IMPORTANT DATES

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
27 JUNE - 10 JULY

JUNE

27 June - 10 July  School Holidays
14 July     P & C Meeting
15 July     Musical 13 Rehearsal - Full cast with musical director and band
16 July     Seaworld Excursion - International students
17 July     Drama Excursion, “The Forwards Play” - Year 11 students
23 July     Fashion Excursion, Indooroopilly Shopping Centre - Year 11 & 12 students
24 July     School Athletics Carnival

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE
MR CHRIS TOBIN

DEAR PARENTS

As the first half of the school year comes to a close I am very pleased with the efforts of the Merrimac State High School students. Generally, the students have put in a very strong effort with over 90% achieving an A, B or C. It is obvious that all the hard work and hours of study has paid off. I would like to also acknowledge the support provided to these teenagers by their parents. I know your efforts are greatly appreciated, even if it is not acknowledged at the time.

I am also pleased to see a slight improvement in the attendance rate. I know I have written a number of previous articles about the topic, but attendance at school is paramount to success. Even those odd days off every now and then make a big difference. Again, thank you to the majority of parents who join with us in ensuring “Every Day Counts”.

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SENIOR GIRLS RUGBY LEAGUE TEAM TRIUMPHS IN MELBOURNE

From Monday 15 to Thursday 18 June, the Senior players accompanied by Mr David MacColl - Coach, Miss Hayley Cassell – Manager and Mrs Karen Farrow – Deputy Principal, visited Melbourne as guests of The Melbourne Storm and Victorian Rugby League. The girls played two games against Victorian U/19 Women’s representative sides. The team won a tough first game, under lights at Truganina, 26-0. Onlookers were amazed by the girls’ agility, passing and team-work. Players of the match were Saphire Abraham, Josephine Dalby and Kate Barker. The second game was played the following morning at Clayton, and the girls were determined in backing up and again kept the opposition scoreless by winning 38-0. Player of the match was Matiah Sessarago.

Not only did the girls have the opportunity to play against other quality female rugby league players, they were also fortunate in being able to tour AAMI Stadium – home to The Melbourne Storm, participate in a presentation by Storm personnel and attend the Storm vs Parramatta Eels NRL match. David Donaghy, the newly appointed CEO of The Storm, gave the team an insight into one of the highest achieving NRL Clubs and also introduced the Head of the Melbourne Storm Players’ Welfare Team who focussed on career opportunities generated by Rugby League. The girls heard from a former Captain of The Storm and were able to participate in a Question & Answer session.

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As you are aware from our cover story, I am fortunate in recently having had the opportunity to accompany our Senior Team in the Girls’ Rugby League Program on its inaugural Victorian tour.

During the trip, we attended a presentation from The Melbourne Storm. CEO Dave Donaghy and Players’Welfare directors addressed the girls. They spoke about their personal experiences as professional rugby league players and how the club cares for its young players. Their message was simple and meaningful and one that the girls found quite emotive. The values and advice The Storm imparts to its young players is just as valuable for all young people and also for our Merrimac students. These extremely successful men spoke about expressing gratitude, grasping opportunity with both hands, overcoming fear to make the most of these opportunities and never forgetting the importance of education. In expressing gratitude, we need to acknowledge the sacrifices others, often our families and closest mentors including teachers and coaches, make in giving us opportunities. By expressing gratitude, young players on the verge of public recognition, remain humble and connected to their roots. The Storm directors also emphasised that with opportunity comes responsibility, and the main responsibility for professional NRL players is to their team and club, and also to their community.

This was the message that resonated with the Merrimac State High School team. The girls realise that the opportunities they have received have been brought about by the hard work, vision and sacrifice of their families and school staff and that the best way they can respond is through expressing gratitude and by stepping up and contributing meaningfully within our school community. The importance of education was also stressed at our information session. Continued participation in the Merrimac State High School Girls’ Rugby League Program must be matched by attendance at school and with success in academic studies. The girls were reassured to hear that young talented rugby league players offered scholarships with The Melbourne Storm must also match their on-field performance with success in work or study, and commitment to team behaviour and training expectations. I know that the ‘on-field’ and ‘off-field’ experiences gained from this trip will benefit the girls for a long time.

Karen Farrow
Deputy Principal

This inaugural excursion to Melbourne exposed the Merrimac State High School’s Girls’ Rugby League Team to tough competition and a unique opportunity to receive expert mentoring from league professionals and personnel from an elite Australian Rugby League Club. The girls have gained invaluable practical experience and insights and the Merrimac Program has now formed strong links with administrators and players from both Victoria and New Zealand. Not only should the girls be congratulated on their football results, but also on the manner in which they represented the school and the QRL interstate.

Congratulations girls – we are very proud of your achievements!

From the P&C

As most of us are aware, there is a new flight path being considered which will see planes flying over our suburb and over our school. There is concern for increased noise and I ask parents to consider attending the Community Centre at Albert Waterways on Tuesday 30 June 2015 at 7.00pm to voice your concerns and learn more. We all want the best education possible for our children as well as a healthy and safe environment for them to learn in.

Marie Mills
P&C President
GETTING READY FOR THE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Students in Years 7-10 have started work on improving their fitness along with developing their throwing and jumping skills during HPE lessons. For the Year 7 and 8 students there are a number of new field events such as javelin and triple jump as well as hurdling to learn and practise. Competition for some of the events will occur on Wednesday afternoons during sport time at the beginning of Term 3. The Interhouse Track and Field carnival will be held on Friday 24 July.

