

MERRIMAC STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

CRICOS Provider Code: 00608A



25 January 2024

FORTNIGHTLY NEWS

Term 1, Week 1

WHAT'S ON...

WEEK 1:

Friday 26th January

*Public Holiday (No School)

WEEK 2:

Monday 29th January

*Run/Walk Club/Oval/8am

Tuesday 30th January

*Deadly Choices
Program/ICT Lab/1.45pm

Wednesday 31st January

*Junior Assembly 2.20pm

WEEK 3:

Monday 5th February

*Run/Walk Club/Oval/8am

Tuesday 6th February

*P&C Meeting/Old School
Building/9.15am

*Deadly Choices
Program/ICT Lab/1.45pm

Wednesday 7th February

*Brekky Fit/PAC/8.00am
(Year 1-6)

*Intermediate
Strings/Music Room/8am-
8.40am

*Senior Assembly 2.20pm

Thursday 8th February

*Beginner
Strings/Hall/8am-8.40am
*Senior Strings/Music
Room 3pm-4pm

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Welcome back to 2024. What an incredible start to our year. I appreciate that the holidays may have been very challenging for some given the weather events that impacted our beautiful Gold Coast community. If you are still experiencing difficulties due to the impact of weather (or anything else) please reach out.

Welcome to our new families across the school and to our youngest students in Prep. All students have settled in well to the new year. Preps have had an additional support with their Merrimac Monkey. A hug a day certainly helps to settle first week jitters.



You may have noticed more renovation work being done adjacent to the Year 4 Block. This is the culmination of the P&C and school Colour Fun Run project. Magnes will complete this (hopefully – weather permitting) next week when they lay the artificial turf.

Mosquitos

Council spraying has occurred in our community however, we are still experiencing extreme levels here at school. Students may bring their own roll on (not aerosol) repellent to school for personal use. The link following is an opportunity to voice your concerns to Council.

<https://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/Services/Report-pay-apply/Report-a-problem/Report-a-problem-Public-health-safety?fbclid=IwAR2KICxiFIVFZLh4hmDE5szf-mBGccWk6ThvGFwY8mcposFpKZDUZkHRw4U>

Buses and Bus Bay parking

Thank you to Kerryn Walsh for her dedication is reaching an agreement with the Kinetic to alter our afternoon pick up time. The bus times have changed to reflect this (see below).

Parking for cars IS NOT permitted in the bus bay area and is fineable. The school's preferred car pick up is Kiss-and-Go.

Uniforms

At the P&C meetings at the end of last year, the decision was made to enforce our school's Uniform Policy and make the change to reflect just black school shoes. Transition to the black only shoe will be made this year. Previously acceptable white and blue shoes will be phased out over the course of this year. Please refer to uniform guidelines in below article for all expectations.

Lunch Breaks

Lunch breaks have been changed to reflect our new teacher model. 2 x 2-hour sessions with a 45minute session in the afternoon. First break is the longer break (11:00 – 11:40am). It will be referred to as 'Lunch and is our main eating and playing break. This means the tuckshop will serve the main lunch items at this time. The second break, 'Afternoon tea', will occur at 1:45 – 2:15pm.

Assemblies

Weeks 1 and 10 of each term will now be whole-school assemblies. Weeks 2/4/6 and 8 will be Junior assemblies and Weeks 3/5/7 and 9 will be Senior assemblies. Parents and caregivers are welcome to

attend all assemblies. They are all held in the PAC and will begin promptly at 2:20pm.

Shannon Lusk - Principal

We respectfully acknowledge, the Traditional Custodians the Kombumerri peoples and recognize their continuing connection to the land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.



FINANCE

We are currently collecting for:

Who	What	Cost	Pay by
Yrs 3-4	Learn to Swim	\$70.00	9 Feb
Yrs 5-6	Safe Surf Program	\$70.00	23 Feb
P-6	Classroom Resources (SRS)	\$60.00	28 Mar
Yrs3-6	Reading Eggs	\$14.00	28 Mar
Yrs3-6	Resilience Diary	\$20.00	28 Mar
Year 1	Religion Activity book*	\$5.60	28 Mar
Yrs2-6	Religion Activity books*	\$7.30	28 Mar

*Please note: Religion Activity books have been invoiced to students who are recorded as participating in Religion classes on Thursdays. If you wish to change your preference please email admin@merrimacss.eq.edu.au

Please note: Some phones are not compatible and will not process the BPoint method. If your phone is not compatible you will need to use a tablet or computer. Your bank may be able to assist with an app that might work for you.

