England Rugby Tour

The Girls' Rugby League team swept through England like a tornado, thrilling the crowds and producing the best football skills the opposition coaches have ever witnessed. Their journey started at Oxford where we played the previously undefeated local Rugby Union side, Gosford All Blacks, in the junior and senior divisions. Both divisions blitzed them with the junior score being 54-0 and the senior score being 58-0.

Next stop was Leeds, the heart and soul of Girls' Rugby League in the UK. The juniors were the first to take the field against a much harder opposition, Birstall High School. The Bush Telegraph had spread very quickly in England regarding the girls' performance at Oxford. The locals came in droves to support their team. The British girls' came out firing trying to unsettle our girls but our juniors won 24-0. The senior girls were ready for the opposition and were relentless in defence and attack also running out winners 52-0.

Next stop, Astley High school, who would be our hosts for 6 days. The girls attended the school and participated in a variety of lessons telling the locals about life in Australia. This made our task harder as we had to play them the next day with the juniors winning 32-0 and the seniors 38-0.

We went away on this historic tour with eyes wide open, looking for adventure and freedom. Little did I realise the pure determination these girls had on maintaining their unbeaten record.

David Maccoll
Coach

IMPORTANT DATES:

6.30PM – 10.00PM PRESENTATION NIGHT
29 OCTOBER

OCTOBER

20 October  Student Free Day
24 October  Year 10 and 11 Excursion to Junior GCCC
28 October  6.30pm – 9.30pm Sports Awards
29 October  6.30pm – 10.00pm Presentation Night
30 October  SMG Titans U/16 Nines Competition

DEAR PARENTS

Over the last few months we have been informing parents wishing to enrol at Merrimac State High School that the school will soon have an Enrolment Boundary put in place. The school Enrolment Management Plan came into force over the school holidays. Consequently, any future enrolments will need to prove residency within the boundary or apply for an exemption for out of boundary enrolment. The Enrolment Management Plan provides the school with the mechanism to ensure we can always enrol our nearest students while ensuring we do not outgrow the school’s capacity. By the nature of our boundary we will still be able to take many students living outside the boundary, but we may not be able to take all students. The full details of our Enrolment Management Plan is now available on the school's website.

In a recent newsletter I wrote about the Teaching and Learning Audit conducted by the Department of Education. The results of the audit are very pleasing with the school achieving outstanding or high in all areas of the audit. My congratulations to the staff for years of perseverance and
PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Last week on assembly I recall looking over at our current Year 12 students sitting on the stands. It seems, to me that it was only yesterday that they were sitting in the front as Year 8 students. All the memories.... However, in the next few weeks they will go through the last throes of their high school education.

At Merrimac State High School the last Term really begins with Multi-Cultural night, held last night, and then we move on to Presentation Night, Sport Awards Night, and exams and on to graduation and the Year 12 formal. It all seems to go so quickly. It will be exciting too as for the first time since I have been at Merrimac State High School, we will be holding our Presentation Night in our own school hall. I hope everybody has the opportunity to get the most out of these events.

I would also like to pass on a big thank you to Mr David Hoskins who has been working in our school as Deputy Principal. During my recent illness, he did a lot of work on the Year 10-11 subject selections for 2015 and has been busy on several other projects, some of which will assist with the opening of our next school year. Thank you David.

As we move towards the end of Term it is timely to remind people of some basic principles of road safety. Recently, we have received reports of students crossing very busy roads without using traffic light controlled pedestrian crossings. This is simple laziness and foolishness and naturally is against the law. Please, to all concerned, let common sense prevail and use those pedestrian crossings.

Despite the recent dry weather, it was great to return to school to see our ovals much greener than what they would normally be at this time. The spear pumps and underground watering system is a fantastic improvement and over time will build up a great depth of grass on the ovals.

I hope to meet up with many people as we move through the last exciting weeks of Term 4 and if you are a student or parent leaving us I trust that you will be able to take away some very fond memories.

