Presentation Night

This year was a very special Presentation Night as it was held in our school hall. It was wonderful to see so many parents and families in attendance. The night highlighted the successes of our students, the opportunities they have had and the rewards they have attained through hard work and determination. Highlighted were the 39 students who have already gained guaranteed entry to higher education and the high number of Year 12 students who achieved VHA Band 10 (the highest ranking possible) in their subjects. Just these two pieces of data emphasise what can be achieved when great teachers and dedicated students work together in an environment of respect, responsibility and reliability.

Congratulations go to Michael Muni, who was given the highest academic accolade of our school, Dux for 2014. Michael achieved VHAs in all of his 6 subjects which is no mean feat. Well done Michael! We wish Michael every success in his future studies.

The 2015 student leadership team was also announced with 17 dynamic and resilient students, committed to making a difference, elected to lead the student body next year. It can be confidently expected that these students will rise to the challenge and take their role very seriously as school leaders in 2015. They will be led by 2015 school captains, Kobi Rogers, Gemma Bowie, Tyrel Del Rosario and Anneka Patricks.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**YEAR 12 GRADUATION NIGHT**

19 November 6.30PM – 10.00PM

**NOVEMBER**

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<td>17-21 November</td>
<td>Year 11 Exams</td>
<td>27 November</td>
<td>Year 11 Boat Cruise</td>
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<td>19 November</td>
<td>Year 12 Graduation Night</td>
<td>27 November</td>
<td>Year 10 Dance</td>
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<td>Last Day for Year 12s</td>
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DEPUTY’S DESK

SUZAN BELL

It has been a very busy term particularly with Awards Night held on Wednesday 29 October. This celebration of our students’ successes across a wide range of areas including academic, cultural, attendance and community service was a very special event. The entertainment items showcased the depth of talent at our school with outstanding performances by the bands, cast members of Hairspray as well as individual singers and performers. Of course to achieve great things, a network of support is necessary. Once again, thank you to the families and teachers who supported both our performers and our awardees and helped them achieve outstanding individual efforts.

Semester 2 reports for all year levels will be emailed home on the last day of this term in December. For Year 12 students this report will focus on the skills and knowledge gained by the students over their course of study whilst for students in the other grades, the focus is on students’ achievements, behaviour and efforts in class. If parents or carers have any concerns or queries as a result of comments made in the term report, please contact the relevant staff member for further discussion or clarification.

This year we will be holding two Merrimac in Action days. Our first date is 4 December. On this day we invite all Year 7 students who have enrolled at Merrimac State High School to experience a day in the life of a high school student. Our team leaders will be on hand to lead the day’s activities and ensure that the Year 7 students mix and get to know each other as well as engage fully in the activities. The day culminates in a BBQ and swim in our refurbished pool.

On 9 December will be the day for Year 6 students to experience life as a high school student. On both days our Peer Mentors will be on hand to ensure that the primary students have a safe as well as memorable day.

May I draw your attention to some important dates coming up in the next couple of weeks. Exam shutdown for Year 12s commenced on Friday 7 of November whilst the Year 11 exam shutdown will commence on Monday 23 November. Our Year 10 dinner dance and Year 11 boat cruise are being held on 27 November. Classes for Years 8 and 9 will continue right until the last day of school, 12 December. Teachers have designed an exciting program for our junior secondary students so that they will be engaged in meaningful learning right up until the end of school. Please support the school by ensuring that your students have full attendance until the commencement of the Christmas break.

I would like to extend the season’s greetings to all of the Merrimac community.

Suzan Bell
Deputy Principal

2014 Sport Awards Night

Merrimac State High School once again joined together to celebrate the amazing sporting achievements of over 150 of our students. As the evening began the stage sparkled with the new hall lights reflecting off the many trophies that would soon be in the happy hands of the students. With the 2014 sport house captains being tasked with running the evening, this year’s awards night had a slightly changed feel with a strong focus on the high quality of students at Merrimac State High School.

This year’s Phoenix trophy winners were Stephens house as the champion house of 2014, while Rani Hancock (SEP), Hamish Morton (male) and Amber Pilley (female) were awarded the sportspeople of the year trophies. A special highlight of the night was a presentation made to year 12 student, Amber Pilley who competed throughout the world this year culminating in a gold medal at the World Youth Olympics for women’s rugby. Finally, two time ITU world champion Triathlete, Emma Moffatt, graciously found time in her busy training schedule to attend the evening and provide some inspiring words of encouragement to our upcoming sporting stars. On behalf of the staff at Merrimac State High School I would like to thank Emma for attending our awards ceremony and congratulate all award recipients for 2014. Let us now look forward with anticipation to what is shaping up to be a spectacular 2015 with the introduction of Year 7 into our school community.

