IMPORTANT DATES:

YEAR 10 INTO YEAR 11
SUBJECT SELECTION INFORMATION EVENING
18 AUGUST 6.30 PM – 7.30 PM

11 – 16 Aug  Heron Island Trip
11 – 12 Aug  Oceanic Athletics Carnival
12 Aug  Winter Instrumental Music Concert 6.00 pm – 7.15 pm
15 Aug  Year 12 Movieworld Excursion
15 Aug  Year 12 Griffith Business Excursion
15 Aug  Dance Troupe Eisteddfod Gold Coast Arts Centre 5.30 pm – 9.15 pm
18 Aug  Year 10 into Year 11 Subject Selection Information Evening 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm
19 – 21 Aug  Year 10 into Year 11 Subject Selection Interviews
19 Aug  Year 6 into Year 7 Enrolment Information Evening 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm
19 Aug  Year 7 into Year 8 Enrolment Information Evening 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm
20 Aug  Year 11 and Year 12 Percussion Eisteddfod Gold Coast Arts Centre

Merrimac State High School students, proudly dressed in their sporting house colours, descended upon the school oval ready to battle it out in the 35th Annual Interhouse Athletics Carnival. Hurdles, which is increasingly becoming student’s favourite event of the day, commenced the programme on this gloriously sunny winter’s day.

A tight contest was fought between Albert, Stephens and White house for the prestigious Champion House trophy and in the end Stephens took home the prize thanks in large to a dominant female display throughout the day. For students in Barrow house perhaps an injection of athletic blood from 2015 Year 7 and 8 students will be the catalyst for improved success in the coming years.

As per last year, a number of this year’s age champions were separated by less than a solitary win and it was great to see some students who have previously come in second stand atop the podium and claim their age champion trophy. Congratulations to all age champions who will comprise the majority force of our school team to compete at the upcoming Oceanic District Athletics Championships at Griffith University.

13 years girls – Tahlia Ralph
13 years boys – Kye Sullivan
14 years girls – Gabrielle Oseman
14 years boys – Gabriel Legaspi
15 years girls – Cebile Mpofu
15 years boys – Cooper Shipley
16 years girls – Emily Podmore
16 years boys – Jade Tabet
Open girls – Amber Pilley
Open boys – Hamish Morton

Chris Eisenhuth
Sports Coordinator

DEAR PARENTS

One of the most significant challenges for any school is the need to achieve ongoing improvement. The three major areas for school improvement are student outcomes, quality teaching and quality environment.

Eight years ago we partnered with the Council of International Schools (CIS) to implement a framework of continued improvement. CIS is a worldwide organisation that accredits schools as achieving a high standard of education practices.

Next week we will be welcoming Ray Davis, CIS Associate Director School Support & Evaluation Services, Australia and Richmond Patterson, Assistant to the Principal, Xavier College, Victoria, to our school for a three day review.

In preparation for our five year review, staff have been recording our progress and challenges over the last five years. These considerations have been defined into a report for the review team, which will be validated during their visit.

MORE ON PAGE TWO
DEPUTY’S DESK
SUSAN BELL

Term 3 2014 is shaping up to be another memorable term. In Week 1, we had our second round of parent-teacher interviews for 2014. The new Year 7 building was used as the venue for the interviews and I think many parents were very impressed by the building and what it promises to deliver for our first cohort of Year 7 students in 2015. Mr Steinhardt and student leaders put on a delicious sausage sizzle to chase away the cold as parents waited for their interviews to commence. Feedback suggested that the interviews were very productive as parents, along with their students came away with strategies to improve learning outcomes for Semester 2 and beyond.

The Athletics Carnival was another fantastic event early this term. The students’ enthusiasm and energy that went into making the day a very enjoyable one was to be commended. Student attendance was high and it is going to be very hard in future years to outdo the Year 12 students’ enthusiasm and gusto as they whipped up their house teams’ spirit. The willingness of students to ‘give events a go’ and get involved meant that the day ran smoothly and was full of laughs and memorable incidents.

On Monday 18 August, commencing at 6:30pm, the subject information evening for Year 10 into Year 11 for 2015 is being held in the Hall. This evening is designed to assist parents with information about the different pathways on offer in the senior school so that parents and caregivers can support their students transitioning from Year 10 into Year 11. This is an extremely important juncture and our evening is designed to help parents successfully navigate this transition time with the most up-to-date information about Overall Positions, Selection Rank and Vocational pathways. This evening is followed up with a meeting with parents, student and a member of the leadership team so that each student can enter Year 11 with an individualised learning pathway that best suits their identified long term goals, as outlined in their SET (senior educational and training) plan.

