SCHOOL MUSICAL 
TICKETS ON SALE NOW

We are very excited to announce that tickets are now on sale for our 2015 musical, 13!

When 13 year old Evan Goldman moves from New York City to Indiana, he must escape rumors and blackmail if he hopes to make friends and find happiness at his new school. This play deals with the hardships of leaving familiar places for unfamiliar ones, fitting in with your peers, and transitioning from youth to adulthood.

DATES 31 July and 1 August
VENUE Merrimac State High School Hall
TIME 7.30pm
TICKETS Adults - $20
       Students/Concession - $15

Tickets can be purchased or collected from the school cashier window. However, seats are limited, so get in fast!

JUNE

02 June     Lawn Bowls - HPS101
08 June     Queen’s Birthday
09 June     Griffith Business
09 June     P & C Meeting
09 June     Lawn Bowls - HPS101
15-18 June  Melbourne Rugby League Trip
16 June     Arts Primary Tour

IMPORTANT DATES

P&C MEETING
09 JUNE

DEAR PARENTS

Next month we join in partnership with the local police to discuss with students in Years 7, 8 and 9 the issues around cyber safety. This part of our program is to ensure students are aware of issues on the internet and the appropriate use of technology.

With the increase in the number of applications that allow social communication it is essential that students are aware of the skills to guard their own safety, while also understanding the laws regarding cyber safety. I would encourage parents to have this discussion with their teenagers.

This week I spent two days interviewing many applicants to permanently fill the positions of Head of Department for Positive Behaviour and LOTE/International. I was very pleased to have a large group of very strong applicants to draw from and I look forward to having these two positions filled from the beginning of Semester 2.

Over the last couple of weeks the school has hosted two Lightning Carnivals for our feeder Primary school. Whilst the days were greatly enjoyed by the primary students, I was very pleased with the leadership and organisation ability shown by our sport summit students.

MORE ON PAGE 2
DEPUTY'S DESK

SUSAN BELL

The last few weeks at Merrimac State High School have been extremely busy. We had our Mini-Marathon on Tuesday 19 May and this was followed by two Lightening Carnivals, where local primary schools competed in team sports at our school. All three events were very successful with many students getting involved and having a lot of fun along the way.

However, with us having so much fun, the term has whizzed by and we only have four weeks until the end of the semester. The majority of our students are currently heavily involved in completing assessment tasks. The Year 11 and 12 exam block commences on Monday 9 June and finishes on 15 June. Letters will be going home to parents outlining the exam timetable (as well as being posted on our school’s website – www.merrimacshs.eq.edu.au) for this block of assessment.

It is also a busy time assessment-wise for all other year levels. Students should be spending time either revising content in preparation for exams or working on assignments. Often parents are concerned that their child is spending too much time online for things other than school work, such as social media, playing games or downloading songs or movies. While there is no guideline to the ‘right’ amount of time for students to spend online, if their online behaviour appears to impact negatively on their behaviour or well-being or that of the family, it may be time to discuss expectations and establish time limits.

The longer parents wait to address the issue, the more difficult it can be to overcome. If you see an emerging problem arising from excessive use, act on it right away. Talk to your student about the concerns you have and monitor what games, apps and devices are bought or used by your student. Consider implementing family agreements about the amount of time your student can spend online. You might like to have a rule where the internet password is only given once all homework and family chores are done. A similar approach can be used to limit access to other devices.

If your student seems particularly anxious or irritable or you noticed them seeming isolated from friends or activities, there may be an underlying issue. Consider getting assistance from the school guidance officer or school-based youth health nurse or your GP to ensure that your student is coping with the demands from all aspects of their life.

Susan Bell
Deputy Principal

MERRIMAC STATE HIGH SCHOOL CANTENE NEWS

Merrimac State High School Canteen is a collection point for jars for the Merrimac Primary School Fete.

Could you please send any jars (preferably clean) to the canteen and we will pass them on.

Maryanne Cherry
Canteen Manager
Literary Enhancement Day

During Term 2 the English faculty provided several Literacy Enhancements Days for Year 7 and 9 students in preparation for NAPLAN on 12-14 May. The focus in Week 1 was revising the fundamental skills in literacy including spelling, grammar, and punctuation and reading comprehension. In Week 2 and 3 students worked on their writing skills in the persuasive and narrative genre with a strong emphasis on text structure and appropriate use of language features. Many students thoroughly enjoyed the creative writing activities and opportunities to be imaginative while producing some quality narratives along the way!

A special thank you to the hardworking and enthusiastic English teachers who were involved in these successful literacy days - Mrs Braithwaite, Mrs Neilson, Miss Warren, Ms Singh, Mr Gillard, Mr Croucher, Mr Porche, Mrs Cantrill, Mr Stanley, Mrs Wolski, Mr Airey, Miss Selwood, Mrs Starr, Mr Rujak, Ms Price and Mrs Rogers. Their commitment to ensuring students were empowered and engaged by literacy, language and literature was highly commended.

Just a reminder that the Rockin’ Reading Master Classes are still running during Term 2 with HOD Reading Mrs Neilson and Mr Airey in V block after school Monday and Thursday for Year 7, 8 and 9 students with a passion for reading. Come along and be challenged with critical thinking activities, academic games and pizza!

Get reading!

Kylie Wilson
HOD English

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

Congratulations to Merrimac State High School Dance Troupe! They recently completed in the Starbound Eisteddfod against many schools. They placed third and also received two Highly Commended placements. Great work girls and a big thank you to teachers Miss Kite and Mrs Deck for all of their time and effort training the girls.
Cooking Classes

Mr Ruck’s senior cooking class have been making their own lunches and are becoming competent cooks. Last week they joined the Jamie Oliver World Cooking Challenge and tried two new recipes. Both students and teachers enjoyed the wonderful tomato soup they made. Students enjoyed their Jamie Spaghetti Bolognaise so much there was none left to share with staff!

Well done students!

Heike Orlow
HOD SEP

TOURISM STUDIES

On the 22 May, Year 11 tourism students visited Gold Coast’s Sea World Theme Park as part of a Workplace Health and Safety unit. The students had to complete a work booklet answering questions about WPHS in the park. We attended a presentation with the Education Officer in the Paradise Room who spoke about each business Warner Bros. owned such as Sea World, Sea World Resort, Movie World, Outback Spectacular, Wet n’ Wild and Paradise Country. She continued to tell us which positions they had for different people and the roles that they played. The students had to study a ride allocated to them and research what safety guidelines were taken to keep the attraction safe.

Overall the day was eventful, educational and a complete success!!

Kiana Gray
Tourism Student

Congratulations to Katie and Abby who are Artists of the Week in Mrs V’s ceramics class. Well done girls!
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.

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.