



# Merrimac State School Newsletter

## Term 4 Week 8 Thursday 25 November 2021 FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

It is hard to believe that we are only a few days away from finishing a very challenging year. There is still so much on our calendar though. Carols is a huge highlight and I am very much looking forward to this as a celebration of all things Merrimac.

We are waiting to hear if the **swimming carnival** can be rescheduled before the end of the term and will keep you posted about this.

The **Volunteers'** morning tea is an opportunity for us to thank you all very much for your efforts to keep us all going this year. The efforts of those involved in our first Colour Fun Run was massive and this event brought huge smiles to many faces. The wonderful volunteers who dressed up for gate greetings and assembly reminders kept the spark alive and kicking. I know many of you were back in classrooms helping with reading and home reading tasks. The volunteers in the tuckshop who fill our bellies daily and those whose voice is a part of the decision-making team that is the P&C – you are all so very valued. THANK YOU ♥

Thank you also to *My French Pastries* for your very generous donation to a very worthwhile cause.

Teachers have started the very important task of preparing for 2022. They have been released this week and will be released next week to work alongside their 2022 colleagues to get to know students and prepare the curriculum. They will work alongside the teachers who have been **transferred in** to Merrimac: Calum Smith, Lelle Wood and Vanessa Brookfield.

With transfers in, we sadly say a farewell to those of the Merrimac family **transferring out**. Kylie Barrett, Deb Haywood, Trudy Taylor and Tania Axelby. The schools to which these incredible teachers will be going are indeed very lucky. They bring a wealth of talent and dedication. While they will be incredibly missed here, they will definitely add value to their future communities. We wish them all the very best.

Each year the Department reminds us about our expectation related to the **receiving of gifts** at Christmas. While it is never an expectation, I know some families like to offer a gift to teachers as a thank you for the year. Please be mindful that EQ staff are not allowed to receive items that can be converted to cash (e.g. scratchies) and must declare any gift over the amount of \$150 (e.g. the whole class puts in for a class wide gift)

Next week we will trial our first **'STEP UP'** event. This will take place on Thursday 2 December. Students will be placed in groups (not necessarily their 2022 class group) and will

complete one hour of a transition program to the next year level. They will work with a couple of teachers and may complete two or three rotations. The teachers they will engage with will not necessarily be their 2022 class teacher. The event is planned to familiarise students with each other and some of the activities (e.g. camps Year 4 & 5) they may be involved with next year.

**Party days** are planned for Thursday of the last week. Students are invited to bring a share plate (covid friendly) to share with their class. If you are home baking, please also provide a list of ingredients so that allergy checks can be done.

**COVID preparations** are being refined again with the imminent opening of the borders. South East Region informed principals that lockdowns will now only occur to specific sites, not large areas or local area. We are planning our response and will communicate this in the last newsletter of the term.

**Shannon Lusk**  
Principal

## SCHOOL RESOURCE SCHEME 2022

Tomorrow students will bring home a form and letter containing important information about the 2022 Student Resource Scheme (SRS), including how the scheme operates and the annual participation fee. Please check your child's bag tomorrow for these important documents. The letter and form have been printed on green paper for easy identification.

## 2022 SCHOOL LEADERS

Many of our Year 5 students have recently been involved in the process of electing our 2022 leaders. Those who nominated for the school leader roles completed a detailed application process and the twenty shortlisted students wrote and delivered speeches for our senior students last week.

We are pleased to announce our newly elected leaders for 2022 are Len, Ezekiel, Ruby and Amelia. Congratulations to these students. We believe they will be amazing representatives of their peers. The process of electing our House, Languages and Music leaders is currently underway.



