Dear Parents

After a wonderful five weeks long service leave I am very pleased to be back at school and working towards the celebrations for the end of a big and successful 2015. During the four weeks in China I was fortunate to have visited six schools and gathered a greater understanding of the Chinese educational system. A number of the schools indicated they would like to partner with Merrimac State High School to further their teacher development programs. We are now having ongoing discussions to determine how this might be possible. I would like to thank Karen Farrow who acted in my position whilst I was away. She led the school in a very professional manner and kept the focus on our achievement agenda.

On my return to school I was pleased to hear of the success of many Year 12 students, with 58 already receiving direct entry to university and higher education. This is a great reward for those students and their families for all their hard work and dedication to their study. It is an outstanding way to end their time at school.

The Student Council’s 9th annual Multicultural Night was another highlight with 125 students participating in this popular event. It showcased the many cultures within our school community and also provided valuable leadership and event organisation experience for our students.

The night was a resounding success, with students and guests entertained by performances from around the globe - from a traditional Chinese fan dance to the Haka to the French Can Can.

A huge congratulations and thank you must be extended to all staff and students who assisted in the lead-up to, and on the night of the event. Well done to all members of the Student Council for pulling off yet another successful night!

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More on page 2
PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Congratulations to the Girls’ Rugby League teams for their success at the recent State Rugby 7 Cup. The Under 15 team was awarded “State Champions”, whilst the Open Girls were runners-up. Thank you to all players and coaches for this effort, both at competition and in the training leading towards it.

As the school year rapidly draws to a close we take time to celebrate and acknowledge the great achievements attained throughout the year. In particular we have the following three events, Junior Presentation Night - Tuesday 3 November, Sports Awards Evening - Wednesday 4 November and the Senior Presentation Night - Thursday 5 November, all in the school hall. I would like to encourage parents and students to attend these events and celebrate these achievements with the school community. I look forward to meeting as many families as possible on the night.

Chris Tobin
Principal

DEPUTY’S DESK

KAREN FARROW

I love this time of year when the jacarandas are in full bloom. However, as a Queensland university student it was, and still is, a reminder that important final year exams are not far away! Our Senior students are preparing for their last Exam Block for the year and then it will be time to celebrate their successes. Term 4, as well as being extremely busy, is also a bitter-sweet term as we farewell our Year 12 students and recognize their achievements in school celebrations. The final school days for 2015 are: Year 12 on Friday 20 November, Year 10 and 11 on Friday 27 November and Years 7, 8 & 9 on Friday 11 December. Please remember, students are required to attend school every day until their designated break-up date.

We look forward to welcoming families at these upcoming celebrations:
Junior Presentation Night – Tuesday 3 November
Sports Awards Evening – Wednesday 4 November
Senior Presentation Night – Thursday 5 November
Year 12 Graduation Night - Wednesday 18 November
Year 12 Formal – Friday 20 November

Additional information regarding both Exam schedules and these upcoming celebrations is available on our school website. We look forward to seeing you at school soon.

Karen Farrow
Deputy Principal

MATHS & SCIENCE TUTORING

Join Ms De Marchi in the library afterschool on Thursdays for free maths and science tutoring. Stay on top of school work and assignments before you fall behind. Putting aside an hour straight afterschool for homework is a good habit to develop and will surely improve grades and confidence. With extra help you can complete your work faster and have more time for other leisure activities without the weight of school on your shoulders. A variety of snacks are provided. See you on Thursday!
Junior Sport

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

The Year 7 High Performance Sport students have recently completed a program on rock climbing at Paramount Rock Climbing Centre. The students thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of making their way up the various walls which were graded in levels of difficulty. The Year 8 High Performance Sport students are currently involved in a gymnastics program while the Year 9 students will be involved in a Learn to Sail program.

AQUATICS

Students in the Junior School will be participating in Aquatics as part of their HPE program over the next 5 weeks. Students are expected to participate in swimming as part of their HPE work. It would be appreciated if parents can encourage and make sure students bring swimming gear for their HPE lessons. Students not able to swim should have a note explaining why they are unable to participate in swimming activities.

