Set in the beautiful valley of Springbrook, our recent band camp at Bornhoffen was a two day jammed packed extravaganza of music playing, team building, creek expeditions and smiling faces. The camp had the students play through music pieces such as the theme for Lord of the Rings, Just Give Me A Reason by Pink and Roar by Katy Perry under the guidance of Mr Craig Mitchell, Ms Deb Body and Mr Vincent Kuan. While the sun did not make a huge appearance, most of the students leapt at the chance to get their hands and feet wet with Mr Hadeed Pourshafiqi and the Creeking coach. It was a fantastic challenge trekking through the clear water that cascaded down the creeks of the tranquil mountains along the Queensland-New South Wales border. Our young musicians showed an impressive level of maturity and responsibility as they shared the chores of serving and cleaning up at meal times. The eagerness of the students stood out, even on the bus trip home when students were already “calling dibs” for the top bunk beds for the next camp.

Lynn Dyer
HOD The Arts

Friday 20 March is the fifth National Action Day against Bullying and Violence. It is a day when we all take a stand together to voice our belief that bullying and violence is not okay at any time. During the last week there have been a number of activities to highlight our support. On Friday, time will be spent in our Phoenix classes to reinforce the message across the school.

Whilst the National Action Day is significant, our focus needs to be on reducing bullying and violence every day. This year we have dealt with a number of bullying issues, with the vast majority being satisfactorily resolved. Our experience tells us that parents can and must play an important role in reducing bullying. The most important actions a parent can take are:

1. Inform the school immediately. The majority of our most serious concerns arise from the school not knowing there is an issue.

More on page 2
PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

The growing use of social media now means the majority of bullying does not occur face to face, at school or in the playground. It can be happening anytime, anywhere.

2. Monitor your son/daughter’s social media. Teenagers need guidance and support to use the communication tools; they do not just innate have the skill when they turn 13. Your guidance and support will greatly assist them to navigate the new, challenging issues they will face with these new tools.

Whilst Friday 20 March is our National Day against Bullying and Violence I would ask you to join with the school to “Stand Together Everyday.”

Chris Tobin
Principal

DEPUTY’S DESK
KAREN FARROW

At last week’s Year 11 Assembly I urged students to make the most of opportunities available to them. Students are very fortunate that our school offers many and varied opportunities for students to excel, to try new activities and to develop their skills. As we enter Week 9 (and where has that time gone?) your child should be settled and have established school and study routines. Now is the time for them to carefully read the school notices and web-site and ask teachers about the many groups and opportunities they can participate in. Following are just some of the opportunities currently on offer (and most are absolutely free and just require some energy and commitment on the student’s behalf).

JUNIOR SECONDARY

Student Council                        Mr Gillard
Leos Club                                Mr Strong
Rockin’ Reading sessions after school    Mrs Neilson
Maths Masterclasses before school        Mr Gray
Peer Mentor organised lunchtime activities Mrs McMenamin
Homework Club                            Mrs Jones
World Challenge                         Mr McMahon
Representative Sport Trials for South Coast Mr Eisenhuth

SENIOR SECONDARY

Student Council                        Mr Gillard
Leos Club                                Mr Strong
World Challenge                         Mr McMahon
Senior Tutorials on Mondays             Mr Gibbs
Representative Sport Trials for South Coast Mr Eisenhuth
Work Experience & School-Based Traineeships Ms Skrabanich
Student for a Semester at University    Mrs White
Volunteering to assist at Parent-teacher interviews Year Coordinator

Of course, you can assist others at school anytime; you don’t need to be asked!

School and life are more rewarding, fun and meaningful when you contribute and play a role in your community.

What are you going to do?

Karen Farrow
Deputy Principal

FIRST SENIOR SECONDARY ASSEMBLY

Congratulations to School Captains Kobi Rogers and Demi Muir who conducted the school’s first ever Senior Secondary Assembly this week. The 2015 Prefects joined them on stage to celebrate this momentous occasion.

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY AWARENESS

Year 7 student Aidan Richardson and his mother Kelly were special guests at the Year 7 Assembly this week. Aiden shared important information about Muscular Dystrophy with his fellow students.
JUNIOR SECONDARY

Highlighting the Junior Secondary students’ achievements and news headlines

LOTE

Junior Secondary LOTE classrooms are abuzz with conversations at the moment as the students learn how to introduce themselves and share information about each other in their target language.

They have prepared a presentation about themselves in a digital format, either a powerpoint, photostory, or video demonstrating their very best Japanese, Chinese or Spanish language learned during lessons.

This year, Year 7 students have surprised us all with their level of Japanese and are already demonstrating accomplished skills on the current topics.

