CONFUCIUS CLASSROOM OPENING

On Thursday 30 April, the Confucius Classroom at Merrimac State High School was officially launched at a special ceremony attended by the Consul-General of the People’s Republic of China in Brisbane, Dr Zhao Yongchen and a range of dignitaries. The opening was the culmination of many years of planning and highlighted the school’s strong multi-national focus and commitment to the teaching and learning of Chinese language and culture. It celebrated a new partnership with the Queensland University of Technology and the Hanban in Beijing.

The morning was a resounding success, with students and guests entertained by our Stage Band and Year 9 Dance Summit students, who performed a traditional Chinese fan dance. A huge congratulations and thank you must be extended to all staff and students who assisted in the lead-up to, and on the morning of the event.

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

DEAR PARENTS

Our NAPLAN testing went very smoothly with the Year 9 students undertaking the testing in the hall and the Year 7 students in their classrooms in V block. Students calmly participated in the test, doing their best, without signs of the anxiety or concerns reported in the media. I congratulate parents for their support and comforting influence during the time of the test.

We now eagerly await the results to see if the improved teaching practices we have put in place since last year’s results have delivered the expected progress and to analyse the data to identify even further improvements for the coming years.

This week we also welcomed Year 10 student, Phebe Mills back to school after travelling to Gallipoli and the Western Front as one of the 70 Queensland students who won a place on the Premier’s Anzac trip. Phebe recalled to me the emotion and sadness of her time at Gallipoli and Lone Pine but she also spoke of the many new friends she has made on this life changing trip. We are keen for the opportunity to hear more of her experiences.
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PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Congratulations also go to Ms Cassie Smith and her team of three students comprising of Montana Zillfleisch (Year 11), Zoe Clasen (Year 9), and Kaya Kurtukoff (Year 9), who last weekend were placed first at the Senior Level 4 Aeroschools Aerobic Gymnastics Regional Challenge. The team will now be competing again for Merrimac High School at the Queensland Cup on the Sunshine Coast in June, then again at Brisbane in August at the State Championships. Many, many hours of hard work and dedication were rewarded with this outstanding achievement. My recognition for this terrific effort is extended to all members of the team.

Chris Tobin
Principal

DEPUTY’S DESK
KAREN FARROW

Last week I received a call from a mother of a Year 7 student. The student was experiencing some difficulties in making new friends. Moving from Primary school to Secondary school is a time full of fun, excitement and new experiences, but it can also be challenging or worrying for some children. We can all help by ensuring these young students feel supported and by gently suggesting positive ways of making new friends.

1. Encourage your child to participate in Peer Mentoring lunch time activities run by older students, e.g. handball competitions under V Block and behind the canteen and chess competitions in the library. Details can be found on Student Notices.
2. Let your child know that new friends are welcome in your home. Encourage your child to invite friends over, contact parents of new friends and make their acquaintance or be ready to transport your child and new friends to activities out of school.
3. Encourage your child to explore new opportunities. Student Council meets each week and all students are welcome. The Leo's Club also encourages new members.
4. Learning a musical instrument, trying a new interschool team sport or joining the School Musical are all great ways for your child to meet other kids and get involved in school activities.
5. Encourage your child to approach the Year 9 Junior Secondary Captains and Community Representatives as only last year, they too were ‘new’ and can be great ‘buddies.’

Try to ensure your child eats well and gets plenty of physical activity and sleep. This routine should also include making your home comfortable for study and providing a quiet place away from distractions such as television and the mobile phone. Monitor internet usage to be sure that computer sessions are being used for homework and not for social media. As new cohorts, our Year 7 and 8 students have transitioned extremely well and are thriving in their new school environment. We thank all our Junior Secondary parents for their support and we look forward to seeing you at our next school function.

Karen Farrow
Deputy Principal

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.

PLEASE UPDATE EMAIL ADDRESSES

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.
JUNIOR SECONDARY

Highlighting the Junior Secondary students’ achievements and news headlines

Junior Sport

JUNIOR INTERSCHOOL SPORT

We are well into the interschool sport season and all Junior teams have been playing well, with students trying their best. In particular, the 14 Boys Soccer, 13B Rugby League, 14 Boys AFL and 13 Girls Basketball teams are enjoying great success and will no doubt feature in the grand finals later in the season. Well done to these students and their coaches.

MERRIMAC MINI MARATHON

The annual inter-house Merrimac Mini Marathon will be held on 19 May at Pizzey Park from 11:30am-2:30pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

Warren Joseph
HOD HPE

World Challenge 2016

Are you interested in living life on the edge, challenging yourself and making new friends? Merrimac has launched its next World Challenge Expedition and we will be heading to Borneo in December 2016. The World Challenge Program is open to students enrolled in Years 9 to 11 and provides excellent opportunities to mature and develop exceptional skills in preparation for the future.

Enjoy spectacular trekking in a variety of stunning locations on a Borneo expedition. Explore the lush green jungle in some of the world’s oldest rainforest or tackle the summit of Mt Kinabalu! Assist in both community projects and conservation initiatives. Relax by the stunning coastline and experience the unique and diverse Malaysian culture.

Borneo is located in the South China Sea and supports a profusion of plant and animal life. Teams travel through the states of Sarawak and Sabah, which are located in the northern half of the island and make up East Malaysia.

If you’re interested in finding out more information contact Mr McMahon or Ms Cassell.

Andrew McMahon
HOD Positive Behaviour
Canteen News

More than six million Australian  volunteers give happiness to others each year. Research shows that those volunteers are happier as a result. This National Volunteer Week (11–17 May 2015) Help us make Australia the happiest place on earth! Whether it’s one hour of your time or an ongoing commitment, it’s easy to share your skills and interests to “give happy and live happy”. Volunteers are welcome to help in the school canteen, on the P&C or sewing for the musical. We thank our volunteers during National Volunteer Week and invite new ones to apply.

