WINNER

Construction & Retail Categories - 2014 SE Qld Region SAT Awards

Friday 12 September 2014 marked the third annual South East Region School-based Apprenticeship and Traineeship (SAT) Awards ceremony. This evening event, held at Dreamworld, recognised secondary school students’ outstanding performance in their participation as school-based trainees or apprentices. Several categories are contested by school-based apprentices and trainees from state secondary schools across South East Region.

Merrimac State High School had two finalists attend this year’s event –

Alex Kuhnemann Year 12 – Building and Construction Category
Alejandra Cardona Quirama Year 12 – Retail Category

Congratulations to both students, their families and their employers for this excellent result. Well done to Alejandra and Alex for this achievement during their employment and training contracts over the course of their senior studies at Merrimac State High School. We wish them every success for the remainder of their Year 12 studies in 2014 and their individual career pathway plans post-graduation.

Rachel Skrabanich
Industry Liaison Officer

IMPORTANT DATES:

MULTICULTURAL NIGHT
7 PM – 10.00 PM
16 OCTOBER

OCTOBER

7 October Term 4 Starts
8 October Numinbah Excursion for International Students
15 October Walking Tour of Brisbane for International Students
16 October Multicultural Night 7 pm – 10.00 pm
20 October Student Free Day
PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Hanson, Harshdeep Chawla as the ‘House of Tomorrow’ team and Robbie Eldridge-Moir, Tyrel Del Rosario and Leigham Moyses as the ‘Go Green’ team. The ‘House of Tomorrow’ team constructed a model house using a 3D printer. The house involved a great deal of technology including computerised lighting, air conditioning and security alarm systems. The team were awarded 3rd place in the competition. The ‘Go Green’ team developed a water tank level reader that sparked a great deal of interest from the Gold Coast City Councillors.

Currently, our junior and senior Girls’ Rugby League teams are touring the United Kingdom and France to play Rugby League against local schools and representative sides. The students will be away for 3 weeks and we look forward to hearing of their successes. Updates will be posted on our Merrimac State High School Facebook page.

Friday 19 September will see our Term 3 reports emailed and posted home to parents.

Please take this opportunity to discuss your student’s progress and identify ways for improvement.

I wish all students and their families a safe and relaxing holiday.

Chris Tobin
Principal

DEPUTY’S DESK

SUSAN BELL

It has been a very busy Term this Term particularly with the Course of Study information evenings and the completion of subject preference forms for 2015. All Year 10 students, along with their parents have had an interview with Heads of Department or an administration team member to discuss subject preferences for 2015. Students in Years 9 will have the opportunity in Term 4 to go online to make their subject preferences for year 10 in 2015. Year 8 students will also have the opportunity to select elective subjects early in Term 4 in the areas of The Arts and Technology. If students from Year 10 have not submitted their upgrade forms or their finance forms, can I ask that they see a Deputy principal as quickly as possible so that the next step in organising the 2015 school year can be undertaken.

Term 3 reports will be both mailed and emailed home on the last day of this Term. This report will focus on students’ achievements, as well as behaviour and effort in class. If parents or carers have any concerns or queries after receiving the Term 3 report, please contact the relevant staff member for further discussion or clarification. The teachers would be only too happy to meet or speak with parents and carers to look at ways to improve and enhance learning outcomes.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our Girls’ Rugby League teams all the best on their international matches in France and England. Mr Maccoll, Mrs Farrow and Mrs Flynn along with the junior and senior girls’ teams are hoping to be successful in their matches against both French and English league teams. They left Australia on Sunday 14 September and will return 1 October 2014.

May I draw your attention to some important dates coming up early in Term 4. Our Multicultural Evening will be held on Thursday 16 October commencing 5.30 pm for multicultural food and 7.00 pm for entertainment. This celebration of Merrimac students’ diverse cultural heritages will take place in the school hall and is one definitely not to be missed. Another very special event is our Presentation night which will be held at our school hall on 29 October 2014. This is a wonderful opportunity to join with staff and members of our local community to celebrate the outstanding academic, cultural, sporting and citizenship performances achieved by our students in 2014.

Finally, may I put in a reminder that the next student free day will be on Monday 20 October, 2014. During this day our staff will be meeting other teaching staff on the Gold Coast to moderate our year 12’s work.

I wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday.

Regards,

Susan Bell
Deputy Principal

GREAT RESULTS at the Gold Coast Eisteddfod!

Merrimac State High School’s Instrumental Music students and our Dance Troupe made us very proud at the Gold Coast Eisteddfod. They not only gave exemplary performances but conducted themselves in an impressive manner. The Dance section was huge with schools competing from as far away as Cairns. All sections had a mix of Private and Public schools.

Results were as follows:

**Dance Troupe – Very Highly Commended**

**Stage Band – 3rd**

**Concert Band – 3rd**

**Strings – 2nd**

A big thank you goes to the teachers who worked tirelessly with our students. Thank you Amy Luke and Kristie Pugliese for your assistance with the Dance Troupe and to our Instrumental Music teachers, Craig Mitchell, Deb Body and Helen Hurst.

Lynn Dyer
HOD The Arts
Assessment and Treatment of Fears and Phobia of Dogs in Teenagers

Is your teenager fearful of dogs? At Griffith University we are conducting an exciting study that includes a thorough assessment and a single session of treatment for teenagers (13 to 18 years of age) with dog phobia. We are providing this service at no cost to families.

