Snow & City Tour 2015

Plans are well under way for next year’s Snow and City trip to Thredbo Ski Resort and Sydney.

This year’s trip to Mt Hotham and Melbourne was very successful with half of the students seeing snow for the first time. Many of these students are looking forward to getting out on the slopes again in 2015. If you would like to see some of their adventures, log onto the school website and follow the links: “Our photo galleries” – Snow Trips.

As in the past, we offer the trip to all students at Merrimac State High School from Years 9 to 11 (but you have to get your deposits in quickly as seats are limited). No experience in Snow Skiing or Snowboarding is necessary but after five days of skiing/snowboarding lessons with professional instructors, all the students make it look easy.

The tour includes return airfares from Coolangatta, 1 night accommodation in Sydney, 5 night’s accommodation at The River Inn Lodge on the snow at Thredbo Ski Resort and 5 days skiing/snowboarding. (Breakfast, dinners, hot buffet lunches, lift passes, equipment, clothing hire and travel insurance is inclusive.)

Next year we will spend one day sight-seeing and shopping in Sydney (Paddy’s Markets, China Town, Circular Quay, Opera House, Ferry trip, Darling Harbour, Queen Victoria Building and much more...)

The 7 day trip is scheduled from Sunday 23 August to Saturday 29 August.

The Principal will consider applications from students who have demonstrated an appropriate record of behaviour and who meet all other school financial obligations. Numbers are limited and vacancies will be filled on acceptance of deposit.

An information sheet with more details and deposit form is available for all interested students from Mr Trotta in the Physical Education Department. Deposits are now being accepted but be quick as seats are limited.

Claude Trotta – HPE Teacher

DECEMBER

3 – 5 December Year 11, Year 10 & Year 9 Prefect and Mentor Camp
4 December Merrimac in Action Day Year 8’s 2015
5 December SEP Excursion Southport Broadwater
9 December Merrimac in Action Day Year 7’s 2015
12 December Last day of school Year 8’s and Year 9’s

DEAR PARENTS

Another year is very quickly drawing to a close with students celebrating their successes for the school year. We have also enjoyed the celebrations with the Year 12 Formal, the Year 11 Boat Cruise and the Year 10 Dinner Dance. All great events with much to celebrate.

2015 is an exciting year with both Year 8 and Year 7 coming to high school. Our enrolments in both these year levels are strong, however we are expecting a last minute rush.

If you know of any students who still intend to enrol, please encourage them to do this as soon as possible. Doing so will greatly assist us to form classes.

Next week we will be running our camps for next year’s Year 12, 11 and 10 mentors. Our mentors greatly assist us to influence the school culture based on our values of Respect, Responsibility and Reliability.

The Christmas vacation is a great time to catch up with family and friends. I wish all a safe and enjoyable vacation and look forward to a great 2015.

Chris Tobin
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES:

MERRIMAC IN ACTION DAY YEAR 7’S 2015

9 DECEMBER
DEPUTY’S DESK
NEIL STEINHARDT

As this will be my last opportunity to write in our newsletter for 2014, I would like to take the opportunity to wish all our Merrimac SHS community a wonderful Christmas vacation period and I hope that we all come back next year with our batteries fully recharged for a history making 2015. Historic, in that we welcome both new Year 7 students and Year 8 students into our school next year.

In the meantime, the catch phrase really needs to be about completion. That is, completion of assessment items, completing attendance requirements and participating, where possible, in end of year activities. It was fantastic to see the Year 12 students of 2014 go out in style last week with the hall packed out for Graduation and the Marriott’s internal staircase full with our students for their formal. We wish them well in all future endeavours.

Personally, I have been working hard on our new timetable for 2015 and I am very grateful to have had Mr Hoskins assisting in my role of Deputy Principal. Also it has been refreshing meeting new staff, some coming from local primary schools. Many of these will be playing a major role taking classes in our junior school (Years 7-9) in 2015.

We have had meetings of parents with students who will be entering our summit programs for 2015 and I know, Mr Chris Wood, our Junior Secondary Head of Department is getting more excited as that start up day in 2015 draws closer. The Merrimac In Action program in December will see all new Year 7 and 8 students starting their orientation program this year, but naturally there will be follow up orientation activities when school starts back in late January, 2015.

From my year level perspective, I would like to thank Ms Nan Phillips, who has worked tirelessly with Mr Rezo as our Year 9 Coordinators. In Year 10, we will only be having one year coordinator and that will be Mr Rezo. Thank you Mr Rezo and I am sure your broad shoulders will be able to look after our great group.

Until 2015, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Neil Steinhardt
Deputy Principal

Mock Job Interviews @ Merrimac SHS

During the Year 12 exam block over 70 students undertook a mock job interview as part of their final assessment for Senior English Communication. With the assistance of our Industry Liaison Officer, Rachel Skrabanich over seven industry guests gave up their time to assist and interview our Merrimac SHS students through a series of questions and answers in response to their chosen job application. Students prepared a job portfolio with a current resume, letter of application, supporting documents, references and questions to ask their appointed interviewer. A special thank you to Darrin Larney from Busy at Work, Tony Martin from CSQ, Jay McDermott from Yakka Employment, Sami Fletcher from Ignite Education, Tamara Burns from Goldmakk, Justine Jones from Aurora Training, Gary Bryant from Department of Education and Training, Kristina McMahon from McDonalds and John Gilders from Smith Family. Thank you also to Year 12 English Communication Coordinator Scott Gillard and teachers Liz Biltoft, Del Singh, Monica Macrossan and Deb Neilson for their involvement in the mock interview process. We received outstanding feedback from our industry guests and some students gained valuable advice and contacts for positions and job placements in the future. We wish all the graduating students the best of luck with their pathways in 2015.