Warren Joseph
HOD HPE

Bronze Café

Congratulations to the 120 students, predominantly from Years 7, 8 and 9, who were recognised for their fantastic effort in living by our School Values of Respect, Responsibility and Reliability. These students managed to accumulate in excess of twenty bronze dollars each in recognition of their excellent behaviour, hard work and respect shown to their teacher and class mates. Each student was invited to bring a friend along to the Bronze Café and enjoy a fantastic meal catered for them by senior hospitality classes and the generous support of Mr Tobin and the Administration team.

A very special thankyou to the hospitality staff and students who did a fantastic job in providing some delicious meals for our hard working students.

Andrew McMahon
HOD Positive Behaviour

Year 5 and 6 students enjoyed a fantastic day at our Early Flyers Excellence Day Workshop this week! We look forward to welcoming them to Merrimac State High School in the future!
Maths

Year 10 is a very important foundation for senior studies in mathematics. It is crucial that students look for the prerequisites of senior courses and ensure that they are in the right place. In addition to this, we will make placement decisions based on students Semester 1 results. Please have a chat to your child regarding what they are doing, how they are doing and what they hope to do next year. This will significantly aid the subject selection process later in Term 3.

If your child is in Year 11 or 12, please have a chat to them about their placement in their mathematics subject for Semester 1. Ask about their “level of achievement” and their z-score. Have them explain what all this means in terms of their OP or QCE.

Homework is important and whilst improvements have been made some students are still not providing their best effort. All students have homework. Please assist us by ensuring it is done.

Paul Gray
HOD Maths

From the
INDUSTRY LIAISON OFFICER’S DESK

All Trades Qld Free 4 day Painting Workshop
From Monday 6 July, at 37-43 Commercial Drive Shailer Park;
Must be enthusiastic, reliable and keen to start a career as an apprentice.
You will hold a valid driver’s licence, own a reliable vehicle and be prepared to travel.
No Experience Required!
For more information and to register please apply online at www.atq.com.au/vacancies or call 131830

Information Session Culinary Excellence Program Jupiter’s Hotel & Casino
Congratulations to A McGarrigal, C Brennan, S Etuale for attending this event Thursday 18 June. These students joined another dozen students from other Gold Coast High Schools to learn about chef work experience and apprenticeships being offered to them Semester 2. Student conduct and participation was exceptional.

Congratulations
K MacFarlane, M Wissmann, O George and S McLean – participation in the inaugural Gold Coast DET Health Inspiration event Thursday 18 June.

The Year 10-11 Early Childhood studies students that attended the Childcare Industry presentation on Wednesday 17 June. Excellent participation.

School based Apprenticeships Webpage

Other
Apprenticeships Info - 1800 210 210
Rachel Skrabanich – Industry Liaison Officer – rskra1@eq.edu.au

Rachel Skrabanich
Industry Liaison Officer

Term 2 has reached its conclusion and the final half of the final year for Year 12 students looms on the horizon; the culmination of over a decades’ worth of schooling. For some the end cannot come soon enough, for others, it is all too close. The onset of Term 3 will mark the beginning of the very last semester before the freedom to pursue whatever you desire is handed out: a small slip of paper adorned with the words ‘Queensland Certificate of Education’ and all of your accomplishments achieved in months prior.

From this point onwards, the path you will take is entirely up to you. A gamut of possibilities lay ahead, limited only by your will to achieve in these coming months. Whether you are competing with your peers, working independently or engaging in a variety of extra-curricular fields, these final two terms will be your last opportunity to prove that you can maintain these successes. Any future prospective employers will not be assessing you on what you could have done, but rather what you have done. Overcoming hardships and consistently persevering will reward you later in life: these are virtues fundamental to a strong and able self.

Liam Power
Year 12 Student
NOTICE BOARD

Stay informed about what’s happening around our school

Student Service REMINDERS

If you child is absent (e.g due to illness) you can notify the school by:
- Replying to the Absence Text (preferred method)
- Emailing absences@merrimacshs.eq.edu.au (preferred method)
- Sending a note when the student returns to school
- Sending notification through QParent App
- Calling the office

If you are planning for your child to be absent for more than three days e.g. medical procedure, holidays etc;
- Obtain an ‘Application for Student Leave’ form from admin office, complete all details and return to office
- Student to take a ‘Student on Approved Leave – Subject Tasks’ form to his/her teachers for work while they are away
- If this form is not completed and/or not returned you will continue to receive the daily absence text and your child will be marked as ‘Unexplained Absence’. Please be aware that holidays taken during term time may not receive the approval of the school.

A reminder that under Queensland law, you must ensure your teenager of school age (up to 17 years of age) is enrolled and attends school all day, every school day, unless they have an acceptable reason.

Acceptable reasons would not include:
- Birthdays
- Shopping
- Visiting family and friends
- Minor medical or dental check-ups
- Family holidays

If changing details e.g. address details, phone numbers, emergency contacts etc;
- Send notification through QParent App
- Provide new details in writing to the school office or request your student to collect a ‘pink’ Student Card – Confidential form from the office

SCHOOL MUSICAL TICKETS ON SALE

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!

My World and Otherness
visual arts exhibition 2015

Opening Reception Wednesday 24 June
6.00 – 8.00pm
School Library