Ever wanted to challenge yourself and change your world?

If you are 14 – 25 and interested in doing something that takes you beyond the everyday, then The Duke of Ed is for you!

The Award is a flexible, interesting and fun-packed program for all young people between the ages of 14 and 25 to participate in a number of activities over a set length of time. It is entirely voluntary and is structured so the participants can design their own unique program centred on their interests and passions.

The Award is run in over 60 countries around the world. There are over 150 organisations, many of them schools, running Dukes in Queensland.

There are three levels to The Duke of Ed: Bronze/Silver/Gold. It’s not easy, but it is worth the effort.

Oh, and the great thing about The Award is that it allows you to piggy-back onto activities you’re already doing, such as surf lifesaving, playing sport, playing in a band...or, you can start something you’ve always dreamed of doing but haven’t had the reason to begin.

Merrimac State High School has been running Dukes for well over 10 years and while we have many students who achieve their Bronze Award, we have quite a few ‘happy campers’ who have achieved their Silver and Gold as well.

The cost to get started with the Duke’s Award is $140 and then $100 for each of the second or third level.

For more information contact Mr Steve Strong in the Maths department at Merrimac 5595 8666 or go on-line http://www.dukeofed.com.au/Do-The-Award.html

Steve Strong
Duke’s Award and Leo Club Co-ordinator
PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Next Tuesday night we have two very important events occurring at school. Firstly, the Year 12 Induction ceremony where I am looking forward to meeting many parents and secondly the first P & C meeting, again I look forward to meeting many new parents to this very important group.

Chris Tobin
Principal

DEPUTY’S DESK

KAREN FARROW

Welcome! Welcome to our history-making Year 7s, welcome to our new Year 8s, welcome to all our new students and families, welcome to our many new staff and welcome back to all our returning students, families and staff.

2015 is already proving to be an exciting, busy and unique year. Last week our Orientation Program ensured all students were aware of our community’s values and our expectations of them. It was fantastic to see our purpose built classrooms in V Block finally filled with eager Year 7s and their teachers.

Our International students are settling in to their new country and its culture, and were welcomed at a special dinner with their Homestay families last week. Already, the girls in our Rugby League Program have participated in a very successful pre-season training camp with the NRL at Tallebudgera Recreation Camp. This week, for the very first time, the school held 2 separate swimming carnivals for the Junior and Senior sections of the school.

Congratulations to all the students who participated. I encourage all new students to get involved in all opportunities to participate – sporting events, Student Council, Leos Club and lunch time activities organised by Peer Mentors. By being involved you will meet like-minded students, get to know other staff and more quickly feel that you ‘belong’ in your new school. Merrimac State High School is a busy and exciting learning environment – we look forward to meeting you too at the upcoming Senior Induction Evening, Merrimac By Moonlight and through communication on our website and on our Facebook page. See you soon!

Karen Farrow
Deputy Principal

Merrimac State High School has had an active Leo Club for 9 years. It is run under the auspices of the Mudgeeraba Lions Club.

When you join Leos you become a member of a worldwide organisation with more than 6,000 Leo Clubs and a membership in excess of 160,000 operating under the sponsorship of Lions Clubs in 141 nations.

LEO CLUB OBJECTIVES

• To provide the youth of the world an opportunity for development and contribution, individually and collectively as responsible members of the local, national and international community.
• To stimulate among its members acceptance of high ethical standards.
• To develop leadership.
• To provide experience through service to the community
• To provide an opportunity to promote international understanding.

Participation in the Leo Club Program enhances the lives of young people. As active community members, Leos learn the true meaning of the Leo club motto – leadership, experience and opportunity.

Membership of Leos is free. For more information contact Mr Steve Strong at Merrimac on 5595 8666.

Steve Strong
Duke’s Award and Leo Club Co-ordinator
Science

I have a tradition with students who are new to high school. I begin by asking them what they are most looking forward to in high school Science.

There are no points for guessing what most of them say – “Exploding things”!

During our first class demonstration (which is aptly titled ‘Big Bang Chemistry’), we do just that!

In my experience all students who are coming into secondary school Science are looking forward to experimenting in a lab environment. Our job as Science educators is to help them to learn the key skills to do this in a safe and effective manner. The Big Bang Chemistry experiments help students to understand the excitement and risks that are part of Science investigation. They also provide an engaging introduction to the ‘Working Like a Scientist’ unit, which aims to build key investigative skills.

I wish all Year 7 and 8 students luck as they start their high school Science studies with a Big Bang!

Anjuli M Dillon
HOD Science

Arts

Welcome to all of our new students and teachers for 2015. We have a number of new staff in our faculty which I would like to introduce to you. Visual Art, Creative arts and Media teachers are as follows: Andree Bemet, Rose Duggan, Simon Howell, Deb McMenamin, Craig Thompson. In Performing Arts we have: Lynn Dyer (HOD), Emily Kite, Glenn Miles, Deb Neilson, Kim Selwood, Christine Wallace. Music and Instrumental Music teachers are Hadeed Pourshafighi (classroom music), Craig Mitchell, Deb Body and our new strings teacher is Vincent Kwan.

