Dear Parents

Welcome to Term 4!

There is energy and ‘buzz’ around the school as staff and students have arrived back from the break refreshed and reinvigorated. I was reminded in the holidays of the importance of global education and the need to prepare our students for successful global citizenship.

Merrimac State High School promotes intercultural awareness through opportunities for all members of our community to travel and appreciate other cultures and environments. During the vacation, Japaneese teacher Jireh Dixon and Deputy Principal Susan Bell successfully led a student tour of Japan. At the same time, I was fortunate to accompany staff on an educational tour of Southern China. We visited Primary and Middle schools and discussed and compared curriculum and pedagogy with the Chinese teachers and students. The schools and staff are keen to foster mutually beneficial partnerships and exchanges where we can share best practice with each other and improve outcomes for all our students.

On Thursday 01 October I attended the presentation evening for the Gold Coast Schools’ Legal Essay Competition 2015. The event was hosted by both Griffith University and Short Punch Greatorix Legal Firm and the competition was open to Gold Coast Year 12 students. The presentation took place at the offices of Short Punch Greatorix in Bundall. Schools were only allowed to submit two entries. Our winning legal essay entrant was Esther Lammers from Year 12, whose response to a class assignment was awarded second place. It was a lovely evening (made even better with the win). Esther received a trophy, $250.00 cash prize and our school was highly commended in the presentation. Well done Esther!

Maree Briffa
Legal Studies Teacher

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Important Dates

Student Free Day
19 October

OCTOBER
19 October  Student Free Day
21 - 23 October  International Surf Camp
27 October  Immunisations Year 8 & Year 10
27 October  Junior Gold Coast City Council
03 November  Snorkelling - Seaway Rock Wall - Year 11
03 November  Junior Presentation Night
04 November  Sports Presentation Night

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Principal’s Message
Mrs Karen Farrow

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PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Global and environmental awareness are crucial for our students’ future success, and this week our Marine students and staff headed off to Heron Island to study the marine environment unique to The Great Barrier Reef. Overseas students in our International Program were also invited to attend. They will return home with a personal understanding of the beauty and fragility of this Queensland natural wonder. Our World Challenge students and staff will soon be departing for the jungles of Borneo eager to learn about gorilla conservation and the jungle ecosystem.

Our school is fortunate to have the support of parents and staff who provide opportunities for our students to be linked in meaningful ways to the world outside our local community. Merrimac State High School students are very prepared to successfully take their place and contribute anywhere in the world.

Karen Farrow
A/Principal

DEPUTY’S DESK

Neil Steinhardt
Deputy Principal

Prior to the holidays the Year 10 students completed their interviews and subject selection for entry into Year 11 in 2016. It has been pleasing to see many students realise that they have to work harder and apply themselves more in order to reach pre-requisite levels to gain entry into Year 11 subjects. I applaud these students for their extra effort and look forward to reading the results of this on their end of Year 10 report cards.

It is fast approaching the time when many students’ thought turn to formal and graduation ceremonies. The Year 12’s have told me already about new dresses and suits as well as who is partnering who. Our Year 11 students will, as usual, be having their Broadwater Cruise and the Year 10’s their Dinner Dance at Mermaid Tavern. Invitations have been given to students eligible to attend these functions.

We saw our musical “13” earlier this year, and last Wednesday night the Student Council staged a very successful Multicultural Night, including their Talent Quest finalists. Approximately 400 people in the audience made it great night of fantastic entertainment and the theme – “The Fire Within” was certainly evident. Congratulations to all students and staff who made this night a resounding success. If you have never been to one these nights they surely are not to be missed. Hope to see you there next year!

It soon will be the time when our new student leaders for 2016 will be announced. It is always a very solemn occasion, when, during Presentation Night the 2016 leaders will be formally announced. School leader and prefect interviews concluded this week whilst junior leader interviews were held some weeks prior. Congratulations to all of the successful candidates.

Whilst on the topic of Presentation Nights, don’t forget that on Tuesday 03 November is our first ever Junior Presentation Night, followed by our Sports Awards Night on Wednesday 04 November and then on Thursday evening, 05 November our Senior Presentation Night.

Neil Steinhardt
Deputy Principal

CASHIER WINDOW OPENING HOURS

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.

Chinese Trip 2015
Year 7 Digital Media

Year 7 Digital Media Technology students are learning about robotics with Mrs Elke Schneider. They have been having fun building robots using Lego EV3 Mindstorms. These robots include motors, sensors, remote-control and programming.