Chris Eisenhuth
Sports Coordinator
Business Ambassador’s Day

Year 10 Professional Business Studies students from Mrs Briffa and Ms Akers classes travel by light rail to participate in Griffith University’s Business Ambassador’s Day. Students engaged with the academics and sat in on an ‘Events Management’ lecture in one of the university’s lecture theatres.

They then broke up into groups of six, combining with students from other schools. There they had to, as a group, address a case study and then present their findings to the larger audience. All of our students gave a very commendable short presentation. This was a great day away from the usual school routine and an opportunity for our soon to be school leaders to experience University life. About 157 students from schools across the Gold Coast attended this day.

Mrs Briffa
Professional Business Studies Teacher
Positive Behaviour Management

Merrimac’s Positive Behaviour Program has been progressing extremely well with a number of students enjoying the rewards of working hard, being responsible, reliable and respectful. When students earn enough Bronze or Silver Dollars they are invited to bring a friend along with them to the school’s very own ‘student run’ canteen known as Merrimac Munchies. Whilst there, they can enjoy a fantastic meal at no cost. The menu includes items such as chicken burgers and beef or vegetarian nachos, along with the opportunity to purchase very reasonably priced milkshakes and smoothies.

All Phoenix classes are also encouraged to work together to save enough Bronze Dollars to be invited to a relaxing ‘fun’ session at the school pool. So far the Year 9 students have been outperforming the rest of the school with several classes already enjoying a break from the heat.

Congratulations to all those students who have embraced this program and received the rewards as a result. I look forward to working with both staff and students into the future to ensure this and many other great initiatives continue to develop.

Andrew McMahon
HOD Positive Behaviour Management
**Bus Passes**

**APPLICATIONS FOR 2015**

**BUS PASSES ARE DUE NOW**

To ensure timely distribution of bus passes in the New Year, please submit your application before the end of November 2014.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR EXISTING BUS PASS HOLDERS**

At the end of each school year, please ensure that the current pass is retained to be used in the new school year until the new pass is issued.

Students with an existing bus pass need only re-apply for a 2015 bus pass if your child

- is moving from Primary to Secondary School
- is repeating a grade
- is changing their home address or school


**PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO**

*Surfside Buslines*
PO Box 3036
ROBINA Q 4230

*Email* schools@tagroup.net.au

*Fax* 5571 6556

Applications will be processed over the Christmas school holidays. Once applications are approved, bus passes are sent to school for collection. Please allow 10-15 working days from the start of Term One 2015.

Prior to Government approval of bus travel assistance, all students can travel by bus to school using a TransLink go-card.

**REMEMBER**

A valid bus pass must be produced TO THE DRIVER or the relevant fare paid via cash or go-card. Information on fares, go cards, zones and bus timetables is available from TransLink http://translink.com.au/ or phone 13 12 30.

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**Is your child at school or starting next year?**

**Would you like $500 to help pay for uniforms, books, excursions or a laptop?**

To be eligible you need to:

- have a Health Care or a Pensioner Concession Card
- have a child at school now or starting next year
- have some form of household income, for example, your partner or yourself may have casual, part-time, full-time or seasonal employment.

Saver Plus can match your savings for school costs, dollar for dollar, up to $500. Saver Plus is looking for new participants so enquire about signing up today!

To find out more, phone or SMS your name and postcode to 1300 610 355, or email saverplus@bsl.org.au
Please pardon our progress

Track closure
Roma Street to Corinda, Murarrie and Yeerongpilly
Sat 22 – 23 Sun November 2014
The network is being upgraded to improve reliability.
Buses will replace trains between Roma Street to Corinda, Murarrie and Yeerongpilly stations from the first train on Saturday 22 until the last train Sunday 23 November.

Works include:
- Track maintenance
- Points replacement
- Rerailing Roma Street to Corinda

Customers attending Schoolies week please take this track closure into consideration. Be sure to plan your journey in advance and allow for up to 60 minutes extra travel time.

If you require assistance with station access call 13 16 17 or text only 0428 774 636
Visit translink.com.au or call 13 12 30 anytime for more information and updates

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CRICOS Code 00608A

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