Welcome back to Term 3; a very busy part of the school year with Year 12 students sitting the QCS test and Year 10 students selecting their senior subjects. It is also the term we undertake a detailed analysis of student performance and determine what action needs to be taken for all students to have a successful end of year outcome.

The Year 12 Semester One outcomes have generally been very pleasing with our academic students all achieving well and lifting their outcomes. Our VET students are well underway to completing their certificates. However, we have identified under performance by some students and in nearly all cases there is also a record of poor attendance. I need to stress with all parents that every day at school is important. Days away will generally lead to poorer performance outcomes. The day off every now and then all adds up and will decrease student outcomes.

David Maccoll
Coach

Merrimac State High School girls’ rugby league side has only 52 days to go before they depart on their tour to Paris, London, Leeds and Northumberland playing against local schools and club sides. The touring party has been finalised with 31 students, 3 staff, 3 trainers, 1 nurse, and 1 sports trainer. The girls have been training hard with many of them being selected in representative sides.

These girls are the first participants to be involved in the first ever rugby league program offered as a subject in the history of Queensland and Australian education. During the first 6 months the girls have gained their level one referees badge with all of them officiating at local junior and senior games. They have also acquired their level one coaching certificates. This semester they will be concentrating on preparing themselves for the upcoming tour.

The girls were invited to attend the Queensland women’s training camp as they prepare to take NSW on this Saturday in Sydney. The women will be striving for their 16th consecutive series against the blues which is a record to be proud of. The Australian captain spoke to the girls about how lucky they were to have such a unique program and to embrace it with pride, as the rugby league fraternity are looking upon you as the forerunners of schoolgirl rugby league.

David Maccoll
Coach

IMPORTANT DATES:

YEAR 12 TOURISM EXCURSION TO MOVIEWORLD
8 AUGUST

P2 DEPUTY’S DESK
P3 JUNIOR SECONDARY
P4 SENIOR SECONDARY
PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Unfortunately, we are seeing an increasing number of students holiday outside of school holidays and students wanting to leave early on sports afternoons and taking days off on a regular basis. This is a major concern for the school and for your son/daughter’s outcomes.

Parents are asked to remember that, “Every Day Counts”.

Also this term we will be undertaking a Council of International Schools (CIS) Review to undertake our CIS Accreditation. I am looking forward to providing you with the outcomes of our review.

Chris Tobin
Principal

DEPUTY’S DESK
KAREN FARROW

Is Creativity the key to future success? Edward de Bono states that “Creativity gives the possibility of some sort of achievement to everyone. Creativity makes life more fun and more interesting”. Schools no longer focus on just the 3 R’s. We must prepare our students for future success. To find fulfilment and be successful, contributing members of society students need to be adaptable, life-long learners. Education must encourage students to be curious and enquire of their world and to be creative as they learn, utilise and express their new skills and knowledge. The rate of change in our world is so rapid, that mastery of content alone is no longer enough. Students need to be able to hypothesize, and think laterally and creatively to successfully meet future challenges.

In creative classrooms questions must be valued as much as answers, and teachers and students must be encouraged to make mistakes and be innovative.

Good schools identify and nurture creative potential in their students and Merrimac State High School’s Summit Programs, Critical Thinking classes and extension subjects do just that! In our classrooms students and teachers are challenged, encouraged to creatively generate new ideas, challenge existing concepts and transform existing practice. This creativity is expressed and shared in many different ways – in Science and technology projects, in Art and Music, through writing and creating poetry, in team sports and in solving Mathematical problems. Some researchers write of creativity becoming ‘contagious’. Students and staff sharing creative outcomes can actually unleash new creative processes in others. In today’s worlds of Business and Education; Imagination, Creativity and Innovation are valued as much as Reading, Writing and Arithmetic.

Karen Farrow
Deputy Principal

Duke of Edinburgh’s Gold Award Presentation

Recently there was a presentation of Gold Awards to participants within the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award who have completed the Gold Level. One of the young people was Erin Thomas who was at Merrimac State High School completing Year 12 in 2012. She was presented with her Award by Hon John—Paul Langbroek MP Queensland Minister for Education, Training and Employment.

While Erin was at school she was also a member of the Leo Club and won the District Leo of the Year competition. Erin is currently studying at Bond University and has almost completed her degree.

Steve Strong
Duke’s Award and Leo Club Coordinator
Child Wellbeing Project

Three classes in year 8 have been invited to take part in The Australian Child Wellbeing Project.

The project is to provide a national picture of student wellbeing, and approximately 460 schools nationwide have agreed to complete this survey. This is a study developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) in conjunction with Flinders University and the University of NSW and has been approved by Education Queensland.

Students will complete a classroom activity and then complete a confidential online survey which will take between 20 to 30 mins. Participation in the project is voluntary and participants may withdraw at any time. An information sheet and consent form for parents and students will be sent home shortly and further information can be found at www.australianchildwellbeing.com.au

If you have any questions please see Elaine Sears - Guidance Officer

What a busy start to the year!