## STUDENT AWARDS

### **Congratulations to the following students of weeks 6 and 7:**

Xara A P1, Hamish H P1, Oliver S P1, Mia S P1, Cooper K P1M, Mia H P1M, Matthew M P1M, Kyran W P1M, Kayden S P2, Braxton D P2, Yilia H P2, Tyler H P2, Keara M P3, Eli B P3, Wolfe P P3, Pippa M P3, Emma C P4, Blain C P4, Holly H P4, Valentino T P4, Betty R 1A, Nathaniel L 1A, Masato O 1A, Ayla W 1A, Troy F 1B, Summer A 1B, Chuck W 1B, Ronin H 1B, Polly S 1C, Jackson D 1C, Eli M 1C, Harrison B 1C, Vincent M 1D, Emily W 1D, Allira A 1D, Jasmine D 1D, Zara-Rose F 2A, Corey L 2A, Sebastian A 2A, Imogen V 2A, Lincoln S 2B, Payton T 2B, Jax S 2B, Ivy T 2B, Ethan S 2C, Ali T 2C, Mila B 2C, Jax F 2C, Benjamin D 2D, Isaiah R 2D, Banjo R 2D, Ava T 2D, Julena E 2E, Nikolai L 2E, Harlow C 2E, Cruz R 2E, Miroslav Y 34M, Martina S 34M, Nate W 3A, Ruby D 3A, Dane D 3B, Grace F 3B, McKenna P 3C, Aria H 3C, Eleanor R 3D, Hannah H 3D, Joshua F 4A, Stevi S 4A, Aysha B 4B, Sonny K 4B, Aiden H 4C, Jai C 4C, Summer H 4D, Ellie G 4D, Billy B 5A, Alyssa J 5A, Sibillah K 5B, Lachlan S 5B, Ayden H 5C, Anshnoor B 5C, Aemaelena-Rose R 5D, Mia J 5D, Eva C 5E, Evie A 5E, Joshua S 6A, Annabelle K 6A, Pierce v 6B, Lyla G 6B, Steve D 6C, Callum P 6C, Jazlyn B 6D, Emily P 6D, Jasmine A 6E, Eason L 6E.

### **Congratulations to the following students of the month – November:**

William O P1, Zara D P1M, Cleo M P2, Coco S P3, Blain C P4, Mikayla M 1A, DiamondSweet L 1B, Kora M 1C, Ziggy P 1D, Miller G 2A, Zana-Rose S 2B, Indy E 2C, Bella T 2D, Holly B 2E, Lani P 34M, Cooper W 3A, Willow G 3B, Ayla D 3C, Khloe N 3D, Miina F 4A, Leo S 4B, Sophie N 4C, Tilly F 4D, Anja B 5A, Kyce P 5B, Tayla B 5C, Amy G 5E, Declan W 6A, April L 6B, Ewan B 6C, Sienna F 6D, Michael H 6E.

## CAROLS NEWS

10 days until Carols 2021. Hamper and raffle donations are nearly ready to go.

Thank you all for your donations so far and for making this coming Carols a wonderful success.

Have you donated an item for the hampers and/or an item for our Charity 'Hope in a Suitcase'?

Does anyone have a business that can donate to our raffle? If so, please contact Mrs Chipp in 3D or contact the office to send me a message.

Make sure Carols is marked on your calendar – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Gates open from 5pm for a 6pm start on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December. \$2/person or \$5 per family. Pre-purchase online through Munch Monitor or come to the Bookshop on Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays from 8am – 11.30am.

**Please note: Munch Monitor will close for pre-purchase on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December.**

**To collect your pre-purchased tickets:** When you arrive, walk through the gates and follow the amazing Christmas decorations created by all our Merrimac students. Once you arrive at the oval, find the **COLLECTION STATION**. If you have more than one child, please remember which child and class you purchased tickets through. Your tickets will be waiting for you in an envelope. Ticket envelopes will be sorted in classes (ie 1A, 3B, etc). Please line up at the correct table to ensure prompt service.

If you need to purchase more food, drinks or glow sticks throughout the night, just head to the **PAYMENT STATION** to pay and collect a ticket.

**Please note: There will be no pick up of pre-purchased tickets before the night. We are holding them all for safe keeping.**

There will be Anderson's ice cream, Dippin Dots ice-cream, sausage sizzle, drinks and of course Santa! We also have a Fairy Floss business coming. It will be \$2 or \$4 and this business accepts CASH. Please bring cash for this business on the night.

We have many prizes to be raffled off. See the end of this newsletter for what is waiting to win and a **SHOUT OUT** to businesses who have donated prizes for our community.

Come watch our Merrimac kids shine on stage and rap up an amazing school year of learning.

See you Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December rain, hail or shine.

Happy Holidays Everybody

Kimberley Chipp

2021 Carols Coordinator



## SCHOOL UNIFORMS

If you have spare uniforms at home we would appreciate them at the office for use as spares, thanks.

## MUSIC NEWS – END OF YEAR DETAILS

**Junior and Senior Choir** – final rehearsals will be in week 9 (next week) and the Choirs will sing at Carols on Monday 6 December.

All **band** rehearsals and lessons have finished for the year. If you have not yet returned your instrument please do so tomorrow.

### **Strings**

The Senior and Intermediate Strings have finished lessons and Orchestra for the year. Instruments are to be returned to the Music Block for Mrs Losada to catalogue.

