DEPUTY’S DESK

IMPORTANT DATES

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.

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 lessons with professional instructors, all the students make it look easy.

The tour includes return airfares from Coolangatta, one night accommodation in Sydney, five nights’ 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

DEAR PARENTS

Last week our school commemorated the 100th anniversary of landing at Gallipoli with a school ANZAC Day service on Wednesday. The entire school population of both students and staff took time to remember the sacrifices made by so many.

Thirty students then joined Mrs Bell and myself to march in the surfers Paradise ANZAC Day parade. I applaud the students for attending the march and demonstrating their appreciation and support for all those that have been called to enter conflict on Australia’s behalf.

The opening of the Confucius Classroom has been the culmination of many years of planning and highlights the school’s multi-national focus. Merrimac State High School has been involved in supporting, preparing and educating students in the Chinese language and culture for over 15 years.

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ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING
19 MAY

MAY

04-05 May Year 12 Biology Camp A - Jacobs Well Environmental Education Centre
06-07 May Year 12 Biology Camp B - Jacobs Well Environmental Education Centre
07 May Gold Coast Careers Expo, Year 10
12 May P & C Meeting
19 May Enrolment Information Evening, Year 6 into Year 7
22 May Junior Gold Coast City Council
26 May Year 8 & Year 10 Vaccinations
PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Our community supports our students in entering an international workforce and gives them the ability to work across cultures.

The funding for the Confucius Classroom will assist the school to further provide Chinese culture and language whilst also supporting a number of local primary schools to introduce Chinese studies to their curriculum offerings.

My special thanks to Dr Zhao, Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China who visited our school for the official opening.

Chris Tobin
Principal

WATTLE WE EAT NEXT?

Year 12 English Communication students participated in a ‘hands on’ presentation of local bush foods by our Indigenous Support Officer Sue Taylor. Sue shared with students her own cultural heritage and experience using these local bush foods. Students are delivering their own trade show presentations demonstrating how a sustainable future for our native bush foods can be achieved through the use of these ingredients by Australian food and cosmetics industries.

The Student Council have been instrumental in expanding our school’s bush food gardens with Native Gingers (Alpinea Coerulea) and two locally endangered species - Davidson Plum (Davidsonia jerseyana) and Small Leaved Tamarind (Diploglottis campbelli). The planting of four Brisbane Wattle (Acacia fimbriata) seedlings will make a tasty addition in the future as the roasted seeds of these trees taste like hazelnuts and are also an important food source for local parrots.

Scott Gillard
English

STUDY TOUR FAMILIES WANTED

Merrimac State High School has a long history of engaging with Chinese language and culture. We believe that an understanding of this gives our students a significant advantage as they graduate from school and make their way into further study or work. On 10 August we have 20 – 25 students from Liuzhou Foreign Language High School attending our school for 10 days. We are looking for families to host such students during their visit, allowing them to experience life as part of an Australian family.

• Families will be paid a $50 fee and $36 per night to accommodate a student.
• Students must receive three meals per day and must have their own bed (not a mattress on the floor) in either a separate room or shared bedroom.
• Students must be accompanied to and from school by another student or an adult and must have adult supervision at home.
• All adults over 18 years of age living in the home will require a Blue Card (the school will arrange and fund this).

If you are interested in supporting the school and providing a great cultural opportunity for your son/daughter, please contact our Homestay Coordinator, Mrs Kim Norfolk on 5595 8612 or knorf6@eq.edu.au.
KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

Across the Gold Coast District Police are regularly contacted by schools and concerned parents in relation to inappropriate driving and behaviours around school zones. Speed limits, drop-off and pick-up areas and parking rules exist to keep your children, parents and carers safe. They also help to minimise speed and traffic jams around schools. Whilst we appreciate that the drop off and pick up is a particularly busy time of day it does not excuse dangerous behaviour that could come with fatal consequences.

Gold Coast Police are constantly patrolling our school zones. Some of the offences that have been witnessed are, parents stopping in the middle of the road (double parking) and allowing children to get out of the vehicle, u-turns over double white lines into on-coming traffic, running red lights, speeding, unrestrained children, and road rage (use of offensive language whilst children were in the vehicle).

Over the next few weeks you will see an increase in High Visibility Traffic Patrols. We are keeping our roads safe by performing proactive and targeted traffic enforcement in relation to all school zones on the Gold Coast. So remember the road rules and don’t break them just to save a few extra minutes. The consequences will be with you for the rest of your life.

