School Support Staff Recognition Week was celebrated from 31 August – 04 September and was a great opportunity to recognise the wonderful work of our support staff at Merrimac State High School.

Without School Support staff our students would not have a quality education. There would be no enrolments, no excursions, no play areas or ovals freshly mown and safe, things would stay broken, computers would no longer be networked or effective educational tools, no science experiments, no outdoor education and literally no lights on if the bills weren’t paid!

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Support Staff on everything they do to make public education so great and the commitment that together they have made to a better future for our students!

Let’s Celebrate School Support Staff!

School Support Staff Week 2015

IMPORTANT DATES

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
19 SEPTEMBER - 04 OCTOBER

SEPTMBER

07 September  Junior Gold Coast City Council
08 - 09 September South Coast Regional Athletics Championships
08 September  P&C Meeting
11 September  QLD Sevens Girls Rugby Union
11 - 15 September Certificate II in Tourism Camp
16 September  South East Region SAT Awards
19 Sep - 04 Oct  School Holidays
From the beginning of 2016, the school cashier window will be closed on Mondays. It will operate 8.00am to 1.45pm from Tuesday to Friday.
**O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art though Romeo?**

On Monday 07 September the popular theatre company Shake & Stir will perform William Shakespeare's play Romeo & Juliet for our Year 9 English students. As part of the Term 3 English curriculum students have been engaged with literature based around 'The Bard' tragic tale in the written and spoken modes.

Shake & Stir put a new spin on the classic love story with Shakespeare's rebellious teen lovers who take centre stage in this contemporary 60-minute adaptation intertwining text, music, video and photography. Against their parents' will, these young romantics steal private moments and plan their future together in complete ignorance of an increasingly oppressive backdrop of hatred, prejudice and narrow mindedness showing relevance and connection to modern day society.

A special thank you to our Year 9 English teachers and Mrs Braithwaite for organising this valuable opportunity for our students. The experience of live theatre in English will assist students in completing their assessment in class and enrich their understanding of the plot, characters, setting and themes of the play.

We hope students enjoy the show!

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Kylie Wilson  
HOD English

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**Congratulations to Year 9 Junior Secondary Leaders Julia Bejleri and Dimitrij Simjanovski who were MC's at the recent Adolescent Success International Conference held at the Gold Coast Convention Centre. They spoke with confidence and represented themselves and Merrimac State High School beautifully.**

**A big congratulations to the following students who have made the Academic List for Semester 1 2015. The students must have achieved six or more A's and the rest B's in their End-of-Semester 1 Report Card. Their efforts and success have been celebrated on our Junior Secondary Assembly and their names will be placed on the honour board in the school hall. Well done!**

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Chris Wood  
HOD Junior Secondary

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<th><strong>YEAR 7</strong></th>
<th><strong>YEAR 8</strong></th>
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<td>Maddison Anstiss (7G)</td>
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<td>Nick Carpenter (7A)</td>
<td>Joey Barreto (8A)</td>
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<td>Marissa Chai (7A)</td>
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<td>Megan Doel (7J)</td>
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<td>Christine Giuliano (7A)</td>
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<td>Jordan Hughes (7A)</td>
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<td>Maya Wood (7A)</td>
<td>Natasha Patricks (8B)</td>
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<td>Anna Yamada (7A)</td>
<td>Zoey Stothard (8A)</td>
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<td>Shunsuke Zamma (8B)</td>
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A number of exciting events have put the SEP in the spotlight recently.

Rani Hancock, one of the Year 12 students, has recently returned from the Para Olympics in USA. She represented Australia in the 100m sprint and the 200m relay. The relay team are to be congratulated on their third place achievement. Well done Rani!

During Term 2 a number of our students were involved in work experience at House With No Steps doing a number of packaging tasks. These students were Sam Davis, Riley Blackwell, Lloyd Bourne, Katie Rogers, Rani Hancock and Abby Hinckesman. All students received favourable feedback and it was a valuable step into the world of work for all. Three of these students will be returning to the same workplace next term.

Finally, we’d like to give a big congratulations to our two Eisteddfod entries this year. The Senior duo achieved a first place and the mixed age group who performed ‘Hairspray’ achieved a second place. I wish to thank TADS (Theatre and Dance) for their excellent coaching to achieve these outcomes.

Heike Orlow
HOD SEP
NOTICE BOARD

Stay informed about what’s happening around our school

STUDENT SERVICES REMINDERS

If your student is late to school:

• Your student should go to the Student Services Window for a Late to School Pass – this means less interruption for the teacher when your student enters the classroom late
• If possible, please send a note with your student to explain the reason for their late arrival
• If no note is provided you will receive an Absence Text saying your student was late to school unexplained
• You may reply to this text with a reason for the lateness, or
• Email absences@merrimacshs.eq.edu.au, or
• Log the reason through Q Parent App, or
• Send in a note the next day

Please remember that even 20 minutes missed every day equates to over 2.5 weeks of missed education per year.

Can Saver Plus assist you with high school costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:

• school uniforms and text books
• computers, laptops and tablets
• excursions and camps
• sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
• music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact your local Saver Plus Worker:
1300 610 355
or saverplus@bsl.org.au