**Merrimac State School Newsletter**

**Term 3 Week 8 Thursday 1 September 2016**

**PRINCIPAL’S PAGE**

**School Fun Run Fundraiser**

The P&C is planning to conduct a whole school Fun Run on Wednesday 26 October which is in Week Four of next term. This will be a major fundraiser to support the purchase of replacement Interactive White Boards for the classrooms at school. Over the last 12 months, the P&C has replaced two thirds of the Interactive White Boards within the classrooms at an expense of $90,000.00. There are still one third of the boards to be replaced which will cost another $45,000.00. This is hoped to be done at the end of the school year or early next year. Your support is very much needed.

The Sponsorship Forms and more information has been sent home today with students. This includes details of prizes and actual Fun Run details. There will some great prizes for the highest individual and class fundraisers as well as participation prizes. It is hoped that all families will support this fund raising endeavour.

**National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEITA)**

The NEITA Foundation has congratulated our school on having a number of our teaching staff nominated for an ASG Inspirational Teaching Award. Seven of our classroom teachers, Mrs Conder, Miss Hiscox, Mrs Taffs, Mrs Zarew, Mrs Barrett, Mrs Kirk-Lambard and Mrs Wakelin were nominated in recognition of the great work that they do in the classroom.

Our award recipients will receive a National Excellence in Teaching Award certificate as well as a small gift from our school’s P&C Association. The purpose of these prestigious awards is to honour and recognise inspirational teachers and administrators, as well as highlight the work not only of individual teachers throughout Australia, but also the team contribution of all teachers in every school.

All our nominees are now eligible for consideration for a National ASG Inspirational Teaching Award and grant. Congratulations to them all.

I know that all our teachers at Merrimac do a fantastic job and the parents and P&C Association appreciate the great work that they do each and every day.

**Canberra Arrangements**

In Week 10 Miss Murray, Mrs Blom, Mr Boff, Mr Epiha, Mrs Riis and Dr Pointing will be taking 60 of our Years 5 and 6 students to Canberra on our bi-annual Canberra Camp. The group will visit many educational facilities and attractions including Mount Ainslie Lookout, Old Parliament House, Museum of Australian Democracy, Australian War Memorial, National Museum of Australia, National Archives, Australian Institute of Sport, Royal Australian Mint, Government House, Questacon, New Parliament House, Lake Burley Griffin and Telstra Tower.

The group will also enjoy social activities at AMF Bowling and a day in the snow.

Staffing arrangements for Week 10 are: Non-campers from 6A/B will form one class for the Canberra Week and be taught by Mrs Alison Ross.

To help prepare the students for the trip, Mr Epiha and Mrs Riis have been conducting Canberra School lessons for these students of a Tuesday afternoon from 1.45pm - 2.55pm in the Science Room. The lessons are a requirement for us to receive PACER funding for the camp.

**Australian Government**

The Australian Government recognise the importance of young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education so have assisted the families of travelling students by contributing $60 per child toward the cost of the camp under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate Program. The rebate will be paid directly to the school in the coming weeks and was factored into the camp cost budget.

**Peace Reflection**

On Wednesday morning all students took part in our whole school Peace Day activities. Mrs Mc spoke about the importance of Peace and the part that we can all play in making our school a more peaceful place. Mr Chin did some Tai Chi with the students followed by a minute of meditation. The children were then involved in a whole school photo on the oval in recognition of Peace Day. The day was very successful and a big thank you goes to all involved in the planning and running of the day.

**Term Three Parent/Teacher Interviews**

Please do not forget that the majority of parent/teacher interviews will be held next Wednesday afternoon between 3.30pm and 7.30pm. Hopefully, all parents who require an interview have already done so through PTO. Parents are reminded to be on time for their interviews and to notify the school if they cannot make their scheduled interview time for some reason.