Neil Steinhardt
Deputy Principal

Presentation Night

The 2014 Merrimac State High School Presentation Night will be held in our school hall on the 29 October commencing at 6.30pm.

All parents, carers and students are welcome to attend and help celebrate our students’ achievements and we look forward to seeing you there.

Homework Club

Homework Club is again running for Term 4. It operates in the library Tuesday and Thursday afternoons 3.15pm to 4.15pm.

Why not take advantage of the library services - printing, computer access, wireless internet and reference books. Staff are available to offer assistance to students.
The Year 8 High Performance Sport students recently completed a six week gymnastics program at the Gold Coast Gymnastics club. Students had a fun, challenging time developing floor routines and working on a range of apparatus such as balance beam, parallel bars, pommel horse and trampoline. Students were judged and graded on their performances at the completion of the six week program by the instructors.

Warren Joseph
HOD HPE

Language learning does not occur independently of appreciation of culture. The two are interdependent. Learning about other cultures allows students to become aware of their own world view and compare and contrast it with the world view of others. This cultural awareness encourages students to celebrate diversity thus forming a more cohesive society.

Learning another language also provides students with the skills and knowledge to engage in a world where business relationships are no longer restricted by national borders and succeed in a job market that is increasingly globally competitive. Multilingual people are globally aware, globally responsible and globally functional citizens.

Languages are one of the few subjects that are based on highly sequenced cumulative learning. Success at proficiency requires perseverance over time. Thus, language study assists students to form beneficial study habits and to become dedicated and resilient learners. It has been found that students who study a foreign language regularly outscore their peers in both literacy and numeracy exams. They are also more likely to successfully complete tertiary courses and become life-long learners.

Meisha Price
Spanish Teacher

“Why do I have to learn another language, miss?”

There are many reasons why learning another language is an important part of the curriculum at Merrimac State High School. Not only does language learning promote cultural understanding and improve employment opportunities, it also improves students’ cognitive abilities and study habits.
The Tale of the Phoenix

Year 12 English Communication student and talented artist Jaiden Lake has donated a lasting legacy to the English Department with his creative painting title ‘The Tale of the Phoenix’.

Jaiden Lake worked with two other Year 12 students Clarice Mackay and Zsofia Laszlo and Visual Arts Studies teacher Mr Simon Howell to conceptualise this eye-catching piece of art. The canvas not only encapsulates the school logo of the Phoenix as well as playing homage to the English literary great – William Shakespeare.

During Term 3 Jaiden worked hard to complete the artwork starting from a hand drawn sketch of a phoenix to a large scale colour canvas. “It was a frustrating and challenging process but overall it was an extremely rewarding experience to see the final product exhibited. It’s my gift to the school”, he said.

A big thank you to Jaiden and everybody involved for this special contribution to the English Department in O block. The artwork can be found in the Phoenix Reading Lounge. Check it out! And keep reading!

Kylie Wilson
HOD English

Work Experience Placements

At this time of year the SEP concentrate on organising work experience placements for senior students, especially those completing their Certificate II in Workplace Practices. Students worked in a wide variety of positions at businesses such as Toyota, Pet Barn, City Beach, a Play Centre and a Dance studio. These were all very successful work experiences with employers making comments such as “best ever work experience” and “this time next year you would be offered an apprenticeship”.

This Term the same classes will be running a small business with the emphasis being on team work. Students decide on the type of business venture they will organise and how any profits will be spent. In the past such enterprises as soup making and cookie baking have earned enough to purchase classroom lamps and supplies.

Heike Orlow
HOD SEP
Careers Information

If your child is unsure what career pathway to take they may require further guidance. There is information on careers on our school website which includes the myfuture.com website or they could complete an online career assessment for $33 from BUSY At Work which is an established and trusted not for profit organisation providing apprenticeship, employment and community programs.

The Harrison Online Career Assessment is a powerful tool that takes the participants responses from a range of relevant questions and turns them into a newly identified list of career options rated according to job satisfaction and enjoyment.

The assessment includes an overview of their greatest strengths as a person, a career development guide that illustrates the ways in which they can most effectively understand and perform work tasks, and a career comparison report which identifies how suited they are to a chosen career and how well they would adapt to that occupation.

