Prep 3 room (P3) on Monday and Wednesday at morning tea.
If there are any parents who will be in the school that may like to help out please come and see Melissa in P3.

School Banking
We will be holding an account opening day on Monday 23 March for parents interested in opening a Dollarmites Student Bank Account for their children. A representative from the Commonwealth Bank will be here to answer your questions and help with the application. The information session will be held outside the Prep 3 room (on the playground side) at 8.30am.

P&C NEWS
Our next P&C meeting is on Monday 9 March. The meeting will commence at 6.30pm in the school staffroom and all interested parents are invited to attend. Previously advertised as our Annual General Meeting (AGM) this is now postponed to a future date. The meeting will be a general P&C meeting to discuss general business.

School Fete
HAVE YOU GOT SOMETHING AWESOME YOU’D LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY OR IDEAS FOR THE FETE?? If so our P&C would like to welcome you to come share with us as we build on our family & community involvement! Kristy Augustin will be hosting our coffee & chats, opening the doors to our original school building (you may know this as the old Japanese room near the tennis court) each Wednesday morning from 8.30-9.30am starting next Wednesday 4th March. Look forward to seeing you there!
SCHOOL JAPAN TRIP 13-21 SEPTEMBER 2015

VACANCY FOR A GIRL

Due to a late withdrawal after planning has already commenced in Japan for homestays we have a vacancy for a female student in Year 5 or 6 to join our Student group travelling to Japan in September this year. The cost of the trip is $2200. Your daughter will need to have a current passport or you need to have the authority to apply for one before the departure date. If you would like to consider sending your daughter to Japan please contact the school office and we will send you some details so that you can consider this opportunity for your child.

NIHON KEIKEN PARENT MEETING – (JAPAN TRIP)

Parents of students participating in this year’s Japan trip in September are asked to attend an information session on Monday 16 March from 5pm – 6pm in the Science Room (adjoining the PAC). Students are not required to attend this meeting. Parents will be provided with important preparation and travel information. Please notify the school office if you cannot attend this important meeting.

FINANCE NEWS

The finance window operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8am – 9.30am in the administration building. Payments for school activities are accepted at these times only. Payments can be made by Cash, Cheque (made payable to Merrimac State School), EFTPOS or Credit. Some payments may be direct deposited. Details will be provided for those events when this option is available. Please ensure if you do use this method of payment that you do not combine payments as it becomes difficult to determine the breakdown of what you are paying for. Parents are also advised to ensure payment is made by due dates as final numbers are often required and your child will miss out on an event if they have not paid by the due date. 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>Yrs 3-4</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>NOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yrs 5-6</td>
<td>Safe Surfing</td>
<td>$65</td>
<td>NOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selected 5/6</td>
<td>Japan deposit</td>
<td>$700</td>
<td>NOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strings/Band</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>27 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strings/Band</td>
<td>Instrument Hire</td>
<td>$120</td>
<td>27 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-6</td>
<td>Australian Folklore</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>27 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Camp</td>
<td>$160</td>
<td>9 Mar</td>
</tr>
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STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to our Students of the Week:

FROM THE LITERACY COACH

MUSIC NEWS

A Fantastic start to the School Music Year with great attendance at all rehearsal groups. Junior Band rehearsals will commence towards the end of the term… Miss Deb will advise… The Senior Showcase Singers sang amazingly at the Badge Presentation Ceremony on Tuesday.

Rehearsal Schedule:
Senior Showcase Singers - Monday 8.00 - 8.45am
Junior Singers - Friday 8.00am - 8.45am
Senior Band - Wednesday 2.55pm - 3.55pm
Junior Band - TBA
Senior Strings - Thursday 8.00am - 8.45am
Intermediate Strings - Thursday 2.55pm - 3.55pm
Beginner Strings - Tuesday 8.00am - 8.45am

AUSTRALIAN FOLKLORE PERFORMANCE
Tuesday 3rd March
10am and 12.00pm

CLOSING DATE FOR PAYMENT IS TOMORROW 27/2
Cost is $4.00 so don’t forget to put your money in a marked envelope and hand it in to the Finance Window before 9.30am tomorrow morning.