Warren Joseph
HOD HPE

Mathematics

Students are now using Maths Mate mathematics task sheets in class. These are a great resource that clearly identify strengths and weaknesses in mathematical knowledge and then use a set of skill builders to develop the identified areas of need. Please ask your child how they are going and what they have learnt about their mathematical skills. Maths Mate will form our homework program for 2016. All students are currently completing ACER testing in numeracy. This is an internationally recognised benchmarking test. It helps us to develop programmes that cater for individual differences in the classroom. Please ask your child how they went! Much of our testing is online and will become more so next year. For this reason it is very important that all students have their computer ready to use in their lessons. Unfortunately this is still an area that we need to work on. Students should have a laptop, textbook, calculator and something to write with in every lesson.

Paul Gray
HOD Mathematics

PLEASE UPDATE EMAIL ADDRESSES

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.

YEAR 8 PARENTS...HAVE YOUR SAY!

The Gold Coast Public Health Unit wants to hear your views about the School Vaccine Program.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/yr8-school-immunisation

Participation is voluntary and anonymous. Responses will be kept confidential. Contact person: Dr Paul Van Buynder
Paul.VanBuynder@health.qld.gov.au or 5687 9000
From the INDUSTRY LIAISON OFFICER’S DESK

Riviera Group Coomera – Full time plus 10 school based apprenticeships

Based at Coomera this award winning builder of Luxury Cruisers is hiring for the following apprenticeship vacancies:

School based apprenticeships on offer Lamination x 2; Boatbuilding x 4; Engineering x 2; Upholstery x 1; Joinery x 1

Full time Apprenticeships on offer Lamination x 2; Engineering x 2; Joinery x 1; Boatbuilding x 4; Upholstery x 1

The successful candidates will have a positive attitude; reliable transport; be punctual; good mechanical aptitude; understanding of safe work practices and workplace health and safety plus self-motivated.

In the interest of providing a healthy and safe workplace, our recruitment and selection process includes a pre-employment medical and drug screen.

These opportunities were sent to Years 10-12 student school emails 20/10/2015.
Any queries please also contact Lisa Fox – Apprentice Program Manager, Riviera
Tel: 07 5502 5409 Mob: 0421 925 537 Email lfox@riviera.com.au

Casual Employment and School Leaver Vacancies

Several have been sent to student school email accounts since 19 October 2015.
Alternately visit our school apprenticeship webpage for details; https://merrimacshs.eq.edu.au/Supportandresources/Studentservicesandsupportprograms/Pages/School-based-apprenticeships.aspx

Rachel Skrabanich
Industry Liaison Officer

DANC’ED IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Our Dance Troupe had an outstanding experience by being part of the Danc’ed in the Spotlight at the Arts Centre on Friday 23 October. Our students were able to perform two of their eisteddfod pieces, Run Boy and Dreamgirl as well as participating in the workshops offered during the day. Jem Ada, Savanna Haenel, Makayla McGovern and Courtney Quinn, were selected to perform in the combined schools opening number and have devoted a few Sundays to rehearse this piece. It was a spectacular production that was performed to packed houses. We are so proud of our Dance Troupe for their standard of performance, their commitment and great team work. None of this would have happened without our fantastic dance teachers Emily Kite and Christine Deck. The amazing work they do with the Dance Troupe is during their lunch times and after school hours; it is pure dedication and hard work. On behalf of the students and the school, thank you so much ladies.

Lynn Dyer
HOD The Arts

SENIOR JERSEYS

Due to the great response from students we will placing a second order for the Year 12 Jerseys. We must receive at least 30 orders from students by Friday 13 November for this to proceed. Students wishing to order a Jersey must make their payment of $85 at the School Finance Counter. Receipts are then to be taken to the Uniform Shop to complete a fitting.