**School Support Staff Recognition**

This week all state schools are celebrating School Support Staff Recognition Week (29 August to 2 September). At Merrimac, this includes our Business Services Manager, Administration Office Staff, Facility Officer and our IT technicians. (Our Cleaners have already had their day of celebration earlier in the year). They all play important roles in the smooth running and safe operation of our school. Tomorrow, Friday 2 September, a special morning tea will be held for our school support staff to acknowledge their contributions to our school. Please take the time to thank our hard working support staff at Merrimac.

**Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser for Years 4 and 5**

On 15th September we will be having a “Skip Off” where children will skip for up to an hour improving their own heart health and practicing new skills. Fundraising has been made much simpler with online donations. This is a great way to collect sponsorships from near and far with the children having their own donation page where they can write messages and thoughts about their personal experiences. Students in Years 4 and 5 have been given an easy to follow brochure so they can start raising money as soon as possible. All donations are to be brought into school by Monday 12th September.

Finally the best part for the children is the great prizes they can earn. Those that choose the online fundraising strategy receive extra bonus prizes at
different levels. We hope you will encourage your child to have a heart and get behind this worthy cause.

School Leaders Visit Parliament House
On Tuesday this week, our four student leaders and Miss Murray visited Parliament House in Brisbane at the invitation of Mrs Ros Bates, our State Member for Mudgeeraba. They had a very exciting time and found it to be very educational. Here's what they had to say:

On Tuesday we went to parliament house in Brisbane and had a great time. Ms Phung and Alex took us and Miss Murray on a tour of the house and we even got to tune in on question time. In question time, there were politicians talking and arguing about new bike laws and crimes that have been happening in Queensland. We met some really nice people like Mrs Ros Bates, the Shadow Minister of Children’s health and care and Tim Nickels, the Member for Clayfield.

For lunch, we ate at the botanical gardens and saw birds, guppies, eels and turtles. Parliament house had beautiful features like giant chandeliers and the mace. We also learnt that the mace always faces the government side in question time and that Queensland is the only state where the upper house got demolished. Thank you Miss Murray for taking us on that unforgettable experience.

Years 4 to 6 Breakfast and Fitness Program (Term Three)
Chappy Steve and Mr Epiha continue their before school breakfast and fitness program each Wednesday morning throughout Term Three for students in Years 4, 5 and 6. Students need to commit to attending each week from 8.00am to 8.45am to be part of the program.

We rely on the support of staff and parents to assist with the program and we thank the P&C, Carrara Woolworths and Merrimac McDonalds for their ongoing support of this program.

Whooping Cough
There have been two confirmed cases of whooping cough at Merrimac State School in the last three weeks. Individual notes have been sent home to the affected classes. If you have any concerns please contact your local doctor.

Premier’s Reading Challenge
The Premier’s Reading Challenge finished last Friday. Thank you to all students and classes who have taken part. Certificates of achievement will be sent to schools early in Term Four. Thanks to Mrs Boff who has been coordinating our involvement in this worthwhile program.

Staffing News
It is certainly going to be an exciting time here at Merrimac over the last two weeks of this term. We have three staff members who are getting married. Congratulations to Miss Sam Jacobs, Miss Kate Kitching and Miss Alycia Serediuk for their upcoming weddings. We wish them all the very best for their big events. I will provide details of the new surnames at the beginning of next term.