Beginners will have before school Orchestra in Week 9 but no lessons during the day while recruiting is finalised. Beginner instruments will need to be returned after the Carols performances.

**Please return all Music shirts to the office tomorrow – music shirts are not required for Carols performances**

## P&C NEWS

Thank you to all the families that have brought in donations for our Christmas raffles (and for our chosen charity, "Hope in a suitcase"). Good luck to the winning class announced next week. Pizza Party coming your way! and for our chosen charity, "Hope In a suitcase." For those of you who would like to know more about this fantastic not for profit charity visit this link for a video introduction.  
<https://youtube/nEKpGtMY6dw>.

Thank you to all the families who took part in the Gingerbread house and Donut fundraiser. Every little bit helps (see below for collection details). The Family Portrait Day at Botanic Gardens was a huge success, and most families already have their photos back!

Next Sunday, photos will be at Pizze Park, Miami. Laura still has a couple of time slots available so get in quick if you are considering updating your family photo collections just before Christmas. These special photography sessions have been so popular that Laura has agreed to give us another date and location! This extra session will be Sunday 5th December under the Jetty, at the Spit, Main Beach, 8-11am only! \$50 secures your 20 minute session with the photographer, 5 digital images and help raise funds for the school! Book now through Facebook - Perfection Photography Queensland or email [perfectionphotography@outlook.com](mailto:perfectionphotography@outlook.com)

Tomorrow 26<sup>th</sup> November we will be selling Sugar Free-zies ICY STIX to raise money for our school!! Big lunch only, they will be \$1 each. Zero Sugar, no preservatives, no artificial colours or flavours! Very yummy!  
Order on Munch Monitor or in the Bookshop.

Your Gingerbread houses have arrived! You can collect from the bookshop during regular opening hours or on donut collection Day. Krispy Kreme donuts are arriving on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December! We will be set up in the area in front of the bookshop from 2-4pm for collection. We are expecting parents to collect. If you would like your child you collect them you will need to email the Fundraising Committee at [MerrimacSSFundraising@gmail.com](mailto:MerrimacSSFundraising@gmail.com).

Don't forget anyone who volunteered at any stage of the year, the school is hosting a Thank You morning tea, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 10am. Please come along as you are all valued and recognised. RSVP ASAP to the office.

The new sun safe hats are at the sample stage, so we look forward to hopefully having a final design at the beginning of the year. Each child will receive one free hat to help implement the new Merrimac SS sun safe policy (remember to label all of your child's clothing and hats). They will then be available in our Bookshop for purchase. As our year end approaches we want to wish you all the safest of holidays and a fabulous New Year. We could not have done what we achieved this year without the support of all the families and community members that took part. We wish everyone happy holidays! Next year, we look forward to welcoming all new families and community members' to our not for profit association.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Team P&C

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

This semester our Year 6 students read and analysed the novel 'Somewhere Around the Corner' by Jackie French.

Eason (6E) amazed his teacher and our leadership team with his analytical essay. His understanding of the plot, identification of the author's intent, command of writing conventions and use of vocabulary was outstanding. We had to reach for our dictionaries to look up some of the words Eason used to express his ideas. We have included an excerpt

at the end of the newsletter for you to enjoy. Congratulations Eason - incredible work!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
Wed 1 Dec	Prep Experience Morning Session 3
Thur 2 Dec	Peace of Christmas Show 2.00pm – 2.45pm
Mon 6 Dec	Carols by Candlelight
Wed 8 Dec	Graduation – ticketed event
Thu 9 Dec	Year 6 Wet n Wild
Fri 10 Dec	Last day of 2021 school year
Mon 24 Jan	First day of 2022 school year

## MERRIMAC YMCA OSHC

YMCA is the provider for Outside School Hours Care at Merrimac SS.

YMCA is a child safe organisation that prides itself on high quality relationships with the community, families and children. Permanent placements can be completed via my family lounge through the link:

<http://www.ymcachildcare.com.au/services/outside-school-hours-care.html>. For any enquiries please email us at amm@ymcabrisbane.org or call us on 0438 367 390.

**Please note: bookings are essential to ensure ratio numbers are adhered to.**



### Excerpt from Grace C from 3A Powerpoint 'Trapped in the Dark'

I sat in my room with Chelsea, wondering what we should do. Suddenly, I thought of an idea, I got off of my giant, pink beanbag and grabbed Chelsea's hand. We ran up the stairs thumping like giant grey Elephants. Eventually we got up into my cool attic and played a few fun games.