Maryanne Cherry
Canteen Manager

Senior Maths

All senior students are being assigned homework via a web based application called My Maths (www.mymathsonline.com.au). Teachers are setting work, checking it and providing feedback.

It is essential that all students are participating in the homework programme. I would ask that you check with your child that they are doing their homework. If students are having difficulties there is a link at the top right of every homework task which opens a full lesson on that topic.

Students can complete the task numerous times if they wish to improve their understanding. If you are having any difficulties accessing the homework, please contact me so that we can rectify any problems.

Paul Gray
HOD Maths
NOTICE BOARD

Stay informed about what’s happening around our school

SNOW & SKI 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 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

From the NURSE’S DESK

HEAD LICE REPORTED SO NEED CONDITIONER AND COMB

Head lice are a nuisance & uncomfortable but not a significant health issue, unless left untreated. Telling others in your circle of contacts as soon as possible when you have found head lice provides every one with the opportunity to check for head lice thus reducing the spread. To check, & do the first treatment if any found, completely coat dry hair in white conditioner, comb through with head lice comb, wiping the conditioner off the comb on to white toilet paper. Any discolouration at all indicates lice, even if you don’t actually see any insects. Any discolouration of the conditioner combings means repeat every second day, until conditioner combings are totally white.

To reduce risk of contracting head lice, wear hair tied up as tightly as possible in any environment where there are lots of people, then, before going inside your home untie your hair & give it a really good brush in all directions. If a head lice survives you have probably damaged it so it less likely to reproduce.

CONCERNS/QUESTIONS
0432 00 5265 | jatki89@eq.edu.au

USUAL DAYS
Thursday & Friday, Room PS, Library

Jackie Atkinson
School nurse

Griffith University Dental Clinic

STUDENTS – receive FREE Dental Check-Up (including x-rays) and treatment*

* Conditions apply. Children 4 years and older but who have not yet completed Year 10 at school are eligible for free treatment under the QLD Health agreement.

ADULTS – FREE Dental Check-Up (including x-rays) also available with follow-up treatments at special fees*

* Conditions apply.

Phone 1800 188 295 or visit griffith.edu.au/healthclinics to book an appointment.

(Optional)
Griffith Dental Clinic is located at:
Griffith Health Centre, Level 3
Cnr Olsen Ave and Parklands Drive
Southport (Griffith University Gold Coast campus)
14th May 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Bond University Psychology Clinic

We would like to take this opportunity to explain the services available at Bond University Psychology Clinic.

The Bond University Psychology Clinic (BUPC) is staffed by provisional psychologists who have already completed at least four years of university training in psychology and who are now enrolled in further specialist post-graduate training for their Masters degree. We have provisional psychologists who are specialising in Clinical & Forensic Psychology and who are supervised by generally registered psychologists who are also members of the Australian Psychological Society and who have specialist endorsement in their relevant practicing area.

The Bond University Psychology Clinic provides an extensive range of assessments and interventions for a broad range of psychological and health-related problems. Our clients include adults, adolescents, children and families.

Consultations at the Clinic are welcomed by appointment and can be made Monday through Friday between 9.00am – 5.00pm by phoning (07) 5595 2527. Initial consultations are free and therapy sessions after the initial consultation are $15 per session. Assessment are $180.00.

Referrals are accepted from Medical Practitioners, Lawyers, Courts, Schools, Agencies, families and self-referrals. We have enclosed a brochure which provides additional details about the services offered at BUPC.

Thank you again for your support of the Bond University Psychology Clinic. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us either by telephone or email.

Warm regards
Dr Deborah Wilmoth
Clinic Director, Clinical Psychologist
Bond University Psychology Clinic
PARENTING PROGRAM
For Parents of Children with ADHD

A six-session parenting program that will assist you in:

• Understanding your child’s condition and behaviour
• Promoting and building positive relationships with your child
• Setting clear expectations and encouraging desirable behaviours
• Developing strategies to effectively deal with undesirable behaviours
• Looking after yourself as a parent

This program is designed for parents and caregivers of children and teenagers aged between 8 and 14 years.

The program will be held on Thursday 4th June, 11th June, 18th June, 25th June, 2nd July, and 9th July from 6.00pm - 8.00pm.

Total Cost: $30 per person/couple ($5 per session)

Location:
Bond University Psychology Clinic
Bond University
University Drive
Robina QLD 4229
To register, please contact the Bond University Psychology Clinic:
(07) 5595 2527 or psych_clinic@bond.edu.au

ANXIETY AND ME
FOR GIRLS BETWEEN THE AGES 14 AND 17 YEARS

Every Thursday night for 6 weeks
May 28th - July 2nd
5:30pm-6:30pm

Bond University Psychology Clinic
Cost: $5 each session or $30 at the end of the program

If you or someone you know is struggling with anxiety this group can help by:

• Learning about anxiety and how it impacts you
• Education about the cycle of anxiety
• Relaxation and other strategies to manage anxiety
• Problem solving and stress reduction techniques
• Self-management and prevention

For more information contact: Bond University Psychology Clinic – (07) 5595 2527

Anxiety Management Training
for Children and their Families

A group intervention offered by the Bond University Psychology Clinic

For children aged 8-13 years and their parents
Learn the difference between anxiety and healthy worry
Gain skills to help your child work through their anxiety
Give your child the tools to help them manage anxiety and conquer their fears independently

The group will be run for one hour (5.30-6.30pm) each Thursday night for six weeks at the Bond University Psychology Clinic.
(June 5th, 11th, 18th, 25th; July 2nd, July 9th)
Cost $30
Call 5595 2527 for more information