Finally, may I put in a timely reminder for those parents who have a student entering Year 7 or Year 8 in 2015, information sessions are being held on Tuesday 19 August in the library. The Year 6 into Year 7 talk will commence at 5:30pm, whilst the Year 7 into Year 8 will commence at 6:30pm. In both sessions the Principal, Mr Tobin will address the school’s new boundary management plan and the impact it may have on new enrolments for 2015 and beyond, along with other important topics such as the school’s values, the Merrimac community, the national curriculum, anti-bullying measures, mentoring and orientation. He will also be discussing the “Bring Your Own Device” program as it is expected that all students from Year 7 to Year 12 will have laptops as integral parts of their ‘learning tools’. I look forward to meeting you on these evenings.

Susan Bell
Deputy Principal

LOVE BITES

The Love Bites program has recently been run with all the Year 10’s being offered one full day each. Well done students for demonstrating improved understanding of the complex issues around Sexual Assaults & violence in relationships within your own age group as these sessions can be confronting & challenging. The Hip Hop tracks produced and the art works are absolutely amazing. All students were offered a Youth Help card and can also download the free Smart phone app which provides up to date info re support, health, and youth friendly services in our local area, along with free music.

The importance of looking after your friends was one of the major topics discussed as research indicates that bystanders can have a profound effect on the behaviour of others thus protecting those who are vulnerable. We would like to thank the facilitators who came from a range of local services including Police, Palm Beach Neighbourhood Centre and Centre Care, to provide these sessions.
Positive Behaviour Management

Well done to all the students collecting their Bronze and Silver Dollars for excellent behaviour and attitudes in the class and around the school grounds! Merrimac teachers and administration take great pleasure in rewarding those students who choose to uphold the school values of Respect, Responsibility and Reliability.

This fortnight, special mentions go to Astrid Briggs and Abigail Robinson who have been awarded a Silver Award for outstanding community service to the school and fellow students.

The Phoenix class who are leading with the highest tally of bronze dollars at the moment is 9E. As soon as the weather warms up they will be enjoying a pool party / BBQ for their fantastic efforts.

Andrew McMahon
HOD Positive Behaviour

ORAL HEALTH

Students in Years (8, 9E, 9F, 9G, 9H) have been provided with an offer of oral health care examination card to take home.

If your child is enrolled in one of the grades listed above or are new to the school and did not receive an examination card and would like to arrange for your child to receive oral health care please contact the Oral Health Call Centre 1300 300 850. Monday to Friday 8.00 am – 4.30 pm Excluding Public Holidays.

If your child requires disability access please identify this requirement with the Call Centre Operator.

Summit Performing Arts off to USA!!!!!

Our Summit Performing Arts’ students have just been given an exciting opportunity to travel to the USA in the July holidays of 2015. They start by travelling to LA where they will participate in a number of workshops with Disney Performing Arts, Edge Performing Arts and Stella Adler dance studios. They will perform at Disneyland, Universal Film Studios and Hollywood Boulevard. Our students will also have lots of fun at Disneyland, Universal Studios and a tour around LA. These lucky students then travel to New York where they participate in a class at Broadway Dance Centre. They enjoy a sightseeing tour of New York, have a behind the scenes tour of Wicked and Radio City Music Hall followed by a carriage ride around Central Park. New York is filled with musical performances so we will be seeing two musicals while we are there. Of course, there will be time to shop and do some sightseeing.

Just a reminder to parents of our Summit students that our next meeting will be on Tuesday 12 August in Q1 at Merrimac State High School at 7.00 pm when the tour liaison officer will be there to answer any questions and fill you in with more details. Deposits will need to be paid that night. Any further enquiries, please contact Lynn Dyer 5595 8693.

Lynn Dyer
HOD The Arts
Congratulations to Lachlan Briggs, Kieran Lim and Lilly Chapman for completing a challenging and very rewarding weekend of training for their World Challenge Trip in December this year. The students were required to hike into a campsite in a mountainous area of State Forest on the Sunshine Coast with approximately 20kg of group and personal equipment in their pack. They gained experience in team work, camp craft, leadership and a vast amount of knowledge of what to expect when they fly into Cambodia and Laos at the end of this year. Well done!