We were definitely trapped. Chelsea and I loudly yelled and screamed for help but my mum and dad didn't come to get us out. I was trembling with fear but I finally realised that they weren't there, heh... Both of us were terrified, fearful, and scared, I was worried if we won't ever get out!



### Excerpt from Eason L 6E Analysis of "Somewhere around the corner"

Somewhere around the Corner is a historical fiction genre novel which centres on Barbara, a 12 year old homeless foster girl, who lives on the street of Sydney in 1994. Her mother, a drug addict, is a terrible liar that Barbara never could've trusted or relied on. Barbara, who'd lost herself in a demonstration, meets an old man who advises her to go around the corner, leading her into the year 1932, a staggering point during The Great Depression. She finds herself lost in another demo, but this time no one came to give her advice. Just as she's about to be attacked, a teenage boy saves Barbara, thus giving her someone to rely on. The boy, who we find out is named Young Jim, needs to get to his parents in the Poverty Gully. Making their way to the gully, they find rows and rows of shacks until they find a particular shack that Young Jim calls home. Arriving at the shack, Barbara meets Jim's family, the O'Reilly family. They greet her with a warm welcome, which she didn't feel "very accustomed to. But, it was a nice feeling. A feeling Barbara hadn't felt in the present. Although she is living in a beat-down shack during The Great Depression, she feels a strong, omnipresent love coming from the O'Reilly family that her carers never gave her. Unfortunately, a flood enters the gully, flooding the area Barbara was at, forcing her to go around the corner. Now in 1994, Barbara is back to being along on the streets, but she hadn't given up yet. Barbara is determined to find Young Jim, and her hopes had to be fulfilled once she'd found out he was still alive. She gets the bus fare, arrives at the bus stop, gets picked up by a car, arrives at the hospital and she finally enters his room. He finds Jim, but she's realised something. Young Jim was the old man from the demonstration, and he'd specifically talked to Barbara

because he knew her. Jim is excited, seeing her for the first time in 62 years, and tells her all the specifics after she has supposedly died. Now at Jim's house, she goes to sleep and calls it a day. The next day, she goes to the hospital all dressed up and meets Helen, Jim's oldest daughter. She offers both Jim and Barbara to stay at her place, and both accepted. In conclusion, Jackie French has written one of the most pleasing historical novels I've ever read. French uses an outstanding set of a general and colloquial vocabulary, and really gives you a thorough, deepened understanding of characters, settings, events and actions. The conjunction of terrific, descriptive noun groups, distinct verb groups, unbelievable characters development and a surprisingly meaningful theme really makes her work deserve the prowess it's given. 'Somewhere around the Corner' is the name, and it's set in the year 1994. From the first few pages, you won't be able to tell what it's about at all, but once she is sent to 1932, the story takes a jumping turn. Even from only reading the first through chapters, you can tell her writing style is full of ticks and turns. This isn't my only reason to justify my love for her writing style, though, as Jackie French nail's figurative language onto the nailing board as well. Scenes like the hospital scene and Gully Jack's house give you a sense of every emotion, action, sound, sight, smell and taste, which is especially seen in the mutton sandwich scene. Honestly, a movie or animation of a high budget would deal all of us well. So, essentially, Jackie French is one of the greatest children book writers of all time, and really put her blood, sweat, and tears into 'Somewhere around the Corner'. The work it took to create such a surreal book, a book that could only be described and seen in my dreams. It takes nearly every amazing aspect of a book like the afore said noun groups, verb groups, character developments and themes, and then precisely builds a great story. So, in conclusion, do I recommend Jackie French's 'Somewhere around the corner'? Absolutely. Jackie's a miracle writer.



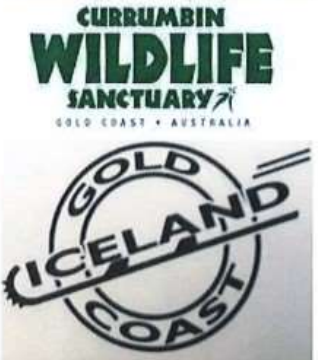
Instagram: @zestycreations Mobile: 0490 840 291



An enormous thanks to our local businesses for their generous donations towards our Carols by Candlelight 2021.



Thanks also to our own Miss Potter for her beautiful art work



Shout Out! Thank you to Gold Coast Events and Party Hire for donating our first ever Raffle Barrel for our Raffle tickets for Carols.