Uniform Shop opening hours are;
MONDAY 8.00am - 11.30am
TUESDAY 8.00am - 11.30am
THURSDAY 8.00am - 2.00pm
# NOTICE BOARD

Stay informed about what's happening around our school

## CHAPLAINCY

**THANK YOU!**

**MORNING TEA - MERRIMAC SHS**  
**HOSPITALITY CENTRE - THURSDAY 19TH 9AM-11AM**

Please RSVP/REGISTER by Friday 13th November at Eventbrite to reserve your spot so we know how many to cater for...

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chaplaincy-thankyou-high-tea-merrimac-shs-tickets-19683451967

Thankyou High Tea 2015 will be a morning of marvellous entertainment, excellent company, delicious food, tea and coffee. Most importantly, you’ll hear remarkable stories from the ‘frontline’ of our schools and the volunteers and people behind the scenes.

We want to show our appreciation to:
- Volunteers
- P&C
- LCC (Local Chaplaincy Committee)
- Parents
- Local Businesses
- Local churches
- Staff of Merrimac SHS
- Financial Supporters
- Anyone interested in finding out more of the great things we do as we head into 2016

Hope to see you there...

## GOLD COAST MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

The Gold Coast Multicultural Festival will be held on Sunday 01 November.

Starting from 10am, the Festival will transform Evandale Park in a place full with cultures from different parts of the world such as Asia, South America and Europe.

There will be over 65 stalls with international food, craft and art as well as international performers and children’s rides and activities. Adults pay $5 entree but children under 12 and concession card holders can enter for free.

The Festival is the biggest cultural community event in South East Queensland and promises a day full of fun and new experiences for the entire family.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

## LOCKER CLEANOUT

A reminder that lockers must be emptied and the lock returned to the Student Services window one week prior to student departure for holidays. Please note that any belongings left in lockers over the Christmas period will be disposed of before the start of the 2016 School Year.

## SCHOOL PARKING

Please be reminded that Students and Parents are not to use the Staff Carpark. We have a large teaching and support staff that need to utilise these spaces.
Important information about school bus travel for 2016

School transport is not free. However, you may be eligible for transport assistance under the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) School Transport Assistance Scheme (STAS). APPLY NOW if you intend to use a Surfside Buslines bus to get to or from school.

Frequently asked questions

Can I get a bus pass?

There are a number of general criteria that apply to STAS. Where a student is eligible for STAS, there are two types of bus assistance available, distance based and Safety-Net travel. Visit www.translink.com.au/schooltransport for eligibility details and to print the relevant application form.

Where do I send the form to?

Applications for 2018 can be submitted now to Surfside Buslines
PO Box 3038
Robina QLD 4223

Or

Email: peschools@tagroup.net.au

Who needs to apply?

If this is the first time you are applying for assistance to travel or you are moving schools, changed address, repeating a grade or are moving from primary school to secondary school you need to apply now.

Existing bus pass holders

If your details will not be changing from 2015 to 2016 you do not have to reapply.

Students who hold a 2015 bus pass will be able to travel with that pass until 18 February 2016. This allows some time for the 2016 passes to be made.

If you lose your 2015 bus pass you will have to apply to Surfside Buslines for a replacement.

How do I get my bus pass?

Surfside will process applications over the Christmas school holidays so your pass will be sent to your school for you to collect.

What if my pass hasn’t arrived by 19 Feb 2016?

Without written confirmation from TMR stating your application has been approved you will need to pay the full cost of travel. These fares are not refundable.

What if I am not eligible for STAS?

The Queensland Government offers children and students a 50% concession fare by purchasing a TransLink goCard. Passengers aged 5-14 years are eligible for a child concession fare.

Full time students 15 years or older are eligible for a Student Concession goCard. To receive a concession fare, students must always carry an approved Queensland student photo identification card or wear an official Queensland school uniform.

Timetables

Use the TransLink journey planner to plan your travel to and from school. There are helpful tips on how to plan and how to catch a bus.

Alternatively telephone 13 12 30.

Check out the new MyTransLink app. All bus, train, ferry and tram information is in the palm of your hand with customisable features so you will always get the updates that matter to you.

Further information

For more information on the School Transport Assistance Scheme, the Code of Conduct for School Children Travelling on Buses and Timetables visit www.translink.com.au