DEPUTY'S DESK

This week saw our Overall Position (OP) students sit the Queensland Core Skills Test (QCsT). While being a high stake test, our seniors were calm and keen to get the test underway. While the test is a culmination of their school experience, it is also the application of 12 months practice with the QCs style of test. This year’s cohort of students have been extremely dedicated to the task and we are expecting great outcomes. A number of other students have elected not to sit the QCs test but will gain entry to university with their selection ranks. These students are now focussing on achieving the very best results they can. Again, these students are dedicated to the task and we are anticipating more great outcomes.

Next week this school is participating in a Teaching and Learning Audit. A team of three state schooling auditors will visit the school to review our planning and classroom practices. We are keen to show the auditors our school and highlight the great opportunities we provide for all our students. Their recommendations will assist us to improve even further.

FINALISTS IN THE

2014 SE Qld Region SAT Awards

This annual event recognises the outstanding achievements of individuals and organisations in the vocational education and training sector who strive for excellence, best practice and innovation. The awards showcase the significant contribution made by South East Region’s vocational education and training sector to the wider community and economy. Twelve industry award categories and four major awards recognise secondary school students’ outstanding performance and participation as school-based trainees or apprentices. These categories are contested by SATs from state secondary schools across our South East Region. The Quality Pathways Project Team - Department of Education, Training and Employment, received over 120 applications this year. We are pleased to announce that Alejandra Cardona Quirama (Retail SAT) and Alex Kuhnemann (Building and Construction SAT) were successful in their award applications and interviews; thereafter being invited as finalists to the Award Ceremony 12 September 2014 at Dreamworld. They will be accompanied to this event by our Principal, Year 12 Deputy Principal, HOD Senior Schooling and their parents. Our school community wishes both Year 12 students every success for this event.

ALEX KUHNEMANN

ALEJANDRA CARDONA QUIRAMA

IMPORTANT DATES:

SEPTEMBER

YEAR 11 EXAMS

9 – 12 SEPTEMBER

9 – 12 September Year 11 Exams
9 – 10 September South Coast Athletics Championships
14 September – 1 October UK Girls Rugby League Tour
16 September Currimbin Swell Art Excursion
18 September Year 10 Excursion to Albert Waterways Library
18 September International Students Excursion to Q1
19 September Last Day Term 3
7 October Term 4 Starts
PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Congratulations to Amber Pilley who recently returned from the Youth Olympics with a Gold Medal for the Rugby 7s. This is an outstanding achievement for Amber; we hope to see her at the Junior Olympics and Commonwealth Games.

Chris Tobin
Principal

DEPUTY’S DESK
KAREN FARROW

As Term 3 races towards the September holidays, I would like to share some of my memorable student moments from 2014, and from this Term in particular. These moments acknowledge and celebrate wonderful student achievements. I would also like to congratulate the Year 12 student leaders on being excellent role models for the younger students and for the positive difference they have been making in the life at the school in 2014. This photographic collage captures the prize winning Spaghetti Bridge builders of Year 10 Academic Summit, our Kokoda Challenge Team, Student Council creating amazing cupcakes and financing the new Phoenix Reading Lounge, the Prefect Group launching our new e-library Borrow Box, Summit students assisting with the Early Flyers dance class, the Year 12 Hospitality students hosting a morning tea for Cancer Research, Year 12s problem solving on camp, Summit students listening to our Writers in Schools visitor and our 3rd prize winning Eisteddfod Concert Band members. Congratulations! Year 12s, whilst you are currently busy with exams and the Qld Core Skills Test this week, think about setting a personal leadership goal and legacy for Term 4 – what difference can you make before you graduate and leave Merrimac State High School?

Karen Farrow
Deputy Principal

Congratulations to Amber Pilley who recently returned from the Youth Olympics with a Gold Medal for the Rugby 7s. This is an outstanding achievement for Amber; we hope to see her at the Junior Olympics and Commonwealth Games.

Chris Tobin
Principal
Students in grades (8, 9 & 10) have been provided with an offer of oral health care examination card, to take home.

If any students are interested in cycling, they may be interested in a partnership that the Bicycle Network and Coca-Cola have put together called the Happiness Cycle.