Remember to keep track of closing dates for payments so your children don't miss out. Late payments may result in students missing out on events. When events are over unpaid invoices are cancelled and credit adjustment notifications are sent out. Do not pay on these adjustments they are merely a cancellation of an unpaid invoice. Education Queensland discourages schools from carrying credit balances on student accounts. Please only pay for items that have been invoiced.

ASSEMBLIES 2024

Whole school assemblies will occur in weeks 1 and 10, to start and finish each school term. The school will hold fortnightly assemblies for the Junior and Senior School separately. Details below:

- Junior School (Prep – Year 2), weeks 2/4/6/8
- Senior School (Year 3 – Year 6), weeks 3/5/7/9

All assemblies will be held in the PAC, on Wednesday at 2.20pm and will run for approximately 30 minutes.

Parents/Carers are welcome to attend.

KISS & GO

Kiss & Go is the preferred pick up and drop off method. It allows the carpark to run more smoothly.

SCHOOL BUS

Please be advised of this important notification in preparation for Term 1 2024. School Bus Pass Amnesty Period – Term 1 2024. From 22nd January 2024 to 1st March 2024 there will be an amnesty period for all students awaiting delivery of their School Bus Passes. This period is to allow for the printing and distribution of 2024 School Bus Passes. What does this mean? Students can travel to and from school without a 2024 School Bus Pass during this time. See below School Bus Timetable 2024:

Kinetic - Gold Coast
SCHOOL BUS SERVICE GUIDE
MERRIMAC STATE SCHOOL
admin@merrimacss.eq.edu.au

Effective: 22 January 2024

Route Number	MORNING SCHOOL BUS SERVICE	SCHOOL BELL: 8:55 BUS ARRIVES AT SCHOOL
3040	From Boonooroo Park and Nerang Broadbeach Rd	8:00
3005	From Elanora, Mudgeeraba, Highland Dr, Bourton Rd and Merridown Rd	8:28
3122	From Gooding Dr and Ghigai Rd	8:35

Route Number	AFTERNOON SCHOOL BUS SERVICE	SCHOOL BELL: 2:55 BUS DEPARTS FROM SCHOOL
3320	To Ghilgai Rd, Gooding Dr and Bourton Rd	3:02
3317	To Nerang Broadbeach Rd	3:07
3307	To Ghilgai Rd, Gooding Dr, Merridown Rd and Bourton Rd	3:10
3315	to Nerang broadbeach Rd, Hickeys Way, Mortensen, Interchange and Dugandan	03:17
3318	To Carrara and Highland Park	3:22

Also refer to the Translink Website Journey Planner for urban bus routes operating near the school



Change notification – Term 1, 2024

School bus ## 3005



What? School service 3005 timetable is changing for 2024.

Why? To improve on time running.

When? From Monday 22nd January 2024 onwards.

Details Departure & arrival times have changed to reflect more accurate departure times. Please review the below timetable to check your new departure time (additional stops can be viewed on [Translink's](#) route timetables).

A full copy of the updated run sheet can be found below.

Find out more The revised timetable will be available on [Translink's](#) Journey Planner from 29th December 2023.



3005

Currumbin Creek Rd near Bienvenue Dr	06:58
Galleon Way at Billabong Court	07:01
KP McGrath Dr near Murtha Dr Nineteenth	07:06
Ave near Chesnut St Townson Ave near	07:11
Nineteenth Ave	07:22
West Burleigh at Stanley St	07:31
Reedy Creek Rd at Ambassador Drive	07:42
Somerset College	07:54
Old Coach Rd at Mudgeeraba State School	08:02
All Saints Anglican School	08:12
Jondique Ave at Saint Michaels College	08:23
Merrimac State Primary School	08:28



Change notification – Term 1, 2024

School bus ## 3440 replaced by NEW 3318 _ Merrimac PS students



What? School service 3440 will no longer service Merrimac Primary.

