Week two of term saw the students of Merrimac SHS march, sing, swim and cheer across two days in the hope of being champion house of the 2015 swimming carnival. This year saw the carnival split into two, with a junior and senior secondary program. First off the blocks were Stephens house who etched out a narrow win in the senior carnival while Barrow house were convincing winners in the junior competition. However, in the end it was White house who swam to overall victory over a fast finishing Barrow house. The inclusion of Year 7 into our school provided infectious enthusiasm and competition for all students and staff. A special congratulations to this year’s senior and inaugural junior student house captains and staff house masters who worked tirelessly to generate house spirit the entire day. As for our champion students, the following 2015 age champions will help lead the way for Merrimac SHS at the upcoming Oceanic Swimming Championships.

The 2015 Age Champions are:
12 Boys: Zac Rourke
12 Girls: Jamieson Schmitzer
13 Boys: Conor Brown
13 Girls: Brooke Sawtell
14 Boys: Blake Tansey
14 Girls: Kristen Shaw
15 Boys: Hayden Lewis-Fox
15 Girls: Amy Van Meygaarden
16 Boys: Cooper Shipley
16 Girls: Britney Belmar
Open Boys: Christopher Hincksman
Open Girls: Annika Patricks

Chris Eisenhuth
Sports Co-ordinator

Dear Parents
I was very pleased to again host another Merrimac by Moonlight, an evening that brings together teachers, parents and students. For many parents it is an opportunity to experience their child's secondary school education.

Whilst this year was different, with both parents and students for Years 7 and 8 in attendance, it was pleasing to see parents meeting other parents from their student's class. It was also encouraging to see most of the parents joining in the lessons testing their knowledge and skills.

On the night I explained we will shortly be emailing to students their course planners for Semester 1, 2015. All students will have their course planners by the end of week 4. These planners help to keep parents informed of due dates for assignments and exam schedules. These planners are a must have on the fridge door. Please check with your son/daughter for a copy.

More on page 2
PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Chris Tobin
Principal

This week I am establishing a small committee to review the transport safety around the school. The increased vehicle traffic and numbers of students on the buses have necessitated a school review.

I also remind all parents to consider student safety by complying with all traffic signs around the school.

As both students and staff settle into the 2015 academic year, I hope the holiday break allowed your student to refresh and recharge their “batteries”, ready for active engagement in this term’s school work. To achieve their potential, all of our students need to take responsibility for their learning. This entails attending lessons with all the necessary equipment, actively participating in those lessons, completing homework, completing both drafts and assignments and submitting them on time as well as sitting all scheduled tests.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new families to the Merrimac community. We are a very supportive community and strongly believe that by parents and schools working closely together as a team, great things can be achieved. If you have any concerns or queries, please feel free to contact the school.

Last Tuesday evening, Shannon Porche and the Year 12 student leadership team led the Year 12 cohort through the Induction Ceremony. The evening focused on the Year 12 students’ mission statement and major objectives for the year, along with inspirational speeches from both Shannon Porche and the Principal, Mr Tobin. Entertainment was provided by Yasmin Lemon, who sang a captivating version of ‘Riptide’ before the ceremonial lighting of the candles. The Hall looked fantastic in the candle glow as Year 12 students set their goals for the year. Thank you to all those involved in ensuring the night was successful.

To assist senior students achieve their very best academically, staff are offering tutorials (these are scheduled on Mondays) across a range of Authority subjects. The tutorial timetable is available on our website. For all students undertaking an Authority subject, we strongly recommend participation in the weekly tutorials. The informal setting allows teachers to focus on individual student’s needs and give one on one assistance tailored to that student’s specific needs.

On Tuesday we will be holding Merrimac By Moonlight for parents of students in both Year 7 and 8. This is an opportunity for parents to see ‘behind the scenes’ and experience life as a junior secondary student. The evening will commence at 5pm with a sausage sizzle before parents and their students head off to the classrooms. Our Year 7 and 8 Co-ordinators will also be on hand to answer any questions or explain new procedures. It is a fun night where students get to put their parents in the hot seat! I look forward to meeting with you then.

Susan Bell
Deputy Principal

DEPUTY’S DESK

SUSAN BELL

Hi there!

My name is Marie Mills and I am the current president of the P & C here at Merrimac State High School (although this may change next month)!

I’d like to welcome all the new parents and carers to our lovely school and advise you that our next P & C meeting will be held in the library on 10 March at 7pm. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and the Principal in a more casual environment and gain added knowledge of what’s happening in the school this coming year. We appreciate your input and suggestions, as we are all here to improve and enhance the quality of education for our children.

Hope to see you there.

Marie Mills
P&C President

A reminder to parents to please ensure we have your current email address on record, as school reports will be distributed via email this term. Details may be updated by contacting our office.

PLEASE UPDATE EMAIL ADDRESSES
Positive Behaviour Management

Well done to all students collecting their Bronze and Silver dollars for excellent behaviour and attitudes in the classroom and around the school grounds! Merrimac teachers and administration take great pleasure in rewarding those students who choose to uphold the school values of Respect, Responsibility and Reliability.

Our junior programs have morphed into quality, enjoyable and practical pieces of work that we are proud of. I feel that the students are seeing the benefits of this as engagement levels rise and behaviour issues fall. This is a common feeling amongst the Technology staff and is plain to see when I am in and around workshops and kitchens.