07 5594 7787 sales@gcpartyhire.com.au



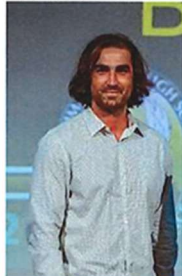
Have you bought your raffle tickets? We have many hampers plus 24 major prizes so far. **More coming.** 😊

- **The Village Roadshow Theme Parks *Four Park Annual Pass*** gives you unlimited access to Sea World, Wet'n'Wild, Warner Bros. Movie World and Paradise Country for 12 Months!
- **Bunnings Robina** – Jumbuck 4 Burner Hooded BBQ
- **George Williams Hotel and YMCA of Brisbane** – One night's accommodation for two in a Queen Terrace including hot breakfast for 2 and free wi fi
- **Currumbin Sanctuary - 2 x Admit One General Admission Entry Vouchers** (valued at \$49.95 each)
- **KDV Sport Experience** – Spend the day with your loved ones at the best family-friendly sports facility on the Gold Coast – KDV Sport! Unlimited family, Mini golf, gold course, Tennis Court and climbing Wall for one month. ♥
- \$250 gift certificate to **Nothing Else Platters**
- Blue Ray DVD Player
- Amcal hamper
- Scented Diffuser ♥
- **Combined donation: Amaria Press:** Too Tight for Tilly story book with a box of 4 cupcakes from **Zesty Creations.**
- Framed art x 2
- **Zesty Creations** Christmas Wonderland Cake
- Breaka Giveaway – Towel/Mini Speaker
- Frozen Treat Maker
- \$50 Voucher – **Woolworths Carrara**
- \$50 Voucher – **Coles Worongary**
- **Merrimac McDonalds** – 2 x \$30 vouchers plus freebies in the hampers.
- **Aquaduck** – Family Pass
- Sweet Celebration Hampers x 2 – **Gourmet Explorer Online Gift Hampers**
- National Tae Kwon-Do (Martial Arts) – vouchers in the hampers
- Auto Vaggio vouchers
- Iceland vouchers





### Hugo Brouste SCHOOL CHAPLAIN



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### Get Involved!

Our Brekky Club & Games at Merrimac SS could need couple more people 😊. It is a great opportunity to know some of our school staff and kids/teenagers!

If you are involved in a local church or community organisation, or just have a passion to help. I would love to discuss how we could connect and look to better support our Merrimac School communities. Thank You!

### What's been happening?

At Merrimac SS:

Already a year of being part of the school community. Time is flying! Well, I had the privilege to get to know and to build up trust with a number of our students through different activities such as cross-country day, the Chappy Hut open at break times, the drumbeat program, season for growth program and one on one session.

The drumbeat program has been really good to work as a group and to see how music can teach all of us about life skills, respect and good communication. Our groups have shown great improvement in the last few weeks and we are putting together a drumming show for the School Christmas Carols. It would be a great achievement and way to finish up the year.

My one on one time with children is a great time to support them with what ever they are facing, from friendship issues to behaviour management or building confidence, it's always awesome to be part of their learning journey about life and to witness the step forward that they are taking at times. What a beautiful reward!

I have really enjoyed this year at MSS. Thank you to the leadership team and teachers that have been amazing in their support and trust toward my role here at the school.

Merrimac SHS:

I feel really grateful to be part of those teenagers' journey as they are facing some significant life challenges like: dealing with stress, how to build healthy friendship, building self-confidence or how to manage our emotions well. It has been awesome to build solid relationship with some of

them and to see mutual trust and respect growing and bringing positive changes in their lives.

Thank you to the team here for supporting and encouraging what is happening through my role at MSHS. I had a great year so far!!!

### On-going event

At Merrimac SS:

Brekky Club & games on Wednesday from 8.00am (French Toast, Pancakes, Fruits and OJ)

At Merrimac SHS:

Morning fitness on Tuesday from 8:15am

Breakfast Club on Friday Morning From 8:15am (Toast, Pancakes, Milo, Fruits and Bars)

### Summer Camps

Summer is around the corner and kids are looking to have some fun. Couple of websites I would recommend to check out covering most of age group: <https://cycburleigh.com.au/> <https://sucamps.org.au/>

### Christmas Hampers

Few local Op Shops and churches are able to bless families with Hampers full of goodies for Christmas. Please let me know if you are interest in getting one of those via my email or phone call.

### Thank You!

Thank you to all our volunteers, parents, teachers, churches who help running our breakfast clubs. A massive thank you to Coles Mermaid water for supporting our Breakfast Club at MSHS and to Coles Worongary for supporting our Breakfast Club at MSS.

Thank you for your support, prayers & love towards me and the community.