Upcoming Staff Leave
We have a number of staff who have leave in the last two weeks of this term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Staff on leave</th>
<th>Replacement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 Aug - 16 Sept</td>
<td>Mrs McClavey</td>
<td>Miss Noni Rolfe</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 to 16 Sept</td>
<td>Mrs Prentis</td>
<td>Mrs Lombard/Mrs Sue Pieroz (PS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 to 16 Sept</td>
<td>Mrs Hall</td>
<td>Mrs Boccaccini/Mrs Turney/SEP Contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 16 Sept</td>
<td>Miss Sam Jacobs</td>
<td>Mr Boff/Miss Lauren Hutton</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 to 16 Sept</td>
<td>Miss Nicole Jacobs</td>
<td>Mrs Denise Boyd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 16 Sept</td>
<td>Mrs Sloss</td>
<td>Miss Alison Ross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 to 16 Sept</td>
<td>Miss Serediuk</td>
<td>Miss Noni Rolfe</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 to 16 Sept</td>
<td>Ms Parker</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 to 16 Sept</td>
<td>Mrs Conder</td>
<td>Mrs Amanda Hutton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 to 16 Sept</td>
<td>Miss Kitching</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 16 September</td>
<td>Mrs O'Mullane</td>
<td>Mrs Chipp</td>
</tr>
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Life Education
The Life Education Van will be visiting our school during this term from 2 to 16 September. Many thanks to Ms Conder who is coordinating the Life Education Program visit to our school. A parent session is being held on Friday 2 September from 2.00pm in the Life Education Van. Parents are invited along to find out more information on the Life Education Program.

Year Four Bicycle Education Program
Each class will attend separately and the schedule is below. Permission notes have been sent home with each Year 4 student, and should be returned the classroom teacher by Friday 2nd September at 9.30am. No cost this year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>To bring:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4D</td>
<td>5 Sept</td>
<td>9.00am-2.00pm</td>
<td>MT/Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>6 Sept</td>
<td>9.00am-2.00pm</td>
<td>MT/Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4M</td>
<td>7 Sept</td>
<td>9.00am-2.00pm</td>
<td>MT/Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4C</td>
<td>8 Sept</td>
<td>9.00am-2.00pm</td>
<td>MT/Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A</td>
<td>9 Sept</td>
<td>9.00am-2.00pm</td>
<td>MT/Lunch</td>
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Wipe Out Waste Program
Our school was due to have a visit by the Wipe Out Waste Program during this term. Our school has received official notification that the funding for the Wipe Out Waste program has recently ceased and as a result the City of Gold Coast will no longer be able to offer this program to schools. This is disappointing as our school has been involved in this program for many years.

Koala Joeys Family Program
The Koala Joeys Family Program - a Transition to School program – has been specifically created to deliver in all primary schools for families with children under school age. The KOALA JOEYS FAMILY PROGRAM focuses on empowering parents and carers to use nursery rhymes, songs, dance, movement and stories as a tool to form secure attachments.

WHERE: Merrimac State School MPC Conference Room
WHEN: Every Friday 9.00am—10.00am
We are now accepting enrolments for Prep 2017. On Tuesday 25 October our school will hold a morning and evening orientation session for new families. In November we also hold Prep experience days for our future Prep students. These are scheduled for Tuesday 15 November and Tuesday 22 November.

Enrolments for Prep next year can be made at the school office. Parents of Prep students for next year are encouraged to enrol their children now. Early enrolment allows the school to be better prepared for the 2017 school year.

Now that our school has an official enrolment boundary, all families, especially those residing outside our catchment area, are encouraged to get their Prep enrolments in as early as possible. All enrolments must include the enrolling student’s Birth Certificate. In catchment enrolments require two forms of proof of address.

Parent Fitness (Boot Camp) Program - free for Merrimac Parents

Thanks to Tina Nenadic, from Harcourts Real Estate, we have been continuing this term with the free fitness program for our parents. Simone Doyle is the fitness instructor who runs the sessions weekly in the MPC/Tennis Court area each Thursday from 1.45pm to 2.45pm. It is completely free. Any parents who wish to be involved in the fitness program can contact Tina directly on 0402984898. Simone can only cater up to 20 in the session so please register your interest with Tina as soon as possible.

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. Update regularly to access the latest features.

Spare Uniforms

The office keeps a small supply of donated uniforms for students who may need to change during the day. If your child has borrowed a uniform could you please return it to the office.