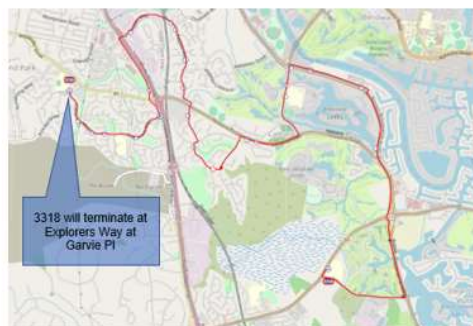
Why? To improve network efficiency & on time running.

When? From Monday 22nd January 2024 onwards.

Details Bus 3440 will be replaced by a new bus service 3318 which will follow the same route as 3440.

A full copy of the updated run sheet is on the back of this page.

Map



Find out more The revised timetable will be available on [Translink's](#) Journey Planner from 29th December 2023.



Change notification – Term 1, 2024

School bus ## 3440



What? School service 3440 timetable & route is changing.

Why? To improve network efficiency & on time running.

When? From Monday 22nd January 2024 onwards.

Details Bus 3440 will no longer service Merrimac State School. Affected Merrimac Primary students can now catch Bus 3318. Merrimac High is a new addition to this run. This route will now terminate at Explorers Way at Garvie PI 300874.

A full copy of the updated run sheet is on the back of this page.

Map



Find out more The revised timetable will be available on [Translink's](#) Journey Planner from 29th December 2023.



BREAK TIMES/ TUCKSHOP

Break times have changed slightly this year. First break will now be called 'lunch' this is when students at eating time will be encouraged to eat their main items, the Tuckshop will also serve main items at this time. The second break will now be called 'Afternoon Tea'.

- Lunch: 11.00am – 11.45am
- Afternoon Tea: 1.45pm – 2.15pm

Menu updates in the Tuckshop will be reflected in Munch Monitor in the coming week.

SOCIAL MEDIA

To keep up to date with all things Merrimac State School, please follow our social media platforms.

<https://www.facebook.com/MerrimacStateSchool>

<https://www.instagram.com/merrimacss/>

BREKKY FITNESS

Brekky Fitness is returning in Week 3 – Wednesday 7th February 2024. Brekky Fitness' is opening to Year 1-6 and will be held in the PAC – 8.00am – 8.45am, weekly. Thank you to Coles Worongary and our Volunteers for making this possible.

P&C NEWS

Welcome back!

We have so many exciting things happening around our school this year. Whether you're into Trivia Nights, Discos, or the mothers'/Fathers' Day stall - if you would like to volunteer any time, we have an activity to suit!

Please contact our Tuckshop and Uniform Shop Convenor if you have any questions.

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Please ensure your child's class has been updated on the Munch Monitor website.

Changes will be coming to the Tuckshop menu in the coming weeks.

UNIFORM SHOP

Please be advised the introductory price for our new shirts will end on 1st February. The price will increase to our new shirts will increase to \$34.

A reminder for orders - please remind your child that they need to collect pre-orders from the Tuckshop to reduce the risk of items going missing. We endeavour to contact the children's classroom but your child can collect orders from the Tuckshop from 8:30am Mon-Thurs.

Size 6s and 8s in the new uniform design are currently out of stock. We are waiting on delivery of the new shirts, and will update the community when they arrive.

UPCOMING P&C MEETING

Please join us Tuesday 6th Feb at 9:15am in the Old School building

Light refreshments provided.

Please follow us on social media for the most up to date information and parent information sharing:

- Merrimac State School P&C Association
- Merrimac State School Parents and Guardians

This is a closed group, privy to parents and guardians of current students only. Please be mindful to answer the questions to be approved, as we often get confused for the High School parents' page.

We hope your students are settling into their new classes and hope they have a wonderful 2024!