7G student Natalie Lowe was the first to present her digital assignment and it earned her an A+, setting a high standard for everyone to aspire to. Well done Natalie!

Lynn Trackson
LOTE Teacher

YEAR 7 LOCKER FEEDBACK

In our planning for Year 7 we initially made no provision for lockers. However, after receiving feedback from parents, we have now decided to install lockers in V Block for these students. Thank you to all for their valuable feedback and cooperation in helping us to make your child’s transition to high school as smooth as possible.

We are very pleased with the start to the semester, with students enjoying their first high school experience. We look forward to the remainder of our year.

Lynn Dyer
HOD Arts

Fan Dance

Year 9 Summit class are enjoying learning the traditional Chinese Fan dance from guest Chinese dancers. The students will be performing on 30 April for the delegates at the launch of the Confucius classroom.

Lynn Dyer
HOD Arts
Science

What is the source of our household water supply? How is it treated to make it suitable for our use? Why should we conserve water?

These are questions that our Year 7 Science students and our Year 12 Science in Practice students are currently exploring as they undertake units on water chemistry.

Year 7 students recently had a visit from a member of the Gold Coast City Council Water Education team, who helped them to understand how our local government is ensuring that our current and future water needs are met. Their learning in this area will be reinforced in the coming weeks as they engage in practical work that helps them to understand how our water is treated to ensure that it is suitable for household use.

Year 12 Science in Practice students worked with academics from Griffith University to conduct water quality testing during their field study at Dunlop Canal. They will use this data to propose a number of recommendations about how the local community can minimise our impact on Gold Coast waterways.

Further information about water treatment and conservation can be found on the City of Gold Coast website.

Anjuli Dillon
HOD Science

2015 School Musical

We are proud to announce that the 2015 school musical will be 13!

This will be held on 7 and 8 August at our School Hall. This show is perfect to perform in the hall as it is very minimalistic in its set and much of the setting is in a school hall. Why not use our own? It is a fantastic musical for teenagers as they will relate well to the conversations and the situations the characters find themselves in. The pursuit for acceptance seems never-ending for a teenager but when realisation sets in that it is not what matters most, teenage life becomes a lot easier. If you haven’t heard of this great musical, it may be because it is relatively new, with its first production in 2007 in its pre-Broadway performance in Los Angeles. It opened on Broadway in 2008 and is a regular production off-Broadway.

Auditions have been held and we are excited to announce and congratulate the lead cast as:

Lynn Dyer
HOD Arts

<table>
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<tr>
<th>EVAN</th>
<th>Dion Sharman</th>
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<tr>
<td>PATRICE</td>
<td>Tarni Reid</td>
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<td>BRETT</td>
<td>Matthew Purdy</td>
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<td>MALCOM</td>
<td>Catherine Mateariki</td>
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<td>EDDIE</td>
<td>Jacob Webb</td>
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<td>Julianna Dalton</td>
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<td>CHARLOTTE</td>
<td>Taylor Sorensen</td>
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<td>MOLLY</td>
<td>Starla Martineer</td>
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<td>RICHIE</td>
<td>Jamieson Schmitzer</td>
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National Day of Action Against BULLYING AND VIOLENCE

The fifth National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence will be held on Friday 20 March 2015.

This annual day provides a focus for all schools to say Bullying. No Way! and to strengthen their existing everyday messages that bullying and violence at school are not okay at any time.

Merrimac State High School has registered to be part of a growing nationwide movement to ‘Take a Stand Together’ against bullying and violence. Students will be participating in a range of events from 16 - 20 March.

Read about what bullying is and what sorts of strategies work to deal with it on the Bullying No Way! website; http://bullyingnoway.gov.au/

Amber White
Guidance Officer

From the INDUSTRY LIASON OFFICER’S DESK

Nursing & Midwifery Work Experience Workshops 2015
Robina Hospital workshop (10 November) for Year 11 & 12’s interested in nursing, midwifery, & other allied health jobs (advertised to students via Daily Notices and student email accounts earlier this term). See the Industry Liaison Officer to send your booking request for this program.

Congratulations
School based trainee commencement term 1 2015:
N Garrett (Tiling); Z Grant, M Stenton-Dozey, J Sharman, E Davidson (Hospitality); K Johnstone, C Mateariki (Childcare), J Scott (Outdoor Recreation), K Deland, H Lansdown, J Keogh (Business), L Knox (Electro technology), J Poole, E Kingi, E Hein, D Law (Retail).