The career comparison report allows participants to compare their career preferences against the requirements for any given occupation. It can also function as a mentoring tool to give potential employers advice about how best to work with jobseekers to develop their workplace capabilities.

If you require further careers guidance please make an appointment with Kate Careless or Elaine Sears.

2015 School based Traineeship Program
Village Roadshow Theme Parks

Applications open to students progressing into Years 10, 11, 12 in 2015.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM –
Certificate 3 in Tourism (Movie World or Sea World) Certificate 3 in Hospitality (Sea World Resort)

Successful applicants participate in a minimum of one day per week paid work PLUS completion of a funded industry qualification i.e. at no expense to your family.

Information and group interview registration for Sea World and the Resort - 30 October 2014
Group interviews 9am or 11am on 1 November 2014.
Movie World Information session the following week.

Information, forms and a Resume template were sent to senior student email accounts and uploaded to the school based apprenticeships webpage.

To register your attendance to the information session or for further assistance contact
Natasha Pearson – 07 5588 2414 or 0433 902 077
Email: Natasha_Pearson@vrtp.com.au

All applicants to complete the VRTp form, Resume and return to me by 22 October 2014.

Potential pathways - tourism, hospitality, restaurants, hotels, resorts, cruise ships, clubs, travel agency, flight attending, and event management.

Rachel Skrabanich
Industry Liaison Officer
Email: rskra1@eq.edu.au

Centacare Family and Relationship Service will be offering our next PACE – Parenting Adolescents a Creative Experience 6 week course at the Upper Coomera Centre commencing Wednesday 5 November 2014.

WHAT:
Parenting Adolescents a Creative Experience - PACE

WHEN:
Wednesday 5 November 2014 (for 6 weeks)

WHERE:
Upper Coomera Centre, 90 Reserve Rd,
Upper Coomera

TIME:
9.30am – 12.00pm

COST:
Only $15 for entire program

Parents interested in attending the 6 week course are requested to call 5527 7211

MERRIMAC STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEO CLUB IS SELLING LIONS TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CAKES AGAIN THIS YEAR.

These are one of the most popular Christmas Cakes sold in Australia. The one we are selling this weighs 1kg and costs $12.

All profits from the sales of these cakes will go to the charities supported by Merrimac Leos.

To purchase a cake see one of the Leos or contact Mr Steve Strong in the Maths Department.
YEAR 12 FEE FREE TRAINING PROGRAM

Are you a 2014 Year 12 graduate?
Secure your spot NOW in a Fee Free Training course

Gain a head start on your career by completing a high priority qualification through a range of certificate III vocational education and training courses or via an Apprenticeship or Traineeship with no student contribution fees.

Programs available include;

Certificate 3 Guarantee Program
- Certificate III in Aged Care
- Certificate III in Community Services Work
- Certificate III in Disability
- Certificate III in Early Childhood Education & Care
- Certificate II in Hospitality (Kitchen Operations)
- Certificate III in Horticulture (Landscape Stream)
- Certificate III in Horticulture (Parks and Gardens Stream)
- Certificate III in Hospitality
- Certificate II in Horticulture
- Certificate III in Horticulture

OR

User Choice Program
Access a wide variety of Apprenticeships and Traineeships across high priority industry areas, and pay no student contribution fees for the entire duration of the Apprenticeship or Traineeship. A full list of qualifications is available via the Schools Liaison Team.


IMPORTANT: As these qualifications under the User Choice Program are Apprenticeships/Traineeships you are required to have an employer that is willing to take you on as an Apprentice or Trainee first, before you can access this Fee Free Training.

When and Where?
This opportunity is available to you starting January 2015 and training will be delivered across our Southport, Ashmore and Coomera Marine campuses at the Gold Coast.

How do I enrol?
Email the Schools Liaison team – Schools.GoldCoast@tafe.qld.edu.au who will confirm your eligibility for the fee free training and ensure your spot is secure for 2015.