Our junior programs have morphed into quality rigorous enjoyable and practical realistic pieces of work that we are proud of. I feel that the students are seeing the benefits of this as engagement levels rise and behaviour issues fall. This is a common feeling amongst the Technology staff and is plain to see when I am in and around workshops and kitchens. Our planning for Year 7 next year is progressing very well. Incoming students can look forward to some very positive high quality engaging units of work from aeronautics to plastics, Food Design Technology to Food and Fibre production.

Aaron McMahon
HOD Technology/Home Economics

For Years 8, 9 & 10 only please call 1300 300 850 for your free dental check-up.
POETS AND MATHEMATICIANS

Getting the heavens into the heads of our Summit students is paying great dividends. Whilst other schools strongly promote, the success of our students stands alone. The culmination of our Summit programme is that the Year 10s, known as 10MAZ, begin Year 11 Mathematics B whilst in Year 10. This gives these students a great head start in the Senior Phase of their education. It is also very pleasing that a number of these students are at the top of Year 11 Mathematics B. A fantastic achievement. The Summit programme in our Junior Secondary School is the foundation of the success we are seeing in our senior programmes. If your child is in one of these classes you should be extremely proud of their achievement!

- G.K. CHESTERTON

Paul Gray
HOD Mathematics

THE KOKOKOA CHALLENGE

Of our amazing senior students, Remy Hein, Hamish Morton and Conor Flood have taken part in the 96km Kokoda Challenge, an event that treks through the Gold Coast hinterland in honour of those who served on the real Kokoda trail during World War II. The event is hailed as Australia’s toughest team endurance event and shares the same values as inscribed on the war memorial on the Kokoda trail. The values of courage, endurance, mateship and sacrifice are all qualities that these fine young men have in spades. I couldn’t be more proud of the boys and the way they have committed themselves to their training and supported each other along the way. The commitment is huge, sacrificing 14 weekends and training during the holidays, with one particular training session lasting over 10 and a half hours covering 46.2km (this was two hours quicker than previous years I have trained with school groups). They have held fundraising BBQs, as well as have hiked night and day, sunshine and rain; the boys have seen sunrises and sunsets, blisters and sickness and have proven that they were ready for the challenge.

Daniel Ricardo
Year 12 students now have the 2014 QTAC guide

Over the next few weeks students will be presented with the information about; how to apply for tertiary places using QTAC, prerequisites for courses, making preferences, accepting offers, key dates, portfolios. All this information can be found online [www.qtac.edu.au](http://www.qtac.edu.au) and in the students guide.

Applications open on the 5 August 2014 and close 30 September 2014.

Please be available to talk through your child’s application with them.

There are many scholarships available for tertiary education, please see page 51 of the QTAC guide.

Kate Careless and Elaine Sears
Guidance Officers

Volunteers are now being sought to participate in the annual Gold Coast Schoolies Community Safety Response as Schoolies Support Team members.

You can give as little as 10 hours (training plus one rostered shift) to help Year 12 School leavers celebrate their achievements this year.

Visit the website for more information: [www.schooliesvolunteer.com.au](http://www.schooliesvolunteer.com.au)

Congratulations

Congratulations to our Indigenous school based traineeship with Village Roadshow Theme Parks and those students who participated in placement in Term 2. Feedback from your employers has been great. Keep up the good work.

Defence Force Career Options

If your student is interested in career options with the defence force please visit [www.defencejobs.gov.au](http://www.defencejobs.gov.au) or contact DEFENCE FORCE RECRUITING; Coolangatta Corporate Centre Cnr Griffith & Warner Streets Tel: (07) 5569 3906.

2015 TAFE Queensland Gold Coast Direct Entry Program

The application form for direct entry into Diploma courses with TAFE Gold Coast commencing Semester 1 in 2015 was sent to all Year 12 student school email accounts 15 July 2014. You may also visit the web link [http://tafegoldcoast.edu.au/study-with-us/school-students/direct-entry/](http://tafegoldcoast.edu.au/study-with-us/school-students/direct-entry/)

Year 12 students who have completed school based traineeships, work experience and/or other extra-curricular programs are encouraged to apply.

Final application documents need to be given to Mrs Careless, Guidance Officer, by Monday 8 September 2014.

Rachel Skrabanich
Industry Liaison Officer

**MERRIMAC CLASS OF 2004 REUNION**

**DATE**
Saturday 13 September 2014

**WHERE**
Envy Hotel in Broadbeach
(next to Platinum Nightclub)

**TIME**
7.30pm

**COST**
$30 per person (partners are welcome)

**RSVP & PAYMENT**
by Monday 1st September 2014

For further details please contact Tessa Taylor-Fox on email tinkles_13@hotmail.com

**CONTACT US**

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Dunlop Court, Mermaid Waters 4218
Q SUPERCENTRE, P O Box 5610, Qld 4218
P 07 5595 8666 | F 07 5595 8600
office@merrimacshs.eq.edu.au
CRICOS Code 00608A

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