School based trainee completions Term 1 2015:
J Tondeleir (Hospitality)

Confirmation - Robina Hospital Work Experience Program 22 September 2015: S Doig, L Edwards, J Fletcher, T Knight, B Michaels, M Wissmann

Confirmation - Robina Hospital Work Experience Program 29 September 2015: J Tondeleir

School based Apprenticeships Webpage

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

Other
Apprenticeships Info - 1800 210 210

Rachel Skrabanich
Industry Liaison Officer

CANTEEN NEWS

It has been our pleasure to provide work experience for some of our hospitality students who are practicing their coffee/barista making skills in the canteen in preparation for their RTO providers’ assessment.

Our coffee club is growing rapidly, so if you are visiting the school during the day, be sure to call in and purchase one of our awesome coffees for only $3.50.

Maryanne Cherry
Canteen Manager

Stay informed about what’s happening around our school
NOTICE BOARD

Stay informed about what's happening around our school

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Special Education Program Horticulture class are looking for keen gardeners to assist students on a Wednesday morning in the school garden. With the long wet season this summer it has been impossible to complete all the weeding and digging in preparation for next term's planting. Students would benefit from working side by side with keen gardeners from the community to assist with these daily garden chores. Elderly and retired people have valuable knowledge and experiences to share with students and we would appreciate both their physical help and to be able to tap into that wealth of life experience.

Please contact Deb Landers or Heike Orlow at the SEP on 55958621 if you are able to assist or would like further details.

Heike Orlow
HOD SEP

Cuddle Bugs Playgroup

Cuddle Bugs Playgroup is run every Monday by our Year 11 Early Childhood students from 9.30-11.30. It offers indoor and outdoor activities, crafts and music for newborns - 5 year olds, for only $4 per family. Come down to C Block for a morning of smiles and fun!

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 optimise 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 (Kim Norfolk Phone 55958612 or email: knorf6@eq.edu.au).

Kim Norfolk
Homestay Co-ordinator
NOTICE BOARD

Stay informed about what’s happening around our school

SNOW & CITY TOUR 2015

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

As in the past, we offer the trip to all students at Merrimac State High School from Years 9-11 (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, one night accommodation in Sydney, five night’s accommodation at The River Inn Lodge on the snow at Thredbo Ski Resort and five 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 seven 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

The 1km Dash for Duchenne is on again this year as part of the SEQ Runner’s Fest. Held in the beautifulCurrumbin Valley, the event raises money for Aidan Richardson, a Year 7 student at Merrimac State High School living with Muscular Dystrophy, with all proceeds going to the AIDAN RICHARDSON TRUST, a medical trust fund set up to help Aidan live his best life with MD! This year there are TWO events to choose from, the 6km HIGHLAND HURRY and 1km DASH FOR DUCHENNE CHARITY RUN. Come and run, jog, walk, or toddle with Aidan in the 1km Dash for Duchenne, or if you feel like more of a challenge and want to tackle some hills for Aidan, who would love to do it himself, but can’t, then the 6km Highland Hurry would be right up your alley! We hope to see you there!

THIS SATURDAY 21 MARCH
ONLINE ENTRIES CLOSE 8PM WEDNESDAY
Go to www.seqrunnersfest.com.au for more details.

This program covers
- Self Esteem
- Healthy Relationships
- Communication Skills
- Body Image
- Life Skills

Age: 10-12 Years
Where: Centacare - 50 Fairway Dr Clear Island Waters QLD 4226
When: 19th & 20th April 2015
Time: 8.30am – 4.45pm
Cost: $80.00

For more information and to register please call (07) 5527 2711 before 15 April 2015.

SNOW & CITY TOUR 2015

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### School Holiday Program 6-10 April 2015

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**Indicates activity has limited spaces - booking is essential**

**Thrower House is located at Salk Oval, Thrower Drive, Palm Beach**

For information: email throwerhouse@goldcoast.qld.gov.au or phone: 0499 734 061

### School Holiday Program 13-17 April 2015

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### Runaway Bay Youth Centre 379 Oxley Drive, Runaway Bay

**All activities are designed for young people 12-17 years and all activities are free!**

For information: email runawaybayyouth@goldcoast.qld.gov.au or phone: 0499 734 061

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**All activities are designed for young people 12-17 years and all activities are free!**

For information: email runawaybayyouth@goldcoast.qld.gov.au or phone: 0499 734 061
**Upper Coomera Youth**

**School Holiday Program**

6-10 April 2015

**Monday 6 April**

**WEEK 1**

- Closed Due to public holiday

**Tuesday 7 April**

- 9am-10am Registration
- Come and register for a fun packed week!
- 10am-12pm Ice breakers
- Bring your friends, let’s break the ice and get to know each other
- 10am-12pm Slack lining
- Come and try your balancing skills
- 10am-12pm Lunch
- Bring your lunch and join us
- 1pm-3pm Scatter ball
- Mark from Matsi Muay Thai gym is here to teach you Muay Thai
- 3pm-4pm Dream catchers
- Let’s get creative with these creations

**Wednesday 8 April**

- 9am-10am Soccer match
- Put your best foot forward
- 10am-12pm Go karting
- Let’s use our awesome go karts and race
- 12pm-1pm Lunch
- Bring your own lunch and join us
- 1pm-2pm DIY session
- Let’s make some DIY with the Bunting’s team
- 3pm-4pm Art
- Make your own flip book animation
- 4pm-5pm Bingo
- Eyes down it’s BINGO time!