I look forward to a great year!

Andrew McMahon
HOD Positive Behaviour

Aquatics

Students in Year 7 – 9 are currently participating in physical performance activities relating to skill improvement, fitness, water survival and safety. As this is part of their course work, students are expected to be participating in the aquatics program on a weekly basis. Please encourage your child to be prepared with swimming gear on the days that they have their practical PE lessons.

Warren Joeph
HOD HPE/Marine

Musical Auditions

Musical auditions are in full swing for our upcoming production of the hit new show ‘13’. The show will be staged in our school hall on Friday, 7 August at 7:30pm. It’s a great opportunity to have the musical staged at our school as it is perfectly suited to this venue. We look forward to seeing the school community there in support.

Christine Wallace
Teacher - The Arts
The urge to create is equally strong in all children, both boys and girls. It is imagination that counts, not skill. It is easier to give up than to say “I can do it”. If you don’t believe you can, then you can’t. Time spent now imagining the possibilities of what you could become would be appropriate, and well apportioned. Having a passionate focus and goals will assist in making decisions in moments of distraction. Think about what you want to do, the life you wish to pursue and the person you want to be. Picture the way you want your life to be: a Doctor or a dog walker, a radiologist or a race car driver. It is your story to create. School is the opportunity to bring this dream into reality. Attack every opportunity and equip yourself with the right materials and skills to create the life you have imagined for yourself. You need to do this for you and if you don’t want it enough then you will be destined to fail.

It probably won’t be easy but it will definitely be worth it!

Jason Gibbs
HOD Senior School

From the
INDUSTRY LIASON OFFICER’S DESK

FIRST 10
http://www.first10.com.au

Connecting students with ‘big business’. Go to the Careers tab to find out more regarding employment or training programs with listed companies. Follow First10 on Facebook for regular opportunities.

CURRENT SCHOOL BASED APPRENTICES

Congratulations to the 60 SATs in Years 10-12. Several students are signing to new contracts this coming month.

CHILDCARE SATS

Interested Year 11 students - see me to discuss current vacancies advertised by Kool Kids Training College.

RESUME PREPARATION

Year 11 English Communication students are working on these documents. Other students can access a Resume template on our School based Apprenticeships Page – Vacancies section.

Link - School based Apprenticeships Page - School Website


CURRENT VACANCIES

Advertised on our school website, senior student school email accounts and Jobs Notice Board outside our school office.

STRUCTURED WORK PLACEMENT AND WORK EXPERIENCE

I am currently working with specific Year 12 classes. Thereafter I will be undertaking Year 11 class presentations in readiness for work placement (commencement start of Term 2).

OTHER

Apprenticeships Info - 1800 210 210
Ms White, Careers and Guidance Officer (see G.O. or our office team for appointments)

Rachel Skrabanich
Industry Liason Officer
Homestays Wanted

Merrimac State High School has an intensive Homestay Program to cater for the needs of our International students from countries such as Brazil, China, Italy, Japan and Germany.

These students want to live with Australian families to optimize their time here and learn about Aussie culture and lifestyle.

The school pays $263 per week to homestay families. Any family interested in finding out more is asked to contact the homestay coordinator at Merrimac (Kim Norfolk Phone 55958612 or email: knorf6@eq.edu.au).

Kim Norfolk
Homestay Co-ordinator

Oral health services will now provide school staff with an electronic package of approved text that can be easily uploaded onto the existing school platforms for communication. It is envisaged that the school will choose the methods that fit with the school’s capabilities and provide more than one option for students, parents and guardians to access information pertaining to the provision of free oral health (dental) care.

Further information on public funded oral health services can be accessed via URL: http://www.health.qld.gov.au/goldcoasthealth/html/services/oralhealth.asp

Uniform Shop

Senior students are reminded that Thursday is the last opportunity to purchase a formal uniform for school photos next Friday.

OPENING HOURS
Monday 8 - 11.30am
Tuesday 8 - 11.30am
Thursday 8am - 2pm

PRICE LIST
GIRLS
Blouses $40
Skirts $43
Tie $15

BOYS
Shirt $35
Shorts $40
Tie $20

Canteen

The School Canteen serves breakfast, morning tea and lunch each day and is open from 7am each morning.

The canteen is staffed by a mix of paid staff and volunteer helpers. Volunteers are asked to work from 9am till 11am or 12pm till 2pm on a day of their choice.

If you can help out please call Maryanne on 5595 8657.

Maryanne Cherry
Canteen Manager

CONTACT US
SCHOOL INFORMATION

Dunlop Court, Mermaid Waters 4218
Q SUPERCENTRE, PO Box 5610, QLD 4218
P 07 5595 8666 | F 07 5595 8600
office@merrimacshs.eq.edu.au
CRICOS Code 00608A

Pride in excellence
The Pyjama Foundation

THE LONG ROAD

REGISTER • FUNDRAISE • WALK

They've been down the long road already, take the long road for them.

Sunday 29 March
Hollindale Park, Seaworld Drive, Main Beach, Gold Coast
Sign in from 6.30am for a 7.00am start

For more information call Stephanie - 0422 663 200
or email stephanie@thepyjamafoundation.com

Register now to help children in foster care have a better future
www.thepyjamafoundation.com/upcoming-events