We have no size 8 or 10 shorts at the moment. If you would like to donate some second hand shorts please being them to the office. Thank you.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to our Students of the Week:

FINANCE NEWS

Important Invoicing Information

Invoices for excursions/activities are emailed to all parents/caregivers of participating or invited students who have an active email on our database. For example:

All Year 4-6 students were invoiced $70 for interschool sports because they may have nominated a sport. Only students playing interschool sports need to pay this amount. Please be reminded if payment is made online then an online receipt should be sent to the finance window together with the permission form for verification. For those children who are doing school based sports, parents are advised that this invoice will be adjusted in the first week of term 4 and they will receive an adjustment note via email.

FINANCE HOURS MON, WED, FRI 8.00AM – 9.30AM.
MONEY IS NOT ACCEPTED OUTSIDE THESE TIMES
Please have correct money as we do not carry change.
Also, EFTPOS/Credit Card minimum $10

COLLECTIONS FOR WELL BEING DAY

We are seeking a variety of resources for an art activity (weaving) we are having on our Wellness Day.

What are we collecting:

- Any material that could be used for weaving
- Material scraps-shiny, colourful, any size
- Wool-bobbly, colourful, string
- Old scarves
- Old Christmas decorations like baubles to add onto the weaving, tinsel
- Feathers
- Hoola hoops
- Plastic string for threading beads, beads for threading
- Macramé string

Where to deliver resources: Mrs Lamburd P5

Who: If you work in any businesses like upholstery, clothing alterations, curtains, home crafts and you may be able to help us with our collection please contact Mrs Lamburd at school.

Also, we are still collecting cleaned bottle caps which can be delivered to outside HQ or the Chappy Hut. Thank you.

PE NEWS

Interschool Sports

Interschool sport commences tomorrow Friday 2nd September. Available draws and times will be published in the newsletter. Remember, students are to wear full school uniform, including a school hat and are to bring plenty of water. We look forward to a wonderful season, with students learning new skills and displaying good sportsmanship. Students participating in interschool sports are unable to order tuckshop for big lunch as the pizzas arrive after they have left. Please ensure your child brings their lunch on Fridays if they participate in Interschool Sports.

Interschool Sports Draw Friday 2 September

Please confirm with your child which team they are in:

Boys Oztag at Mallowa Drive Sports Complex, Palm Beach
4A v William Duncan on Field 11 @ 12.40pm
4B v William Duncan on Field 11 @ 1.35pm
5A v Elanora White on Field 8 @ 12.40pm
5B v Elanora White on Field 8 @ 1.35pm
6A v Caningeraba on Field 1 @ 12.40pm

T-Ball at Pizzey Park near the pool, Miami
A League v Caningeraba on Field 1 @ 12.45pm
B League v Caningeraba on Field 4 @ 12.45pm

Boys Basketball at Hillcrest Christian College, Reedy Creek
Snr A v Hillcrest on Court 1 @ 1.30pm
Snr B v Hillcrest on Court 2 @ 1.30pm
Jnr A v Hillcrest on Court 1 @ 12.40pm
Jnr B v Hillcrest on Court 2 @ 12.40pm

Girls Basketball at Merrimac State School
Snr B v Hillcrest on Court 1 @ 1.30pm
Girls Touch at Burleigh Soccer Club and Pizzey Rugby Union
Fields – enter via Soccer fields for both
Yr4 Team 1 v Worongary 1 on Field 2 @ 12.40pm
Yr4 Team 2 v William Duncan 1 on Field 3 @ 12.40pm
5A v Caningeraba on Field 6 @ 12.40pm
5B v BYE
6A v Burleigh Heads on Field 10 @ 12.40pm
6B v Caningeraba on Field 16 @ 12.40pm

Note: Fields 1 - 11 are at the soccer fields and fields 12-17 are at the Rugby Union fields.

P&C NEWS

Fathers’ Day Stall
The P&C committee is again holding a Father’s Day stall with some fantastic gifts for purchase. Tomorrow is the last chance to make a purchase.