Kelly, Jess & Eliza
Your P&C Executive Team

THE Y MERRIMAC OSHC

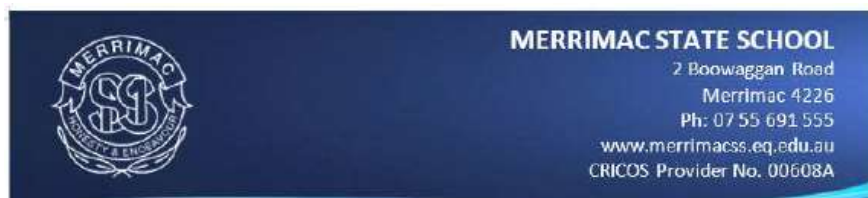
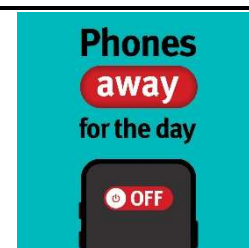
YMCA is the provider for Outside School Hours Care at Merrimac SS. YMCA is a child safe organisation that prides itself on high quality relationships with the community, families and children. Enrolment information can be found at: <http://www.ymcachildcare.com.au/services/outside-school-hours-care.html>. Enquiries to amm@ymcabrisbane.org or call us on 0438 3



Thomas, Katie & The Y Merrimac Team

PHONES AWAY FOR THE DAY – TERM 1 2024

'Phones away for the day' is a Department of Education initiative that will come into place for all QLD State Schools in Term 1 2024. Please read the Merrimac State School Phone/Wearable Devices Policy below – the only change to our current policy is that wearable devices that have cellular (phone calling abilities) will be treated like a mobile phone and will need to be handed into the office for the day.



Mobile Phone and Wearable Devices Policy 'Away for the Day'

Throughout Education Queensland schools, there are guidelines for the use of mobile phones at school. At Merrimac State School we have used these guidelines as the basis of this policy and have taken into consideration the age of children at Primary School.

MOBILE PHONE AND WEARABLE DEVICES POLICY

Our stance on the possession of mobile phones and wearable devices at school is underpinned by the following considerations:

- Mobile phones and wearable devices are very expensive and highly attractive devices and therefore at risk of being stolen or used inappropriately at school.
- Use of mobile phones and wearable devices by children can be disruptive to teaching, learning and school activities in and out of the classroom.
- Mobile phones and wearable devices use cellular data meaning that students can access the web without being monitored through the school filter network.

As a result, mobile phones and wearable devices are not allowed in classrooms or the playground.

However, our school accepts that student access to, and use of, mobile phones and wearable devices is increasing and that, on occasions mobiles may need to be brought to school. Therefore, outlined below is our expectations and procedures for mobile phones and wearable devices on the school grounds.

Procedures

The following procedures must be followed when bringing a mobile phone or wearable devices to school:

- 1) If families need their child to bring a mobile phone to school it must be turned off and signed into the school office at the beginning of the day, prior to the first bell
- 2) Phones will be stored safely, at the office in the Administration Building, for the duration of the school day
- 3) Students can collect their phone before they leave school, to return home
- 4) Wearable devices, such as smart watches, must be switched off so that phone calls, messages and other notification cannot be sent or received during school hours.
- 5) This procedure also applies to student attendance at school activities, such as representative school sport, eisteddfods excursions and camps.

- ✧ It is understood that parents may have a genuine need to make urgent contact with their children. For this reason, the office phone is attended during school hours. Phone messages for student will always be relayed to the relevant student, provided the school has been contacted before 2.30pm and in emergency situations where possible. Furthermore, office staff will contact parents when children are sick or injured or other urgent situations arise.
- ✧ In the event that students have a mobile phone in their possession, during class time or in the playground, they will be referred to the leadership team who will place the phone in security for the remainder of the day.

Normal school disciplinary consequences apply to breaches of these guidelines.

NO RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE TAKEN BY THE SCHOOL SHOULD LOSS, DAMAGE OR THEFT OF MOBILE PHONES AND WEARABLE DEVICES OCCUR.

Additional Details

- This policy also applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.
- It is recommended by the Department of Education that disciplinary action is to be taken against any student who photographs or films other individuals without their consent or who sends harassing or threatening messages.

Revised 14th November 2023



UNIFORM GUIDELINES

School Shirt, Shorts, Skorts or Pants



Note: Centenary Shirt is also accepted.

