DEAD PARENTS

For some years Merrimac State High School has organised the school’s assessment calendar to ensure that all Term 3 Senior exams and assignments are due before the QCS test.

Student feedback shows us they greatly appreciate going into the QCS test free of other exam or assignment worries. Our results from the last few years also support our approach, with 100% of students achieving an OP between 1-15.

However, this does mean that the school assessment calendar does not align with the school holidays. This is exemplified this Term with our Year 11 and 12 students currently on exam block. After the exam block the Year 11 and 12 students will then commence the next Term’s work.

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MELBOURNE GIRLS RUGBY LEAGUE TRIP
15-18 JUNE

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<th>JUNE</th>
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<td>15-18 June</td>
<td>Melbourne Girls Rugby League Trip</td>
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<td>Arts Primary Tour</td>
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<td>17 June</td>
<td>Griffith Biology Lab Day - Year 11</td>
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<td>22 June</td>
<td>Responsible Service of Alcohol - Year 11 &amp; 12 Students</td>
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<td>23 June</td>
<td>Year 12 Catering Excursion to Mermaid Quality Hotel</td>
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<td>23 June</td>
<td>Excursion to Shogun Restaurant - Year 9 Japanese</td>
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The next two weeks will be very important for both our Senior and Junior students as new knowledge and concepts are explored.

I highlight our process and success to inform parents about the growing trend of families taking vacations outside the school holidays. I can understand the incentives for families to take a vacation outside of the designated school holidays, but it does come at another cost.

Student performance is directly linked to days in attendance. Any time missing from school, especially in these last two weeks, will have an impact on performance.

I would ask families to carefully consider the real cost of taking students on vacation outside of the school holidays.

Chris Tobin
Principal

The urge to create is equally strong in all children, boys and girls. While it is easier to give up than to say “I can do it”; if students don’t believe they can, then they can’t. Time spent now imagining the possibilities of what they could become would be appropriate, and well apportioned.

Having a passionate focus and goals will assist in making decisions in moments of distraction. Ask your child to think about their future the life they wish to pursue and the person they want to be. Have them picture the way they want their life to be: doctor or dog walker, radiologist or race car driver. It’s their story to create. School is the opportunity to bring this dream into reality. Students must attack every opportunity and equip themselves with the right materials and skills to create the life they have imagined for themself.

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

Jason Gibbs
Deputy Principal

A reminder to parents to please ensure we have your current email and postal address on record, as school reports will be distributed via both post and email this term. Details may be updated by contacting our office.
Highlighting the Junior Secondary students’ achievements and news headlines

Junior Gold Coast City Council Report

On Friday 22 May, Shannon Winter, Jess Lloyd, Aizha Poynton and Yasmin Lemon attended the second Junior Gold Coast City Council meeting for 2015. As new Year 10 delegates, Shannon and Jess were sworn in as members of the 2015 Junior City Council.

This meeting included a speech from the Gold Coast Mayor, Tom Tate, and the acceptance of badges by new members from all attending schools. We felt so privileged to have been given the opportunity to be part of such a beneficial organisation. We learned many things about the future of the Gold Coast as well as interacting with many new people from different schools from across the region. Besides all the important presentations from many of the Senior City councillors about their divisions, we were able to engage in fun icebreaker activities to give us a sense of confidence and friendship with all the other members. We were able to witness the swearing in of the 2015 Junior City Council Executive team as well as the announcement of the new Junior Mayor.

We are all looking forward to what’s to come in the future meetings this year. A special thanks to Mrs Phillips for attending these meetings with us and giving us this opportunity.

Shannon Winter and Jessica Ma’ata Lloyd

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 rumours 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!

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
S
ince the opening of the Confucius classroom on
30 April, it has been fully utilised to maximise
students’ learning. Students have been incorporating
the “talking poster” into Chinese lessons and using
the donated computer to integrate technology
and enhance further learning. Funding from this
partnership has also given students an opportunity to
go on an excursion to the Buddha Festival in Brisbane.
Here they were able to experience Chinese culture via
a variety of workshops including a percussion activity.

Congratulations to Year 11 Chinese student Micaiah
Jensen, who has successfully obtained a full
scholarship to participate in an international youth
camp held in Shanghai in August. He will be one of
the six ambassadors from Queensland to take part in
this international event. We also have another two
Year 10 students, Astrid Briggs and Jodie Allen, who
have been selected to participate in another China
exchange program in July. This Chinese immersion
program will enable students to learn and practice
Chinese language in an authentic environment with
students coming from other countries.

Year 9 Japanese students will be taking part in an
excursion to a Japanese restaurant on the 23 June.
Here they will get a chance to experience Japanese
Teppanyaki dining which relates to the term topic of
food and drink. This should be a wonderful taste of
culture and a night to remember.

Dahna Woods
Acting HOD LOTE

WORLD VISION YOUTH
CONFERENCE

O
n Thursday 28 May, Koby Rogers, our school captain, and Darrian
Grant, Julia Young and Savanna Haenel, three of our Peer Mentors,
joined our Chaplain, Chris Perry, and myself for the World Vision
Youth Conference.

It was an incredible day where the students joined 250 others from the
Gold Coast District to be immersed in leadership activities, to make new
friends and connections, to learn more about themselves and to learn
some confronting facts about our world.

If I could condense the conference into three words, they would be:
‘AWARENESS, INSPIRATION and PREPAREDNESS’. The students were
provided with many facts and figures about the state of our world and
about their place in it. They were drawn to the conclusion that we are all
interconnected and that our impact on each other can be either
negative or positive and that we all have the capacity to change our
world in some way.

Deb McMenamin
Peer Mentor Coordinator
What is Nude Food?

Nude Food is simply food that is not wrapped in foil, plastic or commercial packaging.

The best type of nude food consists mainly of fresh food, so that it is healthy and nutritious PLUS environmentally friendly.

Promoting Nude Food empowers students to make conscious choices about what they eat, and encourages them to think about their impact on the environment (and their health).

If you haven’t already it’s time to join the Nude Food Movement.