This event is a school community service and gives children the opportunity to purchase something for dad that they choose themselves at a very reasonable cost.

All classes at school have been given a 15 minute timeframe to shop this week in the Old School Building. Cost for gifts is between $1 and $5.

BOOKSHOP and UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

During the school term the bookshop opens Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8am – 9am.

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Tuckshop Roster for week commencing 5 September:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Volunteers Thank you</th>
<th>Meal Deal Thursday 8 Sept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 5/9</td>
<td>Mayumi</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 6/9</td>
<td>Yoko, Mel</td>
<td>Ham &amp; Cheese Toastie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 7/9</td>
<td>Jodie F</td>
<td>Zooper Dooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 8/9</td>
<td>Maria S, Mayumi</td>
<td>Bottle Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 9/9</td>
<td>Marina, Siva</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*add extra 50c to upgrade to flavoured milk or quench

Many thanks to our volunteers this past week. Your assistance is invaluable! Our new look menu is being well-received. Many thanks to everyone for your continued support. Our delicious Island Way Sorbets are back in stock @ $2.50 each. Our new Chicken Chippie Wrap is a hit! Students enjoy adding Sweet Chilli sauce for an extra bite. See menu for more details. Please take a look at our Flexischools Online Ordering System as an alternative to paying with cash. It's so easy and free to register. Students with very late orders will be asked to purchase over-the-counter items at their lunchbreaks. Please remind students to place their orders in their classroom baskets as soon as they arrive to class each morning. Thanks and have a great week everyone.  

MUSIC NEWS

Choir rehearsals for Term Three:

- Senior Choir – Monday mornings 8.00am - 8.45pm (Mrs Powell)
- Senior Choir Altos – Tuesdays 8.15 – 8.45am (Mrs Powell)
- Senior Choir Sopranos – Wednesdays 8.15 - 8.45 (Mrs Powell)
- Junior Choir – Friday mornings 8.00am - 8.30am (Ms Sharpe)
- Senior Band – Tuesday 3.00pm - 4.00pm
- Junior Band – Wednesday 3.00pm - 4.00pm
- Senior Strings – Thursday 3.00pm - 3.45pm
- Intermediate Strings – Thursday 8.00am – 8.45am (Inst Room)
- Beginner Strings – Thursday 8.00am – 8.45am (Music Room)

FROM THE MASTER TEACHER

Guided Reading in Prep.

As part of our coaching model at Merrimac State school teachers are sometimes released from class to watch colleagues work. This is a wonderful way to strengthen and enhance our teachers capacity. Last week two of our prep teachers had the opportunity to watch experienced prep teacher Kylie Barrett run a wonderful guided reading lesson with her students. Next week prep teachers will be released to work with Vicki Lamburd to see how she effectively runs her literacy block every morning.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 5 to 9 Sept: Year 4 Bike Education
- 2 to 16 Sept: Life Education for P-6
- Wed 7 Sept: Last week for Breakfast/Fitness Club
- Wed 7 Sept: Parent/Teacher Interviews (majority)
- 12-16 Sept: Canberra Trip
- Mon 12 Sept: P&C Meeting
- Mon 12 Sept: MOSHC Meeting
- Mon 12 Sept: IEC Meeting
- Thu 15 Sept: Jump Rope for Heart (Jump Off Years 4 & 5)
- Fri 16 Sept: Last Day for Term Three
Robina State High School
ENROL IN 2017

A reminder for all incoming Year 7 students in 2017. Enrolment forms should be returned to our school office as soon as possible.

All enrolling students MUST fill out official enrolment documentation and attend an enrolment interview regardless of the primary school they have attended.

For more information or to be sent an enrolment pack please contact Mrs Judy Galbraith. jgalb2@eq.edu.au

www.robinashs.eq.edu.au

ROBINA STATE HIGH SCHOOL
1 Investigator Drive
ROBINA QLD 4216
(07) 5562 2444
info@robinashs.eq.edu.au