It's part of a campaign to get more teenagers riding bikes. It's free, for 13 – 17 year olds and you get to build and keep a bike. There is an Application you can download and to register simply go online at the Happiness Cycle https://happinesscycle.com.au. The Gold Coast event details are: Gold Coast Cycle Fest Thursday 16 October 2014 at Carrara Indoor Stadium 9am – 4pm.
Trendy Business

This Term Year 12 catering studied current and up-and-coming trends in the Hospitality industry. We discussed and researched local, popular places such as Miami Marketta, food trucks including Sigueños, Paddock Bakery and BSKT. The students then had to select a trend that interested them and write a business plan based on that trend. There were some fantastic business plans that were created including dessert cafes, raw/organic produce outlets and boutique coffee roasting houses. It looks like we have some real entrepreneurs on our hands!

Aaron McMahon  
HOD Technology/Home Economics

SCIENCE @ Merrimac State High School

National Science Week is always a busy and enjoyable time for us in the Science Faculty.

The week began with the annual Gold Coast Science and Technology Fair, which was held at the Broadwater Parklands. This event provides students with the opportunity to meet with science academics and industry professionals, as well as compete against teams from other schools in engineering and mathematics challenges.

I am pleased to share the news that the student teams from Merrimac won both the engineering Spaghetti Bridge challenge and the ‘Letters and Numbers’ challenge.

Congratulations to all the students who participated in these teams and to Daniel Ricardo, whose hard work with his students was reflected in these outstanding results.

Merrimac State High School was well-represented at the Griffith University Science Week Trivia Night with a number of teams in both the Middle and Senior/Staff divisions. All teams performed well, with particular mention to Year 8 boys Byron Hillard, Joseph Horsfield and Joey Banney, who placed fourth out of 50 teams from schools across the Gold Coast.

We finished the week by celebrating Jeremy Newton-John's achievements at the Gold Coast Secondary Teachers' Ball. Jeremy was nominated Merrimac's 2014 Teacher of the Year as a result of his hard work and dedication, which has made a positive difference to many of the students he has taught during his time at the school. I offer my congratulations to him on his nomination – he truly deserves this recognition.

Anjuli M Dillon  
HOD Science
GIRLS RUGBY LEAGUE

Merrimac State High School Girls Rugby League Team continued their winning streak to 4 years, where they have conquered all teams in their path. Last Thursday the girls took on Brisbane powerhouse champions Wavell High school who were undefeated. That was until they came up against the state Champions Merrimac State High school girls who pride themselves in representing their school.

The team was superbly led by team captain Tarni Lyons who has been an integral member of this team for the past four years. She led from the front and inspired her much younger team members to play above their weight.

The game was played at Wavell High school in front of a huge parochial crowd. This did not deter our girls who stuck to their game plan and came away with a very convincing 32-4 win. I cannot single out one particular player as it was the whole team effort that contributed to a highly spectacular game which left the Wavell players and spectators in awe of our fitness and skill level.

The girls only have two weeks to go before they depart for France, England and Scotland on this historic tour to play Rugby League against local schools and representative sides. This will be the first tour of its kind to be undertaken by a school in the history of Australian Education. We at Merrimac State High School have been given this privilege, and I am sure the girls will perform to the best of their ability whilst wearing the colours of this great school. Win, lose or draw the girls and staff will come back with memories to cherish for life.

News flash the Merrimac State High School Girls’ u/14 Rugby League team competed in the Brisbane Broncos Schoolgirl Challenge last Friday and came away being named champions of the carnival after going through all matches undefeated. They beat the very strong Wavell High School in the Grand Final 28-4. Jasmine Hocking, Ellie Davidson, Sagine Ryan and Brylee Paulo were devastating in defence, with Summer Paulo, Dekota Thompson, Amy Van Meygaarden, Jasmine Hocking, Abbie Wells and Chloe Williams brilliant in attack. Well done girls, the Rugby League Program is improving your skills and behaviour on and off the field.

David MacColl
Coach
Nerang Swimming Club

Open Day

Wednesday 3 September 3.30pm-5.30pm and
Saturday 6 September 10am-12pm and
Sunday 28 September 12pm-2pm
(Swimmers With Disabilities)

Nerang Aquatic Centre
31 Cotton Street, Nerang

Nerang Swimming Club is looking for both recreational and competitive swimmers to join their club.

We are a local club that competes at local, regional, state and national levels.

Come along for a free swimming assessment, sausage sizzle and to learn more about the club.

All ages and abilities welcome.

See you on pool deck!

nerangswimmingclub@hotmail.com
www.nerang.swimming.org.au

The Queensland Government provided funding to Nerang Swimming Club to assist in building memberships to increase Queenslanders participation in sport and recreation activities.