Black Running Shoes and White Socks



Note: Up to crew length socks ONLY.

School Jumper, Plain Blue Jumper or Jacket



Watch, Studs ONLY, Blue/Black or White Hair Ties, School Hat (reversible or plain logo) and Backpack



Note: Make-up/nail polish are not accepted.
Jewellery is not accepted - except for medical, cultural or religious purposes (must be approved through the office/leadership team).

Refund policy for change of mind returns:

Ensure items have tags attached, are unwashed and remain in the same condition as when they were purchased from the Uniform Shop.
Items are to be returned within 7 days of purchase.
Munch Monitor purchases will be refunded back to your account.
Eftpos transactions will be refunded via bank deposit.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Week	Date	Event
1	Monday, 22 January 2024	
	Tuesday, 23 January 2024	
	Wednesday, 24 January 2024	School Assembly/PAC/2.20pm
	Thursday, 25 January 2024	Newsletter Sent Out
	Friday, 26 January 2024	AUSTRALIA DAY HOLIDAY
2	Monday, 29 January 2024	Run Club/Oval/8.00am
	Tuesday, 30 January 2024	Deadly Choices Program/ICT Lab/1.45pm-2.55pm
	Wednesday 31, January 2024	Junior Assembly/PAC/2.20pm
	Thursday, 1 February 2024	
	Friday, 2 February 2024	
3	Monday, 5 February 2024	Run Club/Oval/8.00am
	Tuesday, 6 February 2024	P&C Meeting - Old School Building - 9.15am
		Deadly Choices Program/ICT Lab/1.45pm-2.55pm
		Senior Band/Music Room/3pm-4pm
	Wednesday, 7 February 2024	Intermediate Strings/Music Room/8am-8.40am
		Brekky Fit/PAC/8am-8.45am (Year 1-6)
		Senior Assembly/PAC/2.20pm
	Thursday, 8 February 2024	Beginner Strings/Hall/8am-8.40am
		Senior Strings/Music Room 3pm-4pm
		Newsletter Sent Out
4	Friday, 9 February 2024	
	Monday, 12 February 2024	Run Club/Oval/8.00am
	Tuesday, 13 February 2024	Deadly Choices Program/ICT Lab/1.45pm-2.55pm
		Senior Band/Music Room/3pm-4pm
	Wednesday, 14 February 2024	Intermediate Strings/Music Room/8am-8.40am
		Brekky Fit/PAC/8am-8.45am (Year 1-6)
		Junior Assembly/PAC/2.20pm
	Thursday, 15 February 2024	Beginner Strings/Hall/8am-8.40am
		Senior Strings/Music Room 3pm-4pm
5	Friday, 16 February 2024	
	Monday, 19 February 2024	Run Club/Oval/8.00am
	Tuesday, 20 February 2024	Deadly Choices Program/ICT Lab/1.45pm-2.55pm
		Senior Band/Music Room/3pm-4pm
	Wednesday, 21 February 2024	Intermediate Strings/Music Room/8am-8.40am
		Brekky Fit/PAC/8am-8.45am (Year 1-6)
		Senior Assembly/PAC/2.20pm
	Thursday, 22 February 2024	Beginner Strings/Hall/8am-8.40am
		Senior Strings/Music Room 3pm-4pm
		Newsletter Sent Out
6	Friday, 23 February 2024	
	Monday, 26 February 2024	Run Club/Oval/8.00am
	Tuesday, 27 February 2024	Deadly Choices Program/ICT Lab/1.45pm-2.55pm
		Senior Band/Music Room/3pm-4pm