Below outlines some of the penalties which apply to traffic offences that are currently occurring within your school zone.

SPEEDING
School zone times have been standardised in Queensland to help motorists remember when to slow down. The standard operating times for your school zone is 7–9am and 2–4pm.

- <13km over the speed limit $151 and 1 point
- 13-20km over the speed limit $227 and 3 points
- 21-30km over the speed limit $379 and 4 points
- 31-40km over the speed limit $531 and 6 points
- 41km and over the speed limit $1062 and 8 points

PARKING
Make sure to take extra care when parking on school grounds and on the roads and streets around the school and follow the signed parking rules at all times. Remember most schools are around residential areas please be courteous and respectful to these people by not parking over their driveways.

- Stop across Footpath $45
- Stop contrary to flow of traffic $45
- Double Parking $45
- Stop Contrary to continuous yellow line $45

OTHER COMMON OFFENCES

- Seatbelts – As the parent you are responsible that your child has their seatbelts on and if required the correct car seat. Penalties for not wearing a seatbelt is $341 and 3 points. If your child is under 16 and is not wearing a seatbelt you get the ticket.
- U-turns – Illegal U-turns when not signed to do so - $91 and 2 points
- Red Traffic Light - $341 and 3 points
- Cross Double Lines - $204 and 3 points
- Disorderly conduct - $341

Careers Expo

All Year 10 Students will be attending the Gold Coast Careers Expo this year in Week 3.

Excursion consent forms were sent home earlier this week. Please return them by Friday 01 May 2015. There is no cost for families.

DATE: Thursday 7 May 2015
TIME: 9am - 11am
VENUE: Convention Centre, RACV Royal Pines Resort, Ashmore, QLD

MINI ENTREPRENEURS

This semester the Year 12 Business Management students have been studying the importance of Entrepreneurial skills and qualities when starting a small business. They are currently carrying out a feasibility study on 'small business start-ups.' The study is based on the investigation and identification of a potential local business opportunity. They are to assume that the Q Super Centre, Mermaid Waters is the location of the new business venture.

The students have visited the Q Super Centre to carry out Market Research Observations and Surveys. They are now currently analysing and evaluating their findings and, conducting secondary research.

The outcome of the study is to identify if their business venture would be successful by including a SWOT and competitor analysis, then to make recommendations on the best possible strategy to be used in order to ensure the success of the business.

The Business Management subject was introduced into the school last year and is looking to be a popular choice by the current seniors.

Lisa Cowderoy
HOD Business

Language Classes

Senior language classes are marching full speed ahead to Semester exams and so are working very hard in order to be able to confidently demonstrate the required standards of achievement.

The Semester result for Year 12’s is especially significant for their final achievement levels and so it is vital that they utilise their best efforts and application both in-class and at home.

Most senior language students have developed their own way of language-learning, however successful language-learners generally exhibit a few common characteristics. They are usually positive and prepared to take risks expressing themselves in the target language and not deterred if they sound “silly”. They are extremely organised in their bookwork and practice routines and have individual memory tools such as mnemonics, flash cards and digital vocabulary aids.

In the Year 12 Chinese class, Gareth Watson and in Year 12 Japanese, Jenny Sio, are both demonstrating these characteristics. We have high hopes for some excellent outcomes.

Marianna Crow
HOD LOTE

GRIFFITH PARTNERSHIPS

Each year Griffith Business offers an opportunity for our Business students to participate in the GrifBus program. Fourteen Senior students have just completed their first workshop with much success. After the completion of two more workshops, these students will be offered a place in the university’s degree courses. This is a fantastic opportunity for these students. The next workshop is 09 June.

Lisa Cowderoy
HOD Business
Every day counts

Most students attend school each day

Miss school

Miss learning

Missed opportunities

Low school attendance is associated with:

- lower academic achievement
- early school leaving
- future unemployment

Every day at school counts... Missing even one day can make a difference over time

Missing 1 day of school each fortnight = Missing more than a year of learning over 12 years

Average student attendance declines in Years 8, 9 and 10

The best predictor of student attendance is their attendance rate the year before

What schools are doing to improve student attendance

- Listening to student views on non-attendance
- Connecting to families and communities
- Recognising and rewarding good attendance
- Using sanction based approaches

For more information

Great state. Great opportunity.

March 2014

Visit the Every day counts website:
http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/