Elke Schiender
Information Technology Teacher

We are proud to announce that Merrimac State High School will be performing

OLIVER THE MUSICAL
20 & 21 July 2016

Currently students are auditioning for roles to be part of this fantastic musical. It is not too late to apply to audition. Students who wish to do so need to see Mrs Dyer in Q block.

EARN & LEARN

A huge thank you to all staff, parents and students who collected Earn and Learn stickers on our behalf.

We were able to collect in excess of 5,000 stickers this year which is 1,000 more than last year!

Thanks to your efforts we will be able to purchase some wonderful resources for the Special Education Program. Many thanks again for your wonderful support!

JUNIOR PRESENTATION NIGHT

It is our great pleasure to invite you to our Junior Presentation Night to celebrate the success of our Junior students. We are very pleased with their efforts throughout the year, and hope that you can join us in recognising their achievements.

DATE Tuesday, 03 November
TIME 7.00PM
LOCATION Merrimac State High School Hall
It is our great pleasure to invite you to our Senior Presentation Night to celebrate the success of our Senior students. We are very pleased with their efforts throughout the year, and hope that you can join us in recognising their achievements.

**UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS**

A reminder for students and parents wishing to purchase a formal uniform for Presentation Night and Graduation that the Uniform Shop is open:

**MONDAY**
8.00am - 11.30am

**TUESDAY**
8.00am - 11.30am

**THURSDAY**
8.00am - 2.00pm

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**INTERNATIONAL**

In September, our International Students were fortunate to go on an amazing adventure to Cairns. It was an early start but made for a beautiful flight and landing into a lush and tropical landscape on our left and the shining blue ocean on our right.

We travelled up through the green and rolling hills of the Tablelands and took a break for lunch and a swim in the turquoise waters of Lake Eacham. From there we continued on to spend a night and day at a cattle station. Amongst other activities students tried many unsuccessful, but fun, attempts to throw and catch a boomerang, milk a cow and experience a late night trip to a spa where we were able to gaze at the awesome night sky. We then returned to have a big campfire and a marshmallow toasting competition!

The following day we travelled out over a stormy and bumpy sea to the beautiful Fitzroy Island. We visited a turtle sanctuary to learn about how turtles that have been harmed or ill are nursed to health and released back into the wild. After a fantastic lunch we snorkelled in the crystal clear water and were joined by turtles: what an experience swimming alongside a turtle! The corals were amazing and everyone had big smiles when they returned, tired but elated from such a great trip.

Overall, everyone had a fantastic experience and many laughs. As a HOD I look forward to taking our international students on future trips to other stunning locations in this beautiful country in 2016.

Joanna Filmer  
HOD International/LOTE

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**SENIOR PRESENTATION NIGHT**

It is our great pleasure to invite you to our Senior Presentation Night to celebrate the success of our Senior students. We are very pleased with their efforts throughout the year, and hope that you can join us in recognising their achievements.

**DATE**  Thursday, 05 November

**TIME**  7.00PM

**LOCATION**  Merrimac State High School Hall
NOTICE BOARD

Stay informed about what’s happening around our school

From the INDUSTRY LIAISON OFFICER’S DESK

Village Roadshow Theme Parks 2016 traineeships program Information Nights
Employment Locations - Movie World, Sea World or Sea World Resort.
Students currently in Years 9 to 11 may apply. You must attend an information session and register online (refer below). These details were sent to student email accounts end of term 3 and during spring school holidays.

Sea World Resort information night at this Resort: Melrose Room - 18 October - 6pm.
Movie World information night: 20 October 2015 – Meet at Booth 1 - 5.45pm.
Sea World information night: Paradise Room – 22 October - 6pm.

Register student and parent attendance to an information night via the link below:
https://app.revelian.com/wvtp/ap55807/

Contact Natasha Pearson 07 5588 2414 or 0433 902 077 with queries.

School based Apprenticeships Webpage
https://merrimacshs.eq.edu.au/Supportandresources/

Studentservicesandsupportprograms/Pages/School-based-apprenticeships.aspx

Families can access information regarding:
School based apprenticeships, casual employment or school leaver vacancies
TAFE and other vocational programs
Resume, cover letter and interview templates or instruction sheets
Links to the Careers Bullseye booklet and other employment or study pathways planning resources

Students can also check their student school email accounts or the Jobs Notice Board outside the Guidance Offices.

Industry Liaison Officer – rskra1@eq.edu.au

Rachel Skrabach
Industry Liaison Officer

Merrimac Cares will embrace Pink Ribbon Day on 26 October.
There will be fund raising for Breast Cancer Research with ribbons, pens and pins. Please support this cause that touches all our lives.

STUDENT SERVICE REMINDER

• 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!