PE NEWS

Interschool Sport for Years 5 and 6
Tomorrow Friday 27 February Years 5 and 6 students will nominate if they wish to participate in Interschool sports. Sports on offer this season are: Netball (girls), Soccer (boys and girls), AFL (mixed), Rugby League (boys), Oztag (girls). The season commences 20 March and continues for 10 weeks. Cost will be approximately $70 and students will be given permission letters when teams have been finalised. Please be aware teams may be withdrawn if there is a lack of numbers. Please talk to your child about whether they can participate in Interschool sport as this will ensure accurate participation numbers. Children who do not participate in Interschool Sports will be involved in school based sports each Friday afternoon.
Year 4 students will not be participating in this term’s interschool sport. They will be given the opportunity to play interschool sport in Terms 3 and 4 this year.
MERRIMAC TALENT QUEST
Friday 20th March 2015  9.00am - 12.00pm Years 3, 4, 5 & 6
Teachers will be auditioning for Finalists in each year level in
Week7 (from 9th March)
Sections :
SINGING INSTRUMENTAL DANCE DRAMA
Guidelines:
• Items must be no longer than 3 minutes in length
• No more than 6 students in a group

TUCKSHOP NEWS
Tuckshop Roster for week commencing 2 March:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Volunteers</th>
<th>Meal Deal 5 Mar $5.00*</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 2/3</td>
<td>Mayumi</td>
<td>✓ Roast chicken on a buttered roll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 3/3</td>
<td>Yoko M, Sally C</td>
<td>✓ Pkt Natural’s Chips (Honey Soy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 4/3</td>
<td>Yoko H</td>
<td>✓ Zooper Dooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 5/3</td>
<td>Maria S, Mayumi</td>
<td>✓ Bottled Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 6/3</td>
<td>Marina, Mayumi</td>
<td>✓ Add 50c to upgrade to flavoured milk or Quench springwater</td>
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Many thanks to my wonderful volunteers this week. Your help is very much appreciated. A reminder to all volunteers to check the expiration date on your Blue Cards. Reminders will be sent via txt to mobiles from the applicable government agency. Blank forms can be downloaded from [www.bluecard.gov.au/volunteers/index](http://www.bluecard.gov.au/volunteers/index) and can be handed in to our school office for signing. Have a great week everyone. 

~ Denise ~

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 3 Mar</td>
<td>Australian Folklore School Performances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 9 Mar</td>
<td>5.45pm MOSHC Meeting in MPC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9 Mar</td>
<td>6.30pm P&amp;C Meeting in Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 13 Mar</td>
<td>National Ride to School Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-20 Mar</td>
<td>RACQ Streets Ahead Program (Active travel Program)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20 Mar</td>
<td>National Day Against Bullying</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20 Mar</td>
<td>Years 3 to 6 Talent Quest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20 Mar</td>
<td>Start of Interschool Sports for Years 5 and 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20 Mar</td>
<td>National Young Leaders Forum in Brisbane (for school captains)</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-25 Mar</td>
<td>4C/4D Year 4 Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-25 Mar</td>
<td>Choral Camp for selected students</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-27 Mar</td>
<td>4A/4B Year 4 Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 25 Mar</td>
<td>No Year 3 and 4 swimming today</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 1 Apr</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews (3.30pm to 7.30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 1 Apr</td>
<td>Final day for Years 3 and 4 swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 2 Apr</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 2 Apr</td>
<td>Years 4 to 6 Swimming Carnival at Merrimac High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 3 Apr</td>
<td>Good Friday Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 20 Apr</td>
<td>First school day of Term 2</td>
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</tbody>
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Breakpoint Tennis
Limited vacancies for tennis on Monday or Thursday morning from 7.45am till 8.45am. For enquiries phone 0414 464 032

Robina State High School
Enrol for 2016
Join us for our first enrolment information evening for students entering Yr 7 in 2016.
Thursday 6 March 2015
5.30 - 7.00pm
Robina SHS Performing Arts Centre
All prospective students and parents are welcome to attend this information evening to hear about our school, our curriculum, specialist programs and our unique approach to Junior Secondary education. For more information contact our head of Junior Secondary - Mr Ben Weeks at bweek12@eq.edu.au

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