	Wednesday, 28 February 2024	Intermediate Strings/Music Room/8am-8.40am
		Brekky Fit/PAC/8am-8.45am (Year 1-6)
		Junior Assembly/PAC/2.20pm
	Thursday, 29 February 2024	Beginner Strings/Hall/8am-8.40am
		Senior Strings/Music Room 3pm-4pm
7	Friday, 1 March 2024	
	Monday, 4 March 2024	Run Club/Oval/8.00am
	Tuesday, 5 March 2024	Deadly Choices Program/ICT Lab/1.45pm-2.55pm
		Senior Band/Music Room/3pm-4pm
	Wednesday, 6 March 2024	Intermediate Strings/Music Room/8am-8.40am
		Brekky Fit/PAC/8am-8.45am (Year 1-6)
		Senior Assembly/PAC/2.20pm
		Junior Band/Music Room/3pm-4pm
	Thursday, 7 March 2024	Beginner Strings/Hall/8am-8.40am
		Senior Strings/Music Room 3pm-4pm
		Newsletter Sent Out
8	Friday, 8 March 2024	
	Monday, 11 March 2024	Run Club/Oval/8.00am
	Tuesday, 12 March 2024	Deadly Choices Program/ICT Lab/1.45pm-2.55pm
		Senior Band/Music Room/3pm-4pm
	Wednesday, 13 March 2024	Intermediate Strings/Music Room/8am-8.40am
		Brekky Fit/PAC/8am-8.45am (Year 1-6)
		Junior Assembly/PAC/2.20pm
		Junior Band/Music Room/3pm-4pm
	Thursday, 14 March 2024	Beginner Strings/Hall/8am-8.40am
		Senior Strings/Music Room 3pm-4pm
9	Friday, 15 March 2024	
	Monday, 18 March 2024	Run Club/Oval/8.00am
	Tuesday, 19 March 2024	Deadly Choices Program/ICT Lab/1.45pm-2.55pm
		Senior Band/Music Room/3pm-4pm
	Wednesday, 20 March 2024	Intermediate Strings/Music Room/8am-8.40am
		Brekky Fit/PAC/8am-8.45am (Year 1-6)
		Senior Assembly/PAC/2.20pm
		Junior Band/Music Room/3pm-4pm
	Thursday, 21 March 2024	Beginner Strings/Hall/8am-8.40am
		Senior Strings/Music Room 3pm-4pm
10		Newsletter Sent Out
	Friday, 22 March 2024	
	Monday, 25 March 2024	Run Club/Oval/8.00am
	Tuesday, 26 March 2024	Deadly Choices Program/ICT Lab/1.45pm-2.55pm
		Senior Band/Music Room/3pm-4pm
	Wednesday, 27 March 2024	Intermediate Strings/Music Room/8am-8.40am
		Brekky Fit/PAC/8am-8.45am (Year 1-6)
		Whole School Assembly/PAC/2.20pm
		Junior Band/Music Room/3pm-4pm

Thursday, 28 March 2024	Beginner Strings/Hall/8am-8.40am
	Senior Strings/Music Room 3pm-4pm
Friday, 29 March 2024	GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FairPlay parent, carer or guardian

FairPlay provides vouchers valued up to \$150 for an eligible child to put towards sport and active recreation membership, registration or participation fees.

An eligible parent, carer or guardian must hold a valid **Services Australia Health Care Card** or **Pensioner Concession Card**.



www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/fairplay/apply



STEP 1 ELIGIBILITY

Check if your child is eligible for a FairPlay voucher and confirm you have a Services Australia Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card.

STEP 2 CONFIRM

Confirm the activity and organisation your child is interested in is registered as a FairPlay activity provider.

STEP 3 REGISTER

Register in the grant portal system, Enquire, and complete your user profile.

STEP 4 APPLY

When voucher applications are open, apply for FairPlay voucher/s online via the Enquire portal.

STEP 5 OUTCOME

Wait for the approved outcome of the application.

STEP 6 PRESENT

Present the FairPlay voucher/s at a registered activity provider.

For more information:

www.qld.gov.au/fairplayvouchers

fairplayvouchers@dtis.qld.gov.au

13 QGOV (137468)



**Queensland
Government**



School Student Broadband Initiative

An Australian Government initiative
powered by nbn

Are you eligible for free nbn broadband at home until December 2025?



Scan the QR for more information.

You might be eligible if you:

- have a school-aged child
- have no active nbn broadband connection or have not disconnected in the last 14 days. Having the internet on a mobile phone is ok
- live in a premises that is serviced by the nbn network

To check your eligibility, or to get help using your voucher:



Contact the National Referral Centre
1800 954 610 (Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm AEDT)



www.anglicarevic.org.au/student-internet



Callback, webchat, translating and
interpreting services are available.