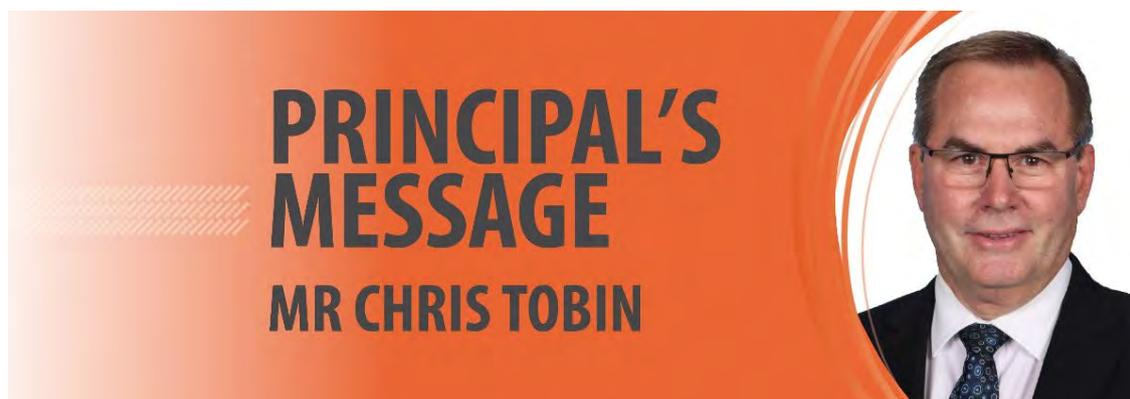


**Merrimac State High School | Edition 5 | Thursday 24 June**

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**NEWSLETTER | EDITION 5 | THURSDAY 24 JUNE**



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The end of Semester 1 is nearly upon us, it is amazing how quickly time goes. Any concerns our Year 7 students had regarding the commencement of high school are long forgotten. However, with the Year 12 Formal this Friday means the year is also rapidly drawing nearer to the end.

This past term, has been very rewarding for many students. We have seen large groups of students significantly improve their results. I know many parents would be very pleased with their teenager's achievements and effort. Please take time to celebrate their success.

Additionally, the school has had numerous other accomplishments to celebrate. A group of our Year 9 students won the 2021 Gold Coast Changemaker Challenge with their outstanding idea of non-verbally communicating their emotions.

Our Multicultural Night celebrated our school's diversity and performance ability. The show was sold out and outstanding.

We also used the service of Adair Donaldson to deliver a presentation to students in Year 9, 10, 11, 12, staff and parents on issues of Teenager Behaviour, Consent and The Law.

These sessions have been greatly appreciated by all who attended.

Our Technology program also was highly rewarded. Our students won the Newcastle University Engineering Challenge, The Australian VEX Competition and competed virtually in the Global VEX Challenge. Outstanding achievements by all these students.

We are also very proud that two of our science teachers, Sean Zhu and Peter Darcy who were nominated for the Prime Minister's Science Award. We all have much to be proud of.

Finally, I know both parents and students will be pleased to see work commencing on the installation of the school's air conditioning upgrade. Work will commence during this school vacation and will continue to the end of school year. We are looking forward to cooler classrooms this coming summer.

Enjoy the mid year vacation and I look forward to a successful Semester 2.

**Regards,  
Chris Tobin  
Principal**

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## FROM THE DEPUTY'S DESK

### SUSAN BELL

As Semester 1 2021 draws to a close, I would like to thank all our teaching and non-teaching staff for their hard work. It has been a very busy semester, crammed full of learning as well as extra-curricular activities. A majority of year levels have had a presentation from Adair Donaldson on informed consent and, our Year 10 students have been involved in the *Love Bites* program. In addition, students in our *Instrumental Music* program have been involved in a band tour with local primary schools. A very talented Robotics team from the STEAM Academy won this year's Science and Engineering Challenge which was sponsored by Griffith University.

The process of Semester 1 reporting has started and from now until the end of semester, teachers will be busy completing student reports. All Semester 1 reports for Years 7 through to Year 10 students, as well as Year 11, Unit 1 reports will be completed and emailed by Friday 25 June. The reports will also be available via Q Parents. During the semester break the online booking system for Parent Teacher Interviews will open for parents and caregivers to make a booking to speak to their student's teachers. The Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on Tuesday 20 July 2021 and will be conducted on-line. If you are having difficulty in making an on-line appointment, please ring our administration staff and they will assist you in making bookings.

The final weeks of Semester 1 will be devoted to the commencement of the new unit of work for those students in Years 7 to 10. Students in Years 11 and 12 will be continuing with their ongoing unit of work. It is worrying to see some families have decided to commence holidays prior to the commencement of scheduled school holidays as this means their child will miss valuable learning opportunities. Our teachers put considerable time and effort into planning lessons, with each student's individual learning needs catered for as part of that preparation. Parents and Guardians play a pivotal role in the learning partnership to ensure students are in attendance every day for every timetabled class. The reward is families are supporting their child to ensure they have the best learning opportunities.

Finally, enjoy a safe and relaxing school holiday time. The school will be closed from this Friday 25 June through to Sunday 11 July 2021. Semester 2 commences on Monday 12 July 2021 for all year levels. Please note Term 3 does not commence with a Student Free Day.

**Susan Bell**  
Deputy Principal

## HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### CHRIS EISENHUTH

Life within the HPE department is full of diversity, with students experiencing an extensive range of activities this semester. Year 7 students have just submitted their assessment creating a mental health promotion tool to help fight stigma surrounding mental health, while our Year 8 students have been studying a unit on the impact of alcohol use. Year 9 HPE students have explored a unit titled 'move it or lose it' where they have been the first cohort to use the new resistance training equipment purchased by HPE in the school gym, and our Year 10 students have been busy analysing and evaluating personal strategies relating to their basketball performance. Meanwhile, our Summit Sport students have welcomed supplementary curricular experiences this term including been coached by AFLQ Suns personnel, participating in an orienteering challenge day at Pizzey Park by Orienteering QLD, and testing their rock climbing skills at Burleigh Heads. It is heartening to see the number of students engaging in these various activities, building lifelong physical activity habits.



Furthermore a group of 40 Year 11 and 12 Aquatic Practice students recently travelled to Heron Island for our annual snorkelling camp, expertly lead by Mr McMahon and a small group of assisting staff. As always, the group marvelled at the diverse wildlife they are able to encounter on the island, including being up close and personal with a range of rays, turtles, sharks and other marine life. A highlight this year was being able to experience the 'Blood Moon' lunar eclipse and speaking to a film crew shooting a documentary for Netflix on epaulet sharks. Their images of the lunar eclipse were breath taking, and extra special for one of our students who celebrated their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday that night.

**Chris Eisenhuth**  
HOD HPE/Marine

# SOCIAL SCIENCE & ENTERPRISE

## KAY SIMPSON

What a wonderful year it has been so far for our Social Science faculty, we have been actively involved in a new and exciting initiative with Southern Cross University called; *The Young Change Agent Program*, where Entrepreneurial students pitched their ideas to a panel of judges. We were only one of four State schools on the Gold Coast involved in the program. Our student's hard work was rewarded with them winning the 2021 Gold Coast Changemaker Challenge.



Our staff have been busy organising some amazing guest speakers for their classes:



Year 11 and 12 Tourism classes have had a variety of guest speakers from the *Young Tourism Leaders Program*. We have had Mr Tyson Kelly who is the Senior Indigenous Officer at Dreamworld's Corroboree as well as Mr Thomas McIntyre, *Concierges Service Manager* from Pacific Fair speak with our students about their experiences and knowledge of the Tourism Industry.



Year 10 and 12 Legal Studies have had Sherice Kamp from *Camp International* speak with the students about The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in Kenya and Tanzania as part of their studies in Human Rights.

Year 7 Academic Summit students were provided useful information on online scamming from our guest speaker from the Office of Fair Trading, which will assist students to complete this term's unit of work and their *Buy Smart* Assessment.



The Social Science faculty organised the Anzac Day Commemorative Service which was held on Friday 23 April. Our school community and special guests had the opportunity to reflect on 106 years of the ANZAC spirit, acknowledging the service men and women who have protected and continue to protect our country.



Our motto for the faculty is “we set the foundations for your student’s future”. Our subjects actively teach student’s lifelong skills in the subject areas we offer. Subject selections for Year 9 and Year 10 students are coming up, I strongly encourage you to consider choosing our subjects to study. If you would like any additional information on our subjects, please see our friendly Social Science staff in N Block.

**Kay Simpson**  
**HOD Social Science & Enterprise**

## JUNIOR SECONDARY

### CHRIS WOOD

#### Junior Certificate of Education (JCE) – Merrimac SHS

##### What is a JCE?

The Junior Certificate of Education (JCE) is a school based junior schooling certificate awarded to eligible students at the end of Year 9 on completion of the junior phase of learning.

##### Purpose of JCE?

- To educate the junior students on what the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) is in the senior school and how the JCE follows similar processes and criteria for success
- To provide a high expectation for students achieving success in all their subjects
- To acknowledge students hard work, effort and achievement.

##### How the JCE works

To be awarded a JCE, students will need to achieve a significant amount of learning, at a set standard that includes achieving a “C” standard or higher, in a number of core and elective subjects across two semesters in Year 9.

To be awarded the Merrimac State High School Junior Certificate of Education (JCE) students at the completion of Year 9 must have met the following criteria:

- Students can only FAIL TWO SEMESTER SUBJECTS for all Year 9 studies.
- In Year 9, students must achieve a “C” standard or higher, in English and Mathematics for at least 1 Semester.
- Complete volunteering service hours as part of the “*Merrimac Mates*” Program.

A student’s JCE is monitored and updated as required through the year to monitor progress and recognise achievement.

Students will also be tracked, monitored and updated using the school's Track Ed program that will be managed by the HOD Junior Secondary.

**Chris Wood**  
HOD Junior Secondary

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## SCIENCE BEN CRAMP

With Semester 1 drawing to a close it is a great opportunity to reflect on the amazing things that have happened in the Junior Secondary Science space in 2021. We had 32 students from Year 9 and Year 10 STEAM Academy compete at the Griffith University *Science and Engineering* Challenge, this is the third time Merrimac SHS has competed at the event and our team managed to take home the trophy. This achievement is exceptional, considering 22 of the students are from Year 9 competing against schools comprised of all Year 10 students. Great work!

As part of Merrimac SHS association with Griffith University as a STEM Ambassador School, four students were invited to the Griffith University STEM Ambassador Conference held at Parliament House, Brisbane. The day consisted of students coming together to collaborate and develop STEM goals to implement in 2021 at their individual schools. It was a fantastic experience for our students to work with students from schools across South East Queensland. The day culminated in attending a Key Note event as part of *World Science Festival* at QPAC.

Early next term we look forward to welcoming our Primary feeder schools for the third edition of the Merrimac SHS – Primary STEAM Cup. Originally planned for Term One the event was rescheduled to Term Three where we will see schools from across our district competing for STEAM glory.

In week 10 this term Merrimac SHS is again working with Griffith University as a presenter for the *Cutting Edge for Kids* STEM Conference. This event sees over 600 primary school students from 32 primary schools participate. Merrimac SHS is presenting two workshops on the day; Robot Sumo and Laser light Puzzles. Events like this further strengthen the partnership with Griffith University as one of their STEM ambassador schools.

As Semester 1 curriculum is coming to an end, our students have been investigating the wonders of Physics and Chemistry; developing an understanding of chemical reactions, energy and its transformations and the physics of motion. Next semester they move onto the study of Living Things, Roller Coasters and Earth Science; plenty still to come in the second half of the year. Enjoy the break and see you all in Semester 2.

**Ben Cramp**  
HOD Science



## MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL



The Student Representative Council (SRC) were very proud and privileged to host the annual Multicultural Night on Thursday 17 June, showcasing the amazing talent and cultural diversity we have here at Merrimac SHS.

Students, families and community members were invited to the school to share in elements of their culture or ethnicity through storytelling, food, dance, arts and the many things that make cultures unique.

Due to COVID restrictions last year, the event was unable to come to fruition, so this year's goal was to make it bigger than ever.

The night was a huge success, with tickets selling out. Pre-show food and entertainment

was both engaging and enticing.

The night encompassed education, humour and a diverse range of school talent with the theme of the show being 'The Amazing Race', exhibiting over 20 student acts and including two very comical MCs.

The SRC would like to extend our sincerest appreciation and gratitude to everyone involved and make a special mention to the sponsors and school community for supporting us and making the night so spectacular.



**Geetika Sodhi**  
**Dean Year 8 and 11**  
**On behalf of the SRC**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SAVE THE DATE

### Winter Arts Festival

**Wednesday 21 July 2021**

See our Facebook Events page for more information

**MORE INFORMATION**

**Wednesday 21 July 2021\* 6.30pm - 8.00pm \* School Hall**

Dance, Drama, Music, Media and Art come together to showcase, celebrate and share our success with the community. The evening will include a gallery of work from Media and Art, performances from Dance, Drama and Music students, hands on experiences that include painting a large Art sign as well as a Photo scavenger hunt for the kids to name a few.

RSVP by Monday 12 July 2021  
 Joanna Filmer  
 jvfilo@eq.edu.au

Merrimac State High School  
 Queensland Australia

RSVP  
 Telephone 07 - 5393 8888

## NOTICES

## PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS

**Tuesday 20 July 2021**

Due to uncertainty around COVID-19 and the requirement to maintain social distancing, the parent-teacher interviews being held on Tuesday 20 July 2021 will take place via Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. Bookings open 4.00pm Friday 25 June to 12.00am Sunday 11 July 2021.

[Booking Instructions](#)

[Booking link](#)



### Notifying Student Absences

If you are using email to notify the school of your child's absence, please use

**absences@merrimacshs.eq.edu.au**

To make sure they are seen by the Student Services Officer ASAP

### Bus Change Term 3

From 12 July 2021

Time change on **Bus Run 3315** will now leave Merrimac at 3.17pm

Route change **Bus Run 3367**

**Please see our website for more information**

*Respect Responsibility Reliability*



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Forward



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