Andrew McMahon
HOD Positive Behaviour

Recently, a number of our high flying business students attended the Griffith University Ambassador Day. Students had the opportunity to sit in on an Academic Presentation, by Dr Robin Robers, on International Business Opportunity Analysis. A very enlightening lecture as students were presented with the “Journey of the Avocado”, and global markets. After morning tea, all attendees worked in small groups and presented to an audience of 200, a daunting task for many. The group work allowed students to meet and network with other schools. An objective of Ambassador Day is for students to meet other like-minded students to widen their contacts as they lead further into university life. The next Ambassador Day will be in September, and look at Events Management.

Earlier this year five Year 12 students signed up to be involved in the Griffith Business Program. These students attended 3 workshops over the year and will graduate from the program this week. As a result of this commitment, Griffith University will offer them a placement in one of their Business courses in 2015. Congratulations Liam Smith, Alejandra Cardona, Ad Masters, Zoe Shipley, and Natasha West.

Program eligibility for 2015
Students are eligible to apply for participation in the Griffith BUSINESS Year 12 Program if they are:

- Studying a relevant Business or History subject including Accounting, Business Management, Economics, Senior SOSE, Modern History or Legal Studies.
- About to enter Year 12.
- A high achieving student (that is achieving at a VHA or HA level in at least one subject listed above).
- Achieving a Sound Achievement (SA) in English, English Extension, or English for ESL Learners (not English Communication or Functional English).

Supported by the school principal or business teacher.

Lisa Cowderoy
HOD Business Education & IT
What to do in Term 3 and beyond?

Many senior students are planning subject selection and career pathways. The program ‘Career Builder’ is located on all student laptops. Please access this program; complete the relevant questionnaire; read, save and print your Report. When your student makes an appointment with Mrs Careless or Mrs Sears regarding careers, subject selection or SET plans; they need to bring this Report from Career Builder to their individual Guidance Officer appointment.

2014 Gold Coast Science & Tech Fair

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/

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.


Careers Bullseye Charts Link www.education.gov.au/career-bullseye-posters
Rachel Skrabanich Industry Liaison Officer

AUGUST IS DENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Dental Health Month aims to raise public awareness as around ¼ of Australians have untreated dental decay and only 39% of Australian adults visit the dentist for a yearly check-up. As most dental diseases are completely preventable, we need to focus on early intervention and prevention to keep enjoying good oral health.

Let’s keep our teeth for life, and help our children do the same!
Read more at www.dentalhealthweek.com.au

MERRIMAC STATE HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 1994, 20 YEAR REUNION

Saturday 1 November 7.00 pm
Jupiters Hotel and Casino “Poker Room”
$79 per head including 3 hours of beer, wine, food and entertainment

Email - amandabozina@iinet.net.au for information on payment

Gold Coast Child and Adolescent Oral Health Service. In the case of a dental emergency, telephone the Oral Health Client Service Centre
1300 300 850
Monday to Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm Excluding Public Holidays.
Gold Coast Ed LinQ
in conjunction with
Merrimac State School
is hosting FREE
Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

FOR PARENTS AND CARERS OF MERRIMAC STATE
PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID (YMHFA)
The Youth MHFA is a 14 hour course which teaches adults how to assist adolescents who are developing a mental health problem or in a mental health crisis.

Developing mental health problems covered include:
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Eating Disorders
- Psychosis
- Substance Misuse

Mental health crises covered include:
- Suicidal thoughts and behaviours
- Non-suicidal self-injury
- Panic attacks
- Traumatic events
- Severe psychotic states
- Acute effects from alcohol /drugs
- Aggressive behaviours

Participants will learn about adolescent development, the signs and symptoms of these mental health problems, where and how to get help and what sort of help has been shown by research to be effective.

Participants will also receive a copy of the YMHFA manual and a certificate upon completion.

Session 1: Monday, 4th August 9am—12.15pm
Session 2: Monday, 11th August 9am—12.15pm
Session 3: Monday, 18th August 9am—12.15pm
Session 4: Monday, 25th August 9am—12.15pm

N.B: Participants must attend ALL sessions to complete the course and obtain a certificate

For the purpose of this training, adolescence is regarded as between 12—18 years of age

To book a place, please contact
Pam Day
District Ed LinQ Co-ordinator
Gold Coast Child and Youth Mental Health Service
07 5537 0622
Closing date: 25th July

Only 16 places available

For Further Information, check out www.mhfa.com.au