Kylie Wilson
HOD - English
Special Olympics

Special Olympics (SO) is a global movement providing year-round sports training and athletic competition through a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with an Intellectual Disability.

From October 20-25 this year, Melbourne Victoria hosted 1,000 Australian athletes with an intellectual disability, representing their state or territory at the Special Olympics Australia National Games.

With competition across 16 Olympic-type sports, the Games were a huge celebration of ability as well as a qualifying event for next year’s Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles where athletes will have the opportunity to represent Australia on the world stage.

Queensland took a team of 202 athletes and two of our Merrimac State High Students represented their State.

Casey van den Brink from Year 8 was the youngest of 8 Queenslanders chosen to compete in Equestrian. Riders will participate in four events, English Equitation, Dressage, Prix Caprilli and Working Trails.

Casey won a silver medal for her Working Trail ride at the State games, which is where she was selected for Nationals. Casey has had a passion for horses for as long as her family can remember and began riding horses with lessons at Riding for the Disabled when she turned 4.

Rani Hancock (Year 11) competed in Athletics.

The National Games began with an Opening Ceremony held at the Lakeside Stadium, Albert Park. Athletes then spend four days competing in their chosen sports before the games wrapped up with the Closing Ceremony held at Luna Park in St Kilda on Friday evening.

Casey won a number of 4th places and Rani won gold in shotput and silver for her race and relay.

With thanks from parent Roschell Van den Brink, who has passed on this information.
Twenty-eight students from Germany, Italy and Brazil spent 3 days at Lennox Heads learning how to read the surf and develop their surfing skills. Mr Watterson, Mr Hodgetts and Miss Di Marchi spent many hours in the water helping the students to learn how to catch waves and control the board. Most of the students were able to easily catch waves and stand up by the end of the three days.

Warren Joseph
HOD - HPE

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE YEAR 12 CHINESE AND JAPANESE CLASSES!

Students in these classes produced outstanding academic performances this Year. In Chinese 80% of students will exit with a very high achievement rating (The dux of Chinese with a VHA 9.)

Likewise, in Japanese senior classes, 50% of students will complete Year 12 with a very high achievement rating (The dux of Japanese with a VHA10, the highest rating available.)

Well done everybody, a lot of hard work and hours of study have gone into achieving these wonderful results.

Thank you to Ms Wang and Ms Dixon for continually extending their students and guiding them to achieve their best.

Finally, the language department must say farewell to Miss Li, our teaching assistant, who has been in our department all Year. Miss Li has been a wonderful asset in the Chinese classrooms and will be greatly missed. We wish her all the best for her future studies (and travels) and hope to see her back on Australian soil again soon.

Marianna Crow
HOD - LOTE/International

INTERNATIONAL SURF CAMP

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Marianna Crow
HOD - LOTE/International
Business Administration Traineeships

Several vacancies are available for Business Administration Trainees (Gold Coast and Brisbane areas). These are great development opportunities to commence careers in business with Certificate III in Business Administration training.

CRITERIA:
- Positive attitude
- Willing to learn
- Strong work ethic and high attention to detail
- High standard of hygiene and personal presentation
- Strong communication skills
- Ability to work as a part of a team or independently
- Reliable, punctual attendance, as demonstrated by an excellent school attendance record.

TO APPLY:
Prepare a current Resume and cover letter outlining how you meet these criteria
Attach these documents to your email and sent to clint@peopleperformance.com.au
An online assessment and brief interview will follow to select suitable candidates.

For more information call Clint Bryant on 07 5562 2966.

2015 Stationery for Years 7, 8 and 9

For your convenience we have organised with Kookaburra Educational Resources to provide a very simple ordering system for all your school stationery needs, with delivery direct to your home. The following link will take you to the information page on our website.


Alternatively your stationery list can be taken to your local OfficeWorks store who will pick and pack your order and have it ready for collection within 48 hours.

Students in Year 10, 11 and 12 will continue to use their stationery from previous years and will be advised of subject specific items in their classes in 2015.

Student Career & Study Events

TAFE QLD Gold Coast Music Showcase
27 November - 7pm - details http://vimeo.com/110737385

TAFE QLD Gold Coast Graphic Design Showcase
4 December - 6pm - Coomera Campus
For information or to confirm your attendance to these events contact
Bridget Fenson - Schools Liaison Officer
TAFE Qld Gold Coast
Phone 07 5581 8811
Email Bridget.Fenson@tafe.qld.edu.au

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INFORMATION SESSION

The Impact of Domestic and Family Violence on Children

For all Community and Government Workers who support children and would like to know more about the impact of domestic violence on children and how to recognise and respond appropriately and effectively

DATE: FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2014
TIME: 9.30am - 12.30am
VENUE: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION CENTRE
(Address provided with confirmation)

RSVP
Email: info@domesticviolence.com.au
Phone: (07) 5591 4222
www.domesticviolence.com.au
UNDERSTANDING DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE

INFORMATION SESSIONS

for all Community and Government Workers in the Gold Coast region

What the Information Session covers:

◊ The dynamics of abusive relationships.

◊ Facts about Domestic and Family Violence and its impacts.

◊ Information about the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast Inc. and how you can utilise these services.

rsvp email info@domesticviolence.com.au
phone (07) 5591 4222

FREE!
Morning Tea and Info Packs

NOVEMBER 2014

SOUTHPORT COMMUNITY CENTRE
Meeting Room F5
6 Lawson St
SOUTHPORT
QLD 4215

THURSDAY
20 NOVEMBER 2014
9.30am - 11.30am

www.domesticviolence.com.au