To find out more about this project, please contact Dr Ella Oar and Dr Lara Farrell on (07) 5678 8317 or email e.oar@griffith.edu.au

Junior Secondary NEWS

The Junior Secondary School has had a focus in Term 3 on being safe while using digital technology. Detective Senior Constable Craig Andrews from the Child Protection and Investigation Unit came and presented to the Year 8 and 9 students on an assembly. He spoke and engaged the students on the laws and legislations regarding sending inappropriate photos and methods to avoid such incidents. Students also received information cards with a QR code so they can access more information.

At the moment, the Year 8 students are involved in applying for Junior Secondary Leadership positions for 2015. These include Junior Captains, Year Leaders, House Captains and Community Ambassador Positions. The process includes a written application that is endorsed by a teacher, interview and a speech to the Junior Secondary School on why they would make a great leader at Merrimac State High School. Applications are due in to administration on Friday 19 September. The successful applicants will be announced on Awards Night in November.

Year 9 NAPLAN results have been sent with the Term 3 report cards. There have been some outstanding results this year and the progress that has been made by students compared with their Year 7 results have been enormous. Congratulations to all students who participated and the effort that was displayed over the 3 days of testing. Well done.

Chris Wood
HOD Junior Secondary

Business Education News

The three Year 9 Business Technology classes took on a business venture as part of their Money Management, unit of work, in Term 3. Under the careful supervision of their teachers Mrs McConnell, Mrs Briffa and Ms Akers, students organised and operated a small business to run in line with Father's Day. They selected, prepared the packaging and marketed Father's Day chocolates. The chocolate bags ranged in price from $2.00 to $4.00 a bag.

Students sold their chocolates via direct sales, stalls and word of mouth. All three Year 9 business groups made a small profit which in turn goes towards running other business ventures. Whilst we are sure the Dads appreciated their chocolates the students certainly enjoyed the experience of setting up and taking on the responsibility of operating a small business. Congratulations to all students involved and thank you to everyone who supported this venture.

Lisa Cowdero
HOD Business Education/I.T.
We are very proud to announce that three of our students will be displaying their Art works at the Energies Exhibition. Our budding artists are Year 11 students, Martina Clarke and Megan Ruf, and Year 12 student, Anna Chan. Energies is about displaying works of excellence from Gold Coast schools. These Art works will be on display at Gallery Two at the Gold Coast Gallery from the 20 September to 19 October. Opening night is on Friday 19 September from 6 pm. Congratulations girls!

Lynn Dyer
HOD The Arts

Year 10 Drama students have been enjoying studying Commedia Dell’Arte, an improvisational form of theatre that first became popular around the 16th Century in Italy. The masks represent stock characters that our students have learnt to perform by applying characterisation suitable for each mask. This talented group of students embraced this unit of work and gave very entertaining performances.

Lynn Dyer
HOD The Arts
Live and study overseas

Put yourself in the picture!

Join a 2, 2.5, 3, 5, or 10-month exchange program to a country of your choice in 2015

SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE

information sessions

Tuesday 7-9pm 14 October 2014
Tuesday 7-9pm 11 November 2014

MELBOURNE
Conochie Hall
2 Rochester Rd
Canterbury

SYDNEY
Lane Cove Library
Library Place
Lane Cove
Parking station below in Austin St

BRISBANE
Brisbane Girls Grammar
70 Gregory Terrace
Brisbane
BGG 3rd Floor Creative Learning Centre

ADELAIDE
Marion Cultural Centre
287 Diagonal Rd
Oaklands Park

1800 500 501 scceaust@scce.com.au www.scce.com.au
Apply online NOW for Christmas Casual Employment

Information has been sent to the student email accounts for Years 10-12 regarding these recruitment opportunities.

Please click on the following links to apply:

**Dick Smith**

**Kmart**
Application to be printed and completed http://www.kmart.com.au/wcsstore/Kmart/pdfs/KmartJobApplicationForm.pdf

**Sportsgirl**

**Sussan**

**Super Retail Group**
(incl. Amart All Sports, Rebel Sports, BCF, Super Cheap Auto)

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Become a Volunteer Host Family

Gain A Friend From Another Country!

World Education Program (WEP) is inviting Australian families to experience another culture within their own homes by becoming volunteer host families. Choose a student from Italy, Belgium, France, Switzerland, The Netherlands or South America and get a glimpse into the life of another culture without having to leave the comfort of your home! Imagine the look on your new brother’s or sister’s face as you introduce him/her to Vegemite for the first time. Our exchange students are just as excited about sharing their own culture and life experiences as they are about becoming a member of an Australian family.

Getting to know your student before he or she arrives brings fun and joy to everyone involved. Take the next step and contact WEP today to receive a full information pack for your family, including student profiles.

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Free Dental Care

Available to students in Years 8, 9 & 10 via Queensland Health, Gold Coast Hospital & Health Service, and Child & Adolescent Oral Health Service.

Students in Years 8, 9 & 10 have been provided with an offer of oral (dental) health care. Even if you have not received an information pack you can still arrange for your child to receive oral (dental) care by contacting the Dental Health Call Centre on 1300 300 850, Monday to Friday 8.00 – 4.30 pm excluding Public Holidays.

For Year 10 students this is the last year you are eligible for this service & dental care later can be very expensive so it is wise to take advantage of the free service whilst it is still available to you.

Services include general oral health care & some limited specialist services including Dental examination, X-Rays, Preventative oral healthcare & advice, Fillings, Extractions.

Make sure you & your children have ‘Healthy Teeth for Life.’ Oral health can affect both physical & emotional well-being as it can impact upon appearance, interpersonal relations, diet, nutrition & speech and is a contributing factor to a number of secondary conditions.

Nurse Jackie 0432 00 5265 jatki89@eq.edu.au

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CONTACT US

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