**Thursday 9 April**

- 9am-10am Inflatable fun
- Bounce balls and join us
- 10am-12pm Inflatable fun
- Bounce balls finals
- 1pm-2pm Paper me silly
- Paper fancy dress
- 2pm-3pm Inflatable fun
- Bounce balls finals
- 3pm-5pm Movie time
- Movie time on the big screen

**Friday 10 April**

- 9am-10am Lantern making
- Learn the art of lantern making
- 10am-12pm Dodge ball
- All the Da – dodge, duck and dive!
- 10am-12pm Cooking creations
- Let’s eat what we create
- 12pm-1pm Lunch
- Bring your lunch and let’s eat together
- 1pm-3pm Bingo
- B I N G O ! Join us for some fun!
- 3pm-5pm Game of Thrones
- Who has the title?

**Monday 6 April**

- 9am-10am Scatter ball
- Play for your lunch and join us
- 10am-12pm Scatter ball
- Bounce balls in the park today
- 12pm-1pm Lunch
- Bring your lunch and let’s eat together
- 1pm-3pm Dan the fitness man
- Join us for: ‘Who is the fittest of the youth hubs?’
- 2pm-3pm Guess Who
- Can you guess the famous person?
- 3pm-5pm Movie time
- Let’s kick back and watch a movie

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**Coomera Youth**

**School Holiday Program**

13 – 17 April 2015

**Wednesday 15 April**

- 9am-10am Ice breakers
- Bring your friends, let’s break the ice and get to know each other
- 10am-12pm Slack lining
- Come and try your balancing skills
- 12pm-1pm Lunch
- Bring your lunch and join us
- 1pm-3pm Muay Thai
- Mark from Matsi Muay Thai gym is here to teach you Muay Thai
- 3pm-4pm Dream catchers
- Let’s get creative with these creations
- 4pm-5pm Touch foxtrot
- Blues vs Maroons - State of Origin time

**Wednesday 16 April**

- 9am-10am Soccer match
- Put your best foot forward
- 10am-12pm Go karting
- Let’s use our awesome go karts and race
- 12pm-1pm Lunch
- Bring your own lunch and join us
- 1pm-2pm DIY session
- Let’s make some DIY with the Bunting’s team
- 3pm-4pm Art
- Make your own flip book animation
- 4pm-5pm Bingo
- Eyes down it’s BINGO time!

**Thursday 17 April**

- 9am-10am Scatter ball
- Join us for scatter ball in the park today
- 10am-12pm Inflatable fun
- Let’s get in the bouncy ring!
- 10am-11am Snow cones
- Let’s get cool and enjoy a special treat!
- 12pm-5pm Lunch
- Come join us for lunch
- 1pm-2pm Inflatable fun
- Let’s improve our boxing skills with giant gloves!
- 2pm-4pm Art and craft
- Get creative with some Easter craft! It’s a bit late! Oh well!
- 4pm-5pm Softball
- Hit a home run!

**Friday 18 April**

- 9am-10am Ice breakers
- Bring your friends, let’s break the ice and get to know each other
- 10am-12pm Reptile man
- Tony the snake man is bringing his reptile friends for you to meet
- 12pm-1pm Lunch
- Bring your lunch and join us
- 1pm-3pm Photo boards
- Make photo boards from your week at Coomera Youth!
- 2pm-3pm Scatter ball
- You can run but you can’t hide! It is scatter ball time!
- 3pm-4pm Talent quest
- Uncover your special talents and win a prize
- 4pm-5pm Presentations
- Awards and prizes… See you at the next holiday program!

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Upper Coomera Youth is located at

Upper Coomera Centre, 90 Reserve Road, Upper Coomera

All activities are designed for young people 12-17 years and all activities are free!

For information: email: uppercoomera@cdительнa.gld.gow.au or phone / text: 0408 734 061

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Coomera Youth located at

Coomera Community Space, 133 Finnegans Way, Coomera

All activities are designed for young people 12-17 years and all activities are free!

For information: email: l.tadam@ymp.org.au or phone / text: 0408 734 061