We have many opportunities to be involved in the Arts. It is important students check the notices regarding meetings, rehearsals and auditions. In 2015 we will be forming a vocal troupe and a dance troupe. These students will have the opportunity to be in Creative Generations, which is televised, as well as being in a variety of Eisteddfods and competitions. We will also be performing a musical, a showcase, performances at a variety of events and some Art exhibitions throughout the year. It will be wonderful to see large numbers of participants and audiences for these events.

Our first event for the year is the School Music Camp which will be held at Bornhoffen Camp at Springbrook on 23 and 24 February. This is a wonderful opportunity for our band members to participate in some team building skills, make new friends as well as learning a new instrumental skills and repertoire for the year’s performances.

Lynn Dyer
HOD The Arts
Business

The Business Faculty would like to welcome Mrs Elke Schneider as the new Junior Technology teacher. Mrs Schneider will also be teaching Business Management and IPT. It is also exciting to welcome Mrs Bennett as a permanent addition to our team. Mrs Bennett will join myself, Mrs Briffa and Mrs McConnell to complete the Business Team.

Griffith University Links 2015 are about to start. The GriffithBUSINESS School Outreach Program offers opportunities to students from Year 10 – 12. See link below for full details;

GriffBUS (Year 12 program) encourages students to further business studies at university by linking their school studies with university studies, endearing to foster positive relationships between students, teachers and academic staff whilst exposing them to the tertiary environment. I encourage any business/economic student to register for the opportunity. Students can choose from three strands: Business Management, Commerce or Tourism, Hotel, Event and Sport Management. They will attend three workshops throughout the year. On completion of these workshops, student may be offered a direct entry into any Business Course at GU 2016.

Interested students need to submit completed paperwork by 6 February. See link above.

Lisa Cowderoy
HOD Business/IT/Home Economics

INTRODUCING THE STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS for January 2015

The Merrimac State High School community welcomes our international students. These students have made the brave decision to travel abroad to expand their cultural experiences by studying on the Gold Coast for an Australian experience. Students choose to study here for anywhere between 3 months and 3 years. We have a wonderful group of Homestay families who care for these students while they are away from home and show them all that the Gold Coast has to offer.

The continued growth of the number of foreign families at our school is indicative of this multicultural approach and one which we find very encouraging.

As well as our Study Abroad students we have a considerable number of migrants and new Australian residents. Currently we have around 120 students across Year 7 -12, who have identified as having English as their second language. This cultural diversity has many positive influences on all members of our school community by expanding our multi-cultural knowledge, awareness and tolerance.

We extend our welcome to all nationalities and look forward to learning more about your culture throughout the year.

Marianna Crow
HOD LOTE

WHERE DO THESE STUDENTS ORIGINATE FROM?
SNOW & CITY TOUR 2015

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

Last 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.)

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
Physical Education

School based traineeships

9 SCHOOL BASED TRAINEES - SEA WORLD RESORT OR THEME PARKS

Congratulations to those senior students that started Tourism or Hospitality employment & training contracts with this employer 13 December 2014.

SCHOOL BASED APPRENTICESHIPS


Summary
• Senior students complete a school timetable
• Paid work during & outside school hours
• Subsidised industry Certificate training (User Choice funding)

School administration may approve
• Year 10 SATs work day on Wednesday sport day
• Year 11-12 SATs work day on Mondays (first preference) Wednesdays (second preference)

Student Applications
• Prepare a Resume

• Send this as an email attachment to the job vacancy contact
• Name, Year Level, School Name, Business Name typed into email Subject line
• Type why you are the best candidate plus your work day availability in the email content
• Send your application via email.

Process
• Vacancy contact will call or email student to arrange an interview
• If successful at interview, student will be asked to participate in a work experience trial
• If work experience trial is successful, offer of school based apprenticeship/traineeship may result.

Other
• Apprenticeships Info on 1800 210 210
• Careers/Guidance Officer appointments (call office to make appointment)
• Industry Liaison Officer appointments (send email request rskr1@eq.edu.au)

Rachel Skrabanich
Industry Liaison Officer
From the
NURSE’S DESK

Nurse Jackie has moved to P5, located in the Library. Usual days are still Thursdays and Fridays. Appointments can be made via jatki89@eq.edu.au, 0432 005 265 or leave a note.

School Based Youth Health Nurses are funded by Health Services and work within EQ State High Schools to assist with the health & wellbeing of the students and the whole school community. Students and others in the school community can self-refer or accept a referral from someone else such as a school staff member, family or other service. It is a voluntary service with strict confidentiality guidelines so that you can obtain the best possible assistance.

Head lice are prevalent again so we all need to check our hair. Completely coat dry hair with white conditioner, comb through with a normal comb, then comb individual sections with a lice comb, wiping the scrapings on a white tissue to check if there is any evidence of lice e.g. discolouration of the conditioner. If there is any evidence of lice the process must continue every second day until two clean comb throughs.

Jackie Atkinson
School nurse

SURFERS PARADISE RUGBY JUNIOR SIGN-ON

Saturday 7 February 9am – 3pm
Saturday 14 February 9am – 3pm

CALLING ALL SPRUC SISTERS...this year sees GCDRU organising the inaugural GC Women’s 7’s Rugby Competition. There will be U14, U16 & U18 teams competing on a Saturday morning on a home & away basis. We would love to enter teams into this tournament, so encourage everyone to get your daughters, sisters & girlfriends down for sign on or to register interest via info@surfersparadiserugby.com.au.