Welcome to the 2016 school year. We have had a great start to the year, welcoming our Year 7 students and families, inducting the many new enrolments and getting classes underway as soon as possible for all students. Students are now fully engaged in their learning programs. Next week we will send home with students a copy of their program and scheduled assessment for Semester 1. At the same time we will text all parents to notify you the course planner has been given. I am sure this will help to ensure important information is not lost in the bottom of the school bag.

Communication with parents is a very important issue for our school. We make use of text messaging and email but for this to be successful we do need accurate information from you. Please ensure your information is up to date.

We have also increased our use of Facebook and our website to provide regular and timely information to parents. Additionally, there are two smart phone apps available to parents to keep informed.

IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 February</td>
<td>Parents and Citizens Meeting, 7.00pm - 8.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 February</td>
<td>Senior School Swimming Carnival, 12.10pm - 3.10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 February</td>
<td>Junior School Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 February</td>
<td>Year 12 Induction Evening, 6.30pm - 8.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 February</td>
<td>District Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 February</td>
<td>Student ID Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 February</td>
<td>Merrimac by Moonlight, 6.30pm - 8.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 - 26 February</td>
<td>International Surf Camp</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
DEPUTY'S DESK

NEIL STEINHARDT

2016. What a year of promise it presents. I know many Year 11 students who are starting their senior courses of study are looking anxiously at their workload already. As well, to help them, our school offers tutorials in a broad range of authority subjects. The schedules for these will be out soon and also posted on our web site.

Students in other years have settled into their routines now quite nicely and are becoming familiar with the expectations of their subjects. Parents/Careers can be very helpful in encouraging home study and consistent revision of work done at school. Keeping up with the demands of assignments and planning these out is so important in getting everything done on time.

It has been also good to welcome many new students to our school and also many new international students, some of whom will be spending up to two years with us. So many new faces, new teachers, and new opportunities. 2016 will indeed be a year of great promise.

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KAREN FARROW

A very warm welcome to everyone and in particular to our new Year 7s and new staff. We have had a very smooth transition into the year and our appreciation goes to families and staff who have ensured all our students are prepared and supported as they settle into their new routine after the long summer break. During the week prior to students commencing, we conducted a successful Induction day for new staff and then all staff participated in 2 extended Student-Free Days to ensure classrooms, curriculum and planning were in place for the year ahead.

I am very much looking forward to working closely with Mr Kees Nyssen who is returning to Merrimac after working at the Numiiahal Environmental Centre for the past four years. Kees is the Dean for Years 9 and 12 and I will be the Deputy Principal for those two year levels. I wish everyone a successful and rewarding year ahead.

Nelson Mandela

“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world”

SUBJECT SELECTION

L to R: Casey King, Siam Finck and Jorjah Butler considering their subject options as they begin Year 11 in 2016.

SECONDARY

MERRIMAC STATE HIGH SCHOOL

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WELL DONE

Jae Kondo

Astrid Briggs

Jae Kondo has achieved in golf what often takes a lifetime for others, and, he is only just starting in Year 12 this year.

In his chosen sport of golf, Jae recently won the Southport Golf Club championships as well as winning their club match play event. His club’s junior pennant team recently won the Gold District Golf Association Junior Pennant for 2016. Jae is currently coached by David Merriman at Royal Pines.

Jae has been playing golf now for seven years and plays off a handicap of 1. He truly loves his golf and has a desire to go to the next level of either professional golf or to have a career in golf management or administration.

Jae will be working hard this year on his golf to break into school boys at both district and state levels. We wish him well.

Astrid Briggs has excelled in many areas since enrolling as a member of our Summit Academic Program. Aside from her academic achievements, throughout Years 8, 9 & 10, Astrid was recently named as band leader. This recognises her commitment to music as well as her love of the flute.

At Presentation Night last year, Astrid was acknowledged for her efforts in the Duke of Edinburgh program having gained both bronze and silver awards. More recently, Astrid gained a scholarship provided by RSL and Bond University for her Year 11 studies.

This year, she is looking forward to being a member of the World Challenge which will take her to Borneo and in the long term Astrid sees herself as going to ADFA, but she was quick to add that she would love to be in the navy. Perhaps her experience on the tallships last year rubbed off on her.

Astrid is a determined and dedicated student who will be working